

STATEMENT BY MR SALMAN KURSHID, MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, AT THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM (HLPF) ON SEPTEMBER 24, 2013

**Madam President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am deeply honored to be present at this inaugural meeting of the High Level Political Forum today.



Madam President,

The creation of the High Level Political Forum was one of the key decisions of the Rio+20 Conference. We are happy that we have created a universal and inclusive process to deliberate on issues in which we all have a stake.

Madam President,

Let me assure you of India's strong commitment to sustainable development. We need sustainable development to lift millions of our people out of poverty and for them to have a better quality of life. In

fact, sustainability has been mainstreamed as one of the primary goals of our 12th five year plan.

Sustainable Development must be pursued with a balanced and holistic emphasis on all its three dimensions, economic, social and environmental.

Madam President,

The High Level Political Forum must be a forum for action-oriented collaboration. It must give special attention to the needs and priorities of the developing countries, while ensuring that their developmental policy space is fully preserved.

It must emphasize sharing of best practices and experiences, mobilization of international resources, transfer of technology and capacity building support in order to mainstream sustainable development at all levels.

Madam President,

At Rio+20, world leaders agreed that poverty is not only the greatest global challenge but also an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. The central focus of the Post-2015 Development Agenda must therefore be on ending poverty and hunger once and for all.

In crafting the Post-2015 Development Agenda, we must ensure that it is based on the Rio principles including that of common but differentiated responsibilities, which were reaffirmed at Rio+20.

The Post-2015 Development Agenda must carry forward and complete the unfinished business of the MDGs.

It should also prioritize other core issues such as ensuring food security and universal access to modern energy services, full and productive employment for our youth, managing urbanization, creation of infrastructure, rationalizing consumption patterns and reducing the wastage of food in developed countries.

More importantly, the Post-2015 Development Agenda must succeed in crafting a transformative and meaningful global partnership to provide enhanced means of implementation to developing countries.

The early fulfillment by developed countries of their commitment of 0.7% of GNI as ODA should be the starting point of this important

endeavour. We must also craft a truly supportive international system including for trade and finance to assist national efforts.

We must also aim at a genuine reform of the institutions of global economic governance to give real voice and effective participation to developing countries.

Madam President,

Let me take this opportunity to highlight an area that I consider extremely important for sustainable development - correcting the gross disparity and imbalance in the global consumption of natural resources.

The report of the Secretary General's High Level Panel on Post-2015 Development Agenda has drawn our attention to a startling fact. That the over 1 billion poorest people on this planet account for a mere 1% of total global consumption while the billion richest consume over two-thirds of it.

This stark imbalance must change if we are serious in our quest for the sustainability of our planet.

The international effort to achieve sustainable development must be premised on an equitable sharing of the planet's resources. This is not just an economic or environmental necessity; it is also a moral and ethical imperative.

We must promote not just inter-generational but also intra-generational equity to achieve sustainable development.

In conclusion Madam President, we are confident that this newly created body would prove to be a worthy platform for action-oriented, inclusive dialogue to assist us in mainstreaming sustainable development and realizing our collective vision of Rio+20.

I thank you.

BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS