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भारत का स्थायी मिशन, जेनेवा
**PERMANENT MISSION OF INDIA
 TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICES
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June 14, 2007

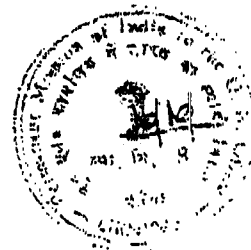
NV. 40/07

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 OHCHR Note Verbale of April 2, 2007 seeking views of States on the progress report (A/HRC/Sub.1/58/CRP.2) on the study on "Discrimination based on work and descent", submitted by Special Rapporteurs Mr. Yozo Yokota and Ms. Chin-Sung Chung to the former Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights at its 58th session in 2006.

The Permanent Mission of India has the honour to forward the comments of Government of India on the above-mentioned document. The Permanent Mission of India would like to request the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights that the comments of Government of India may kindly be transmitted to the Special Rapporteurs for incorporation in the final report.

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
 (Attention : Ms. Sandra Aragon)
 Palais des Nations,
 Geneva.
 Fax: 022 917 9050**



OHCHR REGISTRY

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Recipients :ADU.....

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Comments of GOI on the Progress Report on Study on Discrimination
based on Work and Descent (A/HRC/Sub.1/38/CRP.2)

GOI has seen the contents of the progress report No. A/HRC/Sub.1/38/CRP.2 submitted by Mr. Yozo Yokota and Ms Chin Sung Chung, Special Rapporteurs on the topic of discrimination based on work and descent, to the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in July 2006.

2. The report, like previous papers submitted on this topic, focuses excessively on the Caste-system in India and in Indian Diaspora communities. The analysis of this complex issue in the paper shows a clear lack of understanding. The rapporteurs seems to have addressed this issue as a simple human rights question disregarding the fact that such a social structure has evolved through a complex interplay of societal practices over thousands of years and cannot be transformed overnight. They have also not duly reflected the wide range of Constitutional, legislative and administrative measures that India has undertaken to empower its disadvantaged sections of population.

3. The question of discrimination based on work and descent has a wider scope. Excessive focus on one of its various manifestations reconfirms our apprehensions, previously expressed on several occasions, about the utility and efficacy of such an effort.

4. The progress report reconfirms our understanding that the issues that are envisaged to be addressed under this study are already being covered by other components of the international human rights machinery. Both on account of duplication and its excessive focus on a specific country, Government of India is not in favour of further prolongation of this effort.

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