

**Statement by India at the 26th Session of the Human Rights Council**

**Advisory Committee (16 to 20 August 2021) under Item 2 (a)” ‘Racial Equality in the World’, delivered by Mr. S. Senthil Kumar, First Secretary,**

**Permanent Mission of India [Geneva, 17 August 2021]**

Thank you Chair.

We welcome the study made by the Advisory committee on “the Situation regarding Racial Equality in the World”.

Mr Chair,

2. Racism threatens the harmony and stability in societies and undermines the values of tolerance and pluralism. It is regrettable that the international community is currently witnessing intensified forms of racial inequality.

3. India is a diverse, multi-religious, multi-ethnic and multi-lingual society and we respect and celebrate our diversity. The Indian Constitution has enshrined safeguards against racism and racial discrimination and underlined the basic tenet of equality. It expressly prohibits discrimination on account of race. 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.

4. My delegation supports in general, the recommendations made in the Report on identifying and supporting policies and actions, including affirmative measures when appropriate, oriented towards implementation of the principle of racial equality.

5. In our view, the most definitive steps against racial inequality comprise 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,

6. In conclusion, we express our firm commitment to the goal of realizing racial equality in the world. We support the work of the Advisory Committee in this regard.

I thank you Mr Chair.

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