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INDIA STATEMENT

73rd Session of United Nations General Assembly

**Statement by Mrs. Ruchi Ghanashyam, Secretary (West)
at Africa Adaptation Initiative
First Partners Roundtable**

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(CR 5, UNHQ – September 24, 2018)**

Excellencies and distinguished dignitaries present in the round table,

We thank the delegation of Gabon republic and UNDP for organizing this partnership roundtable on Africa Adaptation Initiative.

We are thankful to Minister of Foreign Affairs, Gabon and UNDP Administrator for the briefings.

Excellencies,

Climate change is now affecting the lives of people in every country, in every continent. It is causing swift and destabilizing disruptions in national economies and communities.

Even with all the ongoing global climate action, at least in the near future, the risks of adverse effects of climate change will continue to be felt.

Therefore, action related to adaptation, at all levels, in every country, in every continent becomes very important.

Excellencies,

Well planned, early adaptation action saves resources and lives. It enhances coping capacities of the communities.

Africa Adaptation Initiative which is an African-led initiative for Africa, and is rooted in African institutions, is a welcome addition to other similar adaptation initiatives globally.

We are hopeful that the partnership would be able to meet expectations identified with regard to enhancing climate information services, strengthening policies and institutions, enhancing the ground action and climate finance and investments.

Excellencies,

India is pleased to join the Africa Adaptation Initiative partnership. We have already identified a suitable project for providing voluntary funding.

The identified project in Gabonese Republic aims to strengthen climate information and early warning systems in vulnerable communities of coastal zones in Gabon for climate resilient development and adaptation to climate change.

This project on adaptation is in continuation of our long standing partnership with Africa. In June 2017, India launched the India-UN Development Partnership Fund. This year a Commonwealth window was added to the Fund. We have offered \$150 million under the Fund and its Window over the next 10 years.

Incidentally, the first project from the Fund is in the field of adaptation in the Pacific. This multi country project contributes towards a climate early warning system in Pacific Island Countries which aims to increase resilience to natural disasters.

Within the first year, the Fund has initiated development partnership worth around \$5 million with partners like Benin, Mali, Chad, Burkina Faso, Liberia, Sao Tome and Principe, Eswatini, Mauritania, and Guinea Bissau.

Projects in Chad, Mali, and Burkina Faso are also in the field of adaptation related to increasing resilience of rural communities against water scarcity and extreme weather conditions.

Excellencies,

Last year, as part of an ambitious global climate action, India and France jointly launched the International Solar Alliance. We are happy and encouraged that 40 of our African partners have joined this international solar partnership. It is mobilizing resources for easy access to technology, reducing the cost and enhancing access to affordable energy. Increasing reliance on solar energy would mitigate in large measure the adverse impact of climate change and would in turn constitute major support to the adaptation initiatives.

We reiterate our continued support to the Initiative and wish it a lot of success.
