

STATEMENT BY DR. KAKOLI GHOSH DASTIDAR, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT,
ON AGENDA ITEM 18 ([A] MACROECONOMIC POLICY QUESTIONS:
INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AT THE SECOND COMMITTEE
OF THE 65TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON
NOVEMBER 04, 2010

Mr. Chairperson,

We thank the Secretary General and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) for the reports on "International Trade and Development".



Mr. Chairperson,

We are yet to overcome the after effects of the multiple crises. The global economy, though on its recovery path, is still fragile. As such, our collective efforts must be geared to ensure a strong, sustained and balanced global economic growth. This is a pre-requisite for addressing poverty eradication,

employment creation and attainment of the MDGs, especially in developing countries.

International trade has an important role to play in enhancing global economic recovery and in promoting a sustainable and job oriented growth in developing countries. However, due to difficulties in market access, lack of capacity for trade and lack of concessional finance and credit, developing countries especially the LDCs are hardly in position to optimize their share in global commerce.

The LDCs share in global trade in 2009 was about 1% and if oil is excluded from it, it would go down to 0.4%.

UNCTAD in its report on trade and development has highlighted the need to maintain balance between domestic and overseas demand for sustainable economic growth. We fully concur with this suggestion.

To offset the negative impact of an export led growth, we are of the view that countries must pursue an export strategy that looks for diversification of markets and products.

The lower volatility of services export to income shocks highlighted the relative resilience of services trade to the crisis. Hence, export diversification by developing countries into the services sector would be conducive to building economic resilience and reducing excessive dependence on commodity.

Mr. Chairperson,

The onus lies on the global community to create an international trading regime which is equitable and fair; one from which developing countries can truly benefit. We must also find solutions to adding value to the products of developing countries, in place of simply perpetuating the role of developing countries being providers of raw materials.

In this regard, we look forward to an ambitious, fair, balanced and equitable outcome of the Doha Round; one that corrects the present imbalances and truly reflects a developmental agenda.

We also need to work to lower trade barriers and shun protectionism to stimulate global trade.

There is a heightened sense of food insecurity today, especially in poor countries. Livelihood of billions of people depends on agriculture in the developing world. India, therefore, places high importance to the Special

Safeguard Mechanism in the Doha Round and on the need to maintain a balance between agriculture and NAMA in the text.

Mr. Chairperson,

Promoting the benefits of trade must take into account the special needs of developing countries, particularly the Small Island Developing States, Landlocked Developing Countries and Least Developed Countries.

India also calls for the full implementation of the Duty Free Quota Free market access for the LDCs by the international community as mandated by the Hong Kong WTO Declaration.

Technology plays a key role in promoting development. Issues that affect humankind at large must be given special treatment.

India supports flexibilities in the Agreement on TRIPS for public health concerns and stresses the need to extend such flexibilities to climate-change technology transfer. We also support measures to make intellectual property rules fully supportive of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Mr. Chairperson,

The reform of global financial and economic institutions lies at the heart of creating a more responsive, equitable and democratic global economic order.

India seeks to strengthen the voice of developing countries in the Bretton Woods Institutions. In this regard, we welcome the recent IMF quota shift of over six % to dynamic emerging markets and developing countries by 2012.

I thank you.

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