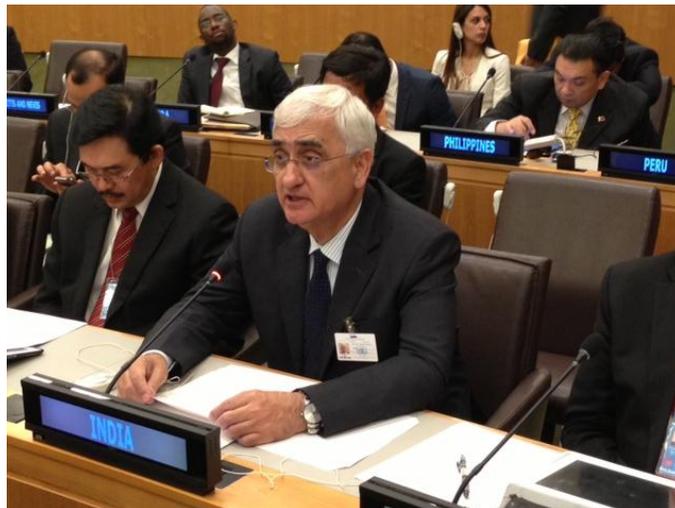


STATEMENT BY H.E. MR SALMAN KURSHID, MINISTER OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, AT THE 37TH ANNUAL MEETING OF
MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS GROUP OF 77 AT THE 68TH
SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON
SEPTEMBER 26,2013

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to begin by thanking you for your esteemed leadership of the Group of 77 this year. I must underline the sterling role played by your Permanent Representative Ambassador Peter Thompson and his staff here in New York in assisting member states and guiding the discussions of the Group.



Let me also take this opportunity to extend a very warm welcome to Republic of Kirbati as the newest member of the G-77 family.

Mr. Chairman,

The founding principles of the Group of 77 of equity, solidarity and unity are rooted in our collective aspiration to help our people achieve a life of dignity and respect.

Today, with the global economy in turmoil and growth prospects in developing countries under unprecedented stress, our quest for poverty eradication and inclusive development is facing challenges. These are further compounded by sustained food and energy crises.

Under these trying times, we must undertake growth promoting

policies to boost demand and create jobs for our youth. The Group must also work to bring growth back at the centre stage of the international discourse.

We must bring to bear our considerable collective strength to ensure a fair and sustainable multilateral trading system under the WTO and a development oriented outcome of the Doha round.

The Group must also continue its leadership in ensuring meaningful progress in the reform of the institutions of global economic governance in order to give real voice and participation to developing countries.

Mr. Chairman,

The target date for MDGs is drawing near. We are simultaneously engaged in the follow-up to the important decisions taken in Rio+20 last year. We are also commencing the global discussion on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Taken together, these three processes are of crucial importance for the Group. The Group must lead in all these processes to ensure they have a strong imprint of our core principles.

While we have made enormous progress in our achievement of the MDGs, the objectives of the Millennium agenda have not been met.

The Group must ensure that no effort is spared for the achievement of the MDGs in the remaining period till 2015. There must be no slackening at this stage and international support to developing countries at this crucial stage must be enhanced.

In the follow-up to the Rio+20 conference, the foremost priority of the Group must be to ensure that the high level mandate of the Rio+20 Conference is fully respected, in both letter and spirit.

Mr. Chairman,

It is of utmost importance that the Post-2015 Development Agenda is negotiated intergovernmentally.

The Post-2015 Development Agenda must be rooted in the central priority of poverty eradication, identified as the greatest global challenge by our leaders in Rio+20. It should also carry forward the

unfinished agenda of the MDGs.

The Post-2015 Development Agenda must be based on the outcome of the Rio+20 Conference and fully respect the Rio principles in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

We must emphasize that the Post-2015 Development Agenda is an agenda for development. It must therefore promote rapid, sustained and inclusive growth in developing countries and must prioritize core issues central to developing countries such as food security, access to energy, skill development, full and productive employment and creation of infrastructure.

If we are to succeed in our collective efforts as part of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, we must ensure that the global partnership does not remain mere rhetoric. A weak global partnership remained the major weakness of the MDGs and we must ensure that a strengthened and meaningful global partnership underpins the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

The commitments of developed countries, for ODA, market access and technology transfer, must be met. Developed countries need to take urgent actions to promote the flow of capital to developing countries, eliminate protectionist barriers to trade and foster a supportive IPR regime. The urgent need for a technology facilitation mechanism that promotes the development, deployment, dissemination and transfer of technologies to developing countries cannot be overemphasized. In this context, we welcome the recommendation of the UN Secretary General for the establishment of a 'Technology Facilitation Mechanism'.

A transformed global partnership cannot be about recognizing new actors and dilution of agreed principles and commitments. South-South Cooperation has contributed significantly in recent years and it must be given space to grow as per its own principles, not as a substitute but a complement to North-South Cooperation.

Mr. Chairman,

Climate Change continues to present a severe threat to our developmental prospects and in some cases even our survival. G77 has been a pillar of the climate change negotiations under the UNFCCC. We must remain united in our pursuit of a comprehensive,

balanced and equitable outcome in accordance with the principles and provisions of the Convention, in particular the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities.

In order to support the urgent adaptation efforts of the developing countries, it is important for us to ensure that the mechanisms already created under the UNFCCC, in particular the Green Climate Fund and the Technology Mechanism deliver timely and tangible results.

Mr. Chairman,

India is deeply sensitive to the interests of the LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS and the African countries as part of the G77 family. It is important that their special needs continue to receive the highest priority of the Group.

We look forward to an ambitious outcome to the Third International Conference on SIDS in Samoa in 2014 which should galvanize political will and redouble international efforts to enhance the support of the international community to the SIDS.

As a mark of our abiding commitment to the sustainable development of the SIDS and in the spirit of South-South solidarity, India has contributed a sum of US\$ 250,000/- for the organization of the Third SIDS Conference.

We also look forward to working closely with all our LLDCs partners for an ambitious, comprehensive and balanced outcome to the 10-year review conference of the Almaty Programme of Action (APoA) for LLDCs in 2014. India has decided to contribute a sum of US\$ 100,000 for the organization of the LLDC review Conference next year.

Before concluding Mr. Chairman, allow me to reiterate India's strong and abiding commitment to the G77 and solidarity with all its members. You can count on India's steadfast support to your endeavors in the coming year to strengthen the unity of the Group and give a voice to its priorities.

I thank you.

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