

Revised Version
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**Statement by India at the
Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development
20th May, 2014 – Pattaya, Thailand**

Thank you chair and bureau members,

Excellencies, Distinguished guests, ladies and gentleman,

- India attaches great importance to the discussions on Post-2015 Development Agenda, which are just commencing at the UN. As a member of the Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), India is also actively engaged in the negotiations to craft a set of ambitious, balanced and concise SDGs.
- As a developing country with significant achievements in poverty eradication but with abiding developmental challenges, India has a direct stake in an ambitious, balanced and development-oriented outcome to the negotiations on Post-2015 Development Agenda.
- For us, the primary touchstone for the post-2015 development agenda is that it must be an agenda *for development*. We want an agenda that can propel sustained and inclusive economic growth in all countries, particularly developing countries.
- Growth is needed to create jobs, sustain poverty reduction and maintain socio-political stability. Without economic growth, gains in other developmental indicators are simply not possible. This is borne out of our experience of the MDGs as well.

- An integrated post-2015 development agenda must also address the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced manner.
- Poverty eradication must remain the central and overarching objective of the SDGs as well as the post-2015 development agenda. It must receive our undiluted attention and focus.
- The Post-2015 Development Agenda must be based on the outcome of the Rio+20 Conference which contains the high level political consensus of the international community on all issues related to sustainable development. In our view, the Rio principles including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities do remain relevant for the Post-2015 Development Agenda.
- We must evaluate the progress made in achieving the MDGs. The key reason for mixed response are shortcomings and failure in facilitating the efforts made by Developing Countries and LDCs. So we now have an opportunity to rightly attach adequate priority and concerns for capability enhancement of these countries.
- At the outset in opening and overview session distinguished speakers mentioned about people-centric agenda and question of differential applicability and affordability not only among countries but within countries. India is equally concerned with the idea based on the principle of CBDR and supports inclusivity in the universalization of agenda. A universal agenda is not in contradiction to the principle of differentiation as per CBDR.
- The Post-2015 Development Agenda cannot remain a series of policy prescriptions for only one set of countries.

- A universal agenda demands that developed countries also take on concrete obligations including to support the efforts of developing countries with enhanced financial and technological support and through reform of global governance to enhance the voice of developing countries in global decision making.
- We must also find space in this agenda to meaningfully address international systemic issues including reform of global governance to give real voice and participation to developing countries.
- India attaches great importance to the issue of sustainability and wish to see it meaningfully addressed in the SDGs and the Post-2015 Development Agenda. However, our efforts to put the global economy on a sustainable path must not be on the backs of the poor. This is an issue on which developed economies will have to take the lead, particularly by reforming their unsustainable patterns of consumptions and lifestyles.
- While issues of peace, security and governance are obviously important enablers of development, it would be a travesty if these are placed at the centre of the agenda, to the detriment of development itself.
- We have so far perceived an 'ambition mismatch' in the discourse on Post-2015 Development Agenda. The high ambition to craft an expanded and integrated agenda going well beyond core human development to include sustainability, peace, security and governance issues, is coupled with extremely low ambition for providing the necessary financial and technological support to the

developing countries to achieve this expanded agenda. This must change.

- We hope we can craft a more positive narrative on means of implementation and an enabling global environment as well in order to build confidence among parties. Postponing or diluting engagement on such issues in the name of other processes will not be helpful. Therefore, we strongly support integration of means of implementation across each goal. In this context, we would like to emphasize that while integrating means of implementation across each of the goals, it would be important to maintain a standalone goal on a 'Strengthened global partnership for development'.
- In terms of global development cooperation, while it is understandable that aid alone would not perhaps suffice to meet the challenges of the Post-2015 Development Agenda; this should be not an argument to dilute the importance of North-South aid. In our view, it is important that aid commitments are not only met in earnest, but that they are expanded and extended in the post-2015 period. At the same time, S-S cooperation must be allowed to grow under its own principles and not straitjacketed in terms of N-S aid.
- India is of the opinion that the issue of climate change be addressed under relevant goals rather than placing it as a standalone goal. Any deliverable on climate change under SDGs must scrupulously adhere to the principles and provisions of the UNFCCC in particular the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities.

Mr Chairman, ladies and gentleman I Thank you for your attention.