

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

Agenda Item 23:

Groups of Countries in Special Situations:

- (a) Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the LDCs; &
(b) Follow-up to the Second UN Conference on LLDCs**

INDIA STATEMENT

By

Mr. Ashish Sinha, Counsellor

22 October 2018

Thank you Mr. President,

We associate ourselves with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Egypt on behalf of Group of 77. We thank the Secretary-General for his reports under this agenda item.

At the outset, I would like to congratulate the delegation of Malawi, on assuming the leadership of LDCs and commend the delegation of Bangladesh for their successful tenure as LDC group's chair. We would like to recall that the idea of creating a separate category of LDCs was discussed and took shape in the 2nd UNCTAD Session held in New Delhi in 1968.

We would also like to take this opportunity to commend the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States -OHRLLS for its efforts which led to the establishment of the Technology Bank for LDCs. This confirms our belief that progress is achieved as a result of the international cooperation, and in this spirit India has made its financial contribution to the trust fund for the technology bank.

Mr. President,

For the SDGs to be achieved globally, they must be achieved in the LDCs and LLDCs. The success of our resolve of 'leaving no one behind' will be measured against the progress of countries in special situations.

Despite the remarkable socioeconomic progress that the world has witnessed over the past few decades, not all countries have fully shared in this global progress.

Least developed countries (LDCs) are highly disadvantaged in their development process and face severe structural impediments to growth for structural, historical and also geographical reasons. These countries are also characterized by their vulnerability to external economic shocks, natural and man-made disasters and communicable diseases.

The landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) are confronted with structural challenges that pertain to their geographical disadvantages, resulting in disproportionately high transport and trade costs that hinder competitiveness, integration into world markets, economic growth and overall sustainable development.

Due to these vulnerabilities, LDCs and LLDCs deserve special attention as per the provisions of Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) and Vienna Programme of Action (VPoA) respectively. Midterm reviews of these programmes provide an opportunity to further strengthen the synergy with Agenda 2030.

In that spirit, India had made its contribution for ensuring a successful organization of the Mid Term Review of the IPoA Conference and similarly we have made contributions to UN OHRLLS for organisation of the Mid Term Review of the Vienna Programme of Action to be held next year.

Mr. President,

India remains fully committed to partnering the rapid growth and development in the countries in special situations. Our development assistance is aimed at building productive capacities, institutional strength, infrastructure development, technical expertise and financial assistance to create long term sustainability in these countries.

The three India-Africa Forum Summits held so far along with the Forum for India-Pacific Islands

Cooperation(FIPIC) have further crystallized this special relationship.

While there is a worrying decline in the aid levels from donor countries towards the LDCs, India's support as part of South-South Cooperation continues to expand substantially.

At a multilateral level, last year, India established the India-UN Development Partnership Fund stepping up its efforts towards South-South cooperation. A sum of US\$ 150 million has been committed for the next decade focussing on the developmental projects in LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS. Since its inception, 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,

In concluding, let me once again reassure you of India's strong support and steadfast commitment to continue sharing our development experience and expertise with our fellow developing countries in a spirit of solidarity.

Thank You.