

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

**2018 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development  
Activities**

**INDIA STATEMENT**

**By**

**Mr. Mahesh Kumar  
First Secretary**

05 November 2018

**Mr. President,**

We felicitate you on your election as Chair of the 2018 United Nations Pledging Conference. We wish you all success and hope that under your stewardship the Pledging Conference would achieve even greater results.

**Mr. President,**

The International community has adopted Agenda 2030 to achieve comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals.

Sustainable funding remains the key in achieving these 17 goals. The ODA as a percentage of GNI remains low; the commitment to the LDCs is far from being met by most DAC members; and financing for small island developing states, and country programmable aid continues to decline. This is clearly in contrast to commitments made at various fora on issues of development financing.

**Mr. President,**

The UN, its various Funds and Programmes and Specialized Agencies with near universal presence are important partners in our efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Around \$50 billion are channelized every year through the UN

system, but around 65% of these resources are earmarked. As a result, less than 25% of the resources are utilized for development and technical cooperation.

In this regard, we look forward to the dialogue proposed with member states under the UNDS reforms on funding compact which should improve funding practices to make voluntary funding more predictable, flexible, effective and efficient, and less earmarked.

Efficient deployment of the resources is also of significance here. The QCPR resolution, adopted in 2016, on operational activities for development also aim to optimize efficiency in the UN system. We have welcomed Secretary General's initiative in making specific reform proposals for efficient deployment of resources and now look forward to working with the Secretariat to support the implementation of UNDS reforms.

**Mr. President,**

India has been a regular contributor to the United Nations since its founding. India believes that the United Nations should have the necessary resources to finance its activities, in an appropriate and balanced manner.

**Mr. President,**

Last year, India in association with the UN Office for South South Cooperation, established the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, a \$100 million development finance facility. Earlier this year an additional Commonwealth Window of \$ 50 million was added to the Fund, to forge development partnership with developing countries members of the Commonwealth. Together the Fund and the Commonwealth Window will provide \$150 million for development partnerships. This year, \$16 million were contributed in the Fund and the Window.

These resources are non-earmarked in the spirit of sustained predictable funding for SDGs and South South Cooperation.

Since its establishment, 25 member states have partnered with the India Fund from Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and, Asia and the Pacific regions.

In addition, India along with Brazil and South Africa has an active partnership with UNDP for fruitful South-South Cooperation to assist developing countries, mainly LDCs, through the IBSA Trust Fund.

**Mr. President,**

India's other contributions are as follows (all amounts in US dollars):

1. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) - \$ 4.5 million .
2. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Near East (UNRWA)- \$ 5 million.
3. World Food Programme (WFP) - \$ 1.92 million.
4. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) - \$ 790, 000.
5. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) - \$ 500,000.
6. UN Voluntary Fund for Technical Co-operation - \$ 200,000.
7. United Nations Commission on Human Settlements Programme (HABITAT) - \$ 150,000.
8. UN Voluntary contribution for Financial and Technical Assistance for the implementation of Universal Periodic Review- \$100,000
9. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) - \$ 100,000.
10. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) - \$ 100,000.

**Mr. President,**

This list is not exhaustive. We are separately processing contribution for:

1. Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery;
2. Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Torture;
3. UN Volunteers and shall be announcing the commitments soon.

I thank you, Mr. President.