

**71st session of UNGA
40th Annual Meeting of
Foreign Ministers of G-77
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**INDIA STATEMENT
Ms. Sujata Mehta, Vice Minister**

Mr. President,

May I begin by thanking you for the excellent leadership provided by Thailand to the Group of 77 this year. We also appreciate the important achievements made during the leadership of South Africa last year.

Mr. President,

2. The two landmark developments of this past year - the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement - have also been significant successes for multilateralism in making efforts to address urgent global challenges.

3. The 2030 Agenda has vindicated this Group's longstanding consistent efforts to highlight poverty eradication as the greatest global challenge and the imperative for inclusive growth and sustainable development for overall peace and prosperity on this planet.

4. The influential and constructive role played by the entire membership of this Group in finalising the 2030 Agenda has demonstrated the strength of our unity.

5. This has been one of the most outstanding successes of the efforts of our Group over the last five decades of our working together to promote the interests of developing countries.

6. The Group also played a very significant role in the conclusion of the Paris Agreement and the emphasis on the core principles of Common But Differentiated Responsibility and Equity.

Mr. President,

7. Our collective success in these two landmark negotiations demonstrates to us that we must continue to speak in one voice.

Mr. President,

8. As we have stressed on earlier occasions, the existence of pockets of prosperity amidst widespread poverty is not just ethically untenable, but also politically and economically unsustainable. It is in the collective global interest to make genuine efforts to make a more equitable world.

9. That is why the governance of these issues at a global level has to become more inclusive and representative. Models created for a bygone era have long become dysfunctional.

10. This aspect of collective responsibility to improve lives across the world has been explicitly recognised in the SDG 17 on Global Partnership for Sustainable Development and even earlier in the MDG 8 on Global Partnership for Development. This aspect has also been reflected in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development. We must continue to stress the need for concrete progress on this aspect from countries of the developed world who are in a position to assist the developing countries achieve their goals and have the historical responsibility to do so. These principles are also absolutely essential in achieving success on climate action globally.

11. Today the developed world needs cooperation from the developing countries to find solutions to problems that respect no borders.

12. Challenges in a globalised world cannot be addressed effectively by individual or groups of countries. Whether it is sustainable development, climate change, financial crises, pandemics, food security, energy security, terrorism, the forced movement of refugees, or wider peace and security, all of these challenges require comprehensive solutions with active participation of all. Other challenges, whose global scale is now being recognized such as Anti-Microbial Resistance also require genuine international cooperation. Global health solutions require access to affordable quality medicines, with adequate TRIPS flexibility.

Mr. President,

13. We in India are intensifying our efforts to eradicate poverty and implement the SDGs. Our national policies are aligned with the SDGs in focusing on healthcare, education, gender, skills and employment, energy and infrastructure development, among others.

14. On our part, we in India will continue to work with our partners in the developing world to push for a more equitable global order. We continue to expand our development partnership over a wide range of sectors for capacity building with fellow developing countries across continents, and especially with those in more vulnerable situations in the spirit of south-south solidarity.

Thank You Mr. President.