



**STATEMENT BY MRS. RUCHI GHANASHYAM, MINISTER, ON AGENDA ITEM 2:  
MULT-YEAR FUNDING FRAMEWORK REPORT ON UNDP PERFORMANCE AND  
RESULTS FOR 2004 IN THE ANNUAL SESSION 2005 OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD  
OF UNDP/UNFPA 13-24 JUNE 2005 ON 13 JUNE 2005**

Madam President,

We thank the Administrator for his statement and UNDP for the extensive documentation prepared for this item and for the presentation this morning. The report has a good organized structure that makes it easier to follow and understand. However, the length of the report and the plethora of other material that goes with this item demand considerable time. We request UNDP to keep the length of the documents within reasonable limits, and to make them available within the six-week rule.

The ten key messages are a good beginning for the report and we would structure our comments around these. In this fifth year of the Millennium Development Goals it is logical that the first message focuses on how UNDP would focus its plans around these Goals. We are strongly committed to the MDGs and support UNDP's commitment to this area. We are somewhat perplexed though at the reference in message two to the "alignment to national priorities around the MDGs". Developing countries are committed to the MDGs, but it is necessary to remember that the needs of individual countries differ according to their respective levels of economic and social development. National plans and priorities should determine the manner in which countries approach their own development and the paths they choose towards the MDGs. We are happy to see a reflection of this realization in sections of the report.

The commitment of the organization to UN reform comes out clearly in the report. We see the process of reform as an important way to increase efficiency and improve effectiveness. The reforms are not and should not be seen as an end in itself but as a means to an end. UNDP will only be considered as effective as the effectiveness of its development and poverty eradication efforts in developing countries.

Madam President,

While we appreciate the honest and self-critical assessment made in message four, we would like to know more details about the finding that the reliance on South-South solutions was relatively low. Even though South-South solutions were identified as a driver only fairly recently, we would like to emphasize that this is an important issue for us. We believe that resort to South-South solutions, the use of southern expertise and procurement of materials and services from the south would serve a dual purpose - benefiting the supplier as well as the receiver. UNDP needs to focus on this area with clear determination. Similarly, we expect to see more work, as indicated, on gender equality. We have noted that the report recommends equal and sustained attention by UNDP to all six drivers. We hope to see details of progress in this regard in future reports on this issue.

Fostering democratic governance is the second-largest thematic practice area for UNDP. We view this as an important area and support activities that would help build democratic institutions for addressing poverty. We would request for some details of the activities undertaken by UNDP in support of parliaments and elections. Here, we would like to emphasize that this being a political question, UNDP's assistance should only be at the request of the receiving country and that the support should be of a technical nature to avoid being misinterpreted as political intrusiveness.

We would request some details on the kind of work that UNDP undertakes in the area of energy and environment, especially in incorporating biodiversity concerns into national legal frameworks, the trans-boundary dimension of the work in water governance and climate change. We would also appreciate some clarification on the aspect of security considerations and the management of natural resources. Some details of the work on conflict prevention would also be useful, especially the process by which work in this area is undertaken. Considering the sensitive nature of these questions, it would be important for the UNDP Secretariat to work under strict inter-governmental guidance and scrutiny while working in these areas.

Madam President,

The report gives a clear indication that despite the increased contributions to regular resources in 2004 and expected increase in 2005, significant increases would, nevertheless, be required during 2006 and 2007 if the \$3.8 billion 2004-2007 MYFF target is to be achieved. UNDP is still far from achieving its \$1.1 billion overall MYFF target. We would like to draw attention to this requirement outlined in the report. Here we would like to stress that any funding strategy for UNDP must safeguard the essential character of the organization, which is its multilateral nature, grant nature of its funding, country-driven approach, neutrality, impartiality and universality. It would need to be ensured that the organization is able to respond in a flexible manner and in a way that does not lead to the introduction of any implicit conditionalities. Strengthening of the core resources of UNDP would be one of the first steps in this area.

Thank you, Madam President.

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