Mr. President,

I would like to begin by thanking the Secretary-General for the comprehensive nature of his report on the Organization.

Given the global nature of the challenges of today, the Secretary-General has rightly noted that “this is the ultimate multilateral moment”. It is, therefore, imperative that the UN embody the hope of the new multilateralism.

Mr. President,

The Secretary-General has identified five essential elements to renew multilateralism.

While we are in broad agreement with the elements identified, it is evident that the 5th element, i.e. reform of the global multilateral architecture, holds the key to progress on all other elements.

Efforts to promote a new multilateralism have little chance of success without a comprehensive reform of global governance structures.

The on-going financial crisis has further highlighted the urgent need to take concrete action to restructure international governance architectures in a manner that reflects current realities and provides for enhanced representation of developing countries.

If we want our multilateral institutions to be able to counter current and emerging challenges, we cannot continue with structures that date from the Second World War, and do not reflect the current and emerging global realities. Small steps, like an enhanced role for the G-20, are a beginning but certainly not the end.
In this context, at the UN the critical need is an expansion in both the permanent and the non-permanent membership of the Security Council and an improvement in its working methods.

We are happy that a unanimous decision was recently taken to continue the inter-governmental negotiations on UNSC reform immediately. The decision to build on the progress already achieved allows us to focus now on what is the opinion of the overwhelming majority i.e. expansion in both permanent and non-permanent categories.

Mr. President,

We are still grappling with the adverse affects of an unprecedented global economic and financial crisis. Developing countries, where the crisis did not originate, have been the most affected.

It is imperative that stimulus efforts and other actions to help developing countries are continued and enhanced. There is no place at this time for protectionism in any form in the developed countries.

The Secretary General has eloquently brought out the direct co-relation between resource availability and progress in achieving MDGs. The fact that efforts of developing countries towards achieving MDGs have been hit by the economic and financial crisis demands that the international community significantly spur provision of greater assistance and investment flows to developing countries.

At the recently held Mini-Ministerial meeting in New Delhi of Trade Ministers we have made major progress towards revitalizing the Doha phase of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations.

We hope that the Doha Round will now make progress towards an outcome that is development oriented and can assist developing countries in meeting their development goals.

Mr. President,

The Secretary-General has correctly highlighted climate change as a top priority. We appreciate his initiative in organizing the Summit on Climate Change on 22nd September 2009.

As a country that is hugely affected by climate change, India will be part of the solution and push for an ambitious and equitable outcome at Copenhagen.
The outcome must be in accordance with the provisions and principles of the 
UNFCCC, in particular, common but differentiated responsibilities and ensure that 
developing countries can pursue their overriding development imperative of poverty 
eradication.

We are also undertaking numerous mitigation and adaptation measures 
domestically to address climate change. Many of these will have specific, quantitative 
and time-bound goals.

On the multilateral side, there has to be a greater focus on technology access for 
developing countries. The UN has to play a true facilitator’s role in access to and 
transfer of affordable and cost effective technology to developing countries.

There is also no escaping the need to revisit the IPR regime from the perspective 
of balancing rewards for innovators with the common good of humankind.

Mr. President,

Peacekeeping remains the most visible UN activity and also one, that perhaps 
more than any other, represents the aspirations of the Charter to prevent the scourge 
of war from afflicting societies.

However, as things stand today, the UN has neither the resources nor the 
expertise to satisfactorily execute many of its ambitious peacekeeping mandates.

There are countries that are willing and able to contribute more in terms of 
resources. The challenge is in creating the framework that will enable the United 
Nations to access and utilize these resources and capacities.

As a Member-State that is closely associated with UN peacekeeping, India will 
actively contribute in building the renewed global partnership on peacekeeping that the 
Secretary-General has called for, including in the area of rule of law and deployment of 
police units.

I am happy that the work of the Female Formed Police Unit from India that is 
deployed in Liberia has been much appreciated.

Mr. President,

Peacebuilding is one of the UN activities, which must evolve urgently in the 
coming years given the huge needs in post conflict societies.
Peacebuilding, of course, must be first and foremost a national process. But the international community must be there to assist countries recovering from conflict.

Here again, I would like to reiterate the commitment of my Government to partner the UN, this time in its peacebuilding efforts. India has unique combinations of relevant experience, expertise and capacities, which we believe are critical for nation building in any part of the world.

Mr. President,

We welcome the efforts made by the Secretary-General in using the opportunity of 60th year of adoption of the Universal Declaration of the Human Rights to strengthen Member States advocacy efforts on human rights and take concrete steps to integrate human rights into all aspects of the Organization’s work.

While integrating human rights in the work of the UN, we should ensure that the development agenda pursued by the UN should not be undermined by way of introducing new conditionalities in provision of development assistance.

One of the priorities on the human rights front should include enhancing the Organization’s commitment to make the Right to Development a reality sooner than later.

Mr. President,

India has consistently been of the view that Responsibility to Protect (R2P) its population is one of foremost responsibilities of every member state.

We agree with the Secretary General that the consultations regarding the application of responsibility to protect to the four identified mass atrocities and emphasis on non-use of force should continue and therefore sponsored the resolution 63/308.

However we need to be cognizant that creation of new norms should safeguard against their misuse. In this context, responsibility to protect should in no way provide a pretext for humanitarian intervention or unilateral action.

Mr. President,

We appreciate the progress made by the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF) in the last four years. India was one of the first countries to support its establishment and has already contributed US $ 20 million.
Let me assure you that we will continue to be actively engaged in this Fund and its activities, which we believe contribute to promotion of good and participative governance practices.

Mr. President,

Terrorism is the scourge of our times. It needs to be combated with all the power at the command of the international community.

While I am glad that the UN has been working on operationalizing the Global Strategy, we believe it is essential that we adopt the Comprehensive Convention against International Terrorism (CCIT), which has been under negotiation for over fifteen years, in this session. This would then provide a solid legal basis for the fight against terrorism.

Mr. President,

India fully shares the concerns arising from the existence of weapons of mass destruction, and their possible acquisition by non-state actors and terrorists. India attaches the highest priority to the goal of universal nuclear disarmament and has an impeccable non-proliferation record.

Nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation are mutually reinforcing processes and they require concerted and cooperative international efforts. We welcome the renewed global debate on achieving a world free of nuclear weapons.

Mr. President,

India’s civilizational ethos of “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam”, we are one family, guides the way we perceive and work in the United Nations. We would do all that we can to strengthen the UN so that the international community can be united to address the world’s problems through decisive action.

In that spirit, the Indian delegation looks forward to meaningful and result-oriented discussions on the various items on the agenda of the General Assembly.

Thank you!