

**Statement by Hon'ble Mr. K. Kalavenkata Rao Member of Parliament  
and Member of the Indian Delegation on Agenda Item 50:  
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 58<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN  
General Assembly on October 22, 2003**

Mr. President,

We thank the Secretary-General for his report on the 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. My delegation associates itself with the statement made by the distinguished Permanent Representative of Morocco in his capacity as Chairman of the Group of 77.

We welcome the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 57/270B which provides, in our view, a framework for the General Assembly to provide political oversight to the implementation of and follow-up to the major UN conferences over the past decade.

The objective of any exercise of follow-up should be to address the issue of implementation. The major UN conferences and summits have in their outcomes a set of well-defined targets and commitments for which all member States have accepted a shared responsibility. The implementation of outcomes would be a clear demonstration of the fulfilment of such shared responsibility and will contribute immensely to the strengthening of the United Nations.

For the developing countries, the implementation of outcomes of major UN conferences and summits presents an enormous challenge. They would not be in a position to fulfil all the commitments undertaken by them in the outcomes of such events, especially the Millennium Declaration, without further progress in international cooperation. In respect of developed countries, there are special obligations in the areas of Overseas Development Assistance (ODA), debt-relief and market access.

Mr. President,

Reviewing implementation of conference outcomes requires a two-pronged approach. Firstly, it needs an integrated and coordinated approach in respect of overarching goals common to all or many of the conferences. Secondly, it also requires a focussed review that seeks to retain the identity and integrity of every major conference and to stimulate progress in the implementation of the agreements in the specific area or sector covered by the conference. The Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions can play a major role in addressing this task. The Council will pursue the establishment of a multi-year programme of work for the consideration of identified cross-sectoral thematic issues for this purpose.

We welcome the opportunity to assess the functioning of the follow-up mechanisms established pursuant to the Monterrey consensus. We would like to see greater synergy between the annual meeting of the Economic & Social Council with the Bretton Woods Institutions, the World Trade Organisation and the United Nations Conference on Trade & Development [UNCTAD] on the one hand and the biennialised high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the other. Apart from the high quality of the dialogue in terms of issues addressed and level of specificity, what we also require is an effective mechanism to assess the implementation of commitments and agreements reached in the Monterrey consensus.

The report of the Secretary-General speaks in paragraph 11 of the need for establishing a stronger link between policy-guidance and operational activities, as provided in resolution 57/270B. We would, however, like to sound a note of caution in this regard. The principal foundation for operational activities of the UN development system is country-driven programming or, in other words, the UN system responding to the needs and priorities of the recipient countries. We believe that nothing should be done to undermine this principle. The linkage provision should not be misused to thrust donor-driven or secretariat-driven agenda on the developing countries. The only possible link would be to ensure that the activities of the Funds and Programmes in recipient countries would advance the implementation of the conference outcomes.

On the question of the review of the programme of work of the Second Committee, my delegation would like to point out that the exercise must not be seen in isolation. This should be done as part of the efforts for the revitalisation of the General Assembly. Any decision that might be taken in the limited context of the Second Committee should be subject to review in the light of decisions that are adopted in the overall process of revitalisation of the General Assembly and reform of the United Nations.

Mr. President,

The report presented by the Secretary-General this year on the implementation of the Millennium Declaration contains several useful suggestions. We agree with the proposal made by the Secretary-General for the holding of a major event in 2005. Such an event should provide an opportunity for a

comprehensive review of the progress achieved in implementing all the commitments made in the Millennium Declaration.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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