

***Eighth Informal Meeting of the Open Ended Informal Consultations on the Millennium Summit:  
Working Draft of the President of the General Assembly***

***Statement by Mr. Kamallesh Sharma, PR, on July 21, 2000***

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**Mr. President,**

At the outset, may I join the representative of the Joint Coordinating Committee of the Non Aligned Movement and the Group of 77, and other distinguished speakers, in complimenting you on a visionary and at the same time, action-oriented and concise and extremely helpful and conscientiously prepared draft. We believe that the Working Draft before us, reflects, in a balanced manner, the sometimes competing interests of countries and groups, while at the same time moves the international community forward in its efforts to overcome the challenges which our countries and the humanity face at the moment of the millennium and realise a better future. We would like to record a special word of praise for your sagacity in producing this working draft, that, we believe, seeks to unite and not divide, and would certainly avoid the experience of the 50th Anniversary of the United Nations, that we were all so keen to move away from. We greatly appreciate the work, to our common benefit, of Ambassadors Powles and Rosenthal.

Obviously, Mr. President, no draft can meet with perfect satisfaction with everybody. However, efforts at improvement should not disturb the delicate internal balance of the draft, which we feel is forward looking and comprehensive. This is extremely important if we are to have a Declaration that has a meaning and purpose for the United Nations, its Member States and their peoples.

We would therefore strongly suggest that there is a need to avoid opening discussions on issues, which we know from experience would be interminable and indeed, detrimental to the entire process. For example, we are of the view that paragraph 3 of the draft has succinctly and precisely captured our reaffirmation to the Principles and Purposes of the Charter. My delegation is of the view that selecting from these principles and purposes is not desirable.

At the same time, we feel that some additional points might be useful on Special Needs of Africa, economic growth, the process of Financing for Development, and the role of Information and Communication Technologies.

**Mr. President,**

From the very beginning of this process, three years ago with the Secretary General's reform proposals, my delegation has stressed that the Millennium Summit must deal effectively in meeting the globally agreed objective of the elimination of weapons of mass destruction and begin early negotiations on a Nuclear Weapons Convention to eliminate all nuclear weapons. This call for a Nuclear Weapons Convention has been reiterated by us in the context of the Millennium Summit on all occasions. We would, of course, have welcomed an endorsement of this idea from the Summit, but in a constructive spirit we can accept the

**suggestion included in your draft, to convene an international conference on reducing nuclear dangers.**

**These were our preliminary comments on the draft, which is receiving the highest attention of my Government. We would participate actively in, and contribute to the further work on, the draft in the days to come, in a constructive and forward looking manner.**