



STATEMENT BY MR. SHATRUGHAN SINHA, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AND  
MEMBER OF THE INDIAN DELEGATION, ON AGENDA ITEM 58: OPERATIONAL  
ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM AT THE SECOND COMMITTEE OF THE 61<sup>ST</sup>  
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Madam Chairperson,

We thank the Secretary-General for the report on 'Comprehensive statistical data on operational activities for development for 2004' and the 'Activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women'. We associate ourselves with the statement made by the distinguished representative of South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77.

Madam Chairperson,

The report on 'Comprehensive statistical data on operational activities for development for 2004' provides a good picture of the distinction between contributions made for humanitarian assistance and for long-term development cooperation.

In the context of funding for development cooperation, the Report reveals that while yearly contributions have risen steadily over the last five years, the proportion of core resources has not witnessed a favourable trend. The Report recalls the '2004 contributions report' of UNICEF, which states that, while it highly valued 'other resource' contributions, UNICEF's comparative advantage would be compromised if the imbalance between regular resources and other resources continued.

We note that while there was some kind of balance between core and other contributions from 2000 to 2003, the share of core resources fell substantially in 2004, when these were only 70 per cent of other resources. For the first time over that period even the nominal dollar amount of core resources fell, while the nominal dollar amount of other resources registered its biggest

annual increase. The Report recalls that in 2004 only 40 per cent of contributions to UNICEF went to 'core resources'. It adds that this is the lowest core percentage that UNICEF has ever received.

Madam Chairperson,

Core resources are the foundation of country programmes of cooperation and are necessary for UNICEF, as also other organizations, to perform core functions at the optimal level and to contribute towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Core resources enable UN funds and programmes to respond quickly to emerging crises and distribute resources based on need and long-term objectives. While recognizing the value of the increase in non-core resources, the General Assembly has repeatedly highlighted the need to enhance the core or regular contributions to the United Nations development system. General Assembly resolution 59/250 (paragraph 20), acknowledges that 'other resources' "are not a substitute for core resources".

The primary requirement for enhancing the capacity of the UN system to achieve development results is, indeed, the availability of adequate, sustainable, timely and predictable funding. The issue of financing for development cooperation, in particular the need for adequate core funding, would therefore, be an important issue that India would stress upon during next year's discussion of the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review (TCPR).

Madam Chairperson,

India believes that the UN system's operational activities for development should be valued and assessed on the basis of the contribution they make to the efforts of developing countries to pursue their national development plans and priorities. India emphasises that the UN system's operational activities should respond to the development needs of developing countries in a flexible manner, while recognizing that these activities are carried out for the benefit of the developing countries and at their request.

The General Assembly has recognized that the fundamental characteristic of the operational activities of the UN development system should be, inter alia, their universal voluntary and grant nature, their neutrality and multilateralism. The strength of the UN operational system lies in its legitimacy at the country level as a neutral, objective and trusted partner for both the recipient and donor countries. India backs the strengthening of these unique characteristics of the UN system's operational activities for development so that they can better support the long-term development efforts of developing countries.

Madam Chairperson,

The Report presents and analyses data on humanitarian contributions and expenditures for the first time. We agree with the Report that countries in need require both humanitarian and development assistance, and that in many cases humanitarian assistance is an essential component in the process of transition from relief to development. The international community needs to maintain its interest and funding for the relief and reconstruction phases of humanitarian emergencies, long after the eyes of the media have moved on to other stories and new emergencies. General Assembly resolution 59/250 on TCPR recognizes the importance of funding for long-term development as part of a smooth transition process. The resolution recommends that planning for the transition to development and supportive measures in this regard should be taken from the beginning of the relief phase.

The Report notes that humanitarian assistance expenditures have represented, by far, the largest sector in the area of technical cooperation. This is despite the fact that available figures seriously understate the level of humanitarian assistance, especially as they have excluded UNHCR. We agree with the Report that there is need to make the data more representative and transparent.

Madam Chairperson,

The report on the 'Activities of UNIFEM' provides an overview of its programmes and activities. Despite being small, UNIFEM has been able to make a contribution in several areas in a large number of countries. We agree that while UNIFEM can contribute to the achievement of the reported results, the outcomes are dependent on the contributions of the national partners in government and non-government organizations.

The Report cites a number of projects in India where UNIFEM had some collaboration. An important project that is achieving concrete results is the partnership between UNIFEM and the Indian Railways to incorporate gender-responsive policies and practices related to HIV/AIDS. The Report labels its collaboration with the third largest employer in the world, as a project that is a 'recognized model of public-sector intervention' and adds that UNIFEM, along with UNFPA and representatives of Chinese Railways have visited the programme to look into possible replication.

We have noted the improvement in UNIFEM's funding situation. We congratulate UNIFEM on attaining a record total income of US\$ 57.6 million in 2005 and for exceeding its multi-year funding framework target of US\$ 43.4

million. However, core contributions stood at US\$ 22 million, as against the target of US\$ 25.4 million. We would like to once again emphasize the importance of enhanced core funding to help UNIFEM continue the pursuit of its mandated activities.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

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