Please check against delivery

STATEMENT

BY

HON'BLE MR. M. KRISHNASSWAMY
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

AT

THE GENERAL DEBATE UNDER AGENDA ITEM 24 (A) &
(B) ON OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT
COVERING QCPR AND SOUTH SOUTH COOPERATION
IN THE 2ND COMMITTEE DURING THE
68TH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK  14 OCTOBER 2013
Mr. President, thank you for giving me the floor.

India aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Fiji, on behalf of the G-77.

While we welcome the significant strides made by UN Development system in recent years, the real focus for all of us now, is on, how well the UN Development System delivers on the mandate given to it by the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Resolution (QCPR).

As we follow up on implementation of the QCPR and its recommendations, my delegation would like to submit the following:

**First,** for UN development system to be successful globally it needs to be firmly rooted in its core focus area, which primarily has to be development related only. Poverty eradication still remains the over-riding priority for developing countries and the greatest global challenge.

With the adoption of the QCPR Resolution, this was made even more abundantly clear. For the first time ever in such a resolution, we had a section dedicated exclusively to Poverty Eradication, in which the UN Development System has been called upon by 193 member states to "assign the highest priority to poverty eradication".

Let me quote OP 70 of the QCPR resolution: "eradication of poverty through the development of national capacities in developing countries should continue to be the core focus area for the United Nations development system and that **ALL** its development programmes and projects should attempt to address this greatest global challenge as their underlying objective"

To my delegation, this is the defining mandate from the QCPR, and the true test of operational activities segment lies in ensuring that effective implementation mechanisms that developing countries need to achieve the same, are followed up, and provided for by the UN Development system.

**Second,** developing countries have their own set of 'needs' and different 'context' based requirements, which the UN development system must find ways to respond to. The operational activities of the UN
system must therefore have the ability to respond and adapt to the evolving environment and expectations of individual countries.

**Third**, financing for development is increasingly coming under acute pressure. The present global economic slowdown has adversely impacted plans of national governments in developing countries to even consider scaling up developmental financing.

The requirement of enhanced ODA is all the more critical now, when developing countries are faced with curtailed capital flows, economic slowdown and increased programming requirements. These needs must be met by efforts to increase ODA, promote investment and trade by facilitating transfer of and access to advanced technologies for developing countries.

**Fourth**, there is a ‘negative impact of policy conditionality’ that is tied into donor driven aid arrangements when planning for development activities. The UN operational activities for development should feed into national development plans and steer clear of conditionality. The fundamental principles of national ownership and adherence to national development priorities must be the pivots around which UN development activities are implemented.

**Fifth**, even though ‘South South Cooperation’ continues to be the buzzword in the narrative of the developmental discourse, much more remains to be done to scale it beyond the 'lip service' it has received so far from the UN development system.

Titling Human Development Reports as 'the Rise of the Global South' with falling human development indicators would continue to be misnomers, if they are falsely premised on economic indicators alone! The **real** rise of the South for any Human Development Report needs to matched by a commensurate rise in human development indicators, in which considerable investment is still expected from the multilateral system.

The paradigm construct of South-South cooperation requires that developing countries have the policy space for their own development. Given the vast difference in development levels between countries of the North and those from the South, it is important that development projects under South-South Cooperation are not strait-jacketed in terms of rigid rules and regulations or policy
prescriptions. Flexibility and adaptability is the key to the success of South-South Cooperation. These must not be compromised.

India's approach to South-South Cooperation has been to share our experience and knowledge in a spirit of solidarity with countries from the South. A key facet of our joint initiative has been along with Brazil and South Africa: the IBSA Fund. We are extremely pleased that our partners in this, are the UN Office for South South Cooperation. We do hope that it would be given the resources it needs to assist developing countries in implementing projects of South South Cooperation.

**Sixth**, strengthening institutional capacity building in developing countries has to be a key focus area of any operational activity for the development agenda. It is a strategic choice that should be made and sustained by all stakeholders. Many countries could do more if additional finance and technology were available. Unfortunately, there is little evidence of support from the industrialised countries in these areas.

Mr. President, as we move further forward in crafting the post 2015 development agenda, the real task before us, is to give practical shape and meaning to the guidance provided by the QCPR and ensuring its effective implementation.

I thank you Mr. President.