

**Intervention by Mr. Amit Narang, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of India at
the First Informal Substantive Preparatory Session towards the 3rd FfD
Conference**

October 17, 2014, New York

Thank you Mr. Co-Chairs,

It is a pleasure to see both of you on the podium. The presence of both you and your fellow Co-Chair is very reassuring and you can be assured of our fullest cooperation in the onerous responsibility that you have so gracefully taken.

Mr. Co-Chairs,

We welcome the excellent roadmap that you have presented to the membership today. We fully subscribe to the views of the G-77 as well as the views expressed by several developing countries including and in particular those expressed by the distinguished Ambassador of Brazil.

Mr. Co-chairs,

At the outset, I think I say the obvious when I say that without means of implementation, the goals that we have set for ourselves will remain mere policy prescriptions. Limiting them so is certainly not the ambition that we have set for ourselves when we called for a transformative agenda. This entails that the outcome of the 3rd FfD Conference must be a very ambitious and meaningful one.

This Conference in our view is a crucial pillar of the entire Post-2015 Development Agenda process. The success of the FfD Conference will in many ways determine the success that we will ultimately have in September next year.

Mr. Co-Chairs,

I would like to share some points in my national capacity and also as a manner of reflection on the views that one has heard so far.

First of all, we remain of the firm view that the overarching objective of this entire process including the FfD Conference is eradication of poverty.

Over 1.3 billion people live on less than 1.25 USD a day as we speak.

That, Mr. Co-Chairs, is more than twice the combined population of Europe. The concerns of the poor, therefore, must be the foremost in our minds.

Not only that, several of the developmental challenges that were encapsulated under the Millennium Development Goals have been in fact become worse. The recent public health crisis in Africa is a testimony to how the developing countries remain less than capable in coping with such events.

Secondly, what we are looking at is a holistic sustainable development agenda with a balanced emphasis on all the three dimensions. Therefore the caution against an overemphasis on the environmental pillar and on climate finance in the context of this Conference is something that we share.

Mr. Co-Chairs,

About a month ago, one of my civil society friends, said, perhaps half-jokingly that the only two deliverables he saw coming out of this Conference are innovative sources of financing and an outcome on South-South Cooperation.

Needless to say, under your leadership, we look forward to having an outcome that is far more ambitious than that and not restricted to those areas. In that light, we are very clear in our mind that for innovative financing, the key principle that applies is ‘additionality’.

Mr. Co-Chairs,

North-South Aid will continue to remain very important. Unfortunately, in your roadmap, we do not see a mention of the word ODA. ODA is not a bad word; in our view, it is a good word and we need to see more of ODA and not less.

In fact, as the agenda we are working on is expanding three times (or at least three times, if you do not account for goal 16 on political issues), then it follows that the aid commitments should also expand.

So far the discourse on aid has been limited to the importance of meeting existing commitments, but perhaps it is time we have a real conversation on how and why the aid commitments need to increase as we go forward.

Mr. Co-Chairs,

The diversity of the developmental landscape is something we need to keep in mind as we prepare for this Conference.

As we have said several times before, the underlined premise of South-South Cooperation is solidarity. South-South Cooperation can neither replace North-South Cooperation nor can it be bound by the same rules. I think these basic facts about South-South Cooperation need to be kept in careful consideration especially as the needs of developing countries themselves for their own development are also increasing.

Mr. Co-Chairs, we feel that the most important issues that should find emphasis in the 3rd FfD Conference should be the international systemic issues.

Mr. Co-Chairs,

The substitute for North-South Aid is not South-South Aid. The substitute for aid is more economic growth and development, so that developing countries can generate the resources they need themselves.

That is the ultimate ideal we have to work for. In that context, the international environment for growth and development is very important and that is something that this Conference should address upfront.

Several issues in that context are well-known and have also been part of the Monterrey Consensus. They include the international financial system, the flow of the international capital, debt issues, international trade, international tax cooperation etc.

And, finally, Mr. Co-Chairs, when we mention governance as part of your roadmap, we take it that you mean international economic and financial governance because that has been an important focus of this process and should continue to be so.

Thank you very much.
