

Statement by Mrs. Shruti Choudhry, Member of Parliament & Member of the Indian Delegation, On Agenda Item 21: “Globalization and interdependence: (a) Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence (d) Culture and development” at the Second Committee of the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on October 23, 2013

Mr. Chairperson,

India associates itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Fiji on behalf of G-77.



Mr. Chairperson,

Globalization and its effective management for the greater good is an issue that lies at the heart of multilateral cooperation under the United Nations and also the evolving discourse on a Post-2015 Development Agenda.

In this context, I would like to focus on **six** key themes.

First, globalization is the defining reality of our times and its essential creed is that today all of us share a common destiny.

Globalization has brought unprecedented mobility of goods, services, capital, labour, technology and ideas. In doing so, it has created growth and wealth. It has fostered greater trade and interdependence. It has brought people together.

No individual or nation can remain unaffected by changes occurring in other parts of the world. We live in a world where we act together, succeed together and even fail together.

Second, we must also recognize and confront the risks and challenges that globalization has brought.

Till a few years ago the world had taken for granted the benefits of globalization and global interdependence. Today we are faced with the negative dimensions of those very phenomena.

The benefits of globalization have not been equitably shared, while its costs are unevenly distributed.

While it has created wealth and opportunities, it has also brought in a high degree of instability and insecurity in its wake.

A clear manifestation of the negative effects of globalization was the global financial and economic crisis, worsened by the crises of food and energy prices. It is the developing countries that became the worst victims of these crises even though they were the least responsible for them.

The increasing interdependence in the world as a result of the processes of globalization has also meant that national policies can no longer be formulated or implemented in isolation from international environment.

Third, the key to manage globalization and make it a force for inclusive development and common good is to strengthen multilateralism through open, democratic and participatory global governance structures. Unfortunately, global governance has not kept pace with the rapid changes of the past many decades.

A key reason for this is the abiding 'democratic deficit' in institutions of multilateral decision making. For multilateralism to remain relevant and effective in managing the forces of globalization, multilateral institutions need to be reformed urgently. This needs to be done both in the United Nations as well as in multilateral financial institutions. We must enable an enhanced voice for developing countries in decision making structures of the global economic governance.

Fourth, a key aspect of globalization is the management of the global commons.

We strongly believe that our collective effort for the management of the global commons must equitably balance the needs and responsibilities of nations at different stages of development.

The present stark imbalance in the consumption of natural and atmospheric resources does not lend credibility to our efforts to mainstream sustainability and address global challenges such as climate change.

Above all therefore, our commitment to the management of global commons must be premised on an equitable sharing of resources.

Fifth, an abiding feature of globalization is the phenomenon of international migration. The spirit of globalization rests on the mobility and flow of human resources.

We need to craft a humane, orderly and mutually beneficial process of migration which maximizes its win-win opportunity for both developing as well as developed countries and reduces its negative dimensions.

Sixth, managing globalization so that it benefits everyone would be a central challenge of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

It is therefore important that this agenda remains focused on the promotion of sustained and inclusive economic growth with eradication of poverty as the central and overarching objective.

It should carry forward the human development imperatives enshrined in the MDGs, fully respect the Rio principles and prioritize enhanced mobilization of resources as part of a renewed global partnership for development.

In order to harness the positive forces of globalization, the Post-2015 Development Agenda must be anchored in the imperative of creating a supportive international economic environment, enhanced aid and investment flows, a supportive multilateral trade regime and a strengthened framework for transfer of technology.

Mr. Chairperson,

Allow me to also address the important issue of 'Culture and Development'.

We fully support the notion that a culture-sensitive approach is needed for the success of development initiatives.

Coming from India I believe that a culture-sensitive approach is one that embraces differences, celebrates diversity and promotes mutual respect. Only such an inclusive approach can enable us to pursue collective global objectives in a spirit of solidarity.

Let me also add that certain cultural precepts can add value to our global efforts at promoting sustainable development.

If we are to collectively achieve sustainable development, the world will have to embrace a 'culture of frugality'. The culture of harmony with nature, of taking from the Earth and

the atmosphere only so much as one puts back into them. This idea has been a part and parcel of Indian ethos and culture.

We must find new pathways for transition to a culture of frugal living, less wastage and equitable sharing of resources.

I thank you.

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