

## **POSITION PAPER FOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL COMMITTEE**

The topics before the General Assembly Economic and Financial Committee are the need for Information and Communication Technology for development, the promotion of low-carbon economic growth in the developing world and the protection of the developing countries in the current financial crisis. India is committed to collaborative approaches to facing the challenges ahead and to contributing to a more equitable and sustainable development.

### **I. Information and Communication Technology for development**

India expresses its keen interest in the role played by Information and Communication Technology for development. We believe that legislative and political measures are required to facilitate and enable application of Information and Communication Technologies in many impoverished regions of the world, especially with respect to monopolistic communications structures and censorship laws. Projects which deploy technologies in underdeveloped areas face well-known problems concerning crime, problems of adjustment to the social context, and also possible infrastructural problems. India considers Information and Communication for Development to be projects using low-cost, low-powered technology that can be sustainable in developing environment. Desktop virtualization and multi-seat configurations are probably the most simple and common ways to affordable computing as of 2009. India has already implemented several “Digital Initiatives” and call upon Member States to foster the implementation of such innovative and cost-effective digital literacy initiatives in the developing countries. We also emphasize the necessity to provide computer literacy training programs to the youth as well as those imparting e-literacy training to adults. We also note that, besides ICT literacy, many organizations use various ICT tools and methodologies to improve the quality of pedagogy in basic and vocational education in India. We urge developed countries to pay attention to UNESCO’s Information for All Program (IFAP) which emphasizes on achieving information literacy competency for promoting universal access to information and knowledge for development. The program recognizes that information literacy is a key issue in building knowledge Societies.

### **II. The promotion of low-carbon growth in the developing world**

India recognizes the importance of addressing the climate change issue and is dedicated to collaborative multilateral approaches to achieve this goal. We endorse the framework laid out in the UNFCCC and encourage the renewal of this framework as started in the COP13 and COP14. We believe stronger cooperation is needed between the different entities of this world and therefore India strongly advocates for developed countries to live up to their responsibility and commit themselves to the Kyoto Protocol. We are reluctant to sign any binding agreement on curbing GHG emissions, as we believe that the developed world should demonstrate their political will to act and to help the developing countries in their quest for a sustainable growth. India calls upon Member States of the developed World to provide access

to environmental-friendly technologies to developing countries, as these technologies proved out to be too expensive or not available in the latter. Therefore, we encourage the creation of a multilateral fund supervised by the UNFCCC which would allow capital and technology transfer from the developed world to the developing countries. Given the magnitude of the threat, India emphasizes the necessity to come up with new ways of ensuring developing countries with the means to survive the potential consequences of climate change. Therefore we urge the Member States to create new carbon financing, which would enable the scaling up of particular low carbon activities and would make capital influx available to developing countries in order for them to invest in energy efficiency, building efficiency or in renewable sources of energy. Finally we reaffirm our dedication to the climate change issue, as we have shown through our domestic programs and the development for instance of solar energy. But as we are mindful of the goals needing to be met, we are wary of creating an International Organization in charge of monitoring the advancement of such program. We fear it would only create new discrepancies between the developed and the developing worlds and we believe that committing to curbing GHG should remain a government's prerogatives.

### **III. The protection of the developing countries in the current financial crisis**

India remains committed to the Monterrey Consensus in finding new ways of financing development. The financial crisis has shown the flaws of a financial system largely dominated by the developed world. We believe it is necessary to breach the gap between the developed and the developing countries in terms of access to financing solutions. India recognizes the importance of new approaches such as Microfinance initiatives and emphasizes the necessity of creating complete financial systems based on strong local institutions and on civil organizations. In the wake of the financial crisis, India draws attention to its efficient domestic programs in controlling foreign investments and encourages the developing countries to establish strong prudential regulation concerning foreign investments. Then we strongly encourage Member states to act in accordance with A/RES/61/191 in promoting a more equitable and global financing of development. We call upon members of the G-20 to remember their commitment made during the London Summit in helping the developing countries and in facing their responsibility. Therefore, we urge G-20 Members to contribute to the Vulnerability Fund implemented by the World Bank. India also endorses the process laid out by the G-20 during the London Summit in fostering more transparency and accountability in the financial system. As a consequence, we believe that new organs of regulation should be created and that International Organizations such as the IMF or the World Bank should consider reforming their lending and decision process as called for in A/RES/63/393 in order to give developing countries a real voice in the financial institutions. Finally we remain committed to the Millennium Development Goals and believe it is necessary to address the social and human consequences of the financial crisis and therefore endorse the process laid out in A/RES/63/303. We call upon the developed world to provide the developing countries with extra-ordinary assistance in order to help them fighting renewed poverty and unemployment directly caused by the financial crisis.