



**STATEMENT BY MR. PALLAM RAJU, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AND
MEMBER OF INDIAN DELEGATION AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE
SECOND COMMITTEE OF 59TH SESSION OF UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON
OCTOBER 5, 2004**

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation congratulates you and other members of the Bureau on your election. I would like to assure you of my delegation's cooperation in the work of the Second Committee. We associate ourselves with the statement made by the Permanent Representative of Qatar as Chairman of the Group of 77.

We would like to express our appreciation for the statement made at the beginning of this debate by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Mr. Jose Antonio Ocampo, and for sharing with us his insight on the world economic situation and prospects.

Mr. Chairman,

Large imbalances remain in the world economy and forecasts indicate that these imbalances are expected to widen further, reflecting considerable down-side risks in the pace of global economic recovery. The huge gap in resource flows in relation to requirements of the developing countries is bound to have an adverse impact on their efforts for achieving the Millennium Development Goals and fulfilling other commitments undertaken by them. There has also been a lack of progress in the efforts to find a long term and durable solution to the external debt crisis, which continues to plague many developing countries.

The cost of meeting the non-environmental targets has been widely estimated at around US \$ 60 billion a year above the current level of Official Development Assistance [ODA]. The commitments made at Monterrey would, however, increase the ODA only by an order of magnitude of US \$16-20 billion a year by 2006. The implementation of commitments made at Monterrey, as also new and additional commitments are, therefore, essential if the developing countries are to achieve the agreed development goals.

The Committee, under the agenda item "Follow-up to the Monterrey Conference", will consider the options for new and innovative sources of financing. We welcome the proposals in this regard. India perceives the new financial mechanisms as additionality in terms of financial avenues available for developing countries. It must also be ensured that new financial mechanisms do not pose additional conditionalities on the developing countries.

The Framework Agreement reached at the negotiations in the World Trade Organisation [WTO] in Geneva in early August this year is an important intermediate step. India hopes to see all WTO Members play a positive role towards achieving a balanced outcome in all areas of negotiations in agriculture, non-agricultural market access, services and other elements of the Doha Work Programme in line with the decision adopted by the General Council of WTO. A systematic effort and demonstration of considerable political will are essential to deliver the Doha agenda to meet the development benchmarks that have been set.

Environmental protection continues to remain a major challenge for developing countries. The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, adopted by the World Summit on Sustainable Development, recognises the need for making available the means of implementation, based on the Rio principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, to assist developing countries in their pursuit of achieving sustainable development. One of the major constraints faced by the developing countries in the implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation targets is the availability of environmentally sound technologies. The global regime in place serves to inhibit the use of technology for development by impeding the right of all to share the benefits of technological advancement. There was an agreement at the WTO last year that the Intellectual Property Rights for critical pharmaceuticals would be in the public domain to enable developing countries access them in order to address serious public health concerns. It is now time to consider such innovative approaches in relation to the implementation of the Johannesburg Plan and move away from process-centered debates on institutional framework.

The Second Committee undertakes regular reviews of progress made in the implementation of the Programmes of Action for groups of countries in special situations. In this context, we welcome the preparations under way for a comprehensive review of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, to be held in Mauritius in January 2005. We hope that this meeting would result in increased support and assistance for the implementation of the Barbados Programme. India has been participating actively in the preparatory process and commits itself to contributing constructively in these deliberations.

Mr. Chairman,

The challenges of globalisation are manifold and demand actions both at the domestic and international levels. The report of the World Commission on Social Dimension of Globalisation has provided several recommendations for actions at the national, regional and global levels, which are worthy of careful inter-governmental consideration. For example, it has proposed wide-ranging reform of the international trade, monetary and financial institutions. Early action in this regard would have a direct and beneficial impact on the developing countries whose needs and interests are not always taken into account by them. This would also help in restoring the effectiveness and authority of the General Assembly in the areas of trade, money and finance. Without directly addressing the questions of enhanced resource flows, capacity-building, transfer of technology and equity and rule-based regimes at the global level, the developing countries are unlikely to achieve the development goals, despite their efforts towards improving national governance and economic liberalisation.

The 2005 Major Event will undertake a comprehensive review of the implementation of the Millennium Declaration adopted in September 2000 by the Heads of State and Government. For the developing countries, any test of the success of the 2005 Event will be determined by the extent to which it contributes to their efforts in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and in creating an international economic environment supportive of such efforts. We trust that member States would forge agreements on issues relating to trade, money and finance, transfer of technology and institutional reforms at the 2005 Event.

Mr. Chairman,

The Second Committee will undertake the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities of the UN development system at this session. We look forward to the review which, we hope, would address capacity-building, predictability of funding and related questions.

Mr. Chairman,

In the events immediately prior to the commencement of the general debate of this session, many world leaders reminded us that the persistence of extreme poverty and hunger is economically irrational and politically unacceptable, particularly in view of the technological progress achieved by mankind today. They also observe rightly that the barrier is not money, technology or geography but the absence of the requisite

political will, commitment and courage. We share the sense of urgency displayed by the world leaders in calling for collective action at the earliest to redress the situation of extreme poverty and hunger in large parts of the world. We hope that the deliberation of the Second Committee will help us in identifying areas of cooperative action and moving forward in implementing them. We look forward to working with other delegations in addressing these challenges in the pursuit of the development agenda.

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