Statement by Mr. Bhagwant Bishnoi, Counsellor, on Agenda Item 3: Proposals for Reporting on the UNDP Multi-Year Funding Framework 2004-2007 at the First regular session 2004 of the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA on January 29, 2004)

Mr. President,

In the interest of time management, we use this statement to thank the Administrator for his opening remarks. We would like to take this opportunity to express our condolences for the tragic death of Richard Conroy. Mr. Conroy had served in India and we held him in high esteem. His death is a loss for the organization.

The Administrator, in his remarks, had referred to the prices of basic services in Dharavi, Mumbai.   We do not disagree with the idea which he wished to illustrate but we do have some doubts about the accuracy of the data used by him. We would, later, discuss it bilaterally with the UNDP.

We would also like to refer to the statement by Brazil and to associate ourselves with their remarks on the IBSA initiative and the support provided by UNDP. There is likely to be a quantum jump in our technical cooperation with other developing countries.   We would be happy to share our experience and expertise in cost effective development solutions with other countries of the South.

Mr. President,

Coming to the agenda item under discussion, we thank the Administrator for the document prepared for this agenda item which deals with reporting on the Multi-Year Funding Framework (MYFF).   We would also like to express appreciation for consideration and rigour which has, very evidently, gone into its preparation.

The MYFF has two parts – the Strategic Results Framework and the Integrated Results Framework. The document which we have before us only refers to reporting on the SRF. The omission, we presume, is inadvertent.

Mr. President,

We have no difficulty with the framework for reporting to the Board which is summarized in paragraphs 46 and 47. The details of this framework have been fleshed out in considerable detail in the rest of the report. We feel, it is important to emphasize in this context, that the best should not be allowed to become the enemy of the good and procedure should not be allowed to divert one's attention from content.

We note from the report that the UNDP has distilled a set of 'core results' for each service line. The report asserts that these 'core results' represent outcomes, for each service line, that country programmes should be seeking to achieve. It also admits that this is "a more prescriptive approach to the definition of results to be achieved at the country level".

UNDP should keep in mind that its country level activities need to be in conformity with national plans and country-driven programming and not necessarily with UNDP's own perception of "demonstrated good practice". The elaborate reporting procedures outlined in the report should not, in any way, bring about any dilution of this principle.

In this context, we understand that country offices will henceforth be required to report on the 'core results' defined for each service line. We would like to know if the requirement would be to report on each of the 30 service lines or only on those which correspond to the main priorities expressed in a country programme. The principle of country-driven programming means that national authorities will determine which of the service lines are to be reflected in a country programme. A programme country may choose to seek cooperation with UNDP with regard to only a limited number of service lines. If so, the fact that performance monitoring is critical, may lead to these procedures imposing themselves on the country's priorities.

Mr. President,

We are puzzled with the intention indicated in paragraph 5 of the report to eliminate the reporting on thematic trust funds. Such reporting is useful, particularly to ensure that Other Resources are aligned with the priorities set out by the Board. Other Resources are now, regrettably, an important part of UNDP's funding structure. We need to, therefore, ensure such alignment. We look forward to clarification and further discussion on this issue.