



INDIA भारत

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Statement

By

Mrs. Sujatha Singh, Foreign Secretary

Ministry of External Affairs of India

at the

**“Special Event to Follow up Efforts Made Towards Achieving
the Millennium Development Goals”**

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United Nations General Assembly**

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SPECIAL EVENT TO FOLLOW-UP EFFORTS MADE TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Mr. Co-Chairs,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

It is my distinct honor to participate in this Special Event to follow-up efforts for the achievement of MDGs.

As we near the date for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in 2015, our foremost priority must to accelerate our efforts so that the gaps in our achievement can be filled.

Discussions on a global development agenda for the Post-2015 period have also begun. We are happy that today we have decided to launch a process of intergovernmental negotiations to arrive at the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Mr. Co-Chairs,

Our global record in the achievement of the MDGs is a mixed one. Over the past two decades, we have made substantial gains in eradicating poverty to which efforts of India have contributed in a significant manner. However, while we may have met the target, we are still far from overcoming the greatest global challenge of poverty.

A decade into the 21st century, 1 out every 6 people in this planet continues to live a life of extreme poverty, hunger and desperation. Progress on other goals and targets in the MDGs has been equally uneven across regions and sectors and, in some cases, far from being achieved by 2015.

It is evident that we need to sustain the momentum for realizing the MDGs beyond 2015 and make them an integral part of the post-2015 development agenda.

As far as social indicators go, the more we run the more we seem to be stay in the same place, due to the sheer pressure on the meager resources of the developing countries. The fact that, after several decades, only three countries have graduated out of the list of Least Developed Countries is a testimony to how much more needs to be done.

We need to make a serious dent in the MDGs before we can make any meaningful progress on the post-2015 development agenda.

The core human development objectives encapsulated in the MDGs – eradication of poverty and hunger, education, health, sanitation, infant and maternal health, gender equality, environmental sustainability - must continue to receive our highest priority. We owe ourselves and our future generations no less!

However, as we deliberate on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, we also need to be cognizant of the pitfalls of the MDGs.

For one, however noble the intentions, the MDGs did not emerge out of an inter-governmental negotiation process. They were focused only on developing countries, while the developed countries had, at best, undefined obligations to facilitate their achievement. While the goals to be reached were identified, the Global Partnership to provide the support to achieve the MDGs, remained weak. Domestic resources became the vehicle rather than genuine international collaboration.

The gap in commitments and disbursement of Official Development Assistance reached US\$ 167 billion in 2011 and further widened in 2012. Aid to the Least Developed Countries, who most need assistance, has also dipped in real terms. Developed countries must urgently fulfill their long made commitment of 0.7% of GNI as ODA.

South-South Cooperation has significantly complemented global resources in recent years, but it is not a substitute for North-South aid. To focus excessively on South-South cooperation would be to transfer the burden on large developing countries what the developed countries should legitimately do.

We must ensure that the new global partnership for the Post-2015 Development Agenda is a strengthened and meaningful one, to provide adequate and enhanced means of implementation to the developing countries.

Structural reforms of the institutions of global economic governance in order to give real voice and participation to developing countries must be a part of the new global partnership of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

The new global partnership cannot be about shifting burdens to large developing countries.

Mr. Co-Chairs,

In the Post-2015 Development Agenda, the emphasis has to be on the word 'development'. Therefore, it must first and foremost, promote rapid and sustained economic growth in developing countries. Growth is fundamental to pursue inclusive policies to eradicate poverty, and we must clearly recognize this imperative.

The Post-2015 Development Agenda must be based on the outcome of the Rio+20 Conference, which contains the high level political consensus of the international community on all issues related to sustainable development. It must also fully respect the Rio principles in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

The new agenda must enable us to integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development in a balanced manner at all levels.

A universal Post-2015 Development Agenda demands meaningful and comprehensive set of action points for developed countries as well. The agenda must put greater focus on changing unsustainable consumption and production patterns and curbing food waste with developed countries taking the lead.

Mr. Co-Chairs,

We have only one world and the agenda that we are forging is an unprecedented opportunity. Let us redouble our commitment to the achievement of the MDGs, learn from the pitfalls of the past and ensure that we forge a development agenda which is transformational rather than transactional in nature and one that enables genuine international collaboration to create a better future for our world and our people.

I thank you.
