



STATEMENT BY MR. E. AHAMED, MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, AT THE MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS OF G-77, SECOND SOUTH SUMMIT, DOHA, QATAR ON JUNE 13, 2005

Mr. Chairman,

Thank you very much for this opportunity for me to articulate India's views on the issues raised under the development cluster in this preparatory process for the forthcoming high-level event in New York in September this year. This dialogue ought to help the developing countries advance the development agenda at the UN and in the UN system in a spirit of cooperation and solidarity.

Since I am speaking at this forum for the first time, may I, at the outset, express our appreciation and gratitude to our hosts, His Highness the Emir and the State of Qatar, who have spared no effort in facilitating our endeavors.

Mr. Chairman,

We believe that countries must necessarily determine their own priorities based on their individual situations. Developing countries must have the "policy space" to determine their development plans and priorities. However, a much more intense degree of cooperation at the international level coupled with an increased flow of resources to the developing countries is an absolute imperative. In this context, we welcome the call for developed countries to achieve the ODA target of 0.7% of GNP by no later than 2015. We also welcome the call for the successful conclusion of the Doha Round of Trade negotiations, emphasizing the need to keep the development dimension in sharp focus in the outcome.

We support the extension of further debt relief to HIPC (Highly indebted poor countries) and low income countries facing problems of inadequate resources even for financing MDGs (Millennium Development Goals). Debt restructuring for low income countries, in general, and HIPC, in particular, should look beyond debt write-offs by focusing on stepping up investment opportunities in these countries.

Mr. Chairman,

The development agenda needs to be an inclusive one, going beyond the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Monterrey Consensus, and encompassing the outcomes of other major UN conferences and summits. The concerns of the least

developed, the landlocked and the Small Island Developing States, recognized as groups of vulnerable countries needing special attention, can hardly be overemphasized. We welcome the recommendations to urgently address their needs and challenges.

And, given India's long-term association with and commitment to Africa, we want to see concrete and implementable decisions in support of the priorities of NEPAD with a substantial outcome for the special needs of Africa.

We are disappointed that the role of the UN and the UN system in advancing the development agenda particularly in the areas of trade, money and finance, debt and technology has not been addressed adequately in the draft outcome document. We believe that the 2005 summit provides us with an opportunity to restore the primacy of the UN in dealing with the development agenda and that it should lead to an outcome that demonstrates how the UN has retrieved the development agenda and regained the role of providing policy guidance to other bodies dealing with development issues.

We would be supportive of the Economic and the Social Council playing its due role in promoting awareness and giving policy guidelines in the area of development cooperation. The central question is one of political will – in allowing ECOSOC to discharge its responsibility, and not so much its mandate. We support, in particular, measures that would give practical effect to the provisions of the Charter in the co-ordination, policy guidance and oversight functions of ECOSOC with regard to its own functional commissions and subsidiary organs and funds and programmes and above all, the Specialized Agencies of the UN system.

Mr. Chairman,

Primacy needs to be given to sustainable development and the imperative of poverty-eradication in the discussions on the issue of global environmental governance. Equitable access to natural resources is seriously hampered by the unsustainable patterns of production and consumption in the developed world, who must shoulder the main responsibility for preventing and reversing environmental degradation. It is equally important to provide access to developing countries to environmentally sound technologies on preferential terms and to support developing countries in human and institutional capacity building to adapt and induct these technologies.

The draft outcome document however, goes beyond the central objective of the Framework Convention on Climate Change and it will not be possible for us to consider or entertain recommendations that are not informed and underpinned by equity and other principles enshrined in the Convention. Similarly, in the context of Convention on Biological Diversity, urgent action needs to be taken to grant developing countries greater protection for their genetic resources and traditional knowledge and fair recompense for their exploitation by others.

Having suffered the devastating Tsunami last December, we support the need for worldwide early warning systems for all natural hazards, especially in the Indian Ocean region. And given the level of existing capacity in many developing countries, we would recommend that the focus should be on the creation and enhancement of national capacities where necessary. Mr. Chairman,

Recent advances in science and technology provide unparalleled instrumentality to combat age-old problems of poverty, ignorance and disease. Access to both new and appropriate technologies and to the cutting edge areas of science and technology need to be enhanced greatly among developing countries.

We agree on the need for the international community to urgently provide resources for an expanded and comprehensive response to HIV/AIDS, while recognizing the continuing imperative for funding the combat against other deadly diseases as well as for reproductive health issues.

The September summit gives us an opportunity to put development back on the centre-stage of the global agenda, restore the primacy of the UN in dealing with development and endow the UN with the authority to guide the work of other institutions in the areas of trade, money and finance, debt and technology.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)