



STATEMENT BY MR. SALEEM I. SHERVANI, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AND MEMBER OF THE INDIAN DELEGATION, ON AGENDA ITEM 54: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AT THE SECOND COMMITTEE OF THE 62ND SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON OCTOBER 30, 2007

Mr. Chairman,

We thank the Secretary-General for the detailed reports on the Agenda Item "Sustainable Development". We associate ourselves with the statement of the Chair of G-77.

Mr. Chairman,

This agenda item assumes special significance this year against the backdrop of heightened focus accorded to the issue of global warming and climate change in the UN General Assembly and other fora earlier in the year. This has not only served to highlight the need for urgent action to address climate change, it has also reinforced the importance of an integrated approach to sustainable development, covering its three pillars of economic development, social development and environmental protection.

This year marks the fifteenth anniversary of the Rio Conference and the fifth anniversary of the Johannesburg Summit. We wish to reiterate the importance of the effective implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation [JPOI] for achieving sustainable development. The Secretary-General's report highlights steps taken by some countries in this regard. However, we must recall that JPOI emphasizes the importance of addressing good governance at the international level, international finance & trade, as well as technology and investment patterns. We call for more effective implementation of these issues.

The Mauritius Strategy for Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States [SIDS] remains a milestone in the recognition of the special needs of SIDS in addressing their development imperatives. As part of South-South solidarity, India has directed its engagement with SIDS on capacity building, natural disaster preparedness, adapting to climate change and enhancing resilience. We note the efforts outlined in the report of the Secretary General to mainstream the Mauritius Strategy for

Implementation, and call for enhanced financial and technical support by the donor community, and for creating an enabling international environment.

Mr. Chairman

For developing countries like India, achieving sustained economic growth to eradicate poverty and hunger is an imperative. However, we are also profoundly concerned about environmental degradation and climate change. India accords high priority to sustainable development and has taken numerous steps in this direction. These include use of CNG for public transport, commencement of a bio-diesel programme, improving energy efficiency in all the major energy intensive sectors, promoting use of Compact Fluorescent Lamps at the price of normal bulbs, adoption of a Energy Conservation Act, adoption of an Energy Efficiency Code for new commercial buildings and promoting procurement of electricity from renewable sources of energy. In fact, India is one of the major producers of wind energy in the world. In addition, we have launched the Green India project that will be the world's largest afforestation project covering six million hectares of degraded forest land. We have also adopted a National Environment Policy last year, which aims to mainstream environmental concerns in all development activities. This Policy also emphasizes that the right to development must equitably meet the developmental and environmental needs of present and future generations.

Unfortunately, developing countries have to bear a disproportionate share of the negative impact of climate change and environmental degradation. They are also the most vulnerable to these changes, and lack the means to tackle them. We stress that efforts to tackle climate change must be based on the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities". In this regard, we hope during the forthcoming Bali meeting of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, developed countries will commit to, and implement, sharper emission reduction targets for the post-2012 period under the Kyoto protocol. For our part, we are determined that even as we pursue economic growth, our per capita greenhouse gas emissions will not increase beyond those of the developed countries.

Addressing climate change by developing countries must also involve transfer of climate-friendly technologies at concessional and preferential rates. This should involve making necessary changes to the Intellectual Property Rights [IPR] regime so that it balances reward for innovators with the common good of humankind. New and additional financial resources also need to be provided to developing countries, and their adaptation efforts must be given greater international support, including through capacity enhancement, without diverting funds meant for development. We believe that development is the best form of adaptation, and efforts to address climate change must not foreclose the growth imperative of developing countries.

Mr. Chairman,

Energy remains the sine qua non of development and achievement of development goals by developing countries like India will involve rapid increase in per capita energy consumption, particularly given our low levels of current per capita energy consumption. As an energy deficient country, we place special emphasis on energy conservation, energy efficiency and use of renewable energy. However, each country must have the policy space of choosing its own mix of energy sources depending on their individual circumstances – advanced fossil fuels based or renewable, including nuclear power, based. We also stress the need for providing

developing countries with greater energy efficiency technologies, for which flexibilities in IPR regime and collaborative efforts between developed and developing countries need to be considered.

We stress the importance of conservation, protection and sustainable use of genetic resources and reaffirm our support to the Convention on Biological Diversity. In this regard, we welcome the recommendation by the Secretary-General in his report regarding the importance of finalizing negotiations on the international regime on access and benefit-sharing as soon as possible, within the framework of the Convention. We emphasize that this should include provisions for mandatory disclosure of country of origin of genetic resources, prior informed consent in IPR applications and fair and equitable sharing of benefits, as required under the Convention.

Thank You.

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