
Statement by Mr. Randhir Jaiswal, First Secretary, at the Operational Activities Segment,
ECOSOC 13 July 2010

Mr. President,

We welcome this opportunity to participate in the discussions on the UN operational activities for development. We thank the Secretary-General for the comprehensive and informative documents prepared for this segment.

India aligns itself with the Statement delivered by Yemen on behalf of the G-77 and China, and we would like to offer the following additional comments.

Mr. President,

As countries gear up for the final lap on the road to the MDG target date of 2015, it appears that many parts of the world are not on track to achieve the MDGs. Even more worryingly, we are witnessing reversals in hard-fought development gains as a result of the multiple crises that have beset the global economy since 2007. The fact that at least another 64 million people have been pushed into poverty and another 100 million into hunger does not bode well for our individual and collective development aspirations.

Even as we make halting and uneven recovery from the crisis, my delegation would like to underscore the following points that we believe merit our sustained attention:

- (i) Financing for Development is under pressure. And the quantity of financing available for development activities continues to remain a central challenge and a key issue for attainment of IADGs, including the MDGs. There is a need to make concerted efforts to ensure that financing for development is in line with the requirements for the fulfillment of the Internationally Agreed Development Goals. The requirement of enhanced ODA is all the more critical now when developing countries are faced with curtailed capital flows, economic slowdown and increased programming needs. These needs must be met by efforts to increase ODA, promote investment and trade that is pro-development, facilitate transfer of and access to advanced technologies

by developing countries, and resort to expanded and innovative financing of development activities, such as donors putting in place five-year plans to scale up disbursements by increasing programme-based aid flows.

- (ii) Developing countries are varied and have different requirements. The operational activities of the UN system must have the ability to respond and adapt to the evolving environment of individual countries. Programme activities need to be harmonized with the budgetary and planning cycles of recipient Governments.
- (iii) The fundamental principles of national ownership and leadership, and deference to national development priorities must be the pivots around which UN development activities are modeled and implemented.
- (iv) Another aspect we wish to highlight is the negative impact of policy conditionality that is tied into donor-driven aid arrangements. The UN operational activities for development should plug into national development plans and steer clear of conditionality.
- (v) There is also a need to arrest the decline in core resources as a proportion of total resources provided through the UN, coupled with high fragmentation of non-core resource flows. It compounds the difficulties of developing countries by making aid more conditional, less coherent, and increasing transaction costs.
- (vi) We further recognize the need for UN development agencies to make increased allocations of funds towards targeted interventions for eradication of poverty, infrastructure development, and for upgrading the human, physical and financial asset base of the poor.

Mr. President,

India welcomes the adoption of the General Assembly resolution 64/289 on system-wide coherence. It reflects the commitment of member-states to address many of the issues I have just highlighted. With its adoption, member-states have unambiguously entrusted the Secretary-General with a mandate to improve coherence and coordination, whilst eliminating fragmentation and duplication to achieve a better performing and more effective UN development system. India is particularly satisfied at the landmark decision to create a unified gender entity-UN WOMEN. We hope that it will reinvigorate the agenda on gender equality and empowerment.

We also wish to recognize the rapid expansion of South-South cooperation in recent years and its emergence as a significant complement to North-South cooperation. This is an encouraging trend that India welcomes as an ardent advocate of South-South

cooperation with a long history of such cooperation stretching back to the 1950s. We support measures to strengthen and mainstream South-South cooperation as well as triangular cooperation in the UN while maintaining its basic premise of voluntary conditionality-free development partnership arising from a shared sense of solidarity.

Before I conclude, I would like to reiterate India's commitment to continue sharing our developmental experiences as also our expertise in areas of capacity building and technology with our fellow developing countries.

Thank you, Mr. President.

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)