

Remarks by Amb. Nagaraj Naidu, Deputy Permanent Representative

at the

Ceremonial Meeting of the Group of 77

Handing over ceremony of Chairmanship from Arab Republic of Egypt to State of Palestine

January 18, 2018

Ambassadors, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates;

I should like to begin by congratulating and thanking Egypt for their sterling efforts as Chairman of G77 over the past year and by welcoming Palestine as the incoming Chairman of the Group.

However, before I do that, let me emphasize how opportune and how much of a pleasure it is for me, having just taken over my responsibilities as the Deputy Permanent Representative, to commence my engagements with this meeting of the Group of 77, the largest group in the United Nations.

As its founding member and as a large developing country fully committed to the solidarity of the South, India attaches highest importance to its membership of the Group of 77 and to cooperation and solidarity with all its members.

I would like to take this opportunity to restate India's high political commitment to working closely with all members of the Group of 77 and to advancing the interests of all developing countries, both individually as well as collectively.

We deeply value the friendship and support of each of the members of this Group and I look forward to further deepening our traditional bonds of cooperation in the coming months and years.

Mr. Chairman,

Egypt chaired the Group during a particularly momentous period in which there was a great need for the world community to reaffirm its commitment to multilateralism.

2018 will be remembered for several important processes at the UN, most notably the reforms under Peace and Security, Management and most importantly the Development System reforms.

The sagacious leadership and tireless efforts of Egypt as President ensured that the Group's unified voice in all these processes was carried with force and conviction.

For their excellent stewardship of the Group last year, we owe Egypt - in particular the Permanent Representative and his dedicated team - our heartfelt gratitude.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me also extend our sincere congratulations and a warm welcome to Palestine as they take over the Chairmanship of the Group for this year. The State of Palestine leading our group is a history being created at the UN and we are happy to be a part of it.

I would like to assure the Permanent Representative of Palestine of India's unflinching support to his leadership of the Group.

Mr. Chairman,

If 2018 was a year of reforms, 2019 should be a time of consolidation and ensuring the implementation of the reinvigorated systems.

The UN Development System is now better aligned to help member states in achieving the 2030 Agenda, including the Sustainable Development Goals.

In this process, the objectives, priorities and needs of the developing countries must remain the centre of attention. The founding principles of the Group of 77 - equity, solidarity and unity, rooted as they are in our collective aspiration to help our people achieve a life of dignity - are even more relevant.

We must give full meaning to these aspirations in the follow-up processes to be undertaken this year in a rather busy calendar of the General Assembly, with first SDG Summit, Financing for Development Dialogue and the Climate Summit hosted by the Secretary General.

Like always, India will be resolute in pushing for developing country unity and will spare no effort to give special consideration to the interests of our brothers and sisters from LDCs, SIDS and LLDCs. They can count on our steadfast support on issues of concern to them.

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to conclude by wishing the incoming Chairman, the entire Group and each of its members a year full of purposeful endeavor and much success.

I thank you.
