

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR MANJEEV SINGH PURI, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE, AT INFORMAL INTERACTIVE PANEL DISCUSSIONS ON 'HUMAN SECURITY' AT THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON APRIL 15, 2011

Mr Moderator,

Thank you for giving me the floor. I have the benefit of speaking rather late in the afternoon after a full day's discussion on the subject. I am not sure whether I have much to add, especially after all the nitty gritty which have been raised by the panelist as well as my distinguished colleagues here.

Mr Moderator,

I have the privilege of speaking when his Excellency, the President of the General Assembly is here. I also have the privilege of speaking at the time, when after some six odd years we are making attempts to reinvigorate our efforts to try, at least, to reach the definitional aspects and what Human security is all about.

And for this I wish to acknowledge the work done by Ambassador Takasu. I have little doubt that his personal invigoration of the processes has been very much responsible.

Today, we have with us former President, President Obasanju and former speaker of the South African Parliament, Dr Frene Ginwala, and all the other distinguished panelist here to address us and educate us on the way forward.

I want to be relatively brief and say just a few things. First and foremost, I wish to say that we have been hearing a lot of debate over a number of years, on what really could constitute "Human Security" for the purposes of an international definition which would allow us to take things forward at the level of United Nations.

For most of us and most of the international community there is a good deal of clarity of what it should entail and we also need to understand quite clearly what it should not entail. In general, these are well known facts to all of us, sometime stated and sometime not stated.

From our perspective, the issue of "Human Security" needs to eschew the idea of interventionist approach. For us, it is quite clear and we need to work within the framework of the Charter, and principles of state sovereignty, etc; which are the bedrock of the multilateral and international relations in our world today. The definition also means to recognize the primacy of the States in taking care of issue of the human security for their population.

Let me rephrase this a little bit. The concepts need to be people-centric and it needs to encompass multi-dimensional and comprehensive parameters with development being the central and very big important component.

On the international scale, we need to recognize that today's world which has achieved a fair deal of globalization; we are really talking about fairly complex situation with linkages at the national, regional and international level.

All of these demand that we work together in collaborative fashion, in which we are willing partners and in which we sit with the other parties concerned in the international communities and try and see what we can do to further work for the overall betterment of humankind and especially those in vulnerable situations across the world today.

Having said this, I just want to take a minute to say that is my country where democracy is the bedrock of our political fabric; where freedom is the word which is embossed in the brightest of colours and the brightest of lights; it is our national endeavour that we work towards inclusivity.

Our latest decadal census shows that we are a country with 17.5 % of the human population; we are about 1.21 billion and it is absolutely essential that every single Indian must achieve a quality of life which allows him or her to have a decent standard of life.

Already 17.5 % of the world is our responsibility, which is something we not only take seriously but is our national priority. Coupled with that, we have a country which believes that whatever we have for ourselves, we should try to the extent possible, share with others, especially, our brethren in countries where developing priorities are of an extremely high order and where vulnerability are great.

I want to end here and I want to assure you, Mr. Moderator, the panelist and Ambassador Takasu that we will be constructively engaged in ensuring that we have

used six years, but we try and move forward quickly apace so that we can try and bring this thing in a conceptual manner to a closure and work forward for its implementation for the benefit of humankind.

Thank you very much Mr. Moderator.

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