



INDIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS — 2012 DOCUMENTS

Introduced & Edited by
AVTAR SINGH BHASIN



Avtar Singh Bhasin (b.1935) B.A. (Hons) and M.A in History. He had a short stint of service with the National Archives of India and the Ministry of Defence before joining the Ministry of External Affairs in 1963, where he served for three decades retiring in June 1993 as Director (Historical Division). He was posted in the Indian Missions in Kathmandu, Bonn, Vienna and Lagos. He travelled extensively within and outside the country in the discharge of his duties in the Ministry. He was a member of several official, ministerial and Prime Ministerial delegations for discussions with various countries.

He took to academic studies after retirement in 1993. He was Senior Fellow at the Indian Council of Historical Research from 1994 to 1996, an Honorary Fellow at the Institute of Contemporary Studies of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library from 1996 to 2000. He attended several seminars and contributed research papers at these dialogues. He has also published several articles on South Asian affairs in newspapers and journals.

His main focus has been documenting India's foreign relations, a task that had not been attempted in the past more than sixty years. His first work was a two-volume study of India-Nepal-China Relations: 1947-92, later expanded and updated to Five Volumes covering the period up to 2005. His second contribution was the documentary study of India-Bangladesh Relations, first published in two volumes covering the period 1971 to 1994, and then updated and expanded to Five Volumes covering the period up to 2002 and published in 2003. The success of these two studies encouraged him to undertake a third one, a study on Sri Lanka, also in Five Volumes which was published under the title "India-Sri Lanka Relations and Sri Lanka's Ethnic Conflict—1947-2000."

In the golden jubilee year of the Indian independence, 1997, he wrote 75 pieces for the Asian Age which were published consecutively from June 1 to August 14, 1997 every day as a throwback to the tumultuous days of 1947, to refresh the memories of the older generation and inform the younger generation of the sacrifices, trials and tribulations and travails through which the people had to go through, before independence. Subsequently, these articles were published in the book-form under the title "Some Called it Partition, Some Freedom".

Returning to the subject of Sri Lanka, he published a new book in 2005 under the title: "India in Sri Lanka: Between Lion and the Tigers", highlighting the Indian role in attempting to resolve the Sri Lankan imbroglio. This book was published both in India and Sri Lanka.

In 2012 he published a Ten Volume Documentary Study on INDIA - PAKISTAN RELATIONS covering the period 1947 to 2007.

Also in 2012 he published a documentary study under the title "ASEAN – INDIA: Progress & Prosperity" to coincide with the 20th Anniversary of the ASEAN – INDIA Commemoration Summit, held in New Delhi in December of the same year.

He separately edits and publishes an annual series under the title "INDIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS" which showcases the documents bearing on India's foreign relations. Starting with 2002, so far ten volumes, covering the period up to 2011 have been published in cooperation with the Public Diplomacy Division of the Ministry of External Affairs.

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DOCUMENTS**

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(The deployment above is as on December 31, 2012)

INDIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS – 2012

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PREFACE

This is the 11th volume in the series INDIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS, published annually in cooperation with the Public Diplomacy Division of the Ministry of External Affairs. It is a showcase for the documents bearing on India's foreign relations during the course of a given year.

In the past, we published the documents both in a printed volume and in the e-book format. Keeping with the international trend of producing e-books, this volume is now being presented this year only in the electronic version. If this experiment with the e-book is successful, we propose to continue with this practice in future as well. This not only saves on paper and therefore a greener option, it is convenient and cheaper on transport, particularly when the book has to reach the far and wide located diplomatic missions of the Ministry of External Affairs.

As far as the format of the book is concerned, it follows the trend set in the earlier years. The documents have been arranged thematically and region-wise and then put across chronologically. Those documents which do not fall in any particular category or deal with multiple subjects or more than two countries have been placed in the General list with cross referencing wherever considered necessary.

As in the past I have extensively used the facilities of the Library of the India International Centre. I am grateful to Chief Librarian S. Majumdar and his colleagues Shafali and Rajiv for their ready help all the time, which greatly facilitated my work.

In the selection of the documents that have gone into the making of this compendium or in adding footnotes or for the introduction, I have been guided by the experience gained by me during the three-decade of my service with the Ministry of External Affairs in various capacities. The experience gained in the production of the earlier volumes in this series too has been of great help. If, however, still some deficiencies or shortcomings are noted in the book, I hold myself entirely responsible.

