

**STATEMENT BY MR. V.K. NAMBIAR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE AT THE
GENERAL DEBATE OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2002**



Mr. Chairman,

My delegation would like to congratulate you and other members of the Bureau on your election. We are confident that under your able stewardship the work of the Committee will be productive. We associate ourselves with the statement made by the Chairman of the Group of 77.

2. We have also listened with great interest to the views expressed by Under Secretary-General, Mr. Nitin Desai earlier this morning.

Mr. Chairman,

3. Last year, our work had focused on preparations for the Doha Ministerial Meeting, the Monterrey Conference and the Johannesburg Summit. We were engaged in discussions to define our priorities and positions on the very important issues of trade, finance and development that these conferences were

to address. This year, we meet under different circumstances. The debates, though rich and vibrant, have concluded. We have with us the mandates and the agreed agendas. There are, of course, varying perceptions of the outcomes. For India, the outcomes of the Johannesburg Summit and the Monterrey Conference were encouraging in many ways but have fallen short of the level of commitment required from the international community to address the issues of poverty eradication and development or to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. To give just one illustration, if we are to achieve the Millennium Development Goal of halving by 2015 the proportion of people who suffer from hunger, we have to find US\$ 24 billion annually. No such commitment to make available these resources was made by the international community either at the World Food Summit Plus 5 held in June this year or in the other conferences referred to earlier.

4. We acknowledge, however, that the unanimous view now is that we must move into the phase of implementation. Clearly, the challenge is to translate the commitments that have been undertaken into concrete actions so that the international development agenda is carried forward. 2015 is an important target date. We have only 12 years to achieve our goals. We cannot afford inaction. We cannot justify inaction.

Mr. Chairman,

5. At the Monterrey Conference, for the first time, the complex and diverse aspects of financing for development were addressed in a holistic manner. We hope that the additional funds pledged and announced by the developed countries at Monterrey would be made available at the earliest. Following the Monterrey Conference, India decided to cancel all bilateral debt owed to it by the HIPC countries. My delegation would like to reaffirm its commitment to continue working in the financing for development process so as to realise the objective of making available enhanced and predictable funding for development to developing countries.

6. It is important that in the follow up to Monterrey, we continue with the inclusive approach of involving the broad range of stakeholders, particularly the institutional stakeholders, in its implementation. Some discussions on the follow up mechanisms have taken place in ECOSOC and also in the meetings of the Bretton Woods Institutions. We hope that during this session, we are able to finalise the details on how the General Assembly High-Level Dialogue on Strengthening International Cooperation for Development would focus on the

implementation of the Monterrey Consensus.

Mr. Chairman,

7. At the Johannesburg Summit we reiterated our resolve to achieve the goal of sustainable development and implement Agenda 21 on the basis of the Rio principles, particularly the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. We welcome the inclusion of the sanitation target as also the decision to establish the World Solidarity Fund. We seek, during this General Assembly session, the finalisation of the modalities relating to the establishment of the Fund. We also call for early action to implement the commitment 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 out of the utilization of genetic resources.

8. We recognise that sustainable development has to be pursued at the national level. India is integrating sustainable development into its development planning processes. It is imperative that the international community supports the efforts of developing countries in this regard. We would be less than honest if we did not state that at Johannesburg we had expected the developed countries to undertake specific and time-bound commitments to make available substantial financial resources and transfer environmentally sound technologies to developing countries. The undertakings actually made were much below the required critical minimum. Even the 220 voluntary partnerships announced during the Johannesburg process yielded in total a mere US \$ 235 million!

Mr. Chairman,

9. There must be an early elaboration of the programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development for the effective implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Action that would continue to address the issue of the means of implementation.

10. The Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference acknowledged that international trade can play a major role in the promotion of economic development and poverty eradication. In this context, it was agreed to put the needs and the interests of the developing countries at the heart of the WTO Work Programme.

11. Progress in negotiations in the WTO on development related issues, since Doha, has been disappointing. Negotiations on these issues have fallen behind schedule in some crucial areas. If indeed the Doha outcome is to be described as the Doha Development Agenda, as some desire to do, concerns of the developing countries regarding market access for products and service sectors of export interest to developing countries, particularly agriculture, textiles & clothing; the movement of natural persons; the removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers; implementation issues and the operationalisation of the special and differential provisions must be addressed. Moreover, developing countries should not be expected to undertake commitments that are not commensurate with their level of development. It is an asymmetrical position that calls are made upon developing countries to liberalise while subsidies and other protectionist measures in developed countries continue or even increase. India is also of the view

that issues not directly related to trade like labour, environment and investments should not be linked to the agenda of trade liberalization.

Mr. Chairman,

12. The recovery of the global economy has been slower than expected. This has resulted in reduced trade opportunities and decreased FDI flows. Exports from developing countries which expanded by 14% in 2000, increased by less than 1% in 2001. FDI inflows to developing countries fell from US\$ 238 billion in 2000 to US\$ 205 billion in 2001. Moreover, there is no increase in ODA levels. These remain at 0.22% of GNP. There is thus an overall contraction in external financial flows to developing countries. The adverse impact in developing countries is evident in the falling growth rates. In this context, the inclusion of the development dimension in the work of multilateral trading, monetary and financial institutions is very important. We would like to renew the call for the full and effective participation of developing countries in global economic norm-setting and decision-making processes. Corporate good governance is another issue that requires urgent action by the international community. The need for this has been brought to the fore by the recent disclosures on accounting irregularities practiced by a number of business entities in the developed countries.

Mr. Chairman,

13. We welcome the appointment of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. We hope that this

would result in increased support and assistance for the implementation of the Brussels Plan of Action for the Least Developed Countries.

cooperation to be held in 2003 and would expect the Conference to address the concerns of the transit developing countries as well.

14. We support the comprehensive review in 2004 of the Barbados Plan of Action for Small Island Developing States. We would also like to call for timely preparations for the Ministerial Conference on transit transport

Mr. Chairman,

15. My delegation would like to assure you of its full cooperation in the successful conclusion of the work of the Committee.