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**Statement by India at the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group 34th Session (04-15 November 2019): 3rd UPR of Italy - Interactive Dialogue, delivered by Ambassador Rajiv K. Chander. Permanent Representative of India [Geneva, 04 November 2019]**

Mr. President,

India warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation of Italy and thanks it for the comprehensive National Report.

2. India welcomes the legislative proposals and discussions that have taken place vis a vis the establishment of a National Human Rights Institution based on Paris Principles.

3. The adoption of the 2013 National Action Plan against Racism, Xenophobia and Intolerance is a positive development. We welcome the establishment of the task force and various working groups to implement the National Strategy for Inclusion of Roma, Sinti and Caminanti 2012–2020. We also welcome the expanded mandate of the National Office against Racial discrimination (UNAR).

4. India recommends the following to Italy:

i) Continue to strengthen the legislative framework and policies on gender equality.

ii) Fully involve civil society and other relevant stakeholders in expeditious establishment of the NHRI and to ensure its functional and financial independence.

iii) Continue addressing the unemployment and agricultural labour issues effectively, paying particular attention to vulnerable groups.

iv) Further strengthen UNAR and take measures to ensure that it is independent and adequately resourced.

Thank you, Mr. President.