

**STATEMENT BY MR. SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT ON  
AGENDA ITEM 86: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL  
ECONOMIC COOPERATION AT SECOND COMMITTEE OF 57<sup>TH</sup> UNGA ON  
OCTOBER 17, 2002**

Mr. Chairman,

We thank the Secretary General for the detailed, analytical and informative reports submitted under the Agenda item, "Sustainable development and international economic development" under consideration today. We also align ourselves with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Venezuela on behalf of the Group of 77.

Mr. Chairman,

2. The report of the Secretary General on the implementation of the International Economic Declaration and of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth UN Development Decade contains significant observations. It points out that the average rate of annual growth of GDP for the developing countries in the 1990s was only 4.5%. No developing country achieved the goal of a 7% rate growth of GDP as stipulated in the Development Strategy. Even though there had been a decline during the decade in the proportion of people living in poverty, the fact remains that there still are 1.2 billion people living in abject poverty, 780 million people who are undernourished, 150 million children who suffer from malnutrition and 1.1 billion people who do not have access to safe drinking water. The challenges of poverty, hunger and under-development are yet to be addressed in a meaningful and effective manner.

3. The Secretary General has pointed out in his report that despite the Uruguay Round, the developing countries continued to face high tariffs, quotas and non-tariff barriers when exporting goods such as textiles, clothing and primary commodities. The external indebtedness of developing countries did not decrease; on the other hand, it grew from US\$ 1.4 trillion in 1990 to

US\$ 2.2 trillion in 2000 and there was a decline in external resource flows. These are issues which need to be addressed. In the coming years, the performance of the international community in the development field would have to improve dramatically if we are to ensure that the future generations are free from hunger, disease, and poverty.

4. The Millennium Development Goals and the outcomes of the major UN Conferences/Summits have established clear targets to be achieved in the economic and social fields. Our full efforts should be directed to achieving these targets and goals.

5. The International Development Strategy that we drew up in 1990 covered the period upto 31 December 2000. The Secretary General in accordance with the UN General Assembly Resolution 54/206 presented in 2000 a draft text of an International Development Strategy for the First Decade of the Millennium. The President of the General Assembly was mandated to initiate consultations with all Member States with a view to establishing the modalities for the consideration of the draft proposal of the Secretary General. However, it may be recalled that the international community had been pre-occupied with several major events in the last two years. The Millennium Summit was held in 2000 and preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Summit on Children, the International Conference on Financing for Development and other global conferences engaged the attention of Member States subsequently in 2001. As a result, regrettably, these consultations did not take place as had been envisaged. We invite the President of the General Assembly to undertake these consultations with the Member States, bearing in mind the outcomes of the major UN Conferences and Summits, as also the outcome

of process of integrated and coordinated follow-up of Conferences and Summits. These consultations, in our view, are important for a decision on the draft development strategy submitted by the Secretary General.

Mr. Chairman,

6. The discussions on the High Level Dialogue on Strengthening International Economic Cooperation for Development through Partnerships are taking place against the background of the mandate from the International Conference on Financing for Development that this High Level Dialogue should be the intergovernmental focal point for the general follow up to the Conference. We support a follow up mechanism that is effective and result oriented and one that involves all relevant stakeholders. In our view, the High Level Dialogue should be held immediately after the autumn meetings of the Bretton Woods Institutions in Washington. This timing would enable participation of the representatives of the

Ministries of Finance. The Dialogue could be for two days and should be preceded by adequate preparations. It could consist of a Plenary meeting and panel discussions. A Communique or a Declaration as the outcome of the High Level Dialogue would give a strong signal message that the international community is resolved to address trade, monetary and financial issues in a coherent manner that is supportive of development.

Mr. Chairman,

7. We assure you of the full co-operation of our delegation in the deliberations on the resolution on the structure, modalities, agenda and timing of High Level Dialogue which, we believe, should be finalised in this session of the General Assembly.

Thank You, Mr. Chairman.

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