



STATEMENT BY DR. E. M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN, MEMBER OF
PARLIAMENT AND MEMBER OF THE INDIAN DELEGATION, ON AGENDA ITEM 51
– GLOBALIZATION AND INTERDEPENDENCE AT THE SECOND COMMITTEE OF
THE 63RD SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON
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Madam Chair,

We thank the Secretariat for the reports on the agenda item “Globalization and Interdependence” under consideration today. We associate ourselves with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the Group of 77.

Madam Chair,

World leaders had emphasized in the Millennium Declaration that the benefits of globalization are unevenly shared, while its costs are unevenly distributed. It is in this context that we had requested the Secretary-General last year for a report on the impact of globalization on the achievement of the development goals. The resultant, and timely, report has elaborated on the significant difficulties faced by developing countries in pursuing national development strategies in the context of globalization, particularly in the context of the current financial crisis. We welcome the recognition in the report that realization of the development goals is dependent on the concerted management of the globalization process by the international community, and the strengthening of the global partnership for development.

The principal difficulty in our management of globalization, and one which the report of the Secretary-General also highlights, is that while globalization, and its attendant benefits, has led to and has been encouraged by enhanced flows of capital, goods and services, technology and people, sufficient attention has not been paid to protection from the adverse influences that these flows bring. This is particularly true for developing countries, which may not have the requisite capabilities to deal with such adverse impacts. Instead, reliance has been placed on the self-regulation of the market. Unfortunately, as recent developments have served to demonstrate, such adverse impacts not only exist, but get exacerbated by the forces of globalization, and can severely harm development efforts. Thus, the ongoing financial crisis, coupled with the food and energy crises, has produced an environment that is not supportive of development efforts of developing countries.

Clearly, what is essential is enhanced policy space for developing countries, through flexibilities in international regimes, so that they may choose the right policy tools in the context of their specific development challenges. This is vital, given that globalization can lead to reduction in the degree of national autonomy in policymaking. However, as the Secretary-General's report also elaborates, globalization has been accompanied by "one-size-fits-all" policy prescriptions, that have had disastrous consequences on many occasions. There have also been attempts to castigate prudence displayed by many developing countries in opening up of their economies, given that volatility in capital flows is detrimental to long-term development. In this context, developing countries must be allowed to pursue counter-cyclical macroeconomic policies, as well as develop strategies that promote inclusive growth and full employment, so that economic growth translates into opportunities and benefits for all.

Unfavourable international regimes, in which developing countries have a marginal say, have also prevented developing countries from taking full advantage of globalization in other areas. Agricultural production in developing countries has been severely undermined by massive subsidies in developed

countries. Developing countries continue to face non-trade barriers in accessing markets of developed countries, while a steady reduction in their industrial tariffs has greatly enhanced the risks of de-industrialization of developing countries. Further, in the area of technology access, critical technologies in the area of public health and climate change remain inaccessible and unaffordable for developing countries due to the existing Intellectual Property Rights regime.

Madam Chair,

If globalization is to succeed, it must be fair, and benefit the whole of humanity. Developmental considerations must be at its core. We agree with the report of the Secretary-General that more international efforts are required to establish fair and equitable trade, investment, technology and knowledge regimes. The practical way to achieve this is through a comprehensive restructuring of the international decision making and norm-setting structures in a time bound manner, with greater voice and participation of developing countries. This process must be overseen by the United Nations, which has a unique legitimacy and universality.

Madam Chair,

It is inevitable that globalization, with its emphasis of enhanced flows of capital and goods, will lead to increased international migration, with its own challenges and opportunities. Further, it is clear that there is an interrelationship between international migration and development. There is need for greater international cooperation to maximize the benefits of migration, while reducing its negative effects. In this context, we welcome the setting up of the Global Forum of Migration and Development. We look forward to the outcome of the discussions at the Second meeting of the Forum, which has just concluded in Manila.

We also urge greater receptivity by developed countries for requests for greater market access under Mode 4. This would permit mutually beneficial solutions, matching the demand for specialists in developed countries with the availability of such talent in developing countries. However, irregular migration is an issue with serious security implications, and requires coordinated and concerted global action to tackle it. Similar action is required against the attendant evil of trafficking of people.

In conclusion, Madam Chair, permit me to reiterate the importance of creating an international environment, with the full and effective participation of all, to ensure that the benefits of globalization are harnessed by all, while ensuring adequate protection from its negative impacts.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

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