Mr. President,

Let me begin by thanking all the panelists as well as participants for their presentations and useful insights on the emerging concept of “Human Security”.

We would like to recognise the personal interest of the Permanent Representative of Japan in pursuing this debate in the UN and thank the Secretary General for his report A/64/701.

Mr. President,

The concept of human security from a layman’s perspective might appear quite obvious and is perhaps well captured in the World Summit Outcome document paragraph 143 as freedom from fear, freedom from want and right to live with dignity for all individual in order to fully develop their potential.

However, as noted in paragraph 143 there is a need to clearly define the concept of human security in the multilateral context. The basic framework for this discussion was, of course, provided in the same paragraph by referring to the three mutually interlinked issues of security, livelihood, and dignity, with individual at its centre.

In our discussions on the definition, it is important to ensure that human security is clearly situated within the parameters of non-aggression, non-interference in the domestic affairs of States, right to national self-defence and State sovereignty, which is the bedrock of international relations and domestic governance. The definition needs to recognize that the primary responsibility for human security rests with States and Governments. Obviously there can be no place for interventionism in the concept of human security.
The concept must be people centric and should go beyond the narrow framework of protection of population from physical security like war and conflict to a much broader framework to encompass multi-dimensional and comprehensive parameters with development as an important pillar.

Mr. President,

We recognise the complexity associated with this concept and its multidimensional linkages at national, regional and international level.

Major international challenges of today, in-fact, require the tackling of persistent and chronic social and economic challenges, which confront States. At the UN we have pledged to address these challenges in numerous ways, but most importantly by focusing on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The SG’s report also meticulously establishes the direct linkage of exacerbation of these challenges by the recent global crises, including the financial and economic crisis, energy price fluctuations, food security challenges as well as the adverse ramifications of climate change. These challenges, of course, are no longer confined within national boundaries.

In this regard, it is imperative to stress the need for genuine international cooperation, which recognizes the inherent constraints many developing countries face especially in mobilizing internal and external resources for the socio-economic and developmental activities.

Mr. President,

In India we are committed to ensure fundamental rights and dignity to every citizen. In recent years the thrust of our socio-economic development has, moreover, focused on “inclusive growth”, i.e. bringing the fruits of economic development to all sections of our society, particularly in rural India and among the vulnerable.

It is our belief that a comprehensive approach to human security is the only way that this concept would help every human being explore his/her potential to the maximum, while pursuing a life of dignity in a safe and healthy environment.

Thank You Mr. President.