

74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

**2019 United Nations Pledging Conference for
Development Activities**

**INDIA STATEMENT
by
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Mr. President,

We felicitate you on your election as the Chair of the 2019 United Nations Pledging Conference and wish you all success. We are confident that the Pledging Conference will achieve greater results under your stewardship.

Mr. President,

Following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development in 2015, there have been intensive reflections followed by concerted efforts by member states and Secretary General to ensure that the UN Development System (UNDS) is fully geared up to assist member states in the achievement of their SDGs. In this regard, my delegation wholeheartedly supported Secretary General's reform agenda.

Mr. President,

Sustainable and predictable funding remains the key challenge in the pursuit of the 17 SDGs. The official development assistance (ODA) as a percentage of Gross National Income (GNI) remains low; the commitment to the LDCs is far from being met by most of Development

Assistance Committee (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 financing for development.

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 SDGs.

Around \$50 billion are channelized every year through the UN System, but around 65% of these resources are earmarked. As a result, less than 35% of the resources are utilized for development and technical cooperation.

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

Mr. President,

I am happy to state that in 2017, India, in association with the UN Office for South-South Cooperation, established the India-UN Development Partnership Fund under which a sum of US\$ 150 million has been committed for development assistance over the next decade for need-based developmental projects in LDCs and SIDS.

In the spirit of sustained and predictable funding for SDGs and South-South Cooperation, the funds under the India-UN development Partnership are non-earmarked. Since its establishment, more than 35 member states from Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and, Asia and the Pacific regions have partnered with the India-UN Development Partnership Fund for a wide range of projects related to healthcare, education, IT, renewable energy, water and sanitation, youth

engagement, employment and livelihoods, climate action and disaster resilient infrastructure.

India is engaging with the global South more than ever before. India's historic and warm relations with the countries of the Caribbean witnessed a new momentum with the meeting of Prime Minister Modi with 14 leaders of the CARICOM group of countries on sidelines of the 74th UNGA in New York. PM Modi announced a US\$14 million grant for community development projects in the CARICOM and another 150 million Line of Credit for solar, renewable energy and climate- change related projects.

Taking forward India's close partnership with the Pacific Islands Developing States (PSIDS), the India-PSIDS Leaders' Meeting was also held on the sidelines of the 74th UNGA in New York. In the spirit of "through everyone's support, for everyone's development and towards everyone's trust", PM Modi announced allocation of US\$12 million grant (US\$ 1 million to each PSIDS) towards implementation of high impact developmental project in the area of their choice. In addition, a concessional Line of Credit of US\$150 Million which can be availed by the PSIDS for undertaking solar, renewable energy and climate related projects based on each country's requirement was announced.

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.

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 13,000 training slots are provided annually to students from 160 countries.

India has been supportive of the crucial work that UN-Women has been doing for promoting gender equality and empowerment. We congratulate Ms. Anita Bhatia of India who took over as Assistant Secretary-General for Resource Management, Sustainability and

Partnerships and Deputy Executive Director of UN-Women. India has so far contributed more than 8 million dollars to the UN-Women and will continue to support its activities.

Mr. President,

In keeping with our long-standing tradition, I now have the honour to announce India's pledges of contributions for operational activities of development for the year 2020 is to the tune of \$ 13.5 million. India's other contributions are as follows (all amounts in US dollars):

1. UN Development Programme (UNDP) - \$ 4.5 million
2. UN Relief and Works Agency for Near East (UNRWA)- \$5 million
3. World Food Programme (WFP) - \$ 1.92 million
4. UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) - \$ 900, 000
5. UN Population Fund (UNFPA) - \$ 500,000
6. UN Voluntary Fund for Technical Co-operation - \$ 200,000
7. UN 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. UN Environment Programme (UNEP) - \$ 100,000.
10. UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) - \$ 100,000
11. Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Torture - \$ 50,000
12. Voluntary Trust Fund Contemporary Forms of Slavery - \$50,000
13. UNCPCJF - \$3000
14. UN Volunteers - \$20,000

This list is not exhaustive and we shall be undertaking further commitments to other entities in due course of time.

I thank you, Mr. President.