



**STATEMENT BY MR. NIRUPAM SEN, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE,
ON AGENDA ITEM 45 AND 55: 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 FOLLOW-UP TO THE
OUTCOME OF THE MILLENNIUM SUMMIT AT 59TH SESSION OF THE UN
GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON NOVEMBER 22, 2004-11-23**

Mr. President,

We welcome the opportunity to participate in the discussions on the modalities, format and organisation of the high-level plenary meeting of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly. We thank the Secretary-General for his report on this item as well as the ones on the 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 on the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration.

The opportunity provided by the 2005 Major Event should enable the general membership to reiterate not just its commitment to the full implementation of the Millennium Declaration but agree on creative concrete and clear ways of actually implementing it on time. The Event should provide a strong impetus towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals contained in the Millennium Declaration and other development goals contained in the outcomes of the major UN conferences and summits in the economic and social fields. We are equally interested in the review of other aspects contained in the Millennium Declaration, including, in particular, issues relating to maintenance of international peace and security, disarmament and the reform process of the UN, including institutional and structural changes, in which developing countries have an equal and vital stake.

Mr. President,

On the timing and duration of the high-level event, we agree broadly with the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's report on the modalities, format, and organisation of the high-level plenary meeting. Participation at the highest possible political level would ensure that all Member States can feel a sense of ownership about the outcome.

We agree with the Secretary-General's recommendations with regard to the structure and format of the high-level event. The plenary setting would

provide a platform for Heads of State and Government to make statements and address important policy questions relating to the implementation of the Millennium Declaration. The round-tables, on the other hand, would provide a setting for more interactive and intensive discussions on different aspects of the agenda.

The agenda of the high-level event, as set out in Resolution 58/291, should encompass a comprehensive review of the implementation of all aspects of the Millennium Declaration. This would enable delegations to pay particular attention to any area they might wish to focus on. For example, India and other members of the Group of 77 would place emphasis on the efforts towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the obstacles encountered by the developing countries in their endeavours. Some of us may wish to pay special attention to the question of Financing for Development. Some would wish to concentrate on the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation on sustainable development. Member States would attach importance to peace and security, and questions such as terrorism and weapons of mass destruction, including the danger of their proliferation to non-State actors. All these objectives are integrally linked to the reform of the UN, including the reform and expansion of the Security Council. We await the presentation in March, 2005 of the report of the Secretary-General on the comprehensive review. We trust that the report will identify practical ways of achieving the Millennium Development Goals and implementing other parts of the Millennium Declaration.

On preparations, we agree with the unexceptionable principles contained in the Secretary-General's report for making the preparatory process open-ended, transparent and inclusive. This would enable all Member States to feel a sense of ownership which would be particularly important so as to ensure that delegations of developing countries, which are relatively small in size and are under-resourced, are in a position to participate and involve themselves fully in the preparatory process.

We need to look at how the various processes initiated in the inter-governmental bodies can feed into the preparations for the 2005 event and how the outcome can take into account such inputs and incorporate them appropriately. In this context, the 10-year reviews of the Beijing and Copenhagen Conferences have relevance. We look forward to receiving the recommendations of the Secretary-General on the report of the High Level Panel set up by him on Threats, Challenges and Change. We believe that Member States would examine carefully the report and the recommendations and adopt appropriate decisions on these recommendations. The report of the World Commission on the social dimensions of globalisation containing concrete recommendations on making the process of globalisation fairer, more equitable and more inclusive, besides certain institutional changes, deserves fuller consideration by the Member States in the run-up to the 2005 Event. We hope that the preparatory process for the high-level event would give detailed consideration to each of these reports which will help shape the outcome of the high-level event.

We believe that the high-level dialogue on Financing for Development should provide meaningful inputs for consideration during the high-level event. We would, therefore, prefer that the high-level dialogue is held in late June or

early July, 2005, preferably in New York. Any event which is back-to-back in the high-level event itself would not serve this purpose and the same infirmity would also apply even to a two-stage holding of the event on the Financing for Development.

Mr. President,

We support an inter-governmentally agreed outcome of the 2005 Event that is concrete, action-oriented and implementable. In this context, we take note of the Secretary-General's suggestion of a 'single integrated package of decisions' to be endorsed at the high-level plenary meeting. It is incumbent upon all of us to ensure that the preparatory process produces such a basket of decisions. For this purpose, it would be useful to identify different clusters of topics, and work on a series of decisions that can be locked in as we approach the Millennium review event. We would, however, caution against the danger of progress on any one issue being held hostage to progress on others during the preparatory process. Conversely one may add, that progress on each issue would reinforce and assist progress on succeeding and other issues.

Some delegations have spoken of the need to avoid divisiveness in the consideration of issues in the preparatory process. Divisive is not a label that should be used to characterise only one set of issues. Depending on the perspective employed, any issue can be considered to be divisive. Development can be as divisive as peace and security or terrorism, if that is the way a delegation or a group of Member States chooses to approach development. Therefore, in our view, this should not serve as a pretext to avoid a serious discussion and decisions on institutional reform.

The preparatory process we wish to put in place should be determined by the outcome that we seek to achieve for the Millennium review event. Most developing country delegations have expressed themselves in favour of an action-oriented outcome rather than a declaratory one that is based on the 'lowest-common-denominator' approach. Those desiring to move away from the latter should be ready for bold approaches that seek to reclaim the role of the United Nations in strengthening multilateralism and provide the broadest possible agreement using the extant rules of procedure.

Seeing you in the Chair Mr. President, I cannot resist saying that it is extremely important to work as a team - the eleven on a cricket field - as a fellow cricket-playing nation, have to work in the team. At the same time it is equally important to follow and use the rules of the procedure - in short, the rules of the game.

Mr. President,

Developing countries have waited long enough for this to happen. They are interested in results, not just in ritual; in meaningful decisions, not just in declarations. We are confident that they would not hesitate to grasp the gauntlet of steel rather than just a gamut of statements. The Secretary-General has again reiterated in his report that "we have come to a fork in the road". We

may add that one of these, caught in the past, leads to a blind alley. The other holds the promise, through the opportunity of the Major Event, of leading us to transform the Organization so that it can deal effectively with current and emerging challenges and threats, while being responsive to the interests and concerns of the developing countries.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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