Mr. President,

At the outset, allow me to extend warm felicitations to you on your election as Chairman of the 2011 United Nations Pledging Conference.

This Pledging Conference provides yet another opportunity for member-states to renew their commitment to the activities carried out under the development pillar of the United Nations, and particularly to the importance of core resources in pursuing the development agenda.

India is firmly committed to the development agenda of the United Nations. The unequivocal and strong mandate entrusted by member-states under the development pillar must be accorded the highest priority. It is particularly relevant in these difficult economic and financial times from which the development landscape has not remained immune.

Food and fuel prices are at a peak and we are faced with daunting environmental challenges, especially from climate change. The multi-dimensional impact of underdevelopment and poverty in vulnerable countries, including the Least Developed,
Landlocked and Small Island Developing states has been further exacerbated by these negative trends.

Mr. President,

It is universally acknowledged that one of the most important factors in addressing the challenges of underdevelopment and poverty so as to deliver sustainable and inclusive development solutions to vulnerable populations worldwide is the quantum of resources marshaled by the international community in this effort. It hardly bears mentioning that stagnation or, worse still, a decline in funding to the development activities of the UN poses a threat to the viability of operational activities and severely circumscribes its ability to work at the country level.

Despite our own challenges and constraints, India has always strived to contribute to increasing the availability of core resources for development activities carried out by the UN system.

In keeping with this long-standing tradition, I now have the honour to announce India's pledges of contributions for operational activities of development for the year 2012. This list is not exhaustive and we shall be undertaking further commitments to other entities in due course of time.

1. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) USD 4,500,000
2. United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) USD 900,000
3. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) USD 500,000
4. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) USD 100,000
5. World Food Programme (WFP) USD1,920,000 (Biennium 2011-2012)
6. United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) USD 100,000
7. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) USD 300,000
8. UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) USD 1,000,000
9. Voluntary Fund for Technical Co-operation USD 100,000

10. Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery (VTFCFS) USD 25,000

11. Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Torture (VTFVT) USD 25,000

I thank you, Mr. President.

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