Mr. President and distinguished delegates,

Let me congratulate Ms. Helen Clark on her appointment as UNDP Administrator. We hope the UNDP would further broaden its engagement in carrying out operational activities for development under her leadership. Let me also congratulate you and other board members for guiding the UNDP Board. We look forward to working constructively with you and other members of the board during the course of this meeting and for the rest of the year.

My delegation associates itself with the G-77 Statement.

The Meeting of this Board is being held in exceptional times when we are faced with the gravest and deepest economic and financial crisis since the inception of the present international monetary and financial institutions. Developing countries, though hardly responsible, are its worst victims. While even before this crisis, the key issue also for MDG attainment was quantity of financing available, the requirement for enhanced ODA is all the more critical now when developing countries are facing an increased curtailing
of capital flows. We hope that the UNDP operational activities on the ground will not be undermined due to reasons of non-availability of funds.

Mr. President,

UNDP, being the largest UN Programme for the operational activities of development, has the major responsibility to ensure that the operational activities are aligned firmly with the priorities of the National Government and on principles of national ownership and leadership. It must ensure effective cooperation and coordination with other UN agencies, which is critical for efficiency and effectiveness of UN operational activities for development.

UNDP must also continue to focus on its key priority areas, particularly on poverty reduction. The analysis of the Annual Report indicates that despite earlier recommendation for paying specific focus to poverty reduction efforts, the progress has not been as desired. The allocation of USD 1.26 bn out of total allocation of USD 4.7 bn needs to be increased further and this particular focus area must be given due priority and attention. UNDP’s direct support to poverty reduction programmes, both at macro and micro levels, depending on the needs of host government are of particular interest to developing countries.

India supports and encourages UNDP to continue with its efforts towards capacity building, and achieving gender equality and empowerment of women. UNDP needs to systematically increase mainstreaming of South-South cooperation while carrying out its mandated tasks.

Mr. President,

India contributes annually USD 4.5 mn to regular resources (core) of UNDP besides providing support to the local office and is one of the largest contributors to its regular
budget among the developing countries. Besides, India makes a substantive contribution to South-South cooperation efforts.

In India, though UNDP’s contribution of around US $ 190-250 million for a period of 5 years (2008-12) is nominal, Government of India appreciates this particularly in areas of capacity building, programme implementation and pilot programmes in green-field activities.

Thank you.

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