

Agenda Item 23: Poverty Eradication

INDIA STATEMENT

First Secretary Mr. Ashish Sinha
Second Committee
71st Session of the UNGA
October 17, 2016

Ma'am Chair,

This is an important discussion and we welcome the Report of the Secretary General on the status of Implementation of the Second UN Decade for the Eradication of Poverty and we also align with the Statement by the distinguished delegate of Thailand on behalf of G77.

While there has been very substantial progress in lifting people out of poverty in recent years across the world, the scale of the problem is large and poverty eradication continues to be the greatest challenge for humanity.

Although there are significant differences in the scale of absolute poverty that exists in societies across the world, the inequality both among and within nations is also stark.

In a globalised world, the consequences of poverty are no longer limited to only some parts of the world but have much wider impacts through unrest, conflicts, large scale movements of people.

The multiple causes for the origin and persistence of poverty and inequality both within and among nations have also been well studied. What is required is genuine political will and international collaboration to address this common global challenge.

Ma'am Chair,

India represents one sixth of humanity. The rapid economic growth rates being consistently achieved by India over the last decade and more have enabled millions of people overcome extreme conditions of poverty.

The inclusive nature of economic growth is crucial in moving towards peaceful and prosperous society. In India there has been a remarkable push towards ensuring financial inclusion by utilising innovative ICT solutions. More than 1 billion people have already been issued with biometric-based unique identity cards called Aadhar. This has become the basis for ambitious and wide-ranging delivery of e-services, reaching out effectively to the marginalised sections also. The Aadhar card coupled with opening of bank accounts - 250 million so far - through Jan

Dhan scheme and use of smartphone apps has led to a transformation in our financial inclusion efforts.

Aadhar based e-governance and e-service delivery is vastly improving the effectiveness and efficiency and transparency of various welfare schemes while plugging leakages. Easy and affordable access to direct benefit transfers, banking and financial services, credit and insurance, pensions and remittances is increasingly available to poor and vulnerable sections of society and those living in remote areas.

ICT tools are also being effectively deployed for improving the access and quality of education and healthcare services. Ambitious efforts are underway to improve access to clean drinking water and sanitation. Geographical Information Management systems are being deployed for information about water, crop inventory, and other natural resource availability, early warning for natural disasters etc.

Large scale initiatives are also underway to assist agriculture productivity and sustainable farming practices, help investment in manufacturing sector to create jobs. At the same time, increasing emphasis is laid upon imparting vocational skills that would help people in finding appropriate employment opportunities. Various economic reforms are being implemented to help business climate and better harmonise rules and regulations and taxation within different states in India.

The successes achieved in India in the lifting people out of poverty have had significant implications for the implementation of the global goals, as noted by several international studies including the 2016 World Bank Report on Poverty and Shared Prosperity.

Ma'am Chair,

Over the last three decades there has been a greater attention on part of the world community to address poverty and associated challenges. Considerable progress was achieved in the implementation of the MDGs. The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that recognizes poverty as the greatest global challenge has been a remarkable success for multilateralism.

The MDGs and the SDGs speak both to national governments and also the international community collectively. The MDG 7 and now SDG 17 enjoin us to enter into genuine global partnerships to achieve the development goals.

The debate around the Financing for Development and the democratic reforms of the Bretton Woods institutions also represents the continuing struggle about a fairer global system that can assist an accelerated growth and development to the benefit of a large number of peoples in the developing world.

Elsewhere at the UN we are discussing the importance of building and sustaining peace in the world, where we have acknowledged the importance of bringing growth and development to communities as long term ways to prevent conflict.

Honouring commitments made for Official Development Assistance remains essential to assist the achievement of SDGs. We welcome Secretary-General's observation in this regard that additional financing for any other purpose cannot come at the expense of development funding.

India continues to play its part through our longstanding and expanding development partnerships in a spirit of solidarity and south-south cooperation with fellow developing countries, especially LDCs including in Africa and those with special vulnerabilities such as the SIDS.

Ma'am Chair,

The Second committee can leverage its convening power in this session through the ongoing QCPR process to chart the course for the UN development system (UNDS) with the prime aim of achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with an unrelenting focus on poverty eradication.

Thank you.
