

STATEMENT BY MR. MD. NADIMUL HAQUE, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT & MEMBER OF THE INDIAN DELEGATION, ON AGENDA ITEM 19 - SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AT THE SECOND COMMITTEE OF THE 68TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON NOVEMBER 04, 2013

**Mr. Chairperson,**

India associates itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Fiji on behalf of G-77.



**Mr. Chairperson,**

I come from a region that is home to the largest mangrove forests of the world. The SUNDARBANS in my home state of West Bengal in the east of India is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is a reservoir of biodiversity and the home of the Royal Bengal Tiger.

Conserving the Sundarbans is a key priority of the Indian government. We are promoting sustainable tourism in the region which could help raise revenues and promote employment while fully protecting this unique ecosystem.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

Global cooperation on sustainable development is today at an important cross-road.

In the coming two years, negotiating a set of Sustainable Development Goals, elaborating a strategy for financing sustainable development and arriving at a post-2015 development agenda will be the key preoccupation of this body.

India looks forward to participate constructively in this endeavor.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

Adherence to the mandate of Rio+20 and respect for Rio principles, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, must underpin our efforts across all these tasks.

Integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in a balanced manner is equally important.

Often the discourse on sustainable development remains confined to minimizing environmental impacts of development. While this is no doubt extremely important, the wider need, especially for developing countries, is to ensure that their development itself can be sustained in all its dimensions.

We must therefore ensure that the post-2015 development agenda remains an agenda for development.

An ambitious agenda for the post-2015 period cannot be merely about policy prescriptions for developing countries, nor should it be about reprioritizing domestic spending.

We must craft a truly supportive international system and a genuine international compact between developed and developing countries to bring about change.

Addressing issues of inequity in consumption of global resources and correcting the unsustainable consumption patterns in developed countries must remain our central priorities.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

Sustainable development is as much about how to develop as much about how not to develop.

Achieving sustainable development involves avoiding choices that were made by many countries in their race for unsustainable development.

This however is easier said than done. In spite of the immense progress in technology and despite their command of considerable financial resources, even the most

advanced economies have not been able to truly decouple economic growth with carbon emissions. This shows the enormity of the challenge we face.

For developing countries, poverty eradication and rapid economic growth are the primary and overriding objectives. These are also indispensable for them to achieve sustainable development.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

Technology is the golden key that unlocks the nexus between poverty eradication and sustainable development.

We must therefore promote greater collaboration in environmentally friendly technologies and more importantly we must ensure that the fruits of such collaboration are shared more widely.

This would enable developing countries eradicate poverty and leapfrog into higher stages of development without incurring the environmental costs that traditional development models have entailed.

Often the call for technology collaboration is portrayed to imply a demand to do away the Intellectual Property Rights.

What is required however is to create a technology regime which balances the need to reward the innovators while ensuring affordable and wide dissemination of the technologies for public good.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

The proposal for a Technology Facilitation Mechanism proposed by the Secretary General and supported overwhelmingly by member states must be made operational as early as possible.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

On climate change, India remains fully committed to crafting an ambitious, balanced and comprehensive outcome to negotiations in accordance with the principles and provisions of the UNFCCC. India is engaged constructively in the negotiations under the Adhoc Working Group on Durban Platform.

However, we are concerned with an egregious tendency to incorrectly characterize the nature of the agreement that we are supposed to reach under the Durban Platform in 2015.

Certain expressions such as achieving a ‘truly universal’ and ‘legally binding’ agreement by 2015 used in many reports including some UN reports create the incorrect impression that the existing international regime on climate change is not universal or legally binding.

We must recognize that the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol are both universal and legally binding instruments on climate change.

The remit of the Durban Platform is to further enhance the implementation of the Convention in order to reach its ultimate objective, and not to reinterpret or renegotiate it.

Our attempts to craft an ambitious and comprehensive outcome of the Durban Platform can only succeed if it respects the balance of responsibilities and capabilities enshrined in the Convention principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities.

India firmly believes that the early and meaningful operationalization of the finance and technology mechanisms under the Climate Change Convention must be a central priority in the run-up to 2015.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

Let me conclude by recalling what the great Bengali poet Rabindranath Tagore said.

He said “**Let your life dance lightly on the edges of Time, like dew on the tip of a leaf**”.

We need to take inspiration from these words. The need of the hour is to craft sustainable pathways to living that can enrich our lives without leaving a heavy footprint on nature.

**I thank you.**

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