

## **POSITION PAPER FOR ECOSOC PLENARY**

The topics before the Economic and Social Council Plenary are: Promoting Economic and Social Gender Equality as a Means to Achieve Sustainable Peace; the Promoting Economic and Social Gender Equality as a Means to Achieve Sustainable Peace and Promoting Sustainable Cities. India desires to promote humans rights in all possible areas, including right for equality and right for health.

### **I. Promoting Economic and Social Gender Equality as a Means to Achieve Sustainable Peace**

India has committed to equality internationally by ratifying “all the major international human rights treaties including: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and United Nations Declaration on Violence Against Women. As a Nation, The Constitution of India guarantees to all Indian women equality (Article 14), no discrimination by the State (Article 15(1)), equality of opportunity (Article 16), and equal pay for equal work (Article 39(d)). In addition, it allows special provisions to be made by the State in favor of women and children (Article 15(3)), renounces practices derogatory to the dignity of women (Article 51(A) (e)), and also allows for provisions to be made by the State for securing just and humane conditions of work and for maternity relief. (Article 42). In accordance with Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (E/2008/76) of 6 June 2008, promoting gender equality is an important mean to reduce poverty and therefore to achieve a sustainable peace. We encourage all member state to take measures in order to assure to women equal treatment, to provide all women with the right to experience lives free of rape, wife abuse, sexual abuse of children, and other harmful practices that are contradictory to the Security Council, United Nations, Resolution 1325 on “Women, Peace and Security” (A/RES/1325) of 31 October 2000 and to other human rights treaties mentioned above. In our belief, the gender equality should be achieved through reducing the gender gap in literacy. Taking into account Sørensen Women and Post-Conflict Reconstruction: Issues and Sources, 1998, India believes that social infrastructure as well as access to with psychological help in case of marital or other sort of violence has a key importance to help women in post-conflict situations. Elimination of violence against women, discriminatory practices by employers against women such as those based on proof of contraceptive use or pregnancy status should be a core for all regulations and other measures taken on the government and international level. India calls upon member states to act in accordance with The Montreal Principles on Women’s Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. India will pursue its efforts in achieving gender equality by its membership in the Commission on the status of Women.

### **II. Improving the Implementation of International Agreements to Promote Global Public Health**

India affirms its devotion to the Improving the Implementation of International Agreements to Promote Global Public Health and is fully dedicated to the assisting to the realization of the United Nations Millennium development Goals (MDGs), such as: MDG 4 focuses on reducing by two-thirds the under-five child mortality by 2010; MDG 5 consists of reducing maternal mortality by three-quarters as well as increasing universal access to reproductive health by 2015 and MDG 6 emphasizes the need to achieve universal access to HIV/AIDS treatment in addition to halting and beginning to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases. India views the World Health Organization International Health Regulations (IHR), as vital tool for improving responsiveness to the actual health threats. India is convinced that the 2001 Stockholm Convention has to be deeply implemented by states, as it is addressed to the

protection not only of public health but also of environment, that are at the end inseparable. India believes that role of Non-Governmental Organizations has to be increased significantly, because NGO have a big potential for improving of the health infrastructures.

### **III. Promoting Sustainable Cities**

India further reminds the importance of the subsequent investment in sustainable cities development, especially in this moment when the ruralisation reached the scale unknown before, when the borders between rural and urban areas are blurred. India is especially concerned about poorest counties where urbanisation takes dangerous characters in terms of lack of adequate infrastructure – water, sanitation etc., and recommends consolidation of those for co-operative work on this issue. India considers the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) as an important but one of the very first steps towards elaboration of sustainable development policies and norms. This is why India calls, first of all, for full adoption by all states of the article 7 of Local Agenda 21, which call for approaches issues that include the role of rapid urbanization; access to affordable, tenured land by the urban poor, availability of environmental infrastructure and services; environmentally sound construction and transportation; natural disaster management; and capacity building. India encourages as well implementation by all states of chapter 28 where the key is given to local authorities in bringing sustainable development into everyday reality. India is actively participating in Sustainable Cities Programme, as well as in International Decade for Action “Water for Life” from 2005 to 2015, proclaimed by the General Assembly of the United Nations. We emphasize the gravity of the unique, localised implementation of the Integrated Urban Water Resources Management (IUWRM), approach created by Global Development Research Centre, and Settlement, Infrastructure and Environment Programme (SIEP) by UN-HABITAT and the Public-Private Partnerships Programme for the Urban Environment of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Realising all negative consequences of the rapid urban growth we do not have to forget about danger that in brings to the townsmen - sexually transmitted diseases and possibility of having skin cancer. To deal with this problems India recognizes as crucial the concept of “healthy cities”, launched by the World Health Organization (WHO), which had as a goal to develop better infrastructure and as well tries to create physical and social environments that support health and strengthen community action for health.