



भारत

INDIA

PERMANENT MISSION OF INDIA

TO THE OFFICES OF THE UNITED NATIONS, ITS SPECIALISED AGENCIES
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS IN GENEVA

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STATEMENT BY

H.E. MR. SWASHPAWAN SINGH

AMBASSADOR / PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

PERMANENT MISSION OF INDIA TO THE

UNITED NATIONS & OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
GENEVA

AT THE

GENERAL DEBATE

ANNUAL MINISTERIAL REVIEW

HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT

SUBSIDIARY SESSION OF ECOSOC

GENEVA

JULY 2-5, 2007

Mr. President,

Last year, we agreed to strengthen the Economic and Social Council in fulfilling its crucial role, and incorporate new mechanisms and systems to achieve that objective. We believe that the Annual Ministerial Review, as part of the High-Level Segment of the Substantive Session of ECOSOC, is an important component of the changes put in place and we are happy to participate in its inaugural session. This high-level interaction provides a useful opportunity to review progress made towards the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals from a holistic perspective. We broadly associate ourselves with the statement made by Pakistan on behalf of the Group of 77.

We also believe that national development strategies need to be quantified in order to monitor progress towards the target. We therefore feel that the theme of the Annual Ministerial Review, "strengthening efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, including through the global partnership for development" is appropriate for this inaugural Annual Ministerial Review. We thank the members of the High-Level Segment for their contributions and for sharing their unique experiences in their efforts towards eradication of poverty and hunger, and the role of the international community in such efforts. We hope that the deliberations in this forum will provide the necessary impetus and direction for achieving progress towards the goal of eradication of poverty as part of a global development partnership.

3. Efforts towards eradication of poverty and hunger must be seen in the context of developing and implementing targeted policies that benefit the poor and disadvantaged. The theme of this AMR is, thus, intricately linked to the overall theme of this high-level segment "Strengthening efforts at all levels to promote pro-poor sustained economic growth, including through

international cooperation must support national strategies towards these objectives without impinging on the policy space required by developing countries to formulate such strategies on the basis of their own requirements and development priorities. In this regard, we welcome the launch of the

biennial Development Cooperation Forum, which will provide an opportunity for a comprehensive review and enhancement of implementation of

4. We thank the Secretary General for his comprehensive report on the work of the Ministerial Dialogue, which is the overall theme of the summit level segment. We agree that eradication of poverty and hunger requires progress in an array of inter-linked areas. We also agree that the linkages between sustained economic growth and reduction in poverty are complex, and unique to each country. There is no 'one-size-fits-all' solution to the problem of drawing up a development strategy. In this regard, the Report has correctly noted that each country must retain the flexibility of drawing up its own development strategy, given the specific challenges that it faces. Further, as highlighted in Secretary General's Report, with increased interdependence at a global level, external conditions have a direct bearing on national strategies. The Report correctly stresses on the urgent need for positive efforts in creating an international environment supportive of national efforts.

Mr. President,

5. Efforts of development cooperation in addressing poverty and hunger must be strengthened. Development Assistance, enabling trading conditions that provide for greater market access of goods of developing countries, transfer of technologies at concessional rates, assistance in capacity building, development of improved rural governance through greater voice and participation of developing countries in international financial institutions.

6. ODA continues to constitute an important source of financial resources for developing countries and that targeted public investment, assisted by

take place. We are concerned that despite commitments by the developed countries to increase ODA to 0.7% of GNI by 2015, the current ODA flows are less than the 0.7% of GNI agreed target. In this regard, and as part of the Global Partnership, there is a need for immediate and developing country-specific commitments by the developed countries. While ODA has been a significant component of ODA so far, but expected to decline in extent by many developed countries, future ODA flows would require to have a much larger component of new funds and resources even to maintain

including women and children, the various Food for Work programmes, the Targeted Public Distribution System which makes food available to every household at an affordable price, the "Sarya Shiksha Abhiyan" or Universal Education Campaign, and other innovative and targeted schemes to raise additional resources. A temporary cess on taxes to fund education is an example.

Mr. President,

10. We believe that a strengthened ECOSOC has a crucial role to play in fostering and promoting international cooperation for implementing the global partnership for development, in order to support the efforts of developing countries in the eradication of poverty and hunger and in achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs. We look forward to following up on the progress made in achieving these objectives.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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