Mr. President,

At the outset I wish to express our sympathies to New Zealand for the trapped miners and Cambodia for the very tragic deaths in a stampede.

Thank you for organizing today’s joint debate on agenda items 13, 115 and 120. The issues that they deal with are central to our collective efforts to strengthen the UN system and even more relevant for the theme that you have chosen for the current General Assembly “Reaffirming the central role of the United Nations in global governance”.

Mr. President,

India has all along emphasized that sustaining economic growth is the key for poverty eradication. It is also imperative that the fruits of development reach across the board and result in inclusive growth and the achievement of MDGs.

We are happy to co-sponsor the resolution titled “Sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth for poverty eradication and achievement of MDGs” for adoption by the General Assembly today.

In this regard, we recognise the crucial role of the Economic and Social Council in pushing for a comprehensive development agenda at the United Nations through an integrated and coordinated approach.

Mr. President,
Let me now turn to the WHO report. We, of course, align ourselves with the statement by the Chair of G-77 on the report.

Like many other countries, India is also undergoing ‘epidemiologic transition’ with the initial high burden of disease and mortality due to infectious diseases gradually giving way to Non Communicable Diseases, injuries and geriatric problems as the main burden of disease.

It is estimated that today 42% of all deaths in India are due to NCD and we have lost millions of potentially productive years of life, due to premature deaths caused by cardiovascular disease in the age group of 35-64 years. This also signifies the enormity of the challenge we face.

There is also emerging evidence that poor people are particularly vulnerable to NCDs owing to high rates of smoking and tobacco use, occupational risks, and living conditions.

**Mr President,**

The Government of India has accorded very high priority to the health care in our country. The Flagship National Rural Health Mission is using innovative and decentralized approaches to public health with strong involvement of the local community.

The Ministry of health and Family Welfare in India have also formulated various national programmes for NCDs including national programme for prevention and control of diabetes, cardio-vascular disease and cerebro-vascular diseases (stroke); National Cancer Control Program and National Mental Health Programme.

While obviously, much is being invested on the prevention and health promotion side, we, of course, need to tackle the need for affordable treatment. With NCD becoming a major issue globally, it is imperative that policies on access to safe drugs also ensure their affordability for all.

We look forward to the high-level meeting of the General Assembly in September 2011, as it would give us an opportunity to bring global attention to this important and growing developmental challenge.

**Mr President,**

My delegation welcomes the report of the JIU on “selection and conditions of service of Executive Heads in the United Nations system organizations.” It is a long
overdue evaluation of the legal and institutional framework and practices in the selection and appointment of such senior officials.

We are firmly of the view that the relevant legislative bodies, whether it is the General Assembly in the case of the Secretary-General or the governing bodies in the case of the Funds, Programmes and specialized agencies, should have a greater role in such appointments.

My delegation has repeatedly voiced our strong support for a greater say for the General Assembly in the process of selection of the Secretary General, most recently in the context of our discussion on “Revitalization of the General Assembly”.

This report of the JIU should give an impetus to the discussion amongst Member-States to enhance the role of the General Assembly in selection of the Secretary-General.

The situation is not much different in the case of executive heads of the Funds and Programmes. The process of consulting the governing bodies must involve real engagement with members. We would not like to see it reduced to a mere proforma exercise which is regretfully the case at present, with members given unrealistically tight time frames to react to the Secretary-General’s recommendation.

My delegation believes the JIU has offered useful recommendations on selection and conditions of service of executive heads in the United Nations system. It supports the objective of making the process and system more transparent, effective, and accountable by involving its principal stake-holders. We urge Member-States to give it careful consideration.

Thank you, Mr President.