Statement by Mr. Manjeev Singh Puri, Deputy Permanent Representative, on Agenda Item 70 (a) - Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations at the Sixty-fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly on 22 January 2010

Mr. President,

The Government and the people of India are shocked and deeply grieved by the loss of human life and damage that has resulted from the catastrophic earthquake in Haiti. India is familiar with the consequences of natural disasters and therefore fully understands the trauma and the suffering that Haitians are living through. I reiterate the solemn pledges of the President and Prime Minister of India to stand shoulder to shoulder with our Haitian brothers and sisters in their moment of sorrow. We will do whatever is in our power to partner the people of Haiti in their journey to rebuild their lives and their nation.

We would also like to commend the UN and the international community for the swift and rapid response that has been mounted to assist the people of Haiti in their hour of need.

Mr. President,

Immediately on hearing the news of the earthquake, the Government of India initiated measures to assist Haiti. On 15 January, India announced an immediate cash donation of US $ 5 million towards relief measures as a token of India’s solidarity with the people of Haiti. This assistance is being sent to the Government of Haiti through its Permanent Mission here in New York.

The Government and the people of India also pay homage to men and women of the United Nations family, including one of our own, who were struck down at their posts. The loss to their near and dear ones is irreplaceable. It might, however, be some consolation that they fell in the service of humanity and while working for a greater good. The greatest attribute to them will be the continuation of their work in Haiti, a cause for which they gave their lives.
Mr. President,

My delegation would again like to convey our condolences to the injured and family members of those who have died on account of the earthquake. We have no doubt that the people of Haiti have the strength and resilience to overcome this natural disaster.

In conclusion, Mr. President, my delegation has been happy to co-sponsor the draft resolution has been adopted today. We would like to thank the delegation of Brazil for having piloted the resolution.

Thank you.