

**STATEMENT BY MR. JAIPAL REDDY, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT ON AGENDA
ITEM 87: ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AT SECOND
COMMITTEE OF 57TH UNGA ON OCTOBER 21, 2002**

Mr. Chairman,

We thank the Secretary General for the reports submitted under the sub-agenda items of Agenda item 87 on, "Environment and Sustainable Development", under consideration today. We associate ourselves with the statement made by Venezuela on behalf of the Group of 77 as well as with the statement made by Mexico on behalf of the Group of Megadiverse countries.

Mr. Chairman,

2. Bio-diversity, the variety of life forms, is the foundation for maintaining life-sustaining systems of this planet and fundamental to the fulfillment of human needs. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the **Convention on Biological Diversity**. This is also the year, when at the Johannesburg Summit, we collectively reaffirmed the critical role of bio-diversity in sustainable development and poverty eradication. The resolve of the sixth meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP-6) meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity held in Hague in April 2002, to move forward from policy development to implementation was given impetus at the Johannesburg Summit with the adoption of the commitment to significantly reduce by 2010 the current loss of biological diversity. There was also acknowledgement that the achievement of this target would require the provision of new and additional financial,

technological and technical resources to developing countries. The COP-6 meeting has provided 60 elements of guidelines in 25 major areas to the Global Environmental Facility. This should provide a comprehensive basis for funding bio-diversity related activities. We support such funding in accordance with priorities in National Bio-diversity Strategies and Action Plans.

3. Sharing benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources is another area that requires attention. In this context, we welcome the decision of the Johannesburg Summit to negotiate, within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity, an international regime to promote and safeguard the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilisation of genetic resources. We call on the Conference of Parties of the Convention to take necessary steps for the prompt implementation of this decision. We hope that as a practical modality for benefit sharing, this regime will be able to include mandatory disclosure, as against voluntary disclosure, of the country of origin of genetic resources in the IPR applications.

Mr. Chairman,

4. India also strongly supports sui generis systems for the protection of traditional knowledge which have been developed over millennia, and to ensure that the holders of traditional knowledge share in the benefits arising from the

commercial utilization of this knowledge.

5. My delegation further believes that developing a liability and redressal system for damage to bio-diversity in accordance with Article 14.2 of the Convention on Biological Diversity would contribute greatly to the conservation objectives.

6. We welcome the offer of Malaysia to host the seventh meeting of the Conference of Parties. We hope that here the international community will take practical steps to implement the decisions of the Johannesburg Summit for achieving the objectives of conservation of biological diversity, its sustainable use, and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources.

Mr. Chairman,

7. In the context of the **UN Convention to Combat Desertification**, we welcome the decision of the Second Assembly of Global Environment Facility held in Beijing from 16-18 October 2002, to

include land degradation, desertification and deforestation as the new GEF focal areas. In addition, the decision of the Johannesburg Summit and its subsequent confirmation at the GEF Assembly that GEF would be available as a financial mechanism of the Convention to Combat Desertification is significant. These decisions of the GEF Assembly are the first steps in the process of the implementation of commitments made at the World Summit on Sustainable Development. This augurs well and we hope that the same spirit pervades during the full implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Action.

Mr. Chairman,

8. Lastly, we would like to convey our support for the convening of an international meeting in 2004 to review the implementation of the Barbados Plan of Action for the Sustainable Development of **Small Island Developing Countries**.

Thank You, Mr. Chairman.

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