



**STATEMENT BY MR. NIRUPAM SEN, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE, ON
AGENDA ITEM 3 [A] - REVIEW OF FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE OUTCOME OF THE
TWENTY-FOURTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN THE
43RD SESSION OF COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ON
FEBRUARY 11, 2005**

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the delegation of India, I wish to convey to you our warmest felicitations on your election. For me it is a special pleasure to be at this meeting presided over by you since our countries are working together for socio-economic progress through the Non Aligned Movement, the Group of 77 and the IBSA (India, Brazil, South Africa). We are confident of the success that your able stewardship will bring to this session of the Commission. I would like to assure you of my delegation's full cooperation in the deliberations and the work of this Commission. Our congratulations also to other members of the Bureau.

We thank the Secretary-General for his comprehensive and analytical report and the Deputy-Secretary-General for her statement to the Commission.

We associate ourselves with the statement made by the distinguished Permanent Representative of Jamaica in his capacity as Chairman of the Group of 77.

Mr. Chairman,

Ten years after the historic gathering of world leaders in Copenhagen in 1995, the international community once again stands at another crossroads of history. The success of the World Summit for Social Development was immeasurable. It placed social development issues squarely on the forefront of the agenda, on which successive Summits and Conferences have built upon. At the Millennium Summit, leaders undertook a time-bound framework for meeting the commitments on social development first undertaken at Copenhagen. Most recently, the report of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalisation and the report of the Millennium Project have continued the broader articulation of these very issues that were first put on the agenda at Copenhagen.

While the success of the World Summit for Social Development is indisputable, it is in the follow-up that wholesome success is yet to be achieved. It is towards practical modes of realisation of this objective that this session of the Commission must direct its attention. The commitments and goals are well-known and have been repeated often enough. Yet, the indicators presented in the Secretary-General's report present a stark and grim reminder

that the goals set by the international community in Copenhagen, and reiterated at repeated intervals in succeeding major UN conferences and summits, are yet to be met. The report highlights the very uneven progress registered in the achievement of the main goals of the Summit – particularly in the reduction of poverty and elimination of extreme poverty, creation of full employment and social integration. One of the reasons for the gap between intention and action has been the inadequate capacity of national governments to adopt and implement appropriate social policies. The only means to address this problem is through capacity-building in the developing countries. For this, enhanced international cooperation is imperative. In India, our experience shows the success of the mid-day meal and the food for work programmes. The Government of India has substantially increased agricultural investment, including investment in rural infrastructure, health and education. Its Common Minimum Programme enshrines its commitment to an Employment Guarantee. In the context of some unutilized industrial capacity and substantial foodgrain reserves, this would be non-inflationary. For the same reason, the Indian Planning Commission's foreign exchange for infrastructure scheme which in some variants implies a monetized deficit would be equally non-inflationary.

At this 10th anniversary commemorating the adoption of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, the international community must deliberate, develop and adopt a set of practical measures which can set the path for real achievements in social development. While doing so, it would be useful to bear in mind some of the issues that are pertinent to these deliberations.

The 24th special session of the General Assembly held in June, 2000 had called attention to the effects of globalisation, and their effect on developing countries. Five years later, this debate is more relevant than ever. In these deliberations, the report of World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalisation is of particular significance. The report entitled 'A fair Globalisation: creating opportunities for all' contains several recommendations on making the process of globalisation a fair and inclusive one, based on universal shared values, and respect for human rights and individual dignity. The principal recommendations of the report relate to a focus on people, democratic and effective States, sustainable development, productive and equitable markets, fair rules, solidarity, greater accountability, stronger partnerships and an effective UN-centred multilateral system. These recommendations are worthy of our serious consideration at this session of the Commission and subsequently in the context of the '2005 Major Event' in the General Assembly for the comprehensive review of the implementation of the Millennium Declaration. Parts of the Report of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization are radical, far-reaching and even dramatic (for instance, the sharp increase in the incomes of the top one per cent even in highly developed countries and income inequalities at the end of the 20th century once again matching those at the beginning of the 20th century). The Report correctly calls for supporting "independent labour movements and organization of the poor" to create and strengthen "the countervailing power" necessary for their welfare. Equally correct is the emphasis on the social responsibility of the corporate sector and a need for "a social audit" of companies. In the moving Biblical phrase, the poor have not only been shut out from the Pasture; they have been shut out from the Presence. Hence the need for a fundamental reform of international economic policies and of the international economic institutions that cling to them, recommended by the Report.

India's own experience with globalisation has reaffirmed the importance of our strong democratic institutions and of appropriate policies, including a focus on the development of human resources.

At the same time, effective national action also requires an enabling international environment in which the developing countries have to formulate policies designed to promote economic growth and social justice. The Millennium Project report has provided some insightful recommendations for the international community to consider – for donors to subject themselves to the same standard of transparency and coherence as they expect of developing countries. Some of developing countries have made strenuous efforts for mobilising domestic resources. However, as also underscored in the report, there remains a huge gap in the resources available and the requirements of the developing countries for achieving the goals of the Millennium Summit and other commitments undertaken by them. In addition to meeting the financial gap required for achieving these commitments, there is also need to broaden the resource-base to assist the developing countries in their efforts to achieve their own development priorities.

The Secretary-General's report makes several recommendations on "the way forward". We concur with the Secretary-General that the way forward is through implementing people-centred development to which we have committed ourselves at the World Summit. For this, some key ingredients have been and continue to be the need for cohesive integration of economic and social policies, the need to manage the effects of globalisation; and an enabling environment for social and economic development.

A central issue that has not received adequate attention and has been highlighted in the Secretary-General's report is the need for an enabling international economic environment, which is critical to achieving the goals of social development. Greater voice and effective participation of developing countries in the decision-making and norm-setting processes in the international monetary, financial and trade institutions is a *sine qua non*. It would have a direct and beneficial impact on the ability of the developing countries to influence the multilateral trading and financial systems, which do not always take their interests into account.

We are in agreement with the view that to ensure policy autonomy for implementing social and economic objectives in the developing countries and gains in trade and foreign direct investment, the international economic and financial system has to undergo far-reaching reforms. It is our belief that this requires a reform of the UN itself since, in the words of the Report of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalisation, "the UN multilateral system constitutes the core of global governance and is uniquely equipped to spearhead the process of reform".

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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