

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR HARDEEP SINGH PURI, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE,
ON AGENDA ITEM 108 – REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE WORK OF THE
ORGANIZATION AT THE 65TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ON OCTOBER 06, 2010

Mr. President,

I wish to thank the Secretary General for his annual report on the work of the organization (A/65/1).

The commitments we undertook in 2000 enshrined in the Millennium Declaration were renewed by our leaders two weeks ago at the High-level plenary meeting on the Millennium Development Goals. In taking stock of the MDGs, it is evident that the progress reported by the Secretary-General on various fronts such as poverty reduction, primary education enrollment, narrowing the gender gap in education, and access to clean water is tempered by the uneven reach and the significant gaps that persist in all the MDG categories, significantly health-related MDGs.

Never before in the 65 years of the UN's existence has there been such a groundswell of global support for taking development to the poorest and the most vulnerable amongst us, of which the overwhelming majority are found in developing countries. Never before has it been clearer of what needs to be done to address the many dimensions of poverty and inequality and to build a global partnership for development.

It is, therefore, imperative that we ensure that our collective commitments are achieved in the agreed timeframe. While countries bear the primary responsibility for their own development strategies and goals, there is no denying that resource constraints pose a significant impediment to progress in achieving the MDGs. The global partnership on financing for development is crucial for the developing countries to meet their MDG targets, particularly as they relate to the special needs of Africa and the LDCs, SIDS, and LLDCs. They must continue to receive priority attention.

We could not agree more with the Secretary-General that the achievement of the MDGs requires unswerving commitment, proactive engagement, and collective global political leadership and will. It is time now for the high words to translate into action.

Mr. President,

India shares the priority placed by the Secretary-General on climate change. We are aware of the consequences it has for vulnerable communities and regions in our countries. We welcome his initiative on a High-Level Advisory Group on Climate Change Financing and a high-level panel on global sustainability. India will participate constructively for an ambitious and equitable outcome in the UNFCCC negotiations.

Mr. President,

While the Secretary-General's Report captures the priorities that engaged the organization and its membership as well as and the progress achieved on a number of fronts, we are struck by the singular lack of mention of the important progress made in advancing the agenda of Security Council reform. The launch of text-based negotiations and the overwhelming and emphatic support extended by the membership of the UN for expansion in both the permanent and non-permanent categories of Security Council cannot go unacknowledged and needs to be properly recorded.

Intergovernmental negotiations on UN Security Council reforms witnessed a positive momentum in the 64th session with resolve from the membership to "immediately continue intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform" on the basis of the negotiation text.

The organization's success in meeting the diverse and complex challenges it faces is to a great extent based on our willingness to accept and undertake the crying need for reform of the principal organs of the United Nations, in particular the Security Council. It is our firm belief that the effectiveness and relevance of the multilateral endeavor that constitutes the United Nations and its activities diminishes every day that we delay implementing real reforms to its governance architecture.

Mr. President,

I also draw your attention to the progress made in revitalization of the General Assembly to restore its preeminence as the chief deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the United Nations in letter and in spirit. The Ad Hoc Working Group on GA Revitalization did commendable work in the last session. We welcome the adoption of a consensus resolution contained in paragraph 64 of the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group. A number of forward looking provisions were agreed on, including those relating to enhancing the Assembly's role in the selection and appointment of the Secretary-General, enhancing the role of the Assembly in the maintenance of international peace and security, strengthening the institution of the PGA as well as improving the quality of reporting by the Security Council to the General Assembly.

Mr. President,

Terrorism poses a grave threat to all states and all societies. It is a global threat that requires a coordinated and concerted global response to combat it. In this regard, India believes that the adoption of the Comprehensive Convention against International Terrorism (CCIT), which has been under negotiation for over fifteen years, would provide a solid legal basis for the fight against terrorism. We therefore welcome the Secretary General's assertion in his Report on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism that the comprehensiveness of implementing the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy will not be complete without the conclusion of the comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

On-going efforts such as the recent second review of the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy, institutionalization of the Task Force, as well as strengthening the sanctions regime created by UNSC Resolution 1267 are steps in the right direction. India will continue its active involvement in all the counter-terrorism efforts of the UN.

Mr. President,

Peacekeeping continues to be the most visible contribution of the United Nations towards maintaining peace and stability in conflict-torn regions around the world. As one of the largest contributors to peacekeeping operations, both in terms of troops and resources, we support efforts by the Secretary General to strengthen the capability of the organization to keep peace in increasingly complex situations. The challenge is to ensure that field missions are equipped with adequate resources and expertise to satisfactorily execute peacekeeping mandates.

My delegation is following with close interest the Secretary General's efforts to enhance the Secretariat's ability to support peacekeeping operations. In this regard, we expect the Secretariat to closely consult with us and other Troop Contributing Countries in further taking forward the global field support strategy that was unveiled earlier this year.

Mr. President,

India remains acutely conscious that peacekeeping cannot be a substitute for the task of nation-building and peace building. The Government of India is committed to the principle and practice of peace building. We have been actively involved in the process of the on-going review of the peace building architecture that is centered on the Peace Building Commission and its instrumentalities.

There have been a number of innovative mechanisms put in place to bolster the UN's peace building efforts, including collaboration with the World Bank, expanding the footprint of post-conflict consolidation through enhancing civilian capacities, maximizing the positive role that women can play in peace building and also strengthening the catalytic role of the Peace Building Fund. We support these innovations. We would further

like to stress the imperative of national ownership and the anchoring of international peace building efforts at the country level.

Mr. President,

We are encouraged by the positive signs of an invigorated international debate on global disarmament in 2010. India attaches the highest priority to the goal of universal nuclear disarmament and has an impeccable non-proliferation record. Nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation are mutually reinforcing processes and they require concerted and cooperative international efforts.

We would like to express our appreciation for the Secretary General's initiative to convene a high level meeting on 'revitalizing the work of the conference on disarmament and taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations. We believe that it has rightfully sent a clear message of support for the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum and to provide political impetus to the multilateral disarmament agenda.

Mr. President,

We appreciate the efforts of the Secretary-General in advocating the principles of promotion and protection of human rights, and the rule of law. We also recognize their synergistic link with human welfare and socio-economic development, including the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

The review exercise of the Human Rights Council should explore ways that preserve transparency and inclusiveness and ensure that while urgent human rights situations are addressed, duplication and overlap are avoided; streamline the number of resolutions tabled in each session; rationalize the work of the Council and the mandates of Special Procedures without in any way undermining our commitment to human rights; and make the dialogue between the Council and member states genuinely interactive.

Mr. President,

The institutional strengthening of the organization to better enable it to deliver on its vision and mandate received a boost with the adoption of the General Assembly resolution 64/289 on system-wide coherence. India particularly welcomes the landmark decision to create a unified gender entity-UN WOMEN. We look forward to the early operationalisation of the entity and welcome the appointment of Michelle Bachelet as the first Under Secretary-General of UN WOMEN.

Mr. President,

In closing, I pledge my delegation's full support in achieving the important goals we have set for ourselves and taking forward the important mandates entrusted to the

organization. We look forward to building on the positive momentum from last year on crucial issues and working towards meaningful and result-oriented discussions on the various items on the agenda of the General Assembly.

I thank you.

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