

STATEMENT BY MR. NIRUPAM SEN, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE, ON  
AGENDA ITEM 40 – REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL  
AT THE 63<sup>RD</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
ON NOVEMBER 03, 2008

Mr. President,

Thank you for the opportunity to express our views on the report of the Economic and Social Council for 2008.

India attaches great importance to the work of the Economic and Social Council, and believes that its strengthened structure will assist it in better discharging its role as a principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on issues of economic and social development. We underline the importance of the new mandate given to the Council in 2006 for undertaking a regular and periodic review and assessment of international economic and development policies and their impact on development. We support the Development Cooperation Forum as a key body in overseeing trends in international development cooperation.

Insofar as the ECOSOC report for 2008 is concerned, we would like to comment on the report of the Statistical Commission on its thirty-ninth session, which was considered by ECOSOC during its 2008 Substantive Session. While the Statistical Commission was asked to merely look at the indicators for the targets of the Millennium Development Goals, we would like to reiterate our position, and place on record, that we do not agree with the change in targets effected last year by the UN Secretariat, particularly the transfer of a target from Goal 8 to Goal 1. Such actions, without approval of Member States, are arbitrary and misrepresent the decision taken at the World Summit Outcome. Further, these actions weaken the monitoring of the MDG 8, and are against the spirit of the global partnership for development. We would urge the Statistical Commission to particularly focus on this aspect during its fortieth session.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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