

**Statement by Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin
Permanent Representative of India
Second Anniversary
The India-UN Development Partnership Fund
6 June 2019**

Excellencies,

Development Partners,

Thank you all for your presence to mark the second anniversary of India-UN Development Partnership Fund.

2. In many ways, this is a “start-up” effort at tangibly strengthening South-South cooperation at the UN.
3. Traditionally, India pursued development cooperation bilaterally or through regional or plurilateral forums such as the India-Africa Forum Summit and the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation.
4. The India-UN Development Partnership Fund and its Commonwealth Window is a foray to institutionalize development cooperation at the multilateral-level with the UN Office of South-South Cooperation as the coordinating partner on behalf of the UN system.
5. India’s development cooperation is rooted in our social ethos, defined variously, but encompassed by the philosophy of Sarvodaya, meaning ‘development and progress of all’. Our working with fellow developing countries translates this philosophy into reality.
6. We support Southern-owned and led, demand-driven, and transformational sustainable development projects. The focus is on least developed countries and small island developing states.
7. We deeply value our partnership with the UN, which affords a reliable and globally recognized brand with universal presence of the UN system, as well as cost-effective implementation and a wealth of normative and programmatic experience.
8. The strength of our implementation partners is matched by the trust of our development partners, who value the non-prescriptive nature of the funding provided.

9. A feature of projects undertaken is that the development partner identifies a sectoral need and the implementing partner works with UN system entities through the Resident Coordinator to assist in project formulation, in accordance with the needs of the development partner.

10. The projects, as approved by the development partner, are then implemented by a UN entity (or in some cases a national entity). This reduces the burden on the development partners to provide detailed technical projects. The effort is to provide end to end support.

11. Our emphasis is on cutting down timelines without sacrificing due diligence, transparency and accountability. The reformed UN Resident Coordinator system is key to project formulation and implementation.

12. In 2 years, the Fund has 36 projects in 37 partnering countries. 21 of these projects are under implementation with many nearing completion.

13. Thematically, enhancing climate action efforts account for 10 projects.

- Some are country specific, while others relate to sub-regional efforts at early warning, data collection and capacity building to enhance climate resilience.
- Some aim at a demonstration effect, such as the Solar Head of State initiative of the Pacific Islands Development Forum, while some others are aligned with regional efforts, such as the Africa Adaptation Initiative.

14. Youth related projects are increasing, especially amongst partners from the Caribbean.

15. Post-Hurricane rehabilitation of pivotal infrastructure and essential services, such as the postal services in Barbuda, is an innovative effort that is nearing completion.

16. Our objective is to work in unison with others. We see leverage as an important expression of added value ascribed to our partnership. Several project initiatives are being leveraged for broader goals of our development partners. 9 projects have leveraged funding that added 70% more resources to those we contributed.

17. On our part also, India is adding value by committing additional bilateral funding, as in the case of a new project in the Federated States of Micronesia.

18. Further, there is interest beyond the UN system in working to implement projects. Today, amongst us are representatives of the Commonwealth Secretariat, with who we hope to work in the future.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

19. As you can see the “start-up” is blossoming in myriad ways.

20. Our goal is to put the precept of South-South Cooperation into practice innovatively. We are grateful to the many partners who have joined us to share experiences in our common efforts at SDG implementation cooperatively. We look forward to hearing from them, so that we can work better together.

Thank you.