



STATEMENT BY MR. ANIL BASU, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AND MEMBER OF
THE INDIAN DELEGATION, ON AGENDA ITEM 55: GLOBALIZATION AND
INTERDEPENDENCE: [A] GLOBALISATION AND INTERDEPENDENCE; AND [B]
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT AT THE SECOND
COMMITTEE OF THE 61ST SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON
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Madam Chairperson,

We thank the Secretary-General for the reports on the agenda item: "globalisation and interdependence" under consideration today. We associate ourselves with the statement made by the distinguished delegate of South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77.

Madam Chairperson,

The spirit of globalisation is rapidly reshaping the world today. It has accelerated the flow and exchange of trade, capital, technology, information and people and has created unprecedented opportunities for the progress and prosperity of all countries, transcending the narrow confines of national boundaries. But globalisation has also brought new challenges and many developing countries are facing difficulties in responding to these challenges. The 1990s was the decade in which globalisation came into full swing. It was also the decade of frustration for many developing countries. It is no coincidence that the Millennium Declaration recognises that the benefits of globalisation are very unevenly shared, while its costs are unevenly distributed.

In an increasingly globalising world, the regimes governing international trade, money, finance and technologies are critical determinants of development. Not only do they establish the rules of the game for the flow of goods, services, technologies and people, they influence the actual flows in these areas. The deepening of global imbalances continues to pose a major risk to global growth and stability. Caught between the intellectual property rights and trade regimes, as well as the conditionalities imposed by the World Bank and IMF, the

developing countries increasingly find erosion of much needed policy autonomy and flexibilities to evolve their own policies and strategies to achieve sustained economic growth and development, critical for poverty eradication and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. It is incumbent upon the international community as a whole to consider the issue of an appropriate balance between national policy space and international disciplines and commitments when deciding collectively on future disciplines and commitments as well as on the implementation and interpretation of the existing ones.

The current impasse in the Doha round of trade negotiations is a cause of concern. There is no doubt that development-oriented outcome of trade negotiations, with effective and operable special and differential treatment for developing countries, is imperative to enable the developing countries reap the benefits of globalisation. It is equally important to address systemic issues and in this regard to undertake a comprehensive reform of the international financial architecture in a time-bound manner. Unequal bargaining power leads to regimes that are unfair. The international community must find ways to contracting the circles of exclusion.

Fair globalisation requires political will that can be manifested externally by the United Nations. There has, regrettably, been an erosion in the role of the United Nations over the years in shaping the regimes governing international trade, money, finance and technologies and providing political guidance to shape the international economic agenda. Its watchdog function in pursuing the development agenda has been whittled down. It is imperative that the ongoing efforts to reform the United Nations address the question of restoring the centrality of development on the agenda of the United Nations and utilizing fully its comparative advantage of democratic and universal characteristics. We must evolve equitable and rules-based regime to manage global trade, investment flows, technology transfer and movement of services.

Madam Chairperson,

The determinants of development are rapidly shifting along several paths; from agriculture to manufacturing; from manufacturing to services; from capital resources to knowledge resources. In conditions where access to critical resources are severely restricted by international rules and regimes, the challenge before the developing world is to fully tap the enormous productive potential of the non-material knowledge resources. India recognizes the importance of science and technology as a critical determinant of development and seeking to remain on the fast track to knowledge-led growth, through strengthening the roots and sinews of its capacity and capability building to meet the challenges of the 21st century; not merely to become a knowledge producing society but a knowledge sharing and knowledge consuming society. We thank

the Secretary-General for focussing, in his report, on the role of science and technology in the context of globalisation and interdependence.

Madam Chairperson,

The role of science and technology for development cannot be overemphasized. Intellectual property rights regimes are often used as tools to restrict, control and deny technologies, rather than facilitate their transfer to developing countries. It is imperative that development dimensions are integrated into such regimes as quickly as possible. The international community also needs to find pragmatic ways to promote research and development in developing countries.

Madam Chairperson,

The revolution in information and communication technologies offers us the tool to face the challenges of globalisation. It is ironic that the shrinking of the world as a result of technology and communications should be accompanied by evolution of controls that restrict movement for the peoples of the developing world. In the context of globalisation, there is need to recognise the inevitability of international migration. This presents challenges and opportunities. The increased demand for specialists in developed countries can be matched by their availability in developing countries. There, however, needs to be greater receptivity among developed countries to the request made to them for enhanced market access in Mode 4. This can be a win-win situation. The World Bank's Global Economic Prospects 2006 notes that a rise in migration from developing countries raises incomes of natives in high-income countries. India believes that efforts at the United Nations should focus on promoting teamwork amongst nations to maximise the benefits of international migration while reducing its negative effects. We look forward to participate constructively in discussions on international migration and development.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

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