



STATEMENT BY MR. NIRUPAM SEN, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE, ON  
AGENDA ITEMS 47: 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 113: FOLLOW-UP TO THE OUTCOME OF THE MILLENNIUM SUMMIT  
– SPECIFIC MEETING FOCUSED ON DEVELOPMENT AT THE 61<sup>ST</sup> SESSION OF  
THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON DECEMBER 06, 2006

Madam President,

We are happy to participate in the specific meeting focussed on development. We thank the Secretary-General for the reports on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the major UN conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields. We associate ourselves with the statement made by South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77.

Madam President,

For developing countries, the centerpiece is development. Since the Millennium Summit in 2000, the progress towards achievement of Millennium Development goals has been uneven and the ongoing levels of human deprivation remain stagnant. The challenges remain most pressing in Africa, particularly sub-Saharan Africa, where the proportion of people living in extreme poverty is essentially unchanged since 1990 and the absolute number has increased dramatically. It is no coincidence that the 2005 World Summit reaffirmed that the realization of Millennium Development goals would require stronger international cooperation for development and stressed the need for the United Nations to play a fundamental role in the promotion of international cooperation for development. The United Nations played a creative and critical leadership role in shaping the international economic agenda in the 1970s. It has to do so again. The agreement on the follow-up to development commitments and goals is a welcome step.

The development follow-up resolution 60/265 emphasised the urgent need to fully implement the global partnership for development and to enhance the momentum generated by the 2005 World Summit, in this sense it recognised the need for a shift in debates from principles to practicalities or, in other words, from normative debates to a phase of implementation. Implementation should be understood broadly to include resources as well as interpretation – building further on what is unclear or incomplete and doing this in terms of the evolving reality outside. We need to look at problems of resources and interpretation. The physical and social infrastructure in some countries is sometimes too weak to attract any private investment and, therefore, the fulfilment of commitment to 0.7% target for ODA by developed countries, as also innovative sources of financing are crucial. The inequities in the global monetary, financial and trading systems remain. The Bretton Woods institutions and the WTO have strayed far away from their original mandate - employment generating macro-economic policies. Developing countries need rule-based multi-lateral regimes – these rules have to be truly equitable and should not impact adversely on the scope for the implementation of their national development strategies. For defending livelihoods, the sovereign functions of the State cannot be undermined and regimes that erode the autonomy of policy space need to be reformed. Therefore, a fundamental reform of international monetary, financial and trading institutions is essential to underpin new and truly equitable rules. It is also crucial for the UN to undertake regular and periodic review and assessment of international economic policies and their impact on development. In the context of systemic issues, it is particularly important to implement the commitment towards enhancing the ability of developing countries to participate meaningfully in decision-making, an important component of which is to provide assistance to developing countries in enhancing their capacity to assess the impact on them of policy changes. Most of the developing countries do not have the resources to do so. The deliberative discussions of the WTO and other international economic organisations could be complemented if there were an independent body to evaluate alternative proposals and their impact on developing countries. The United Nations is best placed to do so. Assessments must be made of the disparity between predicted consequences and what actually happens. ECOSOC has the responsibility to review the policies of BWIs. Efforts should be made to ensure that this responsibility is carried out fully and to examine how other economic policies could be brought into this review. We welcome the agreement reached in this regard in the context of strengthening of the ECOSOC.

We are confident that the ECOSOC on the basis of the review and assessment of international economic policies – international financial, monetary and trade policies of relevant institutions – would make recommendations, where needed, so that necessary correctives make the international economic environment supportive of development. This will not only increase confidence in, and the legitimacy of, international economic governance but also may lead

to better economic governance that may benefit both the developing and the developed world. It is logical that the General Assembly will have some views, primarily to build on the focussed consideration of these issues in the ECOSOC. Specific meetings focussed on development will go a long way not only in building complementarity between the ECOSOC and General Assembly, but also in enhancing the development agenda of the United Nations.

Madam President,

The suspension of the Doha round of trade negotiations is a cause of concern. The impasse, as also the recent discussions in the Second Committee, has shown that while national borders should not matter for trade and capital flows, we should not raise the issue of technology and labour flows; while subsidies are bad for industrial goods, we should not talk about agricultural subsidies; while the private interest of IPR holders are sacrosanct, we should not discuss the public interest or protecting the bio-genetic resources of developing countries. Resumption of trade negotiations is desirable, but adhering to the agreed mandates of the Doha Ministerial Declaration, the July Framework and the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration is a categorical imperative. Demonstration of political will by the developed countries will be required, if negotiations are to be saved. A clear political direction to the WTO remains necessary.

Madam President,

India has consistently maintained that the process of UN reform should be driven by a vision of a strengthened role for the United Nations on development issues. We recognise that the delivery role of the UN will perforce be peripheral, given the modest funds available to the UN and the huge requirements of developing countries. Yet, there is an important catalytic role to be played by the UN. What is needed is to address the fundamental issue of the gap between mandates and financial resources for their fulfilment. We are confident that discussions in the context of promoting system-wide coherence will give utmost consideration to this fundamental issue of resource gap; preliminary consideration has highlighted the need for enhanced allocation for developmental activities of the UN in the regular budget. In the context of role of UN in development, it is also important to strengthen the current accountability framework for executive management, at USG/ASG level, including formal and transparent performance evaluations and sanctions for not meeting performance targets. Voice and effective participation of developing countries is important not only in the context of international economic policy making, but also in the management and administration of this Organisation, so important for pursuing the development agenda which is the overriding priority of the majority of the membership of this Organization-the developing countries. It is particularly important that developing countries are represented at the executive

management levels and there is a balance in representation between the developed and the developing countries. Therefore, the ongoing debate in the context of human resources management assumes significance. It might also be useful to further consider the establishment of an open and transparent appointment process, including through broad consultations and confirmation by the General Assembly for improving accountability. We look forward to discussions on the ACABQ report on governance.

Thank You, Madam President.

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