

*2001 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities*

*Statement by Mr. T.C.A. Rangachari, Additional Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs  
on November 7, 2001*

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Mr. President,

I felicitate you and other members of the Bureau on your election.

The development agenda of the United Nations is a product of a shared global commitment to poverty alleviation transcending national boundaries. India attaches the highest importance to the developmental activities of the UN system. These carry the message of the United Nations into the real world and impact on the lives of millions.

2. The Funds and Programmes of the UN system initiated a process of reform in 1997. This was based on the premise that it would lead to enhanced, stable and predictable funding for operational activities for development. The reforms which were demanded have been carried out. Funding, particularly for core resources, however, remains stagnant. UNDP's US\$ 634 million was much below the target of US\$ 1.1 billion discussed at the Ministerial meeting held in September 2000. UNICEF's US\$ 563 million is significantly less than what had been expected from the resource mobilisation strategy adopted in 1999. The UNFPA has seen a small increase of 3% in its core resources and has also exceeded the 100 donor bench mark in the year 2000. The priority of reversing the negative funding trends, however, remains. The funding situation for operational activities, as the Secretary General has pointed out, has led to a failure to reach the critical mass required for long-term development and has compromised the efficient use of funds. The situation, if not rectified, can only compromise the role of the UN system. It would also take away the incentive for further reform.

3. India's voluntary contributions to the Funds and Programmes of the UN system are proof of our commitment to multilateralism and to international solidarity for poverty alleviation. The United Nations Special Fund was established in 1958. For its first five years, India's financial contribution amounted to 36% of the total contribution of all developing countries. Since then, our contributions, though modest, have been the largest from the South, and, sometimes, even larger than some of OECD countries.

Mr. President,

4. Our pledges for 2002 are:

i) UNDP \$ 4.5 million

ii)	WFP (For the biennium 2001-02 in terms of tea, coffee, what (if available) and dried fish etc.)	\$ 1.92 million
iii)	UNICEF	Rs.31,000,000/-
iv)	UN Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA)	Rs. 9,000,000/-
v)	UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) 509,000/-	Rs.
vi)	UN Trust Fund for the International Research & 50,000/- Training Institution for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW)	Rs.
vii)	Fund for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	\$ 100,000/-
viii)	UN Centre for Human Settlement (UNCHS/HABITAT)	\$ 80,000/-
ix)	Fund of the UN International Drugs Control Programme	\$ 60,000/-
x)	UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund	\$ 3,000/-
xi)	UN Relief & Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)	Rs. 225,000/-
xii)	UN Volunteers 15,000/-	\$