

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR MANJEEV SINGH PURI, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE, ON AGENDA ITEMS 69[B] & 69[C] - HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS AT THE THIRD COMMITTEE OF THE 67TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON NOVEMBER 08, 2012

Mr. Chairman,

We thank the Secretary General for his various reports under Agenda Items 69[b] and 69[c] the Special Rapporteurs for their reports as well.

Mr. Chairman,

We welcome the report of the Working Group on the Right to Development. The Right to Development is a fundamental link in the web of human rights that mark the social progress and better standards of life for every person.

We were privileged to have the late Dr. Arjun Sengupta, whose contribution in furthering a rights-based approach to development had been noteworthy as the Chairman of the Working Group on the Right to Development.

We note with satisfaction the full integration of the Right to Development into several areas of the work of the UN system such as the follow-up to Least Developing Countries IV, UNCTAD XIII and United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. Much more, however, remains to be done in the full realization of the Right to Development and its mainstreaming in the work of the UN.

While no one can deny the national responsibility of States to promote the Right to Development, one cannot disregard the imperative of international cooperation essential for creating a conducive environment for the genuine realisation of this right.

We agree with the Report that there is a need to enlarge the constituencies in support of the Right to Development, and that shared responsibilities, human rights-based policy coherence and systemic integration could further strengthen the global partnership for development among Member States, development agencies and the international development, financial and trade institutions.

Mr. Chairman,

With regard to the Secretary General's report on "Globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights", we believe that the development must be at the heart of the globalization process, and that development must be inclusive and sustainable.

At RIO+20, the international community renewed its commitment to sustainable development, recognizing poverty eradication to be the greatest global

challenge.

In this context, we must ensure that the approach to development is one that takes into account the needs, priorities, and objectives of the developing countries and its people.

International cooperation and solidarity between States are indispensable for seizing the opportunities and combating the challenges posed by globalization. This concerns all spheres of cooperation, including aid, trade, investment, debt relief, transfer of technology, financing for development, food security, access to medicines, and climate change.

In this regard, the reform of global economic governance is equally vital so as to ensure that all countries and peoples can benefit more equitably from globalization.

Reports of the *Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education* focusing in particular on technical and vocational education and training, and the *Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food* provide valuable inputs in meeting the challenges facing us.

Mr. Chairman,

The report of the Secretary General on the steps taken by States to combat intolerance, negative stereo-typing, stigmatization, discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons based on religion or belief and the interim report of the *Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief* highlights the necessity of States to ensure principles of equality and non-discrimination for all its citizens.

India supports all efforts to build bridges of understanding between nations, peoples, religions and cultures across the many fault-lines that exist in today's world. India's great experiment of a billion people of great diverse persuasion, working together seeking their salvation in the framework of a democracy can offer useful insights for all multi-cultural societies.

Our nation was built on the foundations of deep and abiding commitments to the value of democracy. Pluralism, secularism, multi-culturalism and the principles of equity, social justice and the rule of law are core values of our democratic polity and the bed-rock of our Republic.

Mr. Chairman,

Terrorism remains one of the most serious threats to international peace and security, and also a major threat to full enjoyment of human rights.

Terrorists violate the most fundamental human right of their victims - the right to life. They also infringe upon several other basic human rights. Terrorism is an attack on democracy, human dignity, human rights and development.

Effectively combating this increasingly sophisticated and globalized scourge requires necessary political will of member states and greater international and regional cooperation.

States must take unequivocal and resolute position against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. We need to ensure zero-tolerance towards terrorism. We need to remove the moral and legal ambiguities that allow terrorists to gain succor and even legitimacy.

It is, therefore, timely that the *Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism* has focused on the human rights of victims of terrorism. We support the point that the victims of terrorism must be recognized as victims of grave violations of international human rights laws.

Mr. Chairman,

With our democratic, pluralistic and secular polity, an independent and impartial judiciary, a vibrant civil society, a free media and independent national human rights institution, India has been successful in ensuring effective guarantees for the promotion and protection of human rights.

Our vibrant democratic polity also requires that we continuously pursue higher norms and standards, be it in the area of human rights or development. As the world's largest democracy, India considers it an obligation and a moral imperative to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms of each and every citizen. It will be our constant endeavour to continue to do so.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS