

**Statement by Hon'ble Mr. A.C. Jose, Member of Parliament and
Member of Indian Delegation on Agenda Item 95: Implementation of
Agenda 21, the Programme for the further implementation of Agenda
21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development
at the Second Committee of the 58th Session of the UN General
Assembly on October 20, 2003-10-21**

Mr. Chairman,

We thank the Secretary General for the report submitted under the Agenda item 95, "Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development" under consideration today. We associate ourselves with the statement made by Morocco on behalf of the Group of 77 under this item.

Mr. Chairman,

At the UN Conference on Environment and Development at RIO in 1992, we collectively launched a global compact for sustainable development and created a framework for assistance by the international community to complement the efforts of the developing countries in achieving sustainable development. The Rio Earth Summit had recognised in clear and forceful terms the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and the legitimate priority needs of the developing countries for the achievement of sustained economic growth and the eradication of poverty.

The World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg last year provided an opportunity to assess the performance of the previous decade on progress made in the implementation of Agenda 21. While reaffirming the Rio principles and continued relevance of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Summit focussed on concrete action for the implementation of Agenda 21 and achieving sustainable development. The Summit recognised the need to move from normative debates to a phase of implementation and adopted the Johannesburg Programme of Implementation.

The Johannesburg Summit reaffirmed that poverty eradication was central in the efforts of the developing countries to achieve sustainable development. International action to mobilise necessary financial resources for the achievement of the Millennium development Goals is imperative.

Mr. Chairman,

The developing countries look forward to a comprehensive implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Programme of Implementation. While national efforts are important, given the limited resources and lack of institutional capacity in the developing countries, it is imperative that means of implementation are made available to the developing countries through, *inter alia*, provision of new and additional financial resources, technology transfer on concessional, non-commercial and preferential terms, and capacity- building.

We welcome the outcome of the Eleventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, in particular the organisation and methods of work as a series of two-year action-oriented cycles, in keeping with the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. We also welcome enhancing cooperation and coordination within and among organisations of the United Nations system and other international institutions.

We welcome the participation of all major groups and other stakeholders in this process in accordance with the set of criteria and guidelines adopted at the Eleventh Session of Commission on Sustainable Development. The majority of the partnerships launched so far have governments, organisations of the United Nations system and other inter-governmental organisations as leading partners. The involvement of civil society and business sector in the partnership initiative can only complement, but not substitute, commitments undertaken by governments.

Mr. Chairman,

Enhanced international cooperation is imperative if the developing countries are to achieve sustainable development. The immediate task before us is to collectively work together to achieve common goals and targets in accordance with the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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