Avtar Singh Bhasin

**New Delhi,
August 31st, 2013.**

INDIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS - 2012

INTRODUCTION

Indian Foreign Policy in the year 2012 remained, as in the past, an enabling instrument for securing a peaceful and tranquil environment for the transformation of its society and economy. How the world grows and develops, is of vital importance to India, since it has to navigate the shoals that may cross its path and find the appropriate channels for safe and rapid voyage to reach the desired destination. To keep pace with the new emerging trends in global politics, where countries have gathered together to form regional and intra-regional groups to deal with the new and tortuous problems of security, climate change, trade and investment, India increasingly plugged itself in to those groupings for a constructive and productive dialogue. While doing so, it continued to attach the same importance, as in the past, to the bilateral route in promoting relations in its periphery and beyond,

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The Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Southeast Asia has emerged a strong and successful force of ten countries. It is the new co-prosperity region of Asia. Its various off shoots have taken care of the all-round and multi-faceted development of the region including the complex problems of security and piracy. In the last two decades, India has developed a cosy and beneficial relationship with the ASEAN as a dialogue partner at various levels. Over the last ten years, the ties between them have matured into Summit level dialogue. India now interacts with the grouping in most of its activities including trade and investment, security and defence, piracy, science and technology, environment, education and culture, tourism etc.

To celebrate two decades of sectoral dialogue and ten years of Summit level engagement, India had proposed to the ASEAN a Summit level Commemorative Conference in New Delhi. The enthusiastic response that the invitation from the Prime Minister received from member states echoed the mutuality of interest and commitment to the relationship that has evolved over the years. Nine of the ten Heads of Government of the ASEAN countries and the Vice President of the tenth member, the Philippines, responded to Dr. Manmohan Singh's invitation and graced the Commemorative Summit in New Delhi in December 2012. The presence of such a large galaxy of high dignitaries together on one platform in the capital city of India, with our Prime Minister, was a high water mark in India's foreign relations. It not only strengthened the bonds of friendship between India and the ten ASEAN nations but also marked a paradigm shift in India's Look East Policy. This highlighted the intrinsic links that have existed through the centuries between India and the countries of the Asia-Pacific region and also a

tribute to our enterprising ancestors who created through the passage of time a most wonderful matrix of mutually enriching culture and mutually reinforcing bonds. This created a new urge to assiduously promote people-to-people relations with the Southeast Asian countries.

The Indian Ocean is central to India's geography, climate, economy and its security. At the same time, it is also a region of growing global strategic attention. India continues to make efforts that the Indian Ocean emerges as an uncontested region, able to cope with piracy or instability whether on its own or in partnership with the littoral states. India has not only developed robust bilateral economic and security relationships in the region, but also through initiatives like Indian Ocean Naval Symposium and the IOR-ARC, sought to promote comprehensive economic cooperation.

III

SOUTH ASIA

Nearer home, in our immediate neighbourhood, South Asia, India has been driven by the vision of encouraging regional integration to bring about peace and prosperity for more than one and a half billion people of this region. As part of this vision, India has implemented a policy of asymmetric engagement in providing greater market access to our neighbours, which enables integration in a mutually beneficial manner. Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh articulated India's vision of regional economic integration at the SAARC Summit held in Maldives in November 2011. This vision was based on enhanced intra-regional trade in goods and services, investment flows and enhanced regional transport and communication links. He announced virtual elimination of sensitive lists facilitating the export of least developed SAARC countries to India.

The creation of the South Asia Forum, the first meeting of which was hosted by India in September 2011 on the theme 'Integration in South Asia' was a step in the direction of moving towards a South Asian Economic Union. It enabled the engagement, for the first time, of representatives of governments, academics, civil society and business-persons on the same platform to discuss the future of SAARC. This initiative would contribute significantly to charting the future direction of SAARC.

Essentially India's approach towards its neighbours is predicated upon the need to develop mutually beneficial relationships to ensure a peaceful, secure and stable neighbourhood. It is India's belief that its growth should have a beneficial impact on the region. Similarly it seeks to build closer connectivity in physical and communication infrastructure to facilitate trade and communication links and enhance people-to-people interaction within the countries of the region. It is a historic moment where expectations of the peoples of South Asia have risen

to a new high and fulfilling these expectations is an imperative and a challenge, which only a vibrant regional cooperation can meet.

