



Mr. Chairman,

Observance of human rights is at the core of any civilised society. The founding States of the United Nations gave this principle highest priority in the Charter. Through progressive negotiations, it is satisfying that most institutional mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights are in place. With the establishment of the Human Rights Council, the apex body to handle human rights related issues in the UN and also the Office of the High Commission of Human Rights; the formal international structural regime for human rights is also in position.

The adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in 1948, which had set this ball rolling, culminated recently with the coming into force of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In this context, I would like to stress that human rights are indivisible and inter-related. The protection of civil and political rights of people is equally important as the promotion of their economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development.

Mr. Chairman,

As prescribed in various Conventions related to human rights, with the system of periodic reporting by the States Parties to the respective Conventions, certain amount of uniformity has been established in the procedure of reporting. Additionally, this also allows the distinct and unique scope of each of the Conventions to

exist. This has helped the respective Committees of the Treaty Bodies to make valuable assessment and also suggest practical recommendations. We are grateful to the Committees for their recommendations which have helped State Parties to strengthen their domestic policies and to achieve fundamental freedom for all. However, the learned experts to these Treaty Bodies should handle development, democracy and human rights as a single compact which are strongly inter-related to each other and have direct impact on its progress.

Mr. Chairman,

We welcome the efforts to streamline reporting by revised harmonization of the guidelines including a common core document and treaty-specific documents. This reduces duplication of work at the national levels and also helps in some amount of standardization. Treaty bodies and the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights should also develop the capacity of various member states who find it difficult to submit their periodic reports due to lack of experience and capability. Moreover, strengthening of national reporting procedure also assists member states in identify gaps in their policies and means to reduce them.

Mr. Chairman,

India has consistently supported the efforts of the international community to evolve a normative framework for promotion and protection of human rights. India has also paid due attention to meeting its reporting

obligations and has also sought to regularly submit its country reports to respective Treaty Bodies.

Mr. Chairman,

We are concerned over the delays by various Treaty Bodies in examining country reports that have been submitted to them. We agree, in principle, to holding of Committee meetings in parallel chambers so that the number of reports examined could be significantly increased. Moreover, since these reporting procedures are of importance for the promotion and protection of human rights, the Office of High Commission of the Human Rights could also explore submitting a suitable proposal to temporarily increase the number of days of sitting of the relevant Committee meetings, at least for the next few sessions till the backlog of

examination of country reports is removed.

Mr. Chairman,

With its constitutional guarantees, impartial judiciary, a progressive Parliament, a free and vibrant media, and a well established NGO community, India has been able to successfully establish pluralism and unity in a multi-ethnic, multi-religious, multi-lingual and multi-cultural society. The treaty body system has assisted us in implementing our international legal obligations and also in ensuring that the human rights of all people are protected. We hope that all member states will be able to benefit from the services of the Treaty Bodies, thus securing increased respect for human rights worldwide.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)