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The Permanent Mission of India to the Offices of the United Nations and other International Organisations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and has the honour to refer to the report of the Human Rights Council Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review No. A/HRC/WG.6/1/IND/4 dated 14 April 2008 concerning the universal periodic review of India.

The Permanent Mission of India has the honour to enclose the response of the Government of India to the recommendations made by delegations during the Universal Periodic Review of India which are listed in para 86 of the aforementioned report. The Permanent Mission of India requests that in accordance with the agreed modalities, the response of Government of India be included in the outcome report to be adopted by the Human Rights Council at its Eighth Session.

The Permanent Mission of India to the Offices of the United Nations and other International Organisations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
(Attn: Ms. Myriam Tebourbi,
Universal Periodic Review Section)
1211 Geneva 10
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Response of Government of India to the recommendations made by delegations during the UPR of India.

Government of India has examined the recommendations made by delegations during the Universal Periodic Review of India and has the following observations to make:

S. No.	Recommendation	Response of India
1.	Expedite ratification of the Convention against Torture (United Kingdom France, Mexico, Nigeria, Italy, Switzerland, Sweden) and its Optional Protocol (United Kingdom);	The ratification of the Convention against Torture is being processed by Government of India.
2.	Continue to fully involve the national civil society in the follow-up to the UPR of India, as was done for its preparation (United Kingdom);	Government of India accepts this recommendation
3.	Continue energizing existing mechanisms to enhance the addressing of human rights challenges (Ghana);	Government of India accepts this recommendation
4.	Encourage enhanced cooperation with human rights bodies and all relevant stakeholders in the pursuit of a society oriented towards the attainment of internationally recognized human rights goals(Ghana);	Government of India is committed to continue its constructive engagement with international human rights bodies and relevant stakeholders in its pursuit of realization of all human rights for all.
5.	Maintain disaggregated data on caste and related discrimination (Canada, Belgium, Luxembourg);	Extensive disaggregated data, including on caste, are available in the public domain.

6.	Consider signature and ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Brazil);	The Constitution of India provides for direct access to the Supreme Court and High Courts for redressal of violations of any fundamental right, for any individual or group of individuals. In addition, we have several other statutory mechanisms to address such violations including the National Human Rights Commissions and the State Human Rights Commissions. There is also a separate National Commission and State Commissions for Women which <i>inter alia</i> have a mandate to address cases of violations of women rights. There exists, therefore, effective legal and constitutional framework to address individual cases of violations within India.
7.	Consider signature and ratification of ILO Conventions No. 138 and 182 (Brazil, Netherlands, Sweden);	Government of India fully subscribes to the objectives and purposes of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (to which India is a party) as well as the ILO Conventions No. 138 and 182 (which India is yet to ratify). India fully recognizes that the child has to be protected from exploitation of all forms including economic exploitation. Towards this end, Government of India has taken a wide range of measures including prescribing minimum age of 14 years for employment in hazardous occupations, as domestic helps, at eateries as well as in certain other areas. Regulatory provisions regarding hours and conditions of employment have also been made. Recently, a National Commission for the Protection of Child's Rights has been set up for speedy trial of offences against children or of violation of child's rights. The present socio-economic conditions in India do not allow prescription of minimum age for admission to each and every area of employment or to raise the age bar to 18 years, as provided in the ILO Conventions. Government of India remains committed to progressively implement the provisions of Article 32 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, particularly paragraph 2 (a), in accordance with its national legislation and international obligations.

8.	Share best practices in the promotion and protection of human rights taking into account the multi-religious, multi-cultural and multi-ethnic nature of Indian society (Mauritius);	Government of India accepts this recommendation
9.	Review the reservation to article 32 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (the Netherlands);	Government of India fully subscribes to the objectives and purposes of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. India fully recognizes that the child has to be protected from exploitation of all forms including economic exploitation. Towards this end, Government of India has taken a wide range of measures including prescribing minimum age of 14 years for employment in hazardous occupations, as domestic helps, at eateries as well as in certain other areas. Regulatory provisions regarding hours and conditions of employment have also been made. Recently, a National Commission for the Protection of Child's Rights has been set up for speedy trial of offences against children or of violation of child's rights. The present socio-economic conditions in India do not allow prescription of minimum age for admission to each and every area of employment. Government of India remains committed to progressively implement the provisions of Article 32 of Convention on the Rights of the Child, particularly paragraph 2 (a), in accordance with its national legislation and international obligations.
10.	Consider new ways of addressing growing economic and social inequities arising out of rapid economic growth and share experiences/results of best practices in addressing poverty (Algeria);	India is committed to the realization of the right to development of all its people and is pursuing this by providing an environment for inclusive and accelerated growth and social progress within the framework of a secular and liberal democracy.

11.	Take into account recommendations made by treaty bodies and special procedures, especially those relating to women and children, in developing a national action plan for human rights which is under preparation (Mexico);	Government of India accepts this recommendation
12.	Ratify the Convention on Enforced Disappearances (Nigeria);	India signed the Convention for Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance on the day it opened for signature last year. The process of its ratification is underway.
13.	Strengthen human rights education, specifically in order to address effectively the phenomenon of gender-based and caste-based discrimination (Italy);	Government of India recognizes the role of human rights education in combating discrimination. India has adopted a National Action Plan for Human Rights Education to promote awareness about human rights among all sections of the society. Specific target groups, such as schools, colleges and universities, have been identified and human rights education has been made part of curricula. Government officials, armed forces, prison officials and law officers are also being sensitised to the protection of human rights. Regular training programmes are organized by the National Human Rights Commission as well as State Human Rights Commissions. Awareness campaigns are also run by NGOs.
14.	Extend standing invitation to special procedures (Latvia, Switzerland);	India has been regularly receiving and will continue to receive Special Rapporteurs and other Special Procedures mechanisms of Human Rights Council taking into account its capacity, the priority areas for the country as well as the need for adequate preparations for such visits.
15.	Receive as soon as possible the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture (Switzerland);	India has been regularly receiving and will continue to receive Special Rapporteurs and other Special Procedures mechanisms of Human Rights Council taking into account its capacity, the priority areas for the country as well as the need for adequate preparations for such visits.

16.	Fully integrate a gender perspective in the follow-up process to the UPR (Slovenia);	Government of India accepts this recommendation
17.	Follow up on CEDAW recommendations to amend the Special Marriage Act in the light of article 16 and the Committee's general recommendation 21 on giving equal rights to property accumulated during marriage (Slovenia);	<p>With regard to Article 16(1) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, Government of India declares that it shall abide by and ensure these provisions in conformity with its policy of non-interference in the personal affairs of any community without its initiative and consent.</p> <p>With regard to Article 16(2) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, Government of India declares that it agrees to the principle of compulsory registration of marriages. However, failure to get the marriage registered will not invalidate the marriage particularly in India with its variety of customs, religions and level of literacy.</p>
18.	Continue efforts to allow for a harmonious life in a multi-religious, multicultural, multi-ethnic and multi-lingual society and to guarantee a society constituting one-fifth of the world's population to be well fed, well housed, well cared for and well educated (Tunisia).	The Constitution of India seeks to secure to all its citizens "justice (social, economic and political); liberty (of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship); equality (of status and of opportunity); and to promote among them fraternity assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the Nation". Legislative and administrative measures of the Government of India are guided by this objective. In this context, the Government of India accepts the recommendation made.

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