Statement by India on Kenya’s National Voluntary Presentation at the High-Level Segment of the 2012 Substantive Session of the Economic and Social Council of United Nations, on July 3, 2012

Mr. President,

I thank you for this opportunity to make a few brief observations on the national voluntary presentation of Kenya.

I would also like to thank the distinguished representative of Kenya for his insightful and comprehensive presentation.

It is clear that Kenya has laid down a strong policy framework for accelerated economic growth and development. The Kenya Constitution 2010 and the Kenya Vision 2030 orient its efforts in a forward-looking and positive direction.

India would like to commend the broad array of initiatives Kenya has unleashed for generating employment opportunities and promoting productive capacity. It reflects Kenya’s strong commitment to eradicate poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

While noting the impressive strides made by Kenya to propel its development agenda, the presentation today does not shy away from clearly portraying the scope of the country’s development challenge. As in many other developing countries, poverty and high unemployment rates remain amongst the most persistent problems for Kenya.

We in India are familiar with the development challenges facing Kenya. We further share commonalities in our strategies to overcome them. The emphasis on devolved funds resonates with us as we have a similarly decentralized approach that initiates development interventions at the grassroots level so as to empower citizens in their own development and growth. Similarly, we share the emphasis on investment in education, vocational skills training, women’s empowerment, micro and small-scale enterprises.

Mr. President,

The presentation also drew attention to the kind of gaps that exist between the need for resources and their availability. In doing so, it offered a roadmap for the involvement of the international community in terms of technical and financial assistance. We have noted that Kenya is soon drawing up an external resources policy that will provide a framework for mobilizing and utilizing external resources.

India stands ready to further strengthen our robust development and trade partnership with Kenya. As one of the first countries in Africa where India established a diplomatic
mission after independence, we have a special engagement with Kenya, which has stood the test of time.

We would encourage the international community to provide full support to Kenya’s development efforts in employment generation, productive capacity and poverty eradication, firmly aligned with its national priorities and policies.

Mr. President,

We would be interested to hear more from Kenya about the kind of support it expects from its international partners in terms of the specific thrust areas and the nature of involvement. We also look forward to hearing about its plans for improving agricultural productivity given the role of rural employment in the overall economy. It will further be of interest to hear from Kenya's experience of the kind of strategies that have worked so far in employment generation and strengthening productive capacity and those that have not quite had the desired impact.

In concluding, I express the hope that the United Nations will facilitate in disseminating Kenya’s experiences across the world. It has lessons and best practices to share from its efforts, which we feel will be of value for other countries.

I thank you.

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