

**74<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly  
Third Committee**

**Agenda Item 25: Social Development**

**(a) Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly & (b) Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family**

**India Statement**

**Ms. Mansi Loiwal, Youth Delegate**

**October 1, 2019**

Mr. Chairman,

Today, I have the privilege to speak as the youth delegate from India.

My delegation congratulates you and the members of the Bureau on your election and pledges full support to the work of the Committee.

My delegation associates with the statement made by the State of Palestine on behalf of the G77.

Social exclusion and inequality are formidable challenges of our time.

As we experience subtle and stark impacts of climate change, it places compounded stress on our environment, economic and social systems. Disparities in access and ability to use new technologies threaten to sharpen existing inequalities.

We need to galvanize action to address these multidimensional challenges.

Mr. Chairman,

India has taken several innovative measures in pursuit of inclusive growth and has successfully reduced multidimensional poverty.

Social protection programmes in India are increasingly linked with our broader development priorities and are implemented in 'mission mode' to achieve equitable outcomes. This is encapsulated in our motto of 'Collective efforts for inclusive development'.

Empowering people through use of ICTs has been the driving force behind India's transformative initiatives.

Biometric-based unique identification system 'Aadhaar', now covers over 90% of the country's population. In addition, a unique disability ID card is being issued to every person with disability to facilitate access to social services.

370 million people, who previously did not have access to financial services, today have bank accounts through the Financial Inclusion Initiative.

By leveraging the trinity of bank accounts, biometric identification and mobile telephony, more than USD 100 billion has been disbursed to more than 400 million people and garnered savings to the tune of more than 20 billion dollars through efficiency gains.

A network of Common Service Centres provides access to essential public utility services to citizens in rural and remote areas of the country.

The world's largest healthcare assurance programme "National Health Protection Scheme" covers 100 million families, providing free treatment to 500 million people.

World's largest sanitation campaign in form of Clean India Mission has led to building of 110 million toilets in last five years.

National Nutrition Mission has been launched to eliminate malnutrition by 2022.

To protect women and children from indoor air pollution, 80 million free cooking gas connections has been issued. A new Ministry for Water Conservation and Management has recently been established to comprehensively address all water-related issues.

Programmes have been launched to ensure income security in old age for those employed in unorganized sector through pension plans and insurance cover at concessional rate.

Reservation in Government jobs, in higher educational institutions and in poverty alleviation schemes promotes rights of persons with disability which are mandated under law.

Mr. Chairman,

With median age of about 29 years, India is one of the youngest countries in the world. This makes it a top priority for India to ensure employment opportunities for youths.

The skill development ecosystem is being transformed by making it responsive to needs of both industry and citizens. Over 10 million youth are being trained to start their own enterprises. Affordable and collateral-free loans are extended to entrepreneurs to start their own businesses, 75% of the beneficiaries are women.

India has the second largest startup ecosystem in the world. The median age of founders of these enterprises is only 31 years. The patents filed by Indian startups have gone up 15 times in the last few years.

The green economy is emerging as a leading employment generator in India.

With 80 GW of renewable energy capacity installed, more than 700,000 Indians are employed in the renewable energy sector. India is one of the first countries to collaborate with the ILO on the Green Jobs Initiative. Our aim is to set up 450 GW renewable energy in the coming years.

India's pursuit for an economically, socially and digitally inclusive society is inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's ideology of uplifting of the weakest person in the society for development of all, and in respecting the nature.

In this spirit of cooperation, India is stepping up development partnerships with fellow developing countries through South-South cooperation. We remain committed to partner with the Member States and the UN system to fulfil the pledge of leaving no one behind.

Thank you, Chairman.

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