

STATEMENT BY MR. P.J. KURIEN, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AT THE SECOND COMMITTEE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE 66<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON OCTOBER 04, 2011

**Mr. Chairman,**

Allow me to begin by congratulating you and your bureau on assuming the leadership of the Second Committee.

India associates itself with the statement delivered by Argentina on behalf of the G-77.



Mr. Chairman, we meet at uncertain times. The global economic situation remains a matter of great concern. Many leading economies face structural impediments. The sovereign debt situation in Europe and jobless growth in other parts of the world pose a severe challenge.

If only the world had taken note of our constant reminder that unsustainable pattern of consumption and production in the developed world needed urgent course correction, we could have avoided the unhealthy debt situation that plagues major economies today.

It seems the path to global economic recovery would be long and winding. And the only way to beat this tepid pace of recovery is to pursue sustained economic growth. Enhancing economic growth is not an option but a necessity, especially for developing countries that have huge development challenges to meet, first and foremost being poverty eradication.

While the global economic situation may be fluid, we must not lower our ambition on the MDGs or Other Internationally Agreed Development Goals. Poverty eradication and Sustainable Development must continue to be at the forefront of the global development agenda. Promotion of universal access to food and energy ought to be the core elements of our development strategy.

**Mr. Chairman,**

We are just four years away from the MDG target year. Our singular focus, therefore, must be on its implementation. Discussion on the future of MDGs should in no way dilute our efforts towards attainment of these goals.

The political commitment of the UN member states to do their best to achieve the MDGs by 2015 must see accelerated action. In this regard, the commitment made by developed countries of 0.7% of GNI ODA ought to be fulfilled at the earliest. Equally significant is the need for ensuring access to technology in an affordable manner and building capacity.

India, on its part, remains committed to sharing its development experience with fellow developing countries. Such promises by us and by other developing countries, as part of South- South Cooperation, however, cannot be a substitute for North-South Cooperation.

Similarly, innovative sources of financing cannot be equated with traditional sources of development finance.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The upcoming UN Conference on Sustainable Development next year in Brazil holds strong promise for the global sustainable development agenda. We must collectively work to renew our commitment to Sustainable Development as defined by the RIO Principles. While doing so, we must ensure that the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibility are at the very heart of the understanding we reach at RIO+20.

In the run up to the RIO conference, as we grapple with the concept of "Green Economy", India wishes to see sustainable solutions for food security, energy access, water stress, natural resource re-generation and rapid urbanisation to be its salient

features. Poverty eradication ought to be the fundamental action point in the envisaged outcome from RIO+20.

Means of implementation supported by transfer of technology is fundamental to the success of RIO+20. The “generics” in medicine have shown how flexibility in the IPR regime could be used for greater public good. India would advocate a template which balances fair returns to innovators with larger public good to make Rio+20 a success.

**Mr. Chairman,**

At the Durban UNFCCC meeting, India would push for an outcome that is comprehensive, equitable, balanced and based on the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibility. A second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol is imperative in this regard.

We would also seek an early implementation of the Cancun Agreements including the Green Fund, the Technology Mechanism and the Adaptation Framework so as to ensure credible action on all the four pillars of the UNFCCC process – mitigation, adaptation, finance and technology. India is acutely aware of the existential threat that Climate Change poses to the Small Island Developing States and believes that adaptation needs of these countries must be met at the earliest.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, Small Island Developing States and countries in Africa need enhanced support from the international community. The Istanbul Programme, the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation, the Almaty Programme and the issues deliberated at the recently held UN General Assembly meeting on Desertification should receive our highest attention.

Last year, we finalised the Access and Benefit Sharing Protocol after years of labour. We must now concentrate on its implementation to ensure equitable benefits to all, and especially to those who have so far been denied ownership of their biotic resources. Establishment of the Inter-Governmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to strengthen science-policy interface would be most rewarding in this pursuit.

**Mr. Chairman,**

In these uncertain times, the Second Committee has to assume a larger role in fashioning and guiding the global development agenda. Under your leadership, I am confident that it would meet all expectations. You can count on our delegation’s full support in all your endeavours.

Thank You.

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