

74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

Second Committee

**Agenda Item 23[a] & [b] Operational Activities for Development & South-South
Cooperation**

INDIA STATEMENT

By Mr. Siddharth Malik, First Secretary

21 October 2019

Thank you Mr. Chair, We complement the Secretary General on extremely insightful reports under the agenda item 23. India associates itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished delegate of Palestine on behalf of the Group of 77.

Mr. Chair,

Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, significant efforts have been made by UN Development System (UNDS) to adapt and respond to evolving challenges and opportunities for development cooperation. This led to the adoption of the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) resolution and the UNDS Reform Resolution.

We welcome the steps taken by Secretary General to reform the UN development system. One of the key elements of the reforms is the 'reinvigorated Resident Coordinator System'. The objective of the new system is to strengthen accountability, transparency and development of an effective UN system which will become a driving force in achieving the 2030 Agenda. In that spirit, we made a voluntary contribution to the UN Special Purpose Trust Fund for the new Resident Coordinator System.

Mr. Chair,

We look forward to a meaningful discussion to be held next year for the 2020 QCPR Resolution, which aims to set out the overall policy direction for the operational activities towards an effective, efficient and coherent UN development system.

For India, the two main focal points for QCPR would be its strict adherence to the 2030 Agenda with an unrelenting resolve to eradicate poverty and as an organization, not seeking to create a complex system. A UN system that is focused on those functions it is uniquely qualified to deliver, based on solid intergovernmental guidance, and supported with predictable and adequate volume of flexible resources.

Mr. Chair,

It is equally important that 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. 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. 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.

Mr. Chair,

The 2030 agenda speaks adequately of the developmental aspirations of the Global South. Goal 17 of the SDGs calls for global

partnership for sustainable development; this is enshrined in South-South Cooperation & Triangular Cooperation. South-South cooperation does not substitute or supplant but only supplements North-South Cooperation.

In recent years, the scope of South-South cooperation 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. Chair,

India's has a unique experience in nation-building given our very large, mega diverse and complex reality. We have consolidated our partnerships in a spirit of solidarity with countries of the South; such cooperation has taken myriad forms, ranging from collective negotiating blocs to training and capacity building and specific development projects. India continues to proactively facilitated evolution of the discourse for South-South Cooperation.

India is engaging with global South more than ever before. Last month, the first India-CARICOM leader's meeting was held. The three India-Africa Forum Summits held so far along with the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation(FIPIC) have further strengthened the special relationship between India and the developing countries. In the last decade, India has extended Lines of Credit of about US\$26 billion to more than 60 countries of the South. Under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme about 13 thousand training slots are provided annually to students from 160 countries.

Here at the UN, in 2017 India established the India-UN Development Partnership Fund stepping up its efforts towards South-South cooperation. A sum of US\$ 176 million has been committed for the next decade focusing on the developmental projects in LDCs and SIDS.

India has partnered with Global North and we are working actively with countries like Japan, France, E.U. U.S. and others to see how best Africa and Asia can benefit from this tripartite construct.

India will continue to share its developmental experience in modern technology, especially digital technology and space technology with our partners. The South Asian satellite is a testimony to India's efforts.

Mr. Chair,

India's commitment to South-South Cooperation has expanded from earth to space. It encompasses the traditional sectors and the modern technology sectors. It covers new frontiers from "digital economy" to "blue economy". We remain committed to partner with multilateral agencies, the Global North, the Global South to achieve the ultimate goal of development for all.

I thank you.