

Remarks by Ambassador Asoke K Mukerji at the United Nations International Day of Nowruz at the United Nations on March 19, 2015

I am delighted to participate in the Nowruz celebrations at the United Nations today.

We embarked upon this journey in 2010, when the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution A/RES/64/253 to declare 21st March as the International Day of Nowruz. India is proud to be one of the Resolution's co-sponsoring countries.



This year, our celebrations are special. We meet on the eve of the historic 70th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. Much like mother earth, waiting for the day of Nowruz to celebrate the first shoots of spring, we have great expectations from this impending anniversary. Central to our expectations is the celebration of the organic harmony of our world, which the festival of Nowruz so appropriately symbolizes.

The specific characteristics of the Nowruz celebrations in India, shown in the short film screened today, have come from the vibrant communities originating in our immediate neighbourhood, who are living in our country today. Together with them, our country celebrates the central message of Nowruz, that of eternal renewal, as an integral part of our common civilizational heritage.

The General Assembly Resolution of 2010 emphasizes this very appropriately, and I quote:

*“Noting the orientation of Nowruz **towards the affirmation of life in harmony with nature**, the awareness of the inseparable link between constructive labour and*

natural cycles of renewal and the solicitous and respectful attitude towards natural sources of life”.

We are poised to adopt the post-2015 Development Agenda this year here at the United Nations. This Agenda will impact on all aspects of human life and the environment. We are deeply conscious of our civilizational commitment to ensuring a sustainable relationship between humanity and nature. Just as we are conscious that only when the most parched plant is given sustenance will it bloom, so too are we conscious that only when the blight of poverty is eradicated will the aspirations of humanity be truly realized. Only when we adopt a holistic approach to human health, appreciating its organic linkage with nature, will we be able to sustain our development process. This is the eternal message of Nowruz, which so many of our societies living in the member states gathered here today, celebrate.

At the United Nations, many of us have taken initiatives to focus our minds on this message, and encourage other member-states to join us in celebrating the common heritage of humanity. India is happy to join other partners present in the hall who are the co-sponsors of the International Day of Nowruz to renew our common vision and tradition.

Let me conclude by wishing all of you -- “*Nowruz Mubarak*”.