

**STATEMENT BY DR. ABID HUSSAIN, MEMBER OF THE INDIAN  
DELEGATION ON AGENDA ITEM 87(A) ENVIRONMENT AND  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 21 AND  
THE PROGRAMME FOR THE FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA  
21 AT THE SECOND COMMITTEE OF 57<sup>TH</sup> UNGA ON NOVEMBER 21,  
2002**

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to thank the Government of South Africa for its hospitality and generosity in hosting the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg earlier this year. The Summit provided us an opportunity to assess the performance in the last ten years on progress made in the implementation of Agenda 21 that we adopted in 1992 in Rio at the UN Conference on Environment and Development. It was clear that much ground needs to be covered if we are to achieve sustainable development for all. In that context, Johannesburg while reaffirming the Rio principles and the continued relevance of Agenda 21, moved its focus to concrete action for achieving sustainable development. It is, therefore, most appropriate that the World Summit on Sustainable Development adopted the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation with concrete goals and targets. We hope that this focus on implementation would translate itself on the ground in terms of concrete projects and actions at all levels and enhanced international cooperation.

2. The outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, though it had many positive elements, did not fully meet the expectations of developing countries in having their concerns addressed. 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. Notwithstanding that, we would, however, hope that we could now collectively work together to achieve our common goals and targets, in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

3. The Johannesburg Summit reaffirmed the centrality of poverty eradication in our efforts to achieve sustainable development. We call for international action to ensure that necessary financial resources are mobilised for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. We welcome the decision to establish a world solidarity fund that will focus on poverty eradication as a step in the right direction. We hope that at this session of the General Assembly, we are able to finalise the modalities for establishing this fund. We also welcome the inclusion of the sanitation target in the Johannesburg Summit as an internationally agreed goal. The Johannesburg Summit, for the first time, agreed to address the unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, particularly in the developed countries, by encouraging the development of 10-year framework of programmes.

4. India recognizes the importance of the conservation, protection and sustainable use of natural resources. For India, a country rich in biodiversity and associated traditional knowledge, the decision to negotiate an international regime to protect and safeguard the fair and equitable share of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources is particularly significant. Developing countries have, for a long time, been seeking equitable benefit-sharing and have argued in support of establishing sui generis systems for the protection of traditional knowledge as the provisions of TRIPS do not adequately address the concerns of developing countries. We look forward to the early commencement of work on the international regime that we agreed to at Johannesburg.

Mr. Chairman,

5. The immediate task ahead of us is the structuring and re-invigorating of the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development in a manner that is in accordance with the mandate agreed at Johannesburg. The CSD will be the high-level Commission within the UN system for sustainable development with the role of reviewing and promoting the implementation of Agenda 21. The thematic work of the Commission should be structured in a manner that serves this objective. We also hope that the inter-governmental consideration of the framework, criteria and scope for partnerships, which unfortunately we could not undertake in Johannesburg owing to time-constraints, will take place in the Commission on Sustainable Development.

6. The inter-governmental negotiations at the Preparatory Committees for the Summit, including at the Ministerial meeting in Bali and at the Summit, were protracted. A balanced consensus text was agreed upon, namely, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. We have seen the report issued by the UN Secretariat on the World Summit on Sustainable Development (A/CONF.199/20) and regrettably the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation as reflected in this Report does not correctly reflect the understanding arrived at in the Summit. We do not agree with the several editorial changes made in the document. We have comments to offer in this regard which we will communicate separately. We would prefer the re-issuing of the report on the Conference, to correctly reflect the understanding reached at the inter-governmental level.

7. In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, at the end of the day the real test is not only what we did at the Summit but what we have to do in terms of implementing the outcome of the Summit on the ground.

Thank You, Mr. Chairman.