

**Remarks by
Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin
Permanent Representative of India**

At HLPF 2019 Special Event

**From Commitment to Achievement:
India's Experience in Localising the SDGs**

Fellow members on the Panel,

Excellencies and Friends,

Thank you all for joining us at this special event on 'From Commitment to Achievement: India's experience in localising the SDGs'.

2. India's journey towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals is imbued with the firm determination and the strong belief that we have both the desire and the capacity to meet these common objectives in the time frame we have all agreed to.

3. We also understand that India's achievement of the SDGs is crucial to the fulfilment of our global goals by 2030.

4. India has successfully met some initial milestones and has put in place a framework for the achievement of the goals and targets.

5. Primary to this endeavor is that robust economic growth is a pre-requisite. Without it, none of our objectives, be it eradication of poverty, empowerment of women, provision of basic services or even protection of environment and reversing climate change, would be possible by 2030.

6. In the end, growth is what creates employment opportunities at decent wages for large numbers of people, thereby giving them the means to access on their own, basic amenities of life such as food, clothing, housing, education and health. It also provides the Government the

necessary revenues to undertake and sustain social programs that help in poverty elimination.

Excellencies and Friends,

7. As you are aware, India is consistently amongst the fastest growing large economies. The benefits of this growth have been effectively translated into reduction of incidence of poverty, through a multiplicity of developmental programs.

8. This trajectory of huge reduction in stark poverty is reflected in many assessments. For example, the 2019 Global Multidimensional Poverty Index, released last week by the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, highlighted that, in India, there were 271 million fewer people in poverty in 2016 than in 2006, with strong improvements in areas such as assets, cooking fuel, sanitation and nutrition. I am sure that the UNDP Administrator Mr. Achim Steiner, who has graciously joined this panel, despite several competing engagements, will have something to say about that.

Friends,

9. While we have made gains on the pathway to progress, we are also cognizant that we have still much to do and much more to achieve.

10. The National Institution for Transforming India or NITI Aayog - that Dr. Rajiv Kumar heads as Vice Chairperson - has mapped the goals and targets of various Government Ministries and initiatives and has undertaken the extensive exercise of measuring India and its States' progress towards the SDGs for 2030, culminating in the development of the first SDG India Index. You will get to hear more about these efforts in the presentations to follow and from Dr. Kumar himself. But SDG implementation is not only about what Governments do. We have here with us the Editor-in-Chief of a newspaper, Dainik Bhaskar, who has made very innovative efforts by focusing on SDG implementation in its Masthead, every day. This is a rare effort by a civil society organisation. I must compliment Dainik Bhaskar for this.

Excellencies and Friends,

11. In today's interdependent world, however, the success of the SDGs will depend on much more than the efforts of individual countries. Only a joint effort in the spirit of global partnership can steer us towards our collective goals.

12. We will not achieve the global transformation we aspire to, if we do not work collectively to secure global public goods.

13. It is particularly important to address the sustainability challenge by urgently moving towards sustainable lifestyles and providing enhanced resources to assist those who are disproportionately impacted by natural disasters & climate events.

14. India's success with implementation of SDGs is not only providing us relevant experience that we can share, but also more resources to share with our friends.

15. India's growing development cooperation is an expression of willingness to share in the spirit of solidarity, and ranges from the blue economy to the digital economy, encompassing Climate Action & Humanitarian Assistance.

16. The India-UN Development Partnership Fund, established in June 2017 in New York, is a new and innovative mechanism of international partnerships, contributing to the achievement of SDGs of fellow developing countries.

Excellencies and Friends,

17. Let me conclude my remarks by affirming that India looks to engage constructively in global efforts for the achievement of the goals encapsulated in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This event today is a small manifestation of that broader objective.
