

**Statement by India on Agenda item 3 (e): Racial Equality in the World during the 25th Session of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee (15-19 February, 2021) delivered by Mr. S. Senthil Kumar, First Secretary,**

**Permanent Mission of India [Geneva, 16 February 20212]**

**Thank you Chair.**

My delegation congratulates you on your election as the Chairperson and other members of the Bureau. We welcome the study made by the Advisory committee on “the Situation regarding Racial Equality in the World”.

**Mr Chair,**

Racism and Racial Discrimination are the most pervasive acts that often lead to serious violation of human rights. It is regrettable that the international community is currently witnessing intensified forms of racial inequality.

To counter this abhorrent practice, the founding fathers of India built in adequate safeguards in our Constitution and the Indian Penal Code, against racism and racial discrimination, enshrining the basic value of equality. While Article 14 of the Constitution of India clearly states that the principle of equality cannot be denied, Article 15 expressly prohibits discrimination on the grounds of race. These two articles reflect the fundamental principles and values that are integral part of the fabric that binds together a diverse country like India.

**Mr Chair,**

 My delegation support, in general, the recommendations made in the Report concerning the elaborated strategy for the implementation of the DDPA and its follow-up and in particular, the compilation of good practices on special or affirmative measures giving also, the account on experiences regarding their outcome.

Perhaps, the most definitive steps against racial inequality involve the development and nurturing of multi-cultural, democratic and pluralistic traditions with the inculcation of values of tolerance and respect for diversity; and implementation of appropriate educational and legislative strategies.

**Mr Chair,**

 In conclusion, we express our firm commitment to the work of the Advisory Committee and look forward to the constructive outcome of this item.

 I thank you **Mr Chair**.

\*\*\*\*\*