



**STATEMENT BY MR. SURESH KURUP, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AND  
MEMBER OF THE INDIAN DELEGATION, ON AGENDA ITEM CC[a] & [b]:  
NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT: PROGRESS IN  
IMPLEMENTATION AND INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT AND AGENDA ITEM  
47: 2001-2010: DECADE TO ROLL BACK MALARIA IN DEVELOPING  
COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY AFRICA IN THE 60<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UN  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON OCTOBER 13, 2005**

Mr. President,

We thank the Secretary-General for the third consolidated report on the progress in implementation and international support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development [NEPAD], and other reports prepared for this item. We associate ourselves with the statement made by the distinguished Representative of Jamaica on behalf of the G-77.

Mr. President,

Crafting partnerships amongst the African countries and between Africa and the rest of the international community lies at the core of NEPAD. With the abundance of its natural resources and the tremendous capacity of its peoples to be agents of change, Africa holds the key to its own development. We are convinced that success in achieving the objectives of NEPAD would depend on an African-led and Africa-developed agenda. The issues and challenges facing Africa, and their solutions are best known to African countries themselves. African countries have demonstrated their commitment to advancing the implementation of NEPAD through a number of measures. Africa needs concerted international support for the solutions that it has identified.

The report of the Secretary-General's Advisory Panel on international support for NEPAD emphasises the need to move from "rhetoric to action". It cautions that special initiatives in support of African development have failed in the past to live up to the promises made or the potential that they held. During the past ten months, we have had the opportunity to discuss the special needs of Africa in the context of the Secretary-General's report 'In Larger Freedom' and earlier during discussions of the Millennium Project report. The Advisory Panel has observed that these and other documents have stressed that significant additional financial assistance over an extended period of time will be needed to meet Africa's human needs and development goals. The Advisory Panel, while noting that humanitarian assistance has been critical in

saving lives, urges development partners to provide assistance on a long-term basis, rather than constantly responding only when a crisis arises. The General Assembly in its resolution on 'Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review of operational activities for development of the UN system' (59/250) has also highlighted the need for early provision of development assistance even as the international community begins to provide humanitarian assistance. The international community needs to remain engaged during the period of transition from relief to development.

Mr. President,

The report of the Advisory Panel has put forward some ideas, emphasising, inter alia, the need for investment in Africa's human resources, development of its private sector, apart from increases in aid levels, debt relief, completion of the Doha Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, and improvement in the quality and coordination of support provided by the United Nations. Through a variety of initiatives, India has consistently endeavoured to be a friend and partner of Africa in its developmental efforts in many of the areas identified by the Advisory Panel.

It has been India's objective to impart a substantive economic content to our relationship with Africa. Despite limited resources, India has, over the years made contributions to several Africa-specific Funds and programmes. The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme has over many decades provided a framework for enhancing cooperation between India and the African countries. A large number of African students have shared in the benefits of the Indian education system. India's contribution of US \$200 million for engagement with NEPAD projects and the formation of a new group, TEAM-9 (Techno-Economic Approach for Africa-India Movement) are specific examples of India's contribution to solidarity with Africa and of South-South Cooperation. Over the last six months, projects to the tune of US \$84.30 million have been approved within the framework of the NEPAD line of credit and several projects, supported by India under the TEAM-9 programme, have also been approved.

The Advisory Panel has highlighted the importance of trade and investments in Africa. Over the last few years, economic and commercial ties have grown between India and Africa and trade has risen sharply. India imports substantially from Africa and Indian joint ventures in Africa cover a range of products. India also has fairly extensive investments in a number of countries in Africa.

India has started work on a connectivity mission in Africa which will support tele-education, tele-medicine, e-commerce, e-governance, info-tainment, resource-mapping and meteorological services. The seamless and integrated satellite, fiber optics and wireless network, to be provided by India, will connect 5 universities, 51 learning centers, 10 super-specialty hospitals and 53 patient-end locations in rural areas spread all over Africa and would put in place a network providing video conferencing facilities connecting all 53 Heads of State/Government in Africa. The Pan-African Network Project has been formally endorsed by the African Union and an MoU between Government of India and the African Union is expected to be signed during the visit of a high-level AU team to India from October 25-29, 2005. This is a landmark project, which will assist our friends in Africa in meeting MDGs in education and healthcare.

