

STATEMENT BY MRS. PRENEET KAUR, HON'BLE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ON AGENDA ITEM NOS. 9 & 13 REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AND INTEGRATED AND COORDINATED IMPLEMENTATION OF AND FOLLOW-UP TO THE OUTCOMES OF THE MAJOR UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCES AND SUMMITS IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS AT THE 65TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN NEW YORK ON OCT 20, 2010

Mr. President,

Allow me to begin by reaffirming India's conviction in your leadership of the 65th UN General Assembly.

I also take this opportunity to warmly thank Member States for electing India as a member of the UN Security Council for the term 2011-12.



India aligns itself with the statement delivered by Yemen on behalf of G-77.

India welcomes the theme you have chosen for the current General Assembly- "Reaffirming the central role of the United Nations in global governance".

A stronger United Nations, reflective of contemporary realities is, indeed, the need of the hour.

This would ensure that the imperatives of maintaining international peace and security are addressed and there is an integrated and coordinated follow up of the UN development agenda.

The United Nations conferences and summits held since the 1990s have generated an unprecedented global consensus on a shared vision of development.

This common understating was emphatically reiterated at the high level events on MDGs, Mauritius Strategy for Implementation and biodiversity held in September 2010 in New York.

The MDG Declaration clearly articulated that allocation of resources, developing appropriate national and international policies and integrated follow up and implementation are an absolute imperative for the realization of our cherished millennium goals by 2015.

Interlinkages and overlaps between the various UN development summits and conferences are strong.

The Mauritius Strategy for Implementation would derive immense benefits and strength from a comprehensive, ambitious and equitable outcome of the Climate Change negotiations.

Similarly, the Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity underway in Nagoya, Japan must fully address the various social and economic development challenges along with its core environmental concerns so as to maximize from the global action to protect biodiversity loss.

Mr. President,

Multiple UN conferences and summits focused on attainment of Internationally Agreed Development Goals must have a seamless, holistic and integrated working relationship with each other.

We must work for developing work models that ensure synergetic resource flows, coordinated assessment and planning and a holistic approach to our global development programmes.

In this context, India sees the creation of UN Women as an important step toward an integrated approach to development within the UN.

The strengthened interaction and institutional linkages between the ECOSOC and the Peace Building Commission are also equally encouraging.

Our successful follow up efforts on pivotal Conferences having significant bearing on global development goals such as the Monterrey Consensus and the June 2009 UN Conference on Global Financial and Economic crisis deserve special mention. We must sustain these efforts.

It is, however, important to remember that no one size fits all and it is imperative that national priorities of countries always have primacy in the pursuance of the development agenda by UN bodies.

Mr. President,

India fully realizes the importance of a strong global partnership supported by international and national development strategies on trade, debt, investment, technology transfer, food security, energy access, climate change and host of other issues to create an environment conducive to development.

India will push for an ambitious, comprehensive and equitable outcome at the Climate Change negotiations; one that is based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

We also look forward to a development oriented outcome of the DOHA Round.

To ensure that international policies are pro-development, concerns of developing countries in the formulation and implementation of these policies must be effectively taken on board.

Unfortunately, current institutional structures do not permit this, even though developing countries are the most affected ones.

The economic crisis highlighted the grave imbalance in the structures of global governance, including on the economic side. India, along with fellow developing countries, has been in the forefront to demand a greater voice in the Bretton Woods Institutions.

In order to make this process as inclusive as possible, the United Nations, with its unique position has a key role. But, as I mentioned earlier, it needs urgent reform.

And, no-where is this more needed in the UN than in the Security Council, which must be expanded in both the permanent and non-permanent categories as is the desire of an overwhelming majority of UN Member-States.

I am glad that the 64th UN General Assembly decided that the text based negotiations must be immediately taken up in the 65th session. It is important that these negotiations are progressed on an urgent basis.

The United Nations system also cannot be strengthened without revitalizing the General Assembly. Here too I am glad that in the resolution on this subject adopted in the 64th session, for the first time in several years, there was some progress.

Mr. President,

The Economic and Social Council has a crucial role in fostering a comprehensive development agenda of the United Nations through an integrated and coordinated implementation of its commitments.

The Council has an acknowledged role as a principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on issues of economic and social development.

It is satisfying that the Annual Ministerial Review and the Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council have become important events to review efforts to achieve the Internationally Agreed Development Goals including MDGs.

The July 2010 ECOSOC session focused on promoting greater coherence between policy and development goals, and making development partnership more participatory and transparent.

Over the years, ECOSOC has played an important role in advancing a holistic and coordinated approach to global economic and social development taking into account the inter-relatedness of the different goals and targets of major UN conferences.

We must work to make ECOSOC even more meaningful than what was originally envisaged by the UN Charter and subsequently strengthened by the various UN resolutions, particularly resolution 61/16.

Mr. President,

My delegation looks forward to your proposals to strengthen the centrality of the UN system in global governance and its development role. You can count on our express support in this regard.

I thank you.

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