Statement by

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To the United Nations

Before

The General Debate of the Second Committee

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Mr. Chairman,

Allow me first to congratulate you on your election as chair of the Second Committee of the 68th session of the General Assembly, and to congratulate also the other members of the Bureau, and to assure you of my delegation’s full support & constructive engagement.

I would also like to associate myself with the statement delivered by Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 & China, and by Ethiopia on behalf of the African Group.

Mr. Chairman,

This is a pivotal session for development related issues at the United Nations. We are at a unique juncture to review, strengthen and upgrade the international development agenda. Expectations are already building up that the post-2015 development agenda could galvanise the world to re-commit to promoting the developing countries’ quest for sustainable development. The work of the Second Committee during this session should focus on prioritizing and building up the components of the post-2015 Development agenda. We must act collectively, in a transparent and collaborative manner, based on firmly rooted principles, to ensure that we succeed in charting the way towards the Future We Want. In this regard, I would like to stress the following:

1- There is widespread recognition that the MDGs have been successful in focusing the attention of the international community on eradicating poverty in a multidimensional manner. Despite progress achieved so far in reaching the MDGs, unevenness and gaps in their achievement remain in developing countries. We should do our utmost to achieve the MDGs by 2015, in particular, fulfilling the commitments made by developed countries, and scaling up the global partnership for development, which remains the weakest link in the MDGs framework.

2- The MDGs strength relies on its simplicity. There are targets that are quantitative. There are objectives that are easy to comprehend. But, as it turned out, the MDGs did not quite serve their larger strategic purpose of changing the development discourse. The misplaced emphasis on concessional development assistance, attributable to a donor-centric world view, still prevails.
3- Clearly, the international community needs to do better at this unfinished business and go far beyond. In any case, for developing countries, access to markets in trade and access to technology for development are far more important than foreign aid could ever be. Most important, perhaps, it must be recognised that the unfair rules of the game in the world economy encroach upon policy space so essential for development. This situation needs to be corrected.

4- The post-2015 Development Agenda should address these shortcomings. While Poverty eradication should be at its core, the creation of an international enabling environment should be its strategic objective.

5- As reaffirmed in the Rio+20 outcome document, poverty eradication is the greatest challenge facing the world today. It is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. This is a matter of basic justice and human rights. In a world of great wealth and technological advances, no one should be left behind. No one should go hungry. No one should lack shelter, clean water or sanitation. No one should face social and economic exclusion or live without access to basic health services or education.

6- The world has undergone far-reaching changes in the past two decades. Significant progress has been made in many important fields of development, through national as well as international efforts. Yet, developing countries are still facing serious problems in advancing their level of development. Unfavorable international economic environment prevails. The number of people living in absolute poverty has increased in many developing countries. The right to development and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, should remain the foundation of the current and future global development efforts.

7- We are concerned by the increasing calls by some countries to alter the fundamental bases of international cooperation for development under the pretext that the landscape is changing. The landscape maybe changing indeed, but the same problems are still there. They are getting more complicated. Developed countries have historical commitments. They have freely agreed to a number of important commitments toward the global efforts for development. Moving the goal posts will not improve the world economic game. It will keep it twisted. We regret that, for the second year in a row, Official Development Assistance has
declined, and that the majority of developed countries did not achieve the goal of providing 0.7% of GNP as ODA to developing countries, including the target of 0.15-0.20% of GNP to the Least Developed Countries.

Mr. Chairman,

8- On follow-up of the outcome of Rio+20, we welcome the establishment of the High-Level Political Forum. The lessons learned from the CSD should be the starting point for shaping the work of the HLPF. It should build on the strengths of the CSD and address its shortcomings. It should promote political visibility and effectiveness. It should provide leadership role.

9- We welcome the recommendations in the Secretary General reports regarding the creation of a technology facilitation mechanism to promote the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies, to be launched by the HLPF. Technology is key for implementation. It was an integral part of the Rio+20 outcome. Developing countries will have to rely on technology if they were to shift to a more sustainable development path. It is imperative to bridge the technological divide to promote sustainable industrialisation and inclusive growth across the world, in particular the developed one. Progress towards elaborating the sustainable development goals, and post-2015 development agenda, will depend on the progress achieved with regard to means of implementation: finance and technology.

10- We hope the ninth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, to be held in Bali in December, will end the current stalemate in the Doha Round of trade negotiations. We stress the need for the Conference to give priority to the issues of importance to developing countries, particularly those related to development.

11- The United Nations system should give greater attention to the needs of Middle Income Countries. Despite the progress achieved by some of them in recent years, they continue to face major challenges, in particular the increased prevalence of inequality and poverty.

12- The negative effects of the world financial and economic crisis on the debt sustainability of developing countries compel us to set up an international debt
mechanism, in order to address the debt problem, including the debt of middle-income countries in a comprehensive manner.

13- There is a need for coordinated international effort, to repatriate illicit funds to their home countries. These funds would be an important source of support to the development efforts of developing countries. This would help combat and deter corruption and organized crime.

14- Food security should be addressed in a comprehensive manner as well. This includes the need to properly address agricultural subsidies provided by developed countries to their farmers. There is a need to prevent the damage these subsidies causes to the global competitiveness of small farmers in developing countries, including driving many of them out of competition in global markets. We urge the international community to increase investment in agriculture, rural development and food security. We stress the necessity to respond to the legitimate demands of developing countries, especially by those classified as net food importers.

15- Last year, after difficult, but productive, negotiations, Member States adopted the resolution on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of the United Nations operational activities for development (QCPR). It is an important landmark for program countries. We look forward to review its status of implementation during this session for the benefit of capacity building and eradication of poverty in program countries.

16- South-South Cooperation should be strengthened further. It is an important complement to North-South Cooperation. Additional support, in the form of financial and human resources, should be provided to the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, to enhance its capacities.

In conclusion, my delegation would like to assure you Mr. Chairman, that it will make every effort for the success of the work of the Committee during this session, in collaboration with you, the Bureau, the Secretariat, and with all delegations.

Thank you