Statement by Mrs. Namgya Khampa, First Secretary
at the First Regular Session 2010 of the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA
on January 19, 2010

Mr. President,

At the outset, my delegation congratulates you on your election. We also extend our felicitations to other members of the Bureau on their election and extend a warm welcome to Ms. Rebecca Grynspan as UNDP’s new Associate Administrator.

We thank Ms. Helen Clark, UNDP Administrator for her detailed statement. My delegation associates itself with the statement made by Sudan on behalf of the G-77 and China.

Allow me to take a moment to express, on behalf of my Government, our deep anguish at the devastation and loss of lives caused by the earthquake in Haiti. We offer our heartfelt condolences to the Government and people of Haiti, as well as to affected UN personnel and their families. India reiterates its commitment to remain engaged in the relief and reconstruction efforts.

Mr. President,

India is committed to supporting the UNDP in the pursuit of its core mandate, namely, partnering programme countries to ameliorate poverty, facilitate sustainable development, address the challenge of climate change, and achieve the Millennium Development Goals. It is amply clear to us that we need to inject a fresh sense of urgency in our collective and individual pursuit of these goals, including the attainment of MDGs, progress towards which have been put at risk by the worst global economic recession in decades.

This requires an organizationally strong and robust UNDP that is responsive to the needs of developing countries and equipped with an adequate, stable, and predictable resource-base to carry out its mission. It is with concern, therefore, that we note the continuing contraction in the availability of regular resources to the UNDP. While we recognize that UNDP faces an uncertain and fragile international situation, we would urge the organization to intensify its efforts towards regular resource mobilization so as to realize the goals set out in the strategic plan. We also express the hope that the operational activities on the ground will not be undermined due to reasons of non-availability of funds. As the largest UN Programme for operational activities of
development, the UNDP’s neutral and important contribution to helping developing countries further advance their national development priorities, based on principles of national ownership and leadership, is crucial for sustaining its credibility and effectiveness.

Mr. President,

While we commend the initiatives taken so far, India would like to see further enhancement of resources for core development activities. In this context, we welcome the proposal to earmark US$ 28 million in strategic investments for this biennium, particularly in the areas of attainment of the MDGs, South-South related development activities, and crisis prevention and recovery. We are fully supportive of UNDP’s efforts to systematically increase mainstreaming of South-South cooperation while carrying out its mandated tasks.

We further appreciate the concrete steps that have been taken towards improving transparency, accountability, and evolving a results-based management and budgeting framework. This is clearly required from the perspective of maximizing operational efficiency so as to reduce transaction costs and strengthen the linkages between resource inputs and desired results. We hope that the planned adoption of International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) in 2012 and the move towards an integrated budget in 2014 will enable UNDP to further streamline its accountability framework and facilitate greater efficiency and coherence in the implementation of country programmes.

Moving to the issue of cost recovery, we are concerned at the ACABQ’s observation in para 36 of its report that while regular resources make up 60 per cent of the support budget, they account for only some 22 per cent of the total planned use of resources. We look forward to being provided with more detailed information on implementation of the cost recovery policy and increasing such income in line with established rates, keeping in mind the Board’s earlier decision that regular resources should not subsidize the cost of development activities funded from other resources.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate India’s commitment to UNDP as the largest non-OECD contributor to its regular resources. We value UNDP’s collaboration with India on meeting our ambitious national development goals, particularly in areas of capacity building, programme implementation, and pilot programmes in green-field activities. The fact that in spite of the recession that has adversely impacted our domestic economy, we have maintained our contribution to UNDP is an eloquent testimony of our faith in the work being done by UNDP and in its need as a strong developmental arm of the UN system.

I thank you, Mr. President.