

**POSITION PAPER FOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY PLENARY**

The topics before the General Assembly Plenary are: the 10-Year Review of the Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, the Elimination of International Terrorism and Climate Change as well as Environmental Degradation as a Source of Conflict.

**I. 10-Year Review of the Implementation of the Millennium development goals**

India reasserts its commitment to the MDGs' targets. The successes achieved shows encourages us to face the daunting challenges ahead, the exponential demographic growth of developing countries being an additional hurdle for the achievement of most of the MDGs. As far as health is concerned, India dwells on the necessity to focus on Goal 6. Curbing the spread of diseases such as Aids, Malaria and Diarrhoea will most certainly have a positive impact on child mortality and on maternity health, children and pregnant women being the two most fragile population categories. Therefore we call States to increase their assistance toward Developing Countries in two main fields: the access to medicines and to proper medical care. Regarding the financial access to medicines, India recognises the need to protect intellectual property in the field of pharmaceuticals, but we urge States to reconsider the flexibility of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health. The dispositions of the Doha Declaration aren't enough to permit the poorest countries to have access to medicines. Given the WHO, 70% of antiretroviral therapies are still the object of a monopoly and 30% of Hiv patients still don't have access to a stable treatment. Moreover, India calls upon developed countries to respect the flexibility adopted in the Doha Declaration. We recommend them to break the monopolies in the pharmaceutical industry in their own country and we reaffirm the need of competition on the market of generic medicines to guarantee low prices, and therefore to enable the poorest to get access to those products. We consider that the world needs to build a trade system that puts health before profit. Therefore we will maintain our national legislation on the limits of patents and we ask the WTO to reconsider the Doha declaration, so that it allows every member to protect public health. We also believe that UN should help developing countries to build a strong Public Health System and support the training of their medical staff. The actual trend of privatization is a barrier to universal health care. We recommend the implementation of private-public partnerships to develop medical facilities and dwell on the necessity to act on a local scale. India also asserts the need to promote gender equality in order to reduce the spread of Sexually Transmitted Disease. The lack of women in India as encouraged sexual services, and therefore the expansion of those diseases. India continues on the path of the MDGs, through its 11<sup>th</sup> 5-Year plan (2008-2012), which has state specific targets.

**II. Elimination of International Terrorism**

India is one of the most terrorist affected countries in the world and has suffered for the past nearly two decades from terrorism in Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir and in other parts of its territory. We face a diverse set of threats ranging from ethnic separatism in the North East, revolutionary Maoist in the centre and 'Islamic' terrorism in the cities. Countless innocent and ordinary lives have been lost to the terrorist's bombs and guns. The people of India have paid a heavy price. We are determined to confront these challenges fully and decisively. No cause could ever justify the indiscriminate killing of innocent peoples, the gross violation of human rights. Therefore, we condemn international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations as criminal and unjustifiable, whenever and by whomever. We really want to send a clear message to terrorists that international terrorism can absolutely not be tolerated in any forms or manifestations. We have to reject firmly every single justification to terrorism, should it be ideological, political or religious. As a matter of fact, terrorism poses a grave threat to all States and all societies. It is a global menace that cripples economies, undermines peace, democracy and freedom and can even drag countries into war.

Though terrorism has no precise definition, this scourge is a global phenomenon and consequently requires a coordinated and concerted global response. India has consistently called for concerted and unified response to transnational and trans border terrorism. We have also been highlighting the need for a global legal regime since the escalation of world spread terrorism and advances in technology had posed a new challenge to lawmakers and judiciary. Besides, our country has stressed the need to ensure the enactment of measures such as sanctions against states that give arms, financial support and sanctuary to terrorists. We are thus calling upon the international community to comply with all the provisions of international counter-terrorism conventions and protocols as well as other related international instruments and strengthen international cooperation in this regard. India is party to 13 major international conventions against terrorism and has also incorporated them in domestic legislation. Moreover, we have entered into several bilateral or multilateral treaties that facilitate exchange of information, transfer of suspected terrorists and development of joint programs to combat terrorism. A combined bilateral, multilateral and international approach plays a vital role in the fight for preventing terrorism. Combating terrorism also includes identification and eradication of the causes that give rise to, and promote the phenomenon of terrorism. As a matter of fact, experience worldwide has shown that state terrorism to combat terrorism is counter-productive. Instead, we must increase tolerance and understanding of different cultures, peoples, and religions by promoting dialogue and encouraging mutual respect. At last, we do need to build state capacity in order to foster more capable Member States that are more willing and able to execute all necessary means by which to combat terrorism. The conclusion without further delay of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism is a vital component of the international legal framework in the global struggle against terrorism. India urge delegations to show flexibility so that this process can go ahead with the international community showing firm resolve to combat terrorism.

### **III. Climate change / Environmental Degradation as a Source of Conflict**

India recognises the link established by the Security Council in April 2007 between climate change and international security. The world has to address this daunting challenge, which requires a multilateral approach and a consensus between States, in order to deal with it. We assert the importance of focusing on the 'adaptation' issues of climate change, which are critical for developing countries. We further recommend using the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to discuss issues related to climate change. Nevertheless, India dwells on the fact that there are biggest threats to possible conflicts due to inequality of resources that the UN should first focus on, as extreme poverty, need of resources for development, and the competition on energy. India further asserts the necessity to find an outcome to climate change which will take in account the development imperatives of developing countries and the responsibilities of developed countries. We ask developed countries to cut their greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption; reducing the energy intensity of their economy will reduce the threat generated by an unequal access to energy markets. We believe that imposing greenhouse gas mitigation targets on developing countries will have a negative impact on their development and security, by stifling economic growth. Moreover shifting Official Development Assistance resources from economic growth and poverty eradication in developing countries towards the combat against climate change won't be efficient. Therefore, India dwells on the necessity to develop an action plan focused on adaptation solutions dealing with the consequences of climate change: strategy to manage water supply, changes of agricultural productions and the prevention of natural disasters. We believe that International Law should be developed, in order to take in account those news issues created by climate change: for instance the creation of an "environment-migrant" status. India calls upon States to support financially and technologically developing countries, and especially the most vulnerable ones to climate change, as the small island states, to enable them to cope with adaptation. India will continue its successful efforts to reduce its energy intensity, through the eight National Missions of its National Action Plan on Climate Change. We are committed not to let our per-capita emissions of greenhouse gases exceed those of the developed countries, while pursuing our development. Finally, we further assert our support to the Copenhagen Accord.