



**INTERVENTION BY DR. R.C.PANDA, ADDITIONAL SECRETARY,  
MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION,  
AT THE THIRTY-SIXTH SESSION OF STATISTICAL COMMISSION  
IN NEW YORK ON AGENDA ITEM 7(C): ACTIVITIES NOT CLASSIFIED  
BY FIELD: INDICATORS FOR FOLLOW-UP TO THE UN CONFERENCES  
ON MARCH 02, 2005**

Madam Chair,

We are happy to note that the need for statistical capacity building in developing countries has been highlighted in the report. We would, however, like the Commission to discuss further the operational aspects and provide some details on how such capacity building would be done. Some of the examples highlighted in the report merit consideration in this regard. In this context, the emphasis on provision of financial support and technical assistance to developing countries is of particular importance.

We note the considerable work that has been done so far on development of indicators. We would, in this context, like to recall that the 33<sup>rd</sup> session of the Statistical Commission “had welcomed” the report on the means of implementation indicators and suggested that further work in that field was necessary. ECOSOC resolution 2000/27 had also stressed the need to further develop indicators on means of implementation to evaluate progress towards conference goals in creating an enabling environment for development. ECOSOC resolution 2002/311 had sought a separate comprehensive report including the Report on Indicators on Means of Implementation. We would also like to recall the decision taken vide paragraph 50 of General Assembly resolution 57/270B of July 2003, which requested “the Statistical Commission to refine and finalize indicators to assess the implementation of commitments and the achievement of the development goals at the national, regional and international levels”. Paragraph 32 of this resolution also “stresses the need to apply and further develop indicators on means of implementation to evaluate progress towards conference goals in creating an enabling environment for development”.

In the list of indicators provided under the annex of the report, we find that there is no visible progress on the issue of indicators for Goal 8 on means of implementation. The Commission has earlier stressed the need to pay particular attention to indicators on the means of implementation of Millennium Development Goal 8 and had recommended that country level reports be prepared by developed countries with regard to progress on the commitments made by them to provide assistance to developing countries for the achievement of the goals contained in

the Millennium Declaration. We would stress that urgent progress in this regard is needed, considering that 2015, the year by which the MDGs are to be achieved, is now only 10 years away. While undertaking the work on development of indicators on means of implementation, attention would also need to be paid to the issue of development of benchmarks, as has been done in other cases, for example 1990 has been taken as the benchmark for socio-economic indicators.

Several studies by World Bank, regional development banks and UNDP have shown that based on the current level of assistance there would remain a gap and unless there is a step-up by developed countries to meet their commitments, obligations under Goal 8 and implementation of Goals 1 to 7 would remain only partly fulfilled.

Thank You, Madam Chair

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