
Madam Chairperson,

Allow me to begin by congratulating you and your bureau on your election to steer the work of this important Committee of the United Nations.

We are confident that under your able leadership and guidance the Second Committee would be able to fulfill its responsibilities to the optimum.

We associate ourselves with the statement delivered by Yemen on behalf of G-77.
After the crises and turbulence in the global arena that we witnessed in the last few years, the year 2010 gives us a glimmer of hope for the global development agenda. The high level events on the Millennium Development Goals, Mauritius Strategy of Implementation and Biodiversity held last month made promises for enhanced action to meet the Internationally Agreed Development Goals.

Madam Chairperson,

The global economic situation, though still fragile, is on its path of recovery. It is of the utmost importance that the economic growth is sustained.

However, our collective sense of hope and optimism is marked by caution. There are still large pockets of global economy which are yet to overcome structural difficulties. The developing countries, who have been hit the hardest by the crises, are still struggling to cope up with the aftermath. Their limited policy space has constricted their choice of action.

We must continue to boost global demand to put the economy fully on track. Enhanced economic growth is not an option but a necessity, especially for the developing countries that have huge developmental challenges to meet, first and foremost being poverty eradication.

Global trade is an important instrument for promoting economic growth. We must act in unison to achieve a fair and equitable multilateral trading system that takes into account the interest of the poor and the marginalized.

India fully recognizes that the global economic and financial architecture, so overwhelmingly loaded against the developing world needs urgent reform. It has been our endeavour to push for reforms in the Bretton Woods Institutions so as to make them more democratic and equitable.

Madam Chairperson,

Global leaders had gathered last month at the UN to review the progress made on the MDGs. High commitments were made to take on the challenge to attain the MDGs by 2015. It is now time for those words to translate into action.

The commitment made by the developed countries of meeting the 0.7% of GNI ODA target must be fulfilled at the earliest so that the principal question of lack of resources for development can be overcome. Equally significant is the need for ensuring access to technology in an affordable manner and capacity building.
India, on its part, is committed to sharing its development experience with fellow developing countries. South-South cooperation, however, cannot be a substitute for North-South collaboration.

**Madam Chairperson,**

There is an all pervading sense of urgency to work for a meaningful outcome from the Climate Change negotiations. But the lack of progress on the promises made at Copenhagen seems to be undermining the level of trust that is required to take the process forward.

India is among the worst affected by Climate Change, and we therefore have a major interest in ensuring that climate change is addressed substantively and constructively. At the meeting in Cancun, India would continue to push for an ambitious and equitable outcome under the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol processes; one that is based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

India fully recognizes the significant threats posed by Climate Change to the Small Island Developing States and the urgency to address their needs. Our consciousness of the situation is particularly deep since we too have large and vulnerable populations living on our island chains and in low lying coastal areas. India supports a firm demonstration of greater sensitivity and concrete response to the urgent adaptation needs of the small island developing states as part of any emerging outcome of ongoing multilateral negotiations. We have set up an India Endowment for Climate Change in South Asia to help SAARC Member States in meeting urgent adaptation and capacity building needs.

**Madam Chairperson,**

The Convention of Biological Diversity, one of the three RIO Conventions, is an important pillar of the global sustainable development strategy. In the absence of an Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) protocol, the convention has not been fully equipped to deal with the continued and alarming loss of biodiversity.

I take this opportunity to urge Member States to provide urgent impetus to conclude the ABS protocol at the COP 10 meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity to be held in Nagoya this month.

India also calls for the early creation of the Inter-Governmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem services (IPBES).

The RIO+20 Summit to be held in 2012 would be an important milestone in the global sustainable development discourse and action. Our preparations must focus on an ambitious outcome taking the interest of the poor and the marginalized to be the least common denominator.
Madam Chairperson,

The Least Developed countries, Landlocked developing countries, Small Island Developing States and countries in Africa, need enhanced support from the international community.

As we prepare for the IV UNLDC Conference in Istanbul, we must bear in mind to rethink our strategy to address the peculiar vulnerabilities of LDCs. The Brussels Programme of Action needs to be considerably strengthened to address these concerns.

In keeping with our commitment for the LDCs, India would be hosting a Ministerial preparatory event in New Delhi next year for the IV UNLDC Conference. We have also extended financial support worth US$ 250,000 to the UN Trust fund for the travel of LDC delegations to the Conference in Istanbul.

Madam Chairperson,

In conclusion, I would like to emphasise that the task for the Second Committee is clearly defined and its contours are well marked. Let us work to help the Committee make a meaningful contribution to the global development agenda; a contribution that is worthy of this high office and one that moves from mere theoretical resolutions to concrete actions.

I end with India’s greetings to all the attending delegates.

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