



**STATEMENT BY MRS. MOHSINA KIDWAI, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AND MEMBER OF THE INDIAN DELEGATION, ON AGENDA ITEM 46: 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 AND AGENDA ITEM 44: FOLLOW-UP TO THE OUTCOME OF THE SPECIAL SESSION ON CHILDREN IN THE 60<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON OCTOBER 25, 2005**

Mr. President,

At the outset, please allow me to thank you for this opportunity to express our views on the critical task before us of implementing and following-up the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, in particular, the decisions of the 2005 World Summit. We believe that effective follow-up and implementation of decisions is often as important as the decisions themselves and we therefore take the task before us seriously.

The 2005 World Summit Outcome included a number of key decisions designed to improve the functioning and performance of the United Nations. These included, inter alia, a commitment by all governments to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015; establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Human Rights Council in a time bound manner; concluding a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism; strengthening the UN's oversight capacity; scaling up of the response of the international community to infectious diseases and other emerging health challenges; support for early reform of the U.N. Security Council; and agreement on the deletion of anachronistic references to "enemy states" in the Charter.

At the same time, much of the work initiated by the preparatory reports for this UN reform process, has been left incomplete. There is a need for the United Nations to provide direction on issues such as cancellation of debt, meeting of ODA targets, FDI flows, transfer of resources and environmentally-friendly technology to facilitate sustainable development and achievement of the MDGs. The Summit reflected agreement to "work expeditiously

towards implementing the development dimensions of the Doha work programme”, but did not provide clear or comprehensive political direction to the WTO Doha Round of trade talks, which could have set the stage for the success of the Hong Kong Ministerial meeting in December 2005. The increasing impasse shows that such political direction was needed. We need to rectify this situation.

For satisfactory progress on UN reform, the question of distribution of economic and political power in the UN, including at the Security Council also needs to be addressed. As the UN Secretary General has stated, no reform of the United Nations can be complete without reform of the Security Council.

Mr. President,

The President of the General Assembly has attached utmost importance to the follow-up to and implementation of development issues in the 2005 World Summit Outcome. He has stressed the need for political momentum on development to be maintained and strengthened. He also pointed out that the UN, in particular, had to play its part in ensuring that the international community has in place appropriate ways and means to achieve the timely and full realization of the Millennium Development Goals. The General Assembly’s ongoing work had to include items such as NEPAD, HIV/AIDS, migration and arrangements for reviewing the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and that the Outcome Document had invited the Secretariat to undertake work on system-wide coherence this year with the aim of improving the way UN development, humanitarian and environment activities were managed and coordinated. We agree with the approach of the President of the General Assembly on the work that lies ahead, particularly follow-up on the developmental aspects of the Outcome Document.

The main purpose of the 2005 World Summit was to review the implementation of the Millennium Declaration. Unfortunately, most countries would not be able to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, given their current levels of growth and levels of international support. Efforts have to be made at both the national and international levels to reach the targets set. While both the Millennium Declaration and the Outcome Document have spoken of exploiting the beneficial aspects of globalization, agreement on and implementation of the modalities is still lacking. Making the process of globalization fairer and more equitable remains one of the main challenges of our time. An achievement of the G-77 was progress on systemic issues critical for good international economic governance. This has to be built upon.

Monitoring the progress made in the implementation of MGD 8 by developed countries is an integral part of the monitoring of MDGs as a whole. Therefore, country-level reports by developed countries with regard to progress on commitments to developing countries would remain important. It is essential to ensure that commitments to provide additional resources are implemented without delay. We also believe that debt stock cancellation should be complemented by sharp increases in ODA in keeping with the Monterrey Consensus. The Outcome Document, in the context of commitments and initiatives aimed at enhancing resources for the developing agenda, recognised the progress made on the Innovative Financing Framework for Immunisation (IFFIm). Operationalising IFFIm is particularly important, since frontloading aid will enable many recipient countries to overcome the initial bottleneck in pursuing MDGs.

However, any implementation scheme should not obscure the fundamental objective, namely, the rapid economic growth of developing countries enabling them to meet the MDG

targets, especially with regard to poverty reduction and employment increase. The implementation of agreements contained in the Outcome Document should lead to the creation of more favourable international economic environment that would be more supportive of developmental efforts.

