Thank you Mr Sanchez.

Excellencies, my dear young men and women,

NAMASHKAR, Greetings from India

At the outset, I would like to join in expressing my condolences with the people and government of Norway and express solidarity with them at this hour.

Now coming back to the main topic, it is inspiring of that the UN has chosen dialogue and mutual understanding as the theme of the international year of youth and reinforced it by the slogan “our year, our voice”.

Dialogue accords space to divergent viewpoints and sensible arguments. This further enables ideas to emerge and ultimately lead to consensus and mutual understanding. This is the essence of any vibrant democracy. Needless to say, youth is the most
vibrant, dynamic, positive and enthusiastic segment of the population and is potentially the most valuable human resource of the world.

Excellencies,

We, as part of the United Nations have reaffirmed the World Programme of Action for Youth fifteen years ago. Presently, we have focused on fifteen key areas which are of relevance to the youth of today. The aspirations are high, the challenges are daunting. But our resolve remains.

It is worth noting that every country has taken commendable steps to ensure that the youth are able to occupy their rightful place in the society.

The challenge of poverty eradication is still a very real problem which needs collective action. It is reported that over 200 million youth are in poverty. Poverty is a scourge, a curse and a human rights violation.

As the father of nation, Mahatma Gandhiji had said that nature can provide for everyone’s need but not for the greed. This is yet another issue which needs international cooperation.

The advancement in the field of information technology, with the considerable use of internet and mobile telephony among the youth, national boundaries are increasingly becoming irrelevant.

The global integration is such that a product sources its raw material from one country, manufactures its components in another, designs and develops somewhere else, assembles in yet another country and market elsewhere.

Globalization has resulted in creation of borderless world, with free movement of goods and services. But still there are hindrances for the smooth movement of youth across boundaries in pursuit of education and employment. This has resulted in the fruits of globalization not being equitably shared especially by the youth of today.

Youth, who are willing to move with this changing paradigm, unfortunately are confronted with the stark reality of obtuse and complicated procedures when it comes to international migration. We hope that this discussion and outcome today would stimulate further deliberation on the issue of international migration especially of the youth in the regional and international context.

Yet another area for international cooperation is the field of skill development of the youth. With skilled workers shortages affecting different regions of the world, it is
expected that the demand for skilled workers from developing countries is likely to increase. This needs to be addressed by all of us.

We also need to focus on greater cooperation so that youth are able to acquire the requisite knowledge, capacities, skills and ethical values along with the technical and vocational education and training.

In India also, we have been focusing on skill development of the youth in a concerted manner so that no youth should remain unemployed or under employed.

India is on threshold of transformation in terms of skill development. The Hon’ble Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh had launched a National Skill Development Mission under his chairmanship.

In addition, National Skill Development Corporation has also been set up to expedite the skill development. It aims to achieve skilling and up-skilling of more than 500 million people in India by 2022. This would enable greater employability and enhance the productivity and quality of youth in the society they live.

Let us use this forum to share our experience and learn from the good practices of each other. The youth of the world has tremendous potential. Let us appreciate it and capitalize it. The issues of international migration, skill development and focus on employability of youth are some of the more critical issues which need further deliberation in this forum.

Thank you, Mr Sanchez.

Let me give the floor back to you.