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Statement

by

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At

the High Level Segment
of the 2010 Substantive Session of the
Economic and Social Council of United Nations

New York

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Mr. President,

Allow me to begin by expressing my delegation's deep appreciation for your leadership and the work of your team in navigating the ECOSOC process this year towards a meaningful destination.

Mr. President,

Concerted action on the part of the world's largest economies in the G-20 was able to avert a major economic melt-down following the financial crisis of 2008. But the shoots of recovery that we are seeing can easily be upset by shocks and fluctuations as the Euro-zone crisis has shown.

In such circumstances, it is important that we ensure that global economic recovery is durable, balanced and sustainable.

This is also critical for achieving the MDGs for which we have just five years more. Firm and time bound commitments, including on the provision of resources, transfer of technology and capacity building, are the need of the hour on MDGs.

India has a strong interest in the world economy doing well as this is key enabler for us to pursue growth and bring the fruits of development to all sections of our society.

We also need to focus on medium and long-term structural issues of global governance. The reforms at the Bretton Woods Institutions need to be urgently completed. And, at the UN the Security Council must reflect contemporary realities and expand in both permanent and non-permanent categories.

Mr. President,

The Annual Ministerial Review this year focuses on gender equality and the empowerment of women. This is timely as our MDG aspirations will remain unfulfilled if significant progress is not made on empowerment and equality of women and on their health and education.

India's National Policy for the Empowerment of Women seeks enhancing economic and political empowerment and providing equal access to health care, education and employment for women.

Nearly half of the 46 million rural household beneficiaries of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, one of the world's largest cash for work programmes, are women. Similarly there are over 2 million women's Self Help Groups under the Swarnjayanti Gram Rozgar Yojna, a huge rural employment programme.

In education, we have recently launched Saakshar Bharat, a national programme for female literacy, to impart functional literacy to around 60 million adult women. Moreover, our newly enacted Right to Education Act, guarantees free and compulsory education to all children in the age group of 6-14 years. Girls will be its obvious focus.

*More clarity
on ECOSOC
process*

*More
emphasis
on women*