

**STATEMENT BY MRS. NAMGYA KHAMPA, FIRST SECRETARY AT THE
UNDP SEGMENT OF THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE
BOARD MEETING OF THE UNDP/UNFPA ON JANUARY 31, 2011**

Madam President,

Allow me to begin by congratulating you on your election as President of the Executive Board. My delegation also extends felicitations to other members of the Bureau on their election.

We would like to place on record our appreciation to the outgoing Bureau, which was so ably presided over by Ambassador John Ashe, Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda, for their stellar role in guiding the work of the Board last year.

My delegation thanks Administrator Helen Clark for her statement.

India aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished Permanent Representative of Argentina on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Madam President,

The previous year was marked by key conferences that not only provided an opportunity for stock-taking, but also served as useful reminders to the international community on the pressing challenges that remain to be addressed on the global development agenda. The High-Level Plenary Meeting on the MDGs in September and the Cancun Conference on Climate Change in December immediately come to mind.

This year, we are preparing for the 4th United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in Istanbul. While the global economic and financial downturn negatively impacted all countries, it is universally acknowledged that the worst sufferers were the marginalized and vulnerable populations in the least developed and developing parts of the world. It is therefore hardly surprising that the global effort to eradicate poverty and deliver development should primarily focus on them.

In this, the UNDP should be no exception. My delegation believes that by virtue of its unique position as the largest development arm of the UN system, the UNDP has a particular responsibility to nurture national and local capacities, strengthen networks for sharing of knowledge and best practices, promote national ownership, and build socio-economic resilience in the most vulnerable developing countries.

Madam President,

India is convinced that only a strategy that seeks to direct the thrust of the international development effort towards the neediest countries and populations will provide the greatest dividends for the global development agenda. It is a strategic choice and investment that should be made and sustained by all stakeholders.

In this context, I am pleased to share that India will be hosting an India-LDC Ministerial Conference in cooperation with the United Nations in New Delhi next month in the run up to the LDC Conference in Istanbul. We want to make the most of the opportunity provided by the Conference in Istanbul to put the development of LDCs at the forefront of the global development agenda.

Madam President,

India has believed in the imperatives of South-South Cooperation since its independence. We have a robust and expansive technical and economic cooperation programme with other developing countries. We are therefore particularly pleased to see the increased UNDP focus on South-South cooperation as a practical modality for development cooperation.

We encourage the UNDP to continue to harness the full potential of South-South Cooperation as a useful vehicle for the development of capacities within the South. In this endeavor, India has always shown willingness to lend its technical expertise and experiences developed over nearly 65 years of nation-building.

Apart from making the largest contribution to UNDP's core budget from amongst programme countries, we are successfully partnering UNDP in third countries like Afghanistan. Another effective model of cooperation with the UNDP has been the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Trust Fund managed by the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in the UNDP. Current IBSA initiatives include projects in Haiti, Guinea Bissau, Cape Verde, Burundi, Palestine, Cambodia, Sierra Leone, and Laos.

India is currently exploring ways to further strengthen this engagement with the UNDP through innovative partnership mechanisms that facilitate development solutions for other developing countries, particularly the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDs. The global network of UNDP country offices and its knowledge-sharing platforms could be used to effectively channel Indian development experience and technical expertise where it is needed most.

In concluding, Madam President, we reaffirm our support to UNDP in implementing the mandates bestowed on it.

I thank you.

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