"Non-violence is the greatest force at the disposal of mankind. It is mightier than the mightiest weapon of destruction devised by the ingenuity of man."

- Mahatma Gandhi
Over the past year, the Permanent Mission of India in New York has been commemorating the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi at the UN. The world has continued to honor and celebrate the Mahatma's life and teachings, whose relevance transcends time. This year marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. The Mahatma's thinking and philosophy has inspired the creators of the UN in many ways, and has shaped the norms and principles which this organization stands for.

Gandhi’s Satyagraha (truth-force) was a fountainhead of moral courage and fortitude that continues to inspire peaceful movements against hatred and oppression around the world. He promoted Ahimsa (non-violence) not just as a political strategy or philosophy, but as a way to achieve justice and reform. Gandhian philosophy of Sarvodaya (welfare of all) and Antodaya (leaving no one behind) is fully reflected in the UN Agenda for 2030. Gandhi’s entire life and work is an environmental legacy for all humanity. His advocacy to promote ‘simple living and high thinking’ implied living in sync with the environment and reining in excessive consumerism and exploitation of natural resources.

Each of these guiding values hold important lessons for us as we face increasingly complex global challenges, cutting across boundaries. As we mark the closing of a year of commemoration of Gandhi@150, we invite you to join us for a moment of reflection on how the timeless principles and values exemplified by the Mahatma hold lasting relevance for the United Nations as it looks ahead to its next 75 years.

We are inviting a few PRs to share a brief (2-3 min) video recording of your thoughts on this theme. Here are some questions you may wish to use as a guide:

i. As an experienced diplomat and practicing multilateralist, what do Gandhian principles mean to you?

ii. How can the concept of non-violence be applied to today’s challenges of peace and development?

Your insights will add extremely valuable perspectives to our special commemoration of the International Day of Non-Violence in this, the 75th anniversary year of the UN.