

*Fourth Meeting of the Open-Ended Informal Consultations on the Millennium Summit*

*Statement by Dr. Atul Khare, Counsellor, on April 27, 2000*

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Mr. President,

At the outset, my delegation would like to express its deep appreciation to you for convening this meeting and for your guidance which has enabled our progress so far. We would like to fully associate ourselves with the statement of the distinguished Deputy Permanent Representative of South Africa, outlining the position of the Joint Coordinating Committee of the Non Aligned Movement and the Group of 77. We would also like to thank the facilitators, the distinguished Permanent Representatives of Guatemala and New Zealand, for their letter of 19 April which has well encapsulated the positions expressed during the last Informal meeting of the Plenary. We believe that the conclusions drawn by them are eminently reasonable. We agree that a decision needs to be urgently adopted for drawing up a Speaker's list for the Plenary of the Summit, on the basis of a draw of lots, as for other Special Sessions or Summits. As the Foreign Ministers of Non Aligned Movement had stressed at their meeting in Cartagena last month drawing of lots in an open and transparent manner, is the most appropriate mechanism for determining the Speaker's list for the Plenary.

In so far as Round Tables are concerned, we can go along with a proposal to complement the preference system by a draw of lots, ensuring thereby a balance between the wishes of Heads of State and Government and the need to provide equitable geographical representation in each Round Table, along with a balanced representation of developed and developing countries in all four round tables. We believe that more discussions may be required to set up an appropriate procedure and would encourage the facilitators to formulate some proposals for our consideration. However, since each country would participate in a single Round Table, all four must discuss the same subjects. In fact, the decision of organizing four round tables was clearly based on this premise. Furthermore, my delegation would not be in a position to support any proposal that seeks to provide special treatment for participation in round tables to any group of delegations.

My delegation fully supports the position of the Non Aligned Movement that the four Round Tables should be chaired by a Head of State or Government chosen from the Asia, Latin America and Caribbean, Africa and the Eastern European region.

On the possible participation of civil society, we believe that the Summit should listen to their views. It is our understanding, as also stated by the representative of the Joint Coordinating Committee that agreement already exists on an address by the Chairperson of the Conference of Presiding Officers of National Parliaments, to be organised by IPU in late August 2000 in UN. An address by the President of the NGO Millennium Forum, could be additionally considered as being truly reflective of civil society participation in the Millennium Summit.

Finally, Mr. President, on the outcome of the Summit, we have always supported the position of the Joint Coordinating Committee, that any outcome should be inter-

governmentally negotiated, in a transparent manner, with effective participation of all countries, specially the developing countries, before t`he Summit, in order to ensure its full ownership. It should be concrete, action-oriented, avoid the rhetoric of the past, and be forward looking. We believe that the thought provoking report presented by the Secretary General provides a real basis for negotiating such an outcome. We welcome your ruling today regarding the way in which the Report would be considered and look forward to working with other delegations in this substantive part of our work.