

Voluntary Pledges by India

Statement by Mr. T.C.A. Rangachari, Additional Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs

on November 1, 2000

Mr. President,

I would like to congratulate you on your election to the Office of the President of this Pledging Conference and also the Vice Presidents and the Rapporteur on their election.

The recently concluded Millennium Summit reaffirmed the commitment of our Heads of State and Government to “making the right to development a reality for everyone and to freeing the entire human race from want”. The Summit also resolved to make “the United Nations a more effective instrument for pursuing the fight for development of all peoples of the world, and the fight against poverty, ignorance and disease”. These are commendable decisions to achieve in the very beginning of the new millennium and, with them, we hope that the doubts that may linger regarding the developmental mandate of the United Nations have been finally laid to rest. We are entering the 21st century with a sense of fateful challenges before the world community. Increasing the role of the United Nations in multilateral development cooperation, including South-South cooperation, must, therefore, be a primary objective of the international community.

As the Secretary General has reiterated on several occasions, continuing decline and stagnation in funding poses a threat to the viability of operational activities of the UN system and severely constrains its ability to work at the country level. At the recent Ministerial Meeting of the UNDP the Secretary General rightly emphasised that without development other objectives of the UN will be jeopardised. Obviously, the United Nations development arm can only respond to the increasing requirements of developing countries and the current challenges that it faces if it has the means and the support required. Developing countries and the United Nations cannot thrive on a diet of advice alone. Lack of these resources, and the possible diversion of already scarce resources to other activities of the United Nations system are a cause of deep concern.

The situation can only be remedied through individual and joint actions to place development at the forefront of the UN's agenda and to provide the required resources to accomplish this task. The urgency of this requirement has increased because of the inequalities created in the era of globalisation. India, within its constraints, has been contributing both to increasing core resources availability to the UN Funds and Programmes and to enhancing predictability of the funds provided to operational activities of the UN system. We call on all countries, especially the under-performing donors, to enhance their voluntary financial contributions to the entities of the UN system, thereby promoting the role of the UN in multilateral development cooperation and giving meaning to the Millennium Declaration.

Our pledges are:

1.	UNDP	\$	4.5 million
2.	WFP	\$	1.92 million for the biennium 2001-2002 in terms of Tea, Coffee, Wheat (if available) & dried fish etc.
3.	UNEP	\$	100,000/-
4.	UNCHS (HABITAT)	\$	100,000/-
5.	UN Fund for Drug Control Programme	\$	60,000/-
6.	UN Volunteers	\$	15,000/-
7.	UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund	\$	3,000/-
8.	UN Educational & Training Programme for Southern Africa	\$	2,000/-
9.	UNICEF		Rs. 38,700,000/- representing almost a 25% increase from the amounts pledged at the last Pledging Conference, given the important work of UNICEF in favour of children of the world and the upcoming Special Session of the General Assembly for the ten year review of the World Summit on Children.
10.	UNFPA	Rs.	9,000,000/-
11.	UNIFEM	Rs.	509,000/-
12.	UNRWA	Rs.	225,000/-
13.	INSTRAW	Rs.	50,000/-