

UNGA
71st Session Third Committee

Agenda Item 63:
Report of the Human Rights Council
08 November 2016

INDIA STATEMENT
Counsellor Mr. Mayank Joshi

Madam Chair,

I would like to thank the President of the Human Rights Council for his statement under the Agenda item 63: 'Report of the Human Rights Council'.

As we commemorate a decade in the life of the Human Rights Council, we must remain mindful of the reasons for its creation, and reflect our assessment in the outcome of the 2015 Summit.

We value the role of the Council in advancing the promotion and protection of fundamental rights and freedoms and appreciate the work accomplished by it in addressing a wide range of thematic issues.

We believe that the strength of the Human Rights Council can only lie in its adherence to the principles of universality, transparency, impartiality, objectivity, non-selectivity and constructive international dialogue and the success of the UPR process stands testimony to this.

All human rights must be treated in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis. It is imperative to recognize the Right to Development as a distinct, universal, inalienable and fundamental human right that is applicable to all people in all countries to build collective and sustainable peace and prosperity across the world.

Madam Chair,

Among the various mechanisms of the Council, the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) has had remarkable success in encouraging States to recognize and resolve gaps in human rights protection. It has emerged as the most positive and constructive process that is accepted and valued by all Member States and must continually be strengthened.

The Special Procedures are an important mechanism of this Council for a 'genuine dialogue for strengthening the capacity of member states'. It is therefore of fundamental importance that mandate holders remain truly independent, impartial and carry out their tasks with responsibility and sensitivity in accordance with their mandates.

Madam Chair,

Despite the establishment of the Human Rights Council as a deliberate replacement of the earlier Commission on Human Rights, for a variety of reasons, the human rights agenda appears to be again turning increasingly contentious.

A more constructive and non-confrontational approach that is sensitive to the genuine concerns and capacity constraints of countries is needed to assist them improve their implementation of human rights agenda among their citizens. An aggressive 'naming and shaming' exercise has its limits, is often counter-productive and tends to divide member states into opposing camps.

The primacy of national efforts in the realisation of human rights along with due consideration for the values and other specific contexts of individual countries must guide our efforts.

Madam Chair,

Human rights is recognized as one of the three pillars of the UN system, the other two being development and peace and security. Terrorism has emerged as one of the main threats to the full enjoyment of human rights. The international community has to take unequivocal and resolute position against terrorism to prevent and stop the destruction of human rights, fundamental freedoms and democracy.

Madam Chair,

The democratic way of life is today a deeply-rooted article of faith for over a billion Indians. Our experience demonstrates that a democratic pluralistic society with a secular polity, an impartial and independent judiciary, a vibrant civil society, a free media and independent human rights institutions, help secure effective guarantees for the protection and promotion of human rights in a country.

India remains firmly committed to the idea of a just and equitable society through upholding the principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

I Thank You.