Mr. President,

The 2005 World Summit Outcome Document has given an impulse to the development of a strong counter-terrorism agenda. In accordance with the outcome of the World Summit, our priority must remain on the conclusion and adopting of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism early in this session of the U.N. General Assembly. We welcome the Secretary General's offer of making available to the General Assembly an updated version of the elements of his previous strategy and would be happy to lend all support towards the adoption of a counter-terrorism strategy after the comprehensive convention is adopted. We also appreciate the formation of a Counter-Terrorism Implementation Force and the Secretary General's plan to submit proposals by early 2006 to the Security Council and the General Assembly to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations system to assist States in combating terrorism and to enhance coordination. We can only caution here against the need to avoid duplication of work and mandates, given the plethora of bodies that are currently engaged in this exercise in the Security Council and elsewhere in the UN system.

Mr. President,

To overcome the marginalization of the developing countries, their empowerment through reform of the Security Council remains imperative. India will continue to work with like-minded countries to reach the broadest possible agreement for an expansion of the permanent and non-permanent categories, to respect deadlines, and to bring the reform process to an early and successful conclusion.

India looks forward to working with the President of the General Assembly in his efforts to complete work on the other unfinished agenda of reform as contained in the Outcome Document. This includes working through informal consultations of the plenary on the Peace Building Commission and the Human Rights Council. India welcomes the establishment of the PBC and hopes that it can begin its work before 31 December 2005. We also support negotiations with a view to concluding during the early part of the 60<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly the work on establishing a Human Rights Council.

Mr. President,

The doubling of the regular budgetary resources of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) should respond to the broad mandate of human rights especially in augmenting capacity-building and offering greater technical assistance to the Member States at their request. The activities of the OHCHR in the area of 'greater country engagement' should not automatically result in increase in OHCHR personnel deployments, rather it should focus on improving the institutional capabilities of the country concerned. The interaction of the OHCHR with other relevant UN bodies should be coordinated for mainstreaming of all human rights, including the right to development. Activities and programmes of the OHCHR should address in a balanced manner not only civil and political rights, on the one hand, and economic, social and cultural rights, on the other. Additional resources should also be judiciously used for streamlining reporting procedures and extending technical assistance to Member States for capacity building.

We note from the report that the United Nations Development Group will finalize the strategy and work plan on strengthening the role of the United Nations special representatives, resident coordinators and humanitarian coordinators, and resident coordinator and country-based coordination systems by January 2006. A report on progress will be provided through the Secretary-General's yearly report to the Economic and Social Council in 2006. We look forward to examining this report. We also expect that the Secretary-General will apprise the Member States of the "next wave" of operational reforms to further strengthen management and coordination of United Nations operational activities.

Mr. President,

The Outcome Document called for a review by the General Assembly and other organs of their respective mandates older than five years and that decision on this are to be taken in 2006. The expectation in the Secretary General's report that all relevant organs and specialized inter-governmental bodies of the United Nations will complete this review in time for action in the first quarter of 2006 appears to be overly-optimistic. The report also states that the resulting Strategic Framework for the forthcoming biennium would be submitted to the Committee for Programme and Coordination in August/September 2006. We assume that this is an additional session of the CPC that is being proposed since that Committee has not taken any decision on postponing its substantive session from June/July 2006.

We welcome the urgency with which the issue of strengthening of the Office of Internal Oversight Services is being treated. However, in the haste to carry out the recommendation of the Outcome Document, it would be a pity if we were not to seek the views of OIOS itself as to the quantum as well as areas that require strengthening. We are also puzzled to note that a separate independent external evaluation of the Office is being contemplated – something not been mandated by the Outcome Document. That document quite clearly states that the external evaluation will focus on the entire auditing and oversight system of the UN and specialized agencies in the context of a comprehensive review of governance arrangements. We do not believe that a piecemeal approach such as that which has been proposed has any merit. We also look forward to receiving proposals from the Secretary-General on the other aspects of management and Secretariat reform as mandated in the Outcome Document.

Mr. President,

We have carefully perused the Secretary-General's report providing the third update on the follow up to the special session of the General Assembly on children. We agree that most of the goals of "A world fit for children" will be achieved only through a major intensification of action for disadvantaged children and families across the world. Examples of rapid progress in individual countries and regions have demonstrated that accelerated progress is possible, but current efforts need to be expanded and better supported by resource allocations.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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