

Statement by Mrs. Viplove Thakur, Member of Parliament, on Agenda item 69 (b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms and (c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives on 26 October 2011

Mr. Chairman,

We thank the Secretary General for his valuable reports on Agenda item 69 and the special rapporteurs for their informative reports as well.



Observance of human rights is at the core of any civilized society and has therefore been appropriately recognized as the third pillar of the United Nations. We welcome the report of the Secretary General on the Right to Development. The Right to Development is a fundamental link in the web of human rights that promotes social progress and better standards of life for every person.

We support the work of the Working Group on the Right to Development and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in their continued endeavour to operationalize and mainstream the issue of promotion and protection of all human rights in policies and operational activities of relevant actors at the national, regional and international level, including multilateral financial, trade and development institutions.

The changing global context has necessitated a well-coordinated approach to development cooperation and as stated in the Secretary- General's report on the right to development, a global partnership for development, underpinned by human rights-based policy coherence and coordination at all levels, is the best foundation for realizing the right to development.

Mr. Chairman,

Terrorism is one of the major threats to the full enjoyment of human rights. Terrorists violate the most fundamental human right of their victims - the right to life. By instilling fear and using tactics of intimidation, terrorists also infringe on several other human rights of innocent citizens. Terrorism is also an attack on democracy, human dignity, human rights and development.

While security of its people is the first responsibility of a Government, States must also be very mindful of their responsibility to protect human rights. The challenge lies in striking the right balance between the imperatives of effectively tackling terrorism on the one hand, and fully observing international law and human rights standards, on the other.

Terrorism has emerged as a truly global threat – one that no country should consider itself isolated from. Terrorism must be crushed if the concept of human rights is to retain any meaning for the common man. It should be our collective endeavour to ensure that the human rights debate is not misused for the pursuit of narrow political agendas, or to fulfill territorial ambitions as part of States with destructive foreign policy objectives. States must take unequivocal and resolute position against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Mr. Chairman,

The interim report of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, has elaborated on contract farming and the constraints and risks associated with this model which also offers benefits in the realization of the right to food. States indeed play a key role in protecting individuals against the many risks involved and in ensuring that contract farming and other business models support the right to food of the smallest producer and the poorest of the population. The national efforts must be complimented by international cooperation in an environment of transparency and equity, which involves, transfer of technology and provision of financing.

International cooperation and solidarity between States are indeed indispensable for sharing the benefits and burdens of globalization. This concerns all spheres of cooperation, including aid, trade, investment, debt relief, transfer of technology, access to medicines, financing for development and climate change. In this regard, the reform of global economic governance is vital so as to ensure that all countries and peoples

can benefit equally from globalization. Such reform must take into consideration the enhanced and effective participation of developing countries, least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and civil society in global decision-making, in order to create more favourable international conditions for equitable, inclusive and sustainable development respectful of all human rights.

The Special Rapporteur on Foreign Debt has highlighted that export credit agency-supported activities can have serious consequences on a country's debt burden and sustainable development and, consequently, on the lives of people. A number of countries owe more than 50 per cent of their total debt to export credit agencies, which very often add to the sovereign debt liability of governments, especially those of developing countries. This calls for a concerted international effort to bear in mind the unintended consequences that their good intentions or actions can have.

Mr. Chairman,

With its democratic, pluralistic and secular polity, an autonomous and impartial judiciary, a vibrant civil society, a free media, and independent human rights institutions, India has been successful in ensuring effective guarantees for the protection and promotion of human rights. Our vibrant democratic polity also requires that we continuously pursue higher norms and standards, be it in the area of human rights or development. As the world's largest democracy, India considers it an honour to uphold and cherish the values of human rights and fundamental freedoms of each and every citizen. It will be our constant endeavour to continue to do so.

I thank you Mr. Chairman

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