Mr. Chairman,

I congratulate you on your esteemed leadership of the Group of 77. I also felicitate Fiji who would be chairing the Group next year.

In recent years, the Group has grown from strength to strength both in terms of achievements and enhanced membership. Our unity and sense of purpose have stood us in good stead. We must continue to do our utmost to preserve these cardinal values.

At Rio+20, we were successful in crafting an outcome with a strong imprint of our development aspirations. Poverty eradication has been unequivocally recognized as the greatest global challenge, and the Rio principles, in particular the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities, and equity have been reaffirmed to guide global action on sustainable development.

The G-77 must now take lead in the implementation of the Rio agenda and in setting the stage for the Post 2015 development agenda.

We must ensure that arguments on changing development landscape and limitations of the economic crisis are not used to dilute agreed principles and commitments. South-South Cooperation cannot be subjected to the tenets of North-South Cooperation. Neither can it be a substitute for it.

Poverty eradication and meeting the MDGs should be our priority up to 2015 and beyond. Our work on Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Post 2015 Development Agenda must be anchored in these imperatives.

Mr. Chairman,

India is hosting the COP 11 of the Convention on Biological Diversity next month. We are counting on your leadership and the support of the Group to make it a success. With developing countries home to 80% of the world's biodiversity, our collective interest for an ambitious outcome is self evident. We must work together to bring a strong development perspective to bio-diversity issues and for early implementation of the Nagoya Protocol to ensure that the benefits of biodiversity conservation are shared in a fair and equitable manner.
Mr. Chairman,

In spite of our best efforts, the global economic situation remains one of deep concerns. After the 2008 economic meltdown, it was said that large developing countries would replace the traditional economic engines. This has not happened. Growth in large developing countries is also slowing down.

Unemployment, food and energy concerns remain high. This has further undermined the limited coping capacity of developing countries to shocks and vulnerabilities. It is, therefore, of utmost importance that we collectively undertake growth promoting policies to boost demand and create jobs. With over a billion people in extreme poverty and hunger in developing countries, we cannot afford but to make inclusive growth our priority.

Mr. Chairman,

Globalization has made our economic challenges even more complex. We are affected by decisions that we are not part of. In this scenario, there is a compelling reason to call for reform of global governance. Global economic decision making structures, especially the BWIs must include developing countries. We must continue to press for a development oriented outcome of the Doha Round.

The G-77 has been the pillar of the UNFCCC negotiations on Climate Change. We must remain united in our pursuit of an outcome that is comprehensive, equitable and balanced based on the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities. We must work for a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol as the key deliverable from the Doha COP. We must also push for an early implementation of the Cancun Agreements including the Green Fund, the Technology Mechanism and the Adaptation Committee so as to ensure credible action on all the four pillars of the UNFCCC process – mitigation, adaptation, finance and technology.

India remains acutely aware of the existential threat that Climate Change poses to the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and believes that adaptation needs of these countries must be met at the earliest.

Mr. Chairman,

The G-77 is a family and we ought to give priority to those who are most vulnerable. We must remain committed to the special needs of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) countries in Africa, SIDS and the Land-locked Developing Countries (LLDCs). In this regard, it is imperative that the developed countries meet their ODA commitments and fulfill their obligations on technology transfer.
India stands committed to meeting the development needs of our fellow developing countries.

The G-77 has made seminal contribution to shaping multilateralism for the benefit of our peoples. We must continue the good work. You can count on India’s steadfast support today, and always.

Thank You.

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