



STATEMENT BY MRS. RUCHI GHANASHYAM, MINISTER, PERMANENT MISSION OF
INDIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK ON AGENDA ITEM 5: UNIFEM
STRATEGIC PLAN, 2008-2011 ON SEPTEMBER 13, 2007

We would like to thank UNIFEM for the detailed document on UNIFEM Strategic Plan.

We also take this opportunity to convey our best wishes to Ms. Noeleen Heyzer for her new appointment. She has been a valuable asset for UNIFEM and her presence would be missed.

Mr. President,

India is strongly committed to the pursuit of the cherished goal of gender equality and women's empowerment. Government of India is promoting gender equality at home through several progressive measures, including the introduction of gender sensitive budgeting, elimination of gender based violence through the implementation of the Domestic Violence Act amongst others. India is also a vocal champion of gender equality at the international level.

Mr. President,

India recognises the catalytic role that UNIFEM can play in supporting the implementation of national objectives for gender equality and women's empowerment. We, therefore, broadly support the strengthening of UNIFEM to enable it to better play such a catalytic role. We would like to emphasize the aspect of capacity building in programme countries. Better capacity plays an important role in the efforts of nations to deliver on gender equality. We also recognize the need for capacity building within UNIFEM itself. We would request the Executive Director to clarify on measures to expand capacity within UNIFEM, which would be crucial if it has to play the catalytic role expected of it.

We expect that in its implementation of the Strategic Plan, UNIFEM would adopt inter-governmentally agreed concepts and principles. The Strategic Plan refers to the 2005 UN common understanding on the human rights based approach. We would request the Executive Director for some clarification on this concept and whether this has been inter-governmentally discussed and agreed.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, we would like to highlight the importance of resources, especially enhanced core resources in the implementation of UNIFEM's mandate.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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