To integrate Pakistan in this historic process has been a challenge for New Delhi. Reducing trust deficit between New Delhi and Islamabad has been the constant endeavour of the Prime Minister. Trust is a two-way street. India, has constantly sought Pakistan's cooperation in this onerous task. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh met President Asif Ali Zardari in April 2012 when he stopped over in New Delhi on his way to Ajmer Sharif for a pilgrimage. (This was in follow-up of the Prime Minister's initiative in meeting Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani in Mohali in March 2011, on the sidelines of the India-Pakistan cricket match.) This enabled the two leaders to discuss the entire gamut of bilateral relations. In August, Prime Minister Met Pakistan President Zardari on the sidelines of the NAM Summit in Tehran. In September, the External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna visited Islamabad and held wide ranging talks with Pakistan's Foreign Minister and other leaders. The EAM's visit led to the making of travel between the two countries easier. New Delhi hopes that there will be a reciprocal response to these initiatives from Pakistan, since one-sided efforts cannot reduce the trust deficit between the two neighbours created after the frosty bite of 2008. (The victory of Nawaz Sharif in the May 2013 elections holds out that hope)

Engagement between Pakistan and Afghanistan holds the key to peace in the region and is of profound interest to India. India naturally has a vital stake in their stability and progress. With Pakistan, as pointed out above, New Delhi continued its efforts to seek a peaceful, cooperative and normal relationship. Afghanistan's future after the NATO withdraws bulk of its forces in 2014 and hands over the security of the country to the Afghan National Security Force continues to engage the attention of India. During the year, New Delhi and Washington had close consultations and coordination. India envisions a stable, democratic and prosperous Afghanistan, but it can only be realised by the people of Afghanistan with the help and support of friendly nations. India will continue to work towards extending that support to Kabul. India believes that Afghanistan's regional economic integration within South Asia and beyond in Central Asia is important for Afghanistan's well being as well as for the expanded region's stability and prosperity.

The quest for a settlement in Afghanistan must ensure that the enormous sacrifices and efforts of the people of Afghanistan and the friendly countries that supported it in the past decade are not in vain; it must build on the progress and change that Afghanistan has experienced in the last decade; and, it must embrace all sections of Afghan society, including women and minorities. Any landlocked country's fortunes are linked with its neighbours; in the case of Afghanistan, it is even more so.

India's commitment to Afghanistan is reflected in its Strategic Partnership Agreement of October 2011; its two billion dollars of assistance; its support for capacity building for governance, security and development; Afghanistan's preferential access to the Indian markets and New Delhi's efforts to improve its connectivity to the world; commitment to invest in Afghanistan's mining sector; and willingness to use regional cooperation frameworks with the other neighbours of Afghanistan including Pakistan and Iran.

IV

EAST ASIA

The interaction between India-China, the two most populous and the two largest developing countries, attract attention beyond their borders. Relations between them and their new equilibrium hold an important key to the emerging economic and strategic landscape of Asia and, to a certain extent, the world. India's relations with its northern neighbour are on a standalone basis and are not determined by extraneous factors or relations with any other country.

India and China are among the societies and economies in the world that are transforming themselves most rapidly. The two countries are building a strong domestic economic base and rapidly training scientific and technical manpower. They share a common geopolitical space and similar socio-economic aspirations for themselves. Asia and the developing world have witnessed a greater accretion of relative economic power following the financial crisis of 2008. In Asia, larger economies like China, Japan, India, South Korea and Indonesia, all members of the G-20, have increased their ability to influence economic outcomes. That the BRICS process, in which both are active players, has also gained ground in recent years is a welcome development. Similarly the two also interact on the RIC (Russia, India and China) platform, which provides an additional forum for assuring each other of their goodwill, and provide an opportunity for demonstrating a similar outlook to international developments. The BASIC too has emerged a strong forum for leveraging and coalescing policies on the climate and environment issues, which today occupy centre stage in international politics. Equally, global issues like nuclear proliferation and cyber and space security matter to both in this globalised world as they influence their development and peace and prosperity of all.

India and China currently give the highest priority to their domestic transformation. A peaceful periphery, a stable and benign world environment and continued prosperity among their economic partners are of utmost importance to both of them. It is in their mutual interest to work together, bilaterally and with other partners, to reduce uncertainty and create an international environment that is supportive to their domestic transformational efforts because both realise that

there is enough space for their developmental aspirations. In such an environment there is scope for healthy competition.

China remained India's largest trading partner in 2012 with a total trade turn over of \$ 66 billion. There is, however, the factor of trade imbalance. China is seized of this problem and hopefully would offer greater access to Indian manufactured and agricultural products to create a near balance in their trade. The process of strategic economic dialogue on regular basis, initiated between the two countries would help to streamline the business engagement between them. Nevertheless the two-way trade is targeted to touch 100 billion dollar mark, in the next few years. The people to people contacts are on the increase. The number of Indian students in China is around 7000. The exchange of youth delegations between the two, which is a recent phenomenon has given new impetus to their relations. The exchange of scholars at the level of think tanks offers opportunities to peep into the thinking of policy makers in the two countries and understand the rationale of their actions in perspective.

At the political level, boundary question defies easy solution, despite 15 rounds of talks between the designated Special Representatives. There is awareness of the complexity of the problem on both the sides. The existence of the various instruments to resolve any misunderstanding that might arise from time to time on the boundary question is a healthy sign of mature relationship. The signing in January 2012 of the Agreement for the Establishment of a Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India – China Border Affairs is the latest addition in this series. The visit of the Chinese Defence Minister to India in September provided another opportunity for the two Defence Ministers to pledge to enhance and maintain peace and tranquillity in the border area, and carry the military-to-military relations to an advanced stage. (The peaceful resolution of the face off that took place in April 2013 in Ladakh underlined the strength and utility of the mechanisms in place).

Similarly there are hopeful signs of China offering to cooperate on the question of use of the Brahmaputra waters, a vital matter particularly for India, the lower riparian. There is already a Memorandum of Understanding between the two signed in 2005 on provision of "Hydrological Information on the Sutlej/Langqen Zangbo River in Flood Season", by China to India to tackle floods and other natural disasters on the Indian side. Additionally it was agreed at that time that the two sides would discuss further the possibility of providing hydrological information during flood season in respect of two more rivers. (The agreement in May 2013 on the Brahmaputra during the visit to New Delhi of the new Chinese Premier Li Keqiang is a step in the fulfilment of that process).

Security is an issue of great importance for both the countries and they have to strive together for inclusive Asian security architecture, since it is the common

concern of the region in which both live. The two are already tied together in several multilateral arrangements in partnership with other countries in Asia to achieve this cooperation. Chief among them are the Asian Regional Forum and the ASEAN Defence Minister's Meeting Plus (ADMM+) in which both are members. The theme of Asia-Pacific stability found echo during the visit to New Delhi of the Chinese Defence Minister in September when the two sides proclaimed their decision to work together to maintain peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific region, promote port calls by naval ships of the two sides and conduct joint maritime search and rescue exercises. The two sides decided to further enhance and strengthen cooperation between the naval forces of both sides in counter piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden and off the coast of Somalia. It was also agreed that the two armies would strengthen exchanges in personnel training, academic research and promote cooperation among educational institutions of the armed forces. These are major confidence building measures and should go a long way in ensuring friendlier relations between the defence forces of the two countries.

Communication and dialogue at various levels will ensure the robustness of India – China bilateral relations. The dialogue has to be at more than one level and not just at the government level. This process must embrace media, business, culture, education, science and technology exchanges, communications, linkages among the experts in various disciplines to exchange the latest developments and sharing the new knowledge to grow together.

The Prime Minister and the Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao made use of opportunities offered by the multilateral gatherings to maintain personal contacts and discuss bilateral and other issues during the year. They met in Rio de Janeiro in June on the sideline of the Rio+20 Summit and again at Phnom Penh in September on the margins of the ASEAN Summit. In February the External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna visited Beijing and his Chinese counterpart paid a return visit in March. The External Affairs Minister had another opportunity in June to visit Beijing, where he attended the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation meeting. The BRICS Summit in March brought the Chinese President Hu Jintao to New Delhi, where he and Prime Minister together, after a bilateral meeting, declared the year 2012 the “Year of India-China Friendship and Cooperation”, and while discussing the India-China boundary agreed to continue to work on the current special representatives mechanism and maintain peace and tranquillity on the borders and pledged to “push the Sino-Indian strategic cooperative partnership to a new level”. All these contacts at various levels portend a friendlier relationship in the coming years with a new leadership taking over in Beijing in 2013.

The annual Summit level talks with Japan got postponed due to the sudden announcement of the general elections in that country. However, interaction at

other levels continued with full vigour to emphasize the robust health of their relations. In January, the Coast Guards organisations of the two countries held consultations. In February the two foreign offices held their annual discussions on bilateral and regional issues. In March, the two countries along with the United States met for the trilateral dialogue. The Japanese Foreign Minister visited New Delhi in April, and in the same month, the Second India – Japan Government-Business Policy Dialogue took place in New Delhi. Two rounds of talks on Energy issues were held in April and October. An important round of talks was the 2+2 Dialogue (between the defence and foreign secretaries of the two countries) which was in October.

V

CENTRAL & WEST ASIA

India's civilizational bonds with Central and West Asian countries have over the years resulted in warm and friendly relations among them. India was one of the first countries to open diplomatic missions in all the five capitals of the Central Asian Republics, which emerged independent after the collapse of the Soviet Union. There has been extensive programme of exchange of visits by the leaders of India and the Central Asian countries. India's policy has been marked by deepening relationships based on political, economic and technical cooperation as a partner rather than a mere contender for the region's vast oil and gas resources.

India shared its experiences and expertise, built capacities and focused on training through the ITEC and other assistance programmes. India's cultural heritage is deeply rooted in the Eurasian past. Indian traders and travellers actively traded along the Silk Route and Buddhism flourished across the vast Eurasian steppe. History is full of friendly interactions between India and Central Asia, through movement of people, goods and ideas, including spiritual interfaces that enriched both.

India's trade with the Republics is at a relatively low level of around 500 million US dollars because of the limited land connectivity and the limited size of the Central Asian markets. India is now looking intently at the region through the framework of its 'Connect Central Asia' policy, which is based on pro-active political, economic and people-to-people engagement with Central Asian countries, both individually and collectively.

The interaction with the Central Asian countries has to factor in the challenge of rebuilding Afghanistan. A cooperative approach for embedding Afghanistan into a more meaningful regional economic and security framework would benefit the entire region. One way is to work towards converting Afghanistan into a hub for trade and energy, connecting Central and South Asia. The landmark agreement

for the construction of the TAPI (Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India) pipeline has put the spotlight on the importance of Central Asia for India's future energy plans which would also greatly benefit Afghanistan. Central Asia's desire for diversifying hydro-power and energy export routes would correspond with India's quest for diversifying imports. India will be keen to invest in setting up downstream production facilities, instead of exporting raw materials out of the region through expensive pipelines. The approach could differ from those seeking exclusively to pump out Central Asia's riches.

On the continuing impasse in Syria, India stood by the United Nations and supported the Resolution 2043 with "the expectation that UNSMIS will implement its mandate impartially, objectively and fairly and help the Syrian parties to build on the ceasefire and commence an inclusive Syrian-led political process that will meet the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people". The resolution is based on the 6-point Kofi Annan plan incorporating the understanding signed by the Syrian Government and the UN on April 19, 2013. The plan obligates both the Syrian Government and the Opposition groups to abide by it (Kofi Annan plan).

VI

AFRICA

With Africa, India has historic relations. The Indian independence movement started in Africa after Mahatma Gandhi found himself stifled and suffocated under the apartheid rule of the Europeans. Thereafter there has been no looking back. India did not rest with its own freedom and took up the cause of African independence soon after its own independence. New Delhi is now engaged with Africa in more than one way, particularly in building and developing its manpower resources.

During the year India condoled the passing away of some senior African leaders such as the President of Ghana, Prime Minister of Ethiopia, and the President of Malawi. The maturity with which these countries handled the transition in a peaceful manner, created the confidence in the robustness of their democratic institutions. At the same time, New Delhi expressed its concern at the rapidly deteriorating situation in Mali and reiterated its support to efforts being made by the African Union and ECOWAS towards restoration of constitutional order. India too hoped that peace would return to Cote d' Ivoire and Democratic Republic of Congo.

There are at present more than 6,500 Indian soldiers under UN Peace Keeping Operations in Africa's hotspots, including the Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Sudan, Cote d' Ivoire. Despite casualties suffered by the Indian soldiers in Congo and elsewhere, India remained committed to playing its role in ensuring

safety to the people as well as strengthening humanitarian assistance programmes in Africa. India has also contributed US\$ 2 million to AMISOM for its operations in Somalia.

The African continent has emerged the second fastest growing region in the past decade. Between 2000- 2010, six of the 10 fastest growing economies were in Africa. India enjoys close and friendly relations with all the countries of Africa individually and through their Pan-African Organisations—African Union, African Development Bank, ECOWAS. India is one of the cooperating partners of COMESA, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa and Southern African Development Community (SADC).