

Statement by Ambassador Bhagwant Singh Bishnoi, Deputy Permanent Representative, on  
Agenda Item 26[a-d] Social Development at the Third Committee of the 70<sup>th</sup> Session of the  
United Nations General Assembly on October 07, 2015



**Mr. Chairperson,**

On behalf of the Indian delegation, I would like to congratulate you and the other members of the Bureau on your election to this important committee. My delegation also associates itself with the statement made by South Africa on behalf of the G77.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

Last month our leaders adopted a comprehensive set of development goals – they are far reaching, people centred and, hopefully, will also be transformative. The Sustainable Development Goals recognize the linkage between social development and other dimensions of development. This underlines the importance of re-energizing efforts to create "a society for all" as envisaged in the 1995 Copenhagen Declaration and by the 24th special session of the General Assembly.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

Given uneven progress with regard to the 1995 goals in the last 20 years, we cannot afford but to make poverty eradication and social inclusion our top priorities in order to achieve sustainable development. We are, therefore, happy that poverty eradication has been placed at the heart of the Agenda-2030.

Social integration with social inclusion is necessary to overcome inequalities both within and between countries. Of utmost importance is to collectively stimulate growth and development through non-discriminatory employment generation policies and provide decent work for all. This has to be ensured through empowerment of all sections of society, leaving no one behind.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

Our approach to social integration over the past 70 years is based on ensuring that social development is accessible to all sections of society. Our policies and programmes in areas of poverty eradication, education, health and social protection have focused on the vulnerable sections including women, children, disabled and older persons.

At the Agenda-2030 Summit, our Prime Minister stated “India’s development agenda is mirrored in the sustainable development goals.” In the last one and a half years the objective of government policies has been “*sab ka saath sab ka vikas*” which means (together with all, development for all). The Prime Minister’s Jan Dhan Yojana has provided banking access to 170 million people as a first step towards their economic empowerment and development. New Social protection schemes in the insurance sector have been launched, such as the Prime Minister's Suraksha Bima Yojana which benefitted more than 100 million families within a span of 100 days of the launch. With the initiative of Swachha Bharat (clean India ) by 2019, the government has prioritized water and sanitation for all. The “Make in India” and “Digital India” campaigns aim at economic growth and bridging the digital divide. The recently launched “Skill India” initiative aims at training nearly 400 million people by 2022.

The Government has initiated several programmes in the areas of housing and shelter, health insurance, employment generation and family planning which are focused on supporting and strengthening families and households and breaking the cycle of intergenerational poverty.

Our effort is to provide the youth meaningful opportunities for education, health and skills development. Similarly, government has taken several measures to ensure that persons with disabilities and over 100 million older persons lead a secure, dignified and productive life.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

There is no “one size fits all” solution for social development at the national level. The Agenda 2030 has also well recognized the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities in its implementation. The inter-linkages among the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable social development can only be addressed by strengthening of institutions and capacity at international, national, regional and local levels. Efforts to fill the domestic financing gap in developing countries is only possible by international funding assistance led by the official development assistance by developed countries. With political resolve and selfless interest, the global community must transform itself into a resilient and sustainable society.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

India is committed to the realization of the goals set in 1995 and is ready to walk the extra mile with the international community to foster, in an inclusive and sustainable manner, a stable, safe and just society.

**I thank you.**

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