Second Committee

Item 22 - Globalization & Interdependence

Statement by Mr. Sergio Rodrigues dos Santos
Minister Plenipotentiary

23 October 2013

(Please check against delivery)
Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, allow me to thank the Secretary-General for the related reports on this item. My delegation fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by Fiji on behalf of the G77 and China, as well as the statement by Cuba on behalf of CELAC, and would like to make the following additional remarks in its national capacity.

Over the past decades, the world has grown increasingly interconnected and interdependent. Advances in communications and transportation, coupled with unprecedented trade liberalization of industrial products and new, transnational, production patterns have effectively transformed the entire planet into one global marketplace.

However, as set out in the Secretary-General's report on Globalization and Interdependence, this phenomenon has not benefited every nation in the same way. Globalization is not a neutral process. Market forces cannot, by themselves, provide solutions to the challenges posed by growing social and economic inequality. Only economic growth that is sustained, inclusive and equitable can achieve this goal. In order to do so, the international community, through the United Nations, must work in a coordinated manner, based on the principles of sovereign equality, equity, cooperation and solidarity among all States.

We must tailor the current institutional architecture of global governance in order to address the shortcomings of globalization, while taking advantage of its unprecedented opportunities and its dynamism. This means entrusting developing countries with greater voice and representation in global institutions and strengthening the collective efforts of the international community towards harnessing the effects of globalization in favor of sustainable development. The United Nations has a central role to play in that regard through the UN Development System, the ECOSOC and the recently created High Level Political Forum.

Mr. Chairman,

Increased access to and dissemination of the benefits of science and technology is one of the most important ways of promoting sustainable development by increasing productive capacities and efficiency gains. Innovation is also a crucial driver of sustainable and socially inclusive growth.

In the Rio+20 Conference, we agreed on the importance of access to all countries to environmentally sound technologies, new knowledge, know-how and expertise, and noted the role that international trade and cooperation can play in this regard. Only through increased and more equitable technological development will we be able to extend the benefits of globalization to all. In that regard, we wish to underscore the need to step up cooperation activities related to technology transfer, as stressed in the Secretary General's report on Science and Technology for Development.

At the national level, the Brazilian Government has carried out initiatives aimed at fostering expansion and consolidation of scientific and technological capabilities through international cooperation. Chief among these is the programme "Science without Borders", which focuses on
enhancing scientific research and technological innovation through improved international exchange with academic institutions in several countries. The programme aims to provide scholarships to approximately 100 thousand Brazilian students at undergraduate and graduate levels as well as promote partnerships between Brazilian and foreign researchers and scientists.

Mr. Chairman,

We wish to underscore the continued importance of development cooperation with middle income countries in the global efforts towards poverty eradication and achievement of all MDGs. As we all know, figures show that as much as 80% of the world’s poor live in these countries. Although the international development architecture must prioritize the needs of those countries that are in most vulnerable positions, such as Least-Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, systemic answers must be provided to the development needs of all countries, including middle-income countries.

Due to their unique position, middle-income countries are well placed to help bridge the gap between industrialized economies and other developing countries. It has already been shown that South-South Cooperation can play an essential role in complementing efforts provided through traditional, North-South Cooperation and Official Development Assistance commitments. Furthermore, together, with its BRICS partners, Brazil is working on the foundation of a New Development Bank that will help to promote new opportunities for development cooperation.

Mr. Chairman,

In a context of ever increasing globalization, facilitated by the constant advances in information and communications technology, including the Internet, the importance of culture in promoting development cannot be underestimated. Culture can be a crucial driver of sustainable development and poverty eradication through the promotion of local innovation and creativity. We wish to highlight the need to preserve and promote cultural diversity bearing in mind also the linkages with biological diversity through indigenous traditional knowledge and its contribution to sustainable development.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, allow me to reiterate Brazil’s commitment to a constructive and productive debates of these issues in the current session.

Thank you.