

**Statement by Mr. A. Gopinathan, Deputy Permanent Representative on
Agenda Item 93: Sustainable Development and International Economic
Cooperation, (b) Human Resources Development, and (c) International
Migration and development at the 58th Session of the UN General Assembly
on October 14, 2003**

Mr. Chairman,

We have read with interest reports of the Secretary General submitted under agenda items 93 (b) and (c) on Sustainable Development and International Economic Cooperation under consideration today. We would like to associate ourselves with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Morocco on behalf of the Group of 77.

Mr. Chairman,

Human Resources Development plays a critical role in enhancing the productive capacity of an economy, and thereby contributing to the development and growth of a country. The report of the Secretary General on Human Resources Development contains significant observations. We share the view that strategies for human resources development should include special programmes aimed at promoting access to education and health care for all.

It has been estimated that additional external financing to the tune of \$5 billion to over \$10 billion annually would be required for universal primary education alone. Further, in the health sector, as per WHO estimates, \$66 billion is required to achieve the positive impact on the health of the poor in the developing countries. Enhanced international cooperation, particularly the flow of development financing, is imperative if developing countries are to achieve sustainable improvements in the development of human capacities. The levels of official development assistance still fall short of commitments made at the International conference on Financing for Development. According to OECD estimates, fulfilment of the commitments made by the developed countries would raise ODA in real terms by \$16 billion by the year 2006, representing 0.26% of their gross national income, well below 0.33 % achieved in early 90s and nowhere near the internationally agreed levels of 0.7%. The developing countries can be expected to make achievements in this critical area only when the developed countries fulfil their commitments for making available the means of implementation through provision of new and additional financial resources and capacity-building. Effective measures are also needed to move forward in the trade negotiations on enhanced market access for products and service sectors of export interest to the developing countries and operationalisation of special and differential treatment provisions in order to make trade work as an engine for growth and development.

Mr. Chairman,

Migration is an issue to which we attach importance. The Indian diaspora, consisting both of Indian citizens residing abroad and persons of Indian origin who have acquired the citizenship of another country, are estimated to be 20 million. The diaspora numbers more than a million in 11 countries and more than a hundred thousand in 22 others. The migration of people from India to the four corners of the globe has been a saga of courage, enterprise and character. These people have, through their hard work, contributed to the development of the countries in which they have settled and, over the past few decades, also to India's development.

The process of globalisation has seen an increased linkage between immigration on the one hand and trade capacity, competitiveness and employment policy on the other. Immigration policy now needs to be seen as going beyond social policy. With global firms operating in an international context, the gap between migration policy and trade policy can manifest itself in immigration controls which act as non-tariff barriers.

It is our view that there can, in the context of the General Agreement on Trade and Services, be a win-win situation with labour shortage in developed countries being matched by labour availability in developing countries. There needs to be a greater level of receptivity among developed countries to the requests made to them for enhanced market access in Mode 4. For developing countries such as India, the balance of gains in the negotiations will lie in the extent to which our service providers are enabled to provide services in overseas markets, either from remote locations or through the temporary movement of service personnel.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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