

Statement by Mr. M. Krishnasswamy, Hon'ble Member of Parliament & Member of the Indian Delegation, on Agenda Item 23: "Eradication of Poverty - Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)" at the Second Committee of the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on October 17, 2013

Madam Chairperson,

India associates itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Fiji on behalf of G-77.



Madam Chairperson,

With less than 850 days to go before the target date for the Millennium Development Goals, we can draw much satisfaction from the substantial progress we have made in reducing global rates of poverty. Efforts of India have contributed to this global effort in a significant manner.

The world, however, continues to have more than 1.3 billion people living in conditions of abject deprivation. At current rates, over than 970 million people will still be in poverty in 2015.

A decade into the 21st century, one out of every six people in this planet continues to live a life of extreme poverty, hunger and desperation. The story of poverty and the imperative for growth cannot be more compelling.

Madam Chairperson,

I would like to highlight **six** key themes for this debate:

First, as India's Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh emphasized in his address to the 68th UN General Assembly, poverty eradication requires special attention and a new thrust. Ending poverty once and for all is within reach. Our collective political will to do so must not slacken.

It is therefore important that the imperative of poverty eradication anchors the Post-2015 Development Agenda as the foremost global priority and its central and overarching objective.

Second, what the experience of the last decade has taught us is that the prerequisite for poverty eradication is rapid, sustained and inclusive economic growth. This is needed to enable developing countries generate additional revenues and resources. This helps them in enhancing investments in infrastructure and job creation and pursuing social inclusion programmes.

We must therefore bear in mind that in the Post-2015 Development Agenda, the emphasis has to be on the word 'development'. It must first and foremost, promote rapid and sustained economic growth in developing countries.

Third, along with policies to promote inclusive growth, also needed are targeted interventions and programmes to promote education, fight hunger and malnutrition, promote maternal and infant health and gender empowerment.

Creation of infrastructure, productive and full employment, universal energy access, agricultural growth and rural development are equally critical.

Fourth, taking the lead given by our leaders in Rio+20, the General Assembly last year called upon the UN development system to give the highest priority to achieving poverty eradication through the development of national capacities in developing countries. UN System must now follow this clear direction in both letter and spirit and assign the highest priority to this core objective in its policies and programmes.

Fifth, a supportive and enabling international environment is crucial in our collective fight against poverty. We must pursue growth and demand promoting policies at the global level and seek to create a supportive and fair international economic structure. This structure should be conducive to development. It should respect the policy space that each country requires to formulate and implement its own pro-poor and inclusive development strategies.

Madam Chairperson,

A key reason for our failure to meet many of the MDGs is the weakness and the lack of full implementation of the global partnership under MDG-8.

We hope the support of our development partners in implementing the second UN decade to eradicate poverty is backed up by greater enthusiasm to fulfill their long made commitments on issues like ODA, debt relief, technology transfer, market access, multilateral trade etc.

Sixth, we would do well to recognize that it is technology that lies at the intersection of the two imperatives of poverty eradication and sustainable development. We must promote greater collaboration in environmentally friendly technologies and more importantly we must ensure that the fruits of such collaboration are shared more widely.

This would enable developing countries to eradicate poverty and leapfrog into higher stages of development without incurring the environmental costs that traditional development models have entailed.

Madam Chairperson,

Mid-way into the second UN decade to eradicate poverty, let us redouble our commitment and efforts to forge a genuine global partnership to end poverty and hunger forever.

I thank you.

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