

**STATEMENT BY HON'BLE MR. A.C. JOSE, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AND
MEMBER OF INDIAN DELEGATION ON AGENDA ITEM 39(A) & (B): NEW
PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT: PROGRESS IN
IMPLEMENTATION AND INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT" JOINT DEBATE AT
THE 58TH SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON OCTOBER 15,
2003**

Mr. President,

We thank the Secretary General for his first consolidated report on progress in the implementation of and international support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). We also thank him for the report on the implementation of his recommendations on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa. We have perused both reports with interest.

Mr. President,

It has always been our conviction that Africa knows its own problems better than anybody else. It also knows the solutions for these problems. Africa's understanding cannot, we believe, be substituted by that of others. Its ownership and leadership of the New Partnership for Africa's Development is, for us, a *sine qua non* for the success of this framework.

Africa, however, does require support from outside for the solutions which it has identified. The international community promised this support, notably in the Declaration adopted at the Millennium Summit. It has also, in the UN and in other forums, endorsed NEPAD as the framework for an African-owned and African-led programme for the social and economic development of the Continent.

It is still early days to assess progress in the implementation of NEPAD. It is, nevertheless, important to bear in mind that a principal conclusion contained in the report of the Panel of Eminent Personalities for the Independent Evaluation of the UN New Agenda for the Development of Africa (UN-NADAF) was that commitments made by the international community had largely remained unfulfilled during the 1990s. ODA for Africa had been expected to increase at an annual rate of 4% during this period. Instead, it fell by 46% from 1990 to 2000.

NEPAD is based on the principles of responsibility, solidarity and partnership. Solidarity, this time, needs to be real. Another failure to show solidarity would be harmful for the credibility of the international community and injurious to the notion of partnership.

One of the first occasions to demonstrate solidarity was at Cancun. The result was disappointing. There seems to be some incipient realisation now that, tactically, the developed

world should have offered more and earlier. From a strategic point of view, however, they should have, *ab initio*, proceeded from a spirit of partnership.

Mr. President,

There are some signs of progress, albeit modest, with regard to ODA for Africa. We note that the figure has increased from US\$ 16.4 billion in 2000 to US\$ 17.7 billion in 2001 and to US\$ 18.6 billion in 2002. This trend needs to be built upon. It cannot, by itself, lead to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. A quantum increase is of primary importance as, given the situation with regard to trade and investment, there can be no substitute for ODA.

Mr. President,

India's own relationship with Africa is built on strong historical and political foundations. We have been exploring ways by which we can provide support to NEPAD in the true spirit of South-South Cooperation. Our Ministry of Commerce has launched a 'Focus Africa' programme. This seeks to build on the growth of approximately 300% which has been achieved in trade with sub Saharan Africa in the past 10 years. We have also decided to increase the availability of credit for trade and other commercial exchanges. All bilateral debt with HIPC countries has been cancelled. Africa is the principal focus of our technical and economic cooperation programme with developing countries. Our cooperation and solidarity with Africa is based on the firm belief that this partnership can be meaningful and mutually beneficial. While more remains to be accomplished, we are satisfied with the progress which is being made in the sharing of our experience of economic and social development with Africa.

Mr. President,

We endorse the recommendations made by the Secretary General and would particularly like to highlight those which pertain to Africa's development partners. The resources which have been pledged need to be disbursed quickly and without conditionalities. Coherence and complementarity also need to be achieved in trade and aid policies.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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