

STATEMENT BY MR. E. AHAMED, MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AT THE
GENERAL DEBATE OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE OF THE 67TH SESSION OF THE UNITED
NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, ON OCTOBER 08, 2012-10-09

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to begin by congratulating you and your bureau on assuming the leadership of the Second Committee.

India associates itself with the statement delivered by Algeria on behalf of the G-77.

Mr. Chairman,

The task before the Second Committee this year is well laid out.



The key outcomes from the RIO+20 Summit on Sustainable Development Goals, Financing Strategy, Technology Mechanism, Strengthening of UNEP and the High level Political Forum need to be pursued as agreed at Rio and implemented in a time bound manner.

Rio identified poverty as the greatest global challenge of our times and renewed our commitment to attaining the MDGs by 2015.

Achievement of these millennium aspirations must receive our highest priority and not slip even as we start working on the post-2015 development agenda.

Given that there are still more than a billion people worldwide who continue to live in extreme poverty and hunger, the post-2015 development agenda must be weaved around the absolute imperative of poverty eradication.

The post-2015 development agenda must remain anchored in the Rio principles, in particular common but differentiated responsibilities and equity.

The inter-governmental process on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) must be based in New York so that we can ensure inclusivity and wider participation of developing countries.

As we sit down to fashion the SDGs, we must do so with a clear idea in mind that they would form the crux of the Post-2015 agenda.

Discussions on the Post-2015 agenda have also seen some articulation on bringing in new issues including peace and security in the development framework.

We recognise that these are important issues and concerted efforts must be made to address them.

However, they should not be mixed with core development challenges as that would severely undermine efforts at achieving sustainable development.

Mobilisation of resources, be it ODA, technology transfer, trade or FDI, is critical to support the MDGs. In the post-2015 development agenda these issues must be brought to the centre of the development debate.

We recognise that the development landscape has changed over the years.

There are new actors such as the private sector, private foundations and civil society, all of which are now playing a significant role in development.

South-South Cooperation also has seen enhanced action and it must be allowed to grow within its own space and in accordance with its own principles. It cannot, however, be a substitute for North-South Cooperation.

Mr. Chairman,

The 11th Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity is underway in India.

We urge all Parties to work for a strong development oriented outcome and for early implementation of the Nagoya Protocol to ensure equitable sharing of the benefits of biodiversity.

Climate Change remains one of the most pressing challenges of our time.

India looks forward to a comprehensive, equitable and balanced outcome at the upcoming 18th Conference of Parties of the UNFCCC at Doha.

The central and essential deliverable at Doha is the Second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol.

This must begin on January 1, 2013 along with a meaningful completion of work under the track on Long Term Cooperative Action.

Moreover, the process and outcome of the Durban Platform, which has just commenced its work, must be, as agreed in Durban, under the Convention and in full accordance with its principles and provisions, in particular the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

The principles, provisions and the structure of the UNFCCC must be respected and form the basis of any international cooperation on climate change.

Mr. Chairman,

In spite of spirited efforts, the global economic situation remains one of deep concern. Unemployment, food and energy concerns are running high.

The continuance of economic vulnerabilities and new and emerging challenges with intertwined complexities of globalisation demand an urgent reform of the structures of global governance.

It is imperative that developing countries are given due voice and participation in the decision making structures of the global economic and financial institutions, especially the Bretton Woods Institutions.

This would also address core concerns of the LDCs, SIDs, LLDCs and countries in Africa on debt sustainability, financial assistance, trade and development.

And, here at the United Nations, it is imperative that we move urgently on reform of the Security Council by expanding it in both categories, permanent and non-permanent, revitalize the General Assembly and strengthen the ECOSOC.

Mr. Chairman, in these uncertain times, the Second Committee has to assume a larger role in fashioning and guiding the global development agenda.

Under your leadership, I am confident that it would meet its expectations.

I thank you.

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