

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR MANJEEV SINGH PURI, DEPUTY PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE, ON AGENDA ITEM 14 AND 117: CONSIDERATION OF THE SECRETARY
GENERAL'S REPORT ON "HUMAN SECURITY" AT THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL
ASSEMBLY ON JUNE 4, 2012

Mr. President,

Let me begin by thanking all the previous speakers for their presentations and useful insights on the concept of Human Security and how to work forward to close the conceptual framework and move towards its implementation.

In this regard, I also thank the UN Secretary General for his comprehensive report (A/66/763) on 'Human Security'. We also wish to recognize the contribution of Japan in pursuing this debate in the UN.

Mr. President,

While the idea of human security appears obvious and is well captured in the World Summit Outcome document paragraph 143 as freedom from fear, freedom from want and right to live with dignity for all individual in order to fully develop their potential, it is important that we situate this in a conceptual framework in the multilateral context.

The discussions over the conceptual framework for human security have been long and drawn out. This is not surprising since human security issues, and related threats and vulnerabilities naturally vary from one situation to the other. We, therefore, look at the human security framework as one which guides our response to challenges confronting us, rather than a policy goal in itself.

We have, however, made significant progress. We have taken note of the common understanding of 'Human Security' outlined in paragraph 36 of the UNSG's Report. It provides a good basis to carry forward our discussions towards an accepted and clearly articulated 'common understanding' on human security. In fact, India has been stressing many of these elements in our statements on the subject in the past. Today's deliberation and the new resolution will no doubt help further refine this understanding.

Human security encompasses the inter-linkages between peace, development and human rights. The common understanding of this issue needs to recognize that the primary responsibility for human security rests with States and their Governments.

Governments retain the primary role for ensuring the survival, livelihood and dignity of their citizens. The notion of human security is distinct from the responsibility to protect and its implementation.

The concept of human security must avoid the securitization of the economic and social discourse, and concentrate on capacity building and the empowerment of people.

The concept must be people centric and should go beyond the narrow framework of protection of population from physical security like war and conflict to a much broader framework to encompass multi-dimensional and comprehensive parameters with development as the central pillar. It is evident that absence of development and growth will adversely affect 'freedom from want' and 'freedom from fear'.

From our perspective, the idea of human security needs to eschew the idea of the interventionist approach. The understanding of human security needs to be clearly anchored within the framework of UN Charter and principles of State sovereignty, which are the bedrock of international relations.

Mr. President,

The SG's report also identifies four areas where human security can bring particular added value to the work of the UN. These are areas which include climate change; post-conflict peacebuilding; global financial and economic crisis and the MDGs; and health and related challenges.

Some of these areas have cross-cutting linkages as well. These identified areas, which by no means are exhaustive, of course, encompass challenges, which are not necessarily confined within national boundaries.

We also live in a world that has a fair degree of globalization. We are cognizant of the complexity associated with this concept and its multidimensional linkages at national, regional and international level.

Therefore, it is imperative to stress the need for genuine international cooperation. The responsibility of the international community is to complement and provide the necessary support to Governments, on their request, to strengthen their capacities to respond to current and emerging threats and challenges.

Such international cooperation must recognize the inherent constraints many developing countries face especially in mobilizing internal and external resources for

the socio-economic and developmental activities as also strive for solutions that are embedded in local realities and are based on national ownership.

Mr. President,

In India, we are proud of our democratic traditions and civilizational ethos of tolerance, respect and mutual understanding. Democracy and rule of law is the bedrock of our political structure. We are committed to ensure fundamental rights and dignity to every citizen.

In recent years, our efforts for social and economic transformation has, moreover, focused on improvement in quality of life in an inclusive manner i.e. bringing the fruits of economic development to all sections of our society, particularly in rural India and among the vulnerable.

It is our belief that a comprehensive approach to human security is the only way that this concept would help every human being explore his/her potential to the maximum, while pursuing a life of dignity in a safe and healthy environment.

Mr. President,

India has been constructively engaged in deliberations on this issue of human security. I wish to assure you that we will continue to do so and work towards an early implementation of this concept for benefit of all.

Thank You, Mr. President.

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