India and Africa have a common fight against poverty and disease. India is working on putting together a substantial initiative to assist in Africa's fight against HIV/AIDS and other pandemics. We hope to encourage Indian pharmaceutical companies to establish production facilities in Africa to cater to the increasing requirement for affordable medicines, especially for anti-retro viral drugs. There is need for the international community to urgently provide resources for an expanded and comprehensive response to HIV/AIDS and other diseases.

Mr. President,

From 1960 to 1973, African Governments pursued activist policies in protecting industries and defending livelihoods, but the 1973 oil crisis led to serious indebtedness worsened by the IMF policies of structural adjustment. The results are visible in the challenges faced by sub-Saharan Africa today. The Millennium Project Report highlighted the problems of sub-Saharan Africa and the poverty trap (low tax returns, low saving rates and the like). Debt constrained structural adjustment policies compounded the problem through decline in agricultural investment. The region got the worst of both worlds because of the agricultural policies of developed countries underpinned by enormous subsidies. The fulcrum of international economic endeavour is MDG 8 as also paragraphs 42, 44 and 62 of the Monterrey consensus and delivery on these would be essential for fulfilling the objectives of NEPAD. Achievement of MDGs in a sustained manner leading to real economic transformation is hardly possible without more and effective debt relief; without a fundamental reform of international economic and monetary institutions; and without a successful realization of the development agenda of the Doha Round.

Against the above backdrop, India has consistently supported proposals in the United Nations to convert into grants all remaining official bilateral debt of the poorest African countries and supported the HIPC initiative. India did its part by writing off the dues owed by African countries under the HIPC initiative and by restructuring commercial debt. The debt problems faced by many low and middle-income developing countries continue to act as severe constraints on their ability to accelerate economic development and to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

We welcome the G-8 proposal for irrevocable debt cancellation for the HIPC countries. The proposal has generated high expectation in eligible countries. The modalities for the implementation of this initiative need to be further clarified, notably on the additionality of resources, the possible inclusion of additional beneficiary countries, and policy conditionalities such as privatization and trade liberalization that have in some cases been detrimental to development.

Mr. President,

We note from the Secretary-General's report that many recent trends in Africa have been positive, the number of major conflicts have been reduced and that most African countries enjoy relatively stable political conditions, with the majority having

democratically elected Governments. This development should, we hope, provide the basis for a conducive environment for economic growth and development.

An important factor in addressing the causes of conflict and contributing to durable peace and sustainable development in Africa, cited by the Secretary-General's report, is the commitment of the international community, including United Nations organizations, to allocate increased financial, human and technical resources. On its part, India has participated in almost every single peacekeeping mission in Africa and has over 5000 peacekeepers presently serving in Africa. In this context, we have supported the establishment of a Peacebuilding Commission that aims to address the special needs of countries emerging from conflict towards recovery, reintegration and reconstruction. We look forward to its becoming functional by the end of this year.

Mr. President,

The 2005 World Summit Outcome Document welcomed the substantial progress made by the African countries in fulfilling their commitments and emphasised the need to carry forward the implementation of NEPAD. Through this Document, our leaders expressed the resolve to strengthen cooperation with NEPAD by providing coherent support for the programmes drawn up by African leaders within that framework. The Outcome Document contains several substantive proposals. We hope to see appropriate follow up mechanisms put in place in pursuit of these proposals.

India's solidarity with Africa in the struggle against colonialism and apartheid, its peacekeeping operations in Africa since the 1960s, and its economic and scientific collaboration with Africa today is aimed at not just maintaining peace and territorial integrity, but at empowering Africa economically and politically both in national and international political and economic decision-making. It is hoped that the best would not be sacrificed to the good. While maintaining the principle of non-discrimination, it may be recalled that historically all struggles for empowerment never achieved success in one full swoop, but through a process of negotiations and over time. Any alternative may run the risk of prolonging the state of lack of full empowerment.

Thank you, Mr. President

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