

**73<sup>rd</sup> UNGA**  
**Third Committee**

Item 72: Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and  
related intolerance

Item 73: Right of people to self- determination

**INDIA STATEMENT**

by

**Ms. Paulomi Tripathi, First Secretary**

30 October 2018

Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for giving me the floor.

India aligns with the statement made by Egypt on behalf of G77.

My delegation thanks the Secretary-General for his reports and all other reports presented under these agenda items, dealing with racial discrimination and right of people to self-determination.

Mr. Chairman,

Despite the efforts made in combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerances, these pernicious ills continue to persist in different forms and manifestations today.

Expressions of racial prejudices are increasingly intertwined with other forms of discrimination, constituting violation and abuse of human rights.

Rise of exclusionist ideologies inciting discrimination and violence threaten to subvert the globalized economic order and social cohesion.

We need comprehensive legal and administrative responses to counter emerging challenges. We must hold the perpetrators accountable, build awareness among people, train law enforcement officials, and monitor and review efficacy of various measures.

Poverty and economic disparities are closely associated with racist discriminations and related intolerances, and contribute to the persistence of these regressive attitudes and practices which in turn generate more poverty.

Complementary domestic action and international cooperation is necessary to effectively implement the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action to realize inclusive growth envisaged in 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to leave no one behind.

Mr. Chairman,

We share the concern regarding alarming rise in use of digital space for dissemination of racist and xenophobic material as well as for recruitment, networking and fundraising by groups espousing these ideologies. Trans-boundary nature of the problem requires strong international cooperation involving all stakeholders.

We must acknowledge that racial equality and freedom of expression need not be pursued in a zero-sum manner.

Private entities including conventional and social media and civil society need to develop and observe codes of conduct that embody commitment to racial equality and non-discrimination.

Immunities enjoyed by the social media platforms for contents by users, must be counterbalanced with responsible content moderation and norms for removing objectionable contents on voluntary basis.

Mr. Chairman,

India has long been a multi-religious, multi-ethnic and multi-lingual society based on principles of peaceful coexistence and tolerance.

Our Constitution upholds the principle of equality and expressly prohibits discrimination on account of race. These constitutional provisions are embodied in our legal framework including criminal law, and are safeguarded by the judiciary, human rights institutions, civil society and media.

Mr. Chairman,

Self-determination has long been recognized as the right of peoples of non-self-governing colonies and trust territories to independence and self-government. India has always been at the forefront of struggle against colonialism since its independence seven decades ago.

India was the co-sponsor of the landmark 1960 Declaration on Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples which was adopted by the General Assembly. In 1962 India was elected as the first Chair of the Decolonization Committee that was established to monitor the implementation of 1960 Declaration and make recommendations on its application.

There are still 17 Non-self Governing Territories which are in various stages of decolonization. We must step up efforts to reach the conclusion of this long-drawn process.

Palestine remains the unfinished task in the realization of the right of people to self-determination.

Demonstrating India's commitment to the cause of the people of Palestine, India's has substantially scaled up of bilateral development partnerships and has also increased contribution to UNRWA.

Mr. Chairman,

We reject the unwarranted reference made by one delegation to the State of Jammu and Kashmir which is an integral part of India.

It has become a habit of this delegation to misuse any forum for narrow political gains.

In reality, it is The people of India as well as of our region and beyond, have to suffer most egregious violation human rights, inflicted by terrorism emanating from beyond our borders.

The right to self-determination cannot be abused and misrepresented with the aim of undermining the sovereignty and territorial integrity of a Member State.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, collective and coordinated action at the international, national and local level is essential and must be vigorously pursued to promote and preserve equality and non-discrimination which are fundamental to our existence. India remains committed to work with all partners in this pursuit.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.