



STATEMENT BY MS. MABEL REBELLO, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AND MEMBER OF THE INDIAN DELEGATION, ON AGENDIA ITEM 62: [A] NEW PATNERSHP FOR AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT: PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATON AND INTERNATIONAL SUPPOT [B] CAUSES OF CONFLICT AND THE PROMOTON OF DURABLE PEACE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA AND AGENDA ITEM 48: 2001-2010: DECADE TO ROLL BACK MALARIA IN DEVELOPING COUNRIES PARTICULARLY AFRICA AT THE 61<sup>ST</sup> SESSION OF THE UN GENERL ASSEMBLY ON OCTOBER 12, 2006

Madam President,

We thank the Secretary-General for his fourth consolidated report on the progress in implementation and international support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development [NEPAD], and other reports prepared for this joint debate. We associate ourselves with the statement made by the distinguished Representative of South Africa on behalf of the G-77.

Madam President,

India has consistently identified with the aspirations of the peoples of Africa and has maintained long-standing political relations with that the countries of that continent. It was in South Africa that Mahatma Gandhi forged the political weapon of "Satyagraha" or "non-violent struggle of passive resistance". His exposure to injustice in Africa transformed an urbane lawyer into an icon for peaceful and non-violent struggle that evolved into India's struggle for independence. South African President Thabo Mbeki described Mahatma Gandhi as "the beloved son of South Africa" at the centenary celebrations on the launching of "Satyagraha" recently held in South Africa. India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, speaking at the Afro-Asian Conference at Bandung in 1955, described Asia and Africa as "sister continents". Like the countries of Africa, India suffered the burdens of colonial domination, economic exploitation and racial discrimination. Even though our own deprivation was considerable, we

realize that Africa's tribulations were even greater. India has, therefore, always been a strong and consistent voice in support of Africa, at the UN and elsewhere.

Madam President,

It is our firm conviction that success in achieving the objectives of NEPAD depends on an African-led and Africa-developed agenda. With the rich human and natural resources available to Africa, and the commitment of Africa's leaders to achieving the objectives of NEPAD, success can be achieved if NEPAD receives the dedicated support of the international community in realizing the African dream.

The report of the Secretary-General (A/61/212) provides details of the progress made in the various priority areas of NEPAD and analyses the response of the international community in support of NEPAD. The report states that while the past year has witnessed a promising start to delivery on commitments, progress has been more marked on debt relief than on ODA and trade. It is heartening that the trend of significant increases in ODA to Africa continued in 2004 and 2005. However, much of the increase in 2005 was on account of huge debt write-offs. The report states that a massive collective increase in ODA is required in 2006 and thereafter to meet the 2010 commitments, but that the level of increase is not nearly fast enough to deliver on the pledges made at the Gleneagles G-8 Summit in 2005. The report adds that the observed increase continues to take the form of emergency aid, debt relief and technical assistance.

The Secretary-General's report acknowledges that the substantial progress over the last twelve months in debt relief makes this an area in which the G-8 countries have kept their commitments. We would emphasize here that the multilateral debt relief initiative of donor countries include a commitment to provide additional resources to the International Financial Institutions to ensure that debt forgiveness does not erode their financial capacity.

Reports on Africa have emphasized that aid should be released in predictable tranches over a long-term period and should be focussed on enabling African economies to produce a broad range of goods and to create more jobs. For the success of the international community's current focus on the special needs of Africa, and to avoid the damage done to African countries through the austerity measures brought in by the IMF dictated structural adjustment programmes of the past, it is necessary that African countries be allowed to implement their national development policies with national ownership and given policy space instead of imposition of intrusive policy conditionalities.

Madam President,

While ODA and debt relief can ease the financial burdens, especially in highly indebted countries in Africa, sustained economic growth would require longer-term measures including in the area of trade. The report of the Secretary-General recommends that initiatives such as "aid for trade" must complement and not substitute efforts to improve market access for African exports and to strengthen Africa's participation in world trade.

In this context, the suspension of the Doha Round of trade negotiations is a cause of concern. An early resumption of the trade talks along with adherence to the existing mandate, i.e., the mandate of the Doha Declaration, the July Framework and the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration is an absolute imperative. The report of the Secretary-General recalls that at the Hong Kong Ministerial Trade Talks, agreement was reached to eliminate export subsidies by developed countries on cotton in 2006 and to end all forms of agricultural export subsidies by the end of 2013 with a substantial portion to be lifted by 2010. The report also points out that export subsidies represent only a small share in the support given to agriculture in OECD countries. Much of the support is in the form of trade-distorting domestic price support and agricultural tariffs. Failure to resume the Doha Round of Trade Talks has negative implications for the large number of poor and marginal farmers, on their food security, livelihood security and rural development in developing countries, especially those with subsistence farming.

Madam President,

The report of the Secretary-General highlights India's cooperation with NEPAD as a part of South-South Cooperation. It also highlights the projects being undertaken by India in infrastructure, IT and other areas through the Techno Economic Approach for Africa-India Movement, or TEAM-9. In addition, India is engaged in several other bilateral initiatives in a number of African countries as well as a pan-Africa e-connectivity mission. India has shared its expertise in sectors such as infrastructure, pharmaceutical, healthcare, and IT, among others, with the aim of building capacity and technology transfer for the benefit of African countries. The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) scheme, which provides training programmes to over 150 countries including most African countries, has been running since 1954, providing scholarships to African students interested in studying in India and sending Indian experts to Africa for provision of training. India's cooperation programme with Africa currently amounts to about US\$ 1 billion. India's efforts, or those of other partner countries from the developing world, are a part of South-South Cooperation. Contrary to the suggestion of the Advisory Panel, these should not be clubbed with the efforts of the developed countries, either in calculations of volume of aid moving to Africa or for monitoring of such aid.

Madam President,

The Secretary-General's report on the causes of conflict and promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/61/213) describes the recent conflict prevention, peacemaking, peacekeeping and peace-building activities in Africa. India has been one of the oldest, largest and most consistent contributors of UN peacekeeping organizations, having participated in almost every major operation since the inception of peacekeeping in 1950s. Indian personnel are currently serving in UN missions in Ethiopia, Eritrea, Burundi, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone and Sudan. Given Africa's focus on gender issues, India would soon despatch the first-ever Female Formed Police Unit (FFPU) to Liberia. We expect the all-women unit to be in Liberia by the end of the year.

India has consistently pointed to the need for an integral link between peacekeeping and peacebuilding, which is a prerequisite investment in the future to protect the hard won gains of the efforts to establish peace. India therefore energetically participated in the deliberations last year for the establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission and welcomed its establishment by announcing a contribution of US \$2 million. We have emphasized national ownership of the peacebuilding process and been closely associated with the holding of the first two country specific meetings of the PBC. We will remain engaged with efforts to define the role and method of work of the PBC.

Madam President

Turning to the agenda item on rolling back of malaria in developing countries, particularly in Africa, we believe that there is need for wider recognition that malaria is largely a killer of children and poor people. It continues to threaten at least 3 billion people in 107 countries and territories. Each year more than 500 million people suffer from acute malaria, resulting in more than one million deaths. About 3000 children and infants die from malaria every day. Malaria also has a significant impact on long-term economic growth and development, leading to loss of gross domestic product, consuming enormous portions of household incomes and government health spending. India is familiar with tackling the mosquito menace and fully supports efforts that focus on the prevention and elimination of malaria in developing countries, including those in Africa.

Thank you, Madam President.

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