

**Second Committee of the 73rd Session of the
United Nations General Assembly**

Agenda Item 25[a] & [b]

Operational Activities for Development
&
South-South Cooperation

INDIA STATEMENT
by
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22 October 2017

Thank you Mr. President,

India associates itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished delegate of Egypt on behalf of the Group of 77 and we would like to add some additional points in our national capacity.

We thank Secretary General for his reports under these two agenda items.

Mr. President,

Following the adoption of the very comprehensive Agenda 2030 for sustainable development three years ago, there have been intensive reflections on UN Development System (UNDS)'s capability to effectively facilitate member states in its implementation.

Concerted efforts to align the UN Development System with Agenda 2030 have led to the adoption of the QCPR resolution and the UNDS Reform Resolution, at the heart of which will lie the reinvigorated Resident Coordinators system.

This is based on the premise that the member states will be able to count on a coherent, effective and efficient system UN system that is focused on those functions it is uniquely qualified to deliver, based on solid inter-governmental guidance.

It is equally important that the fundamental principles of national ownership and leadership, and alignment to national development priorities must be the pivots around which UN development activities are modeled and implemented.

The quality and volume of resources for implementation of the new arrangement must lead to improvement in system's predictability and impartiality, as per objective set out by the Secretary General at the beginning of the proposed reforms. We call upon the traditional donors to step up their voluntary contributions for timely operationalisation of the Reinvigorated RC System.

At the same time, we have to ensure that resources meant for core development programmes are not diverted; else it will have a deleterious effect on the development agenda of the developing countries, in particular on LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS.

We look forward to a meaningful discussion on the implementation plan and the proposed funding compact in the weeks ahead and for their concrete presentation during the Operational Activity Segment of the ECOSOC.

Mr. President,

Global partnership as agreed in Goal 17 would be crucial for meeting the challenges of developing countries. The construct of South-South & Triangular Cooperation requires that developing countries have the policy space for their own development. It is fundamentally distinct from that of North-South development cooperation, with the clear understanding that South-South Cooperation can complement North-South Cooperation but cannot substitute or dilute the nature of obligation and quantum of North-South cooperation.

The 2030 agenda speaks adequately of the developmental aspirations of the south. Accordingly, the scope of South-South cooperation in recent years has expanded well beyond technical cooperation and exchange of knowledge to include trade, investment, infrastructure and connectivity as well as coordination of policies and development strategies among developing countries.

Mr. President,

India has a unique experience in nation-building given our very large, mega diverse and complex reality. Our approach to South-South Cooperation has been therefore to share this experience and knowledge in a spirit of solidarity with countries from the South treading similar paths of socio-economic development.

India continues to proactively facilitated evolution of the discourse for South-South Cooperation. Before the adoption of the Agenda 2030, in 2015 India hosted India-Africa Forum Summit and Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) Summit. Post adoption, in 2016 we organized an international conference on South-South Cooperation in New Delhi and in 2017 the India-Pacific Islands Sustainable Development Conference in Fiji.

In this spirit of global partnership, we look forward to BAPA+40 Conference on South-South Cooperation in Buenos Aires next year. Here at the UN, last year, India established the India-UN Development Partnership Fund stepping up its efforts towards South-South cooperation. A sum of US\$ 150 million has been committed for the next decade focusing on the developmental

projects in LDCs and SIDS. Within the first year the fund has initiated 27 projects in 239 countries, and will continue to enhance its outreach.

In concluding, Mr. President, let me once again reassure you of India's strong support and steadfast commitment to continue sharing our development experience and expertise with our fellow developing countries.

I thank you.