Statement by

H.E. Mr. E. Ahamed

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At the

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Second Committee

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Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, let me congratulate you and the members of the Bureau on assuming the leadership of the Second Committee.

India associates itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished Ambassador of Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77.

Mr. Chairman,

The Second Committee’s mandate includes a host of important development issues which are of core concern to the developing countries.

In the coming year, owing to the convergence of three historic processes – the final push for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), follow-up to the Rio+20 Conference and the Post-2015 Development Agenda - the work of the Second Committee assumes added significance.

This is a time of abiding challenges that we must confront, but also a time of key opportunities to strengthen development cooperation that we must seize.

Mr. Chairman,

We welcome the Declaration of the Special Event to follow-up efforts to achieve MDGs. This should now guide our efforts as we give the final push to our efforts to achieve the MDGs and take the first steps towards the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

At Rio+20, world leaders had categorically reaffirmed the Rio principles in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

The similar reaffirmation of these principles in the Declaration of the MDG Special Event must now leave no doubt as to their continued relevance and central role in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Mr. Chairman,

In its deliberations, the Second Committee must place paramount importance to advancing international collaboration for eradication of poverty and achieving sustained inclusive economic growth.
These two imperatives must remain at the centre of global development cooperation discourse for the post-2015 period as well.

Building on the progress made in reducing poverty under the MDGs, we must now make an ambitious push to eradicate extreme poverty by 2030.

It is absolutely critical that the core human development objectives enshrined in the MDGs are carried over into the post-2015 period as well.

We must place high priority on promoting women’s access to economic opportunities which is a key driver of inclusive development.

Rapid, sustained and inclusive economic growth is the only way for developing countries to lift their populations out of poverty, drive gains in human development and maintain peace and stability.

We must pursue growth promoting policies and a development-oriented outcome of the Doha round of negotiations at the WTO.

Through our deliberations, we must promote greater mobilization of resources and generate investments for building productive capacities in the developing countries.

At the same time, we must take meaningful steps to reform the institutions of global economic governance to give real voice and participation to developing countries.

Mr. Chairman,

As we evaluate the progress made in achieving the MDGs, it is clear that one of the key reasons for our mixed record has been the failure of the global partnership to support the efforts of the most vulnerable developing countries.

It is a matter of serious concern that even as we are giving the final push to our efforts for the achievement of MDGs and prepare an ambitious template for the Post-2015 Development Agenda, global aid levels have fallen for two consecutive years.
The imperative of a supportive international economic environment, enhanced aid and investment flows, a supportive multilateral trade regime and a strengthened framework for transfer of technology must anchor the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

A transformative agenda for the Post-2015 period requires a transformative shift in which we have been looking for solutions so far. Business as usual will not be sufficient.

An ambitious Post-2015 Development Agenda must be matched by an equally ambitious and meaningful global partnership.

Mr. Chairman,

Sustainability is a key element in current global discussions.

India is fully committed to sustainable development. In fact, sustainability has been mainstreamed as one of the primary objectives of India’s 12th five year plan.

However, our efforts to mainstream sustainability will remain hollow unless we are able to confront the issues of inequity in consumption of global resources and reducing the unsustainable ecological footprints of the developed countries.

The burden of sustainability cannot be placed on the poor. Livelihood concerns of the developing world cannot be compromised for lifestyle interests of others.

Mr. Chairman,

The Second Committee must continue to give a strong focus to the special needs and interests to the most vulnerable groups of countries, in particular the Least Developed Countries, the Land-locked Developing Countries and the Small Island Developing States.

We look forward to ambitious and comprehensive outcomes to the 10-year review conferences for SIDS and LLDCs respectively, which are to be held in 2014.
In the spirit of South-South solidarity and in line with our long standing partnerships with them, India has made financial contributions for the success of these important conferences.

Before concluding Mr. Chairman, let me once again assure you of India's full support to your endeavours for fashioning an action-oriented and development focussed agenda of the Second Committee in the coming year.

I thank you. ****