

**Statement by Mr. V.K. Nambiar, Permanent Representative on Agenda
Item 60: Adoption of Resolution on "Enhancing Capacity Building in
Global Public Health at UN General Assembly on October 27, 2003**

Mr. President,

The achievement of the Millennium Development Goals of reducing child mortality, of improving maternal health and of combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases necessarily requires capacity building in public health on a global basis. The link goes further. Ill health undermines economic development and impedes efforts to reduce poverty. Capacity building in public health is, in fact, essential for economic growth and the achievement of the all seven development goals in the Millennium Declaration.

India is happy to be associated with this resolution as a co-sponsor. We thank China for the initiative which they have taken. In the context of the development goals adopted by the United Nations, it is important that the organization recognizes also their close and direct link with public health. Not to do so would be a serious shortcoming in the details of any viable strategy for the achievement of the MDGs.

Member States of the UN have the primary responsibility for building and strengthening their public health capacities. The resolution recognises, however, that the magnitude of the challenge may be beyond the capabilities of many developing countries. We are pleased to see in it an emphasis on the importance of active international cooperation. The report which the Secretary General provides to us at the next session will, we expect, help us to further address this matter.

The Commission on Macroeconomics and Health had, in its 2001 report, provided an approach to the development cooperation goal of the Millennium Declaration. We recognize that there has been movement, albeit somewhat limited, on its recommendations. We are happy that India, particularly through its pharmaceutical manufacturing capabilities, has been able to make a

contribution. We hope that this resolution will encourage further effort in the direction recommended by the Commission.

We join China in expressing appreciation for the positive and constructive spirit which underlined the consultations held on this resolution and also look forward to its adoption by consensus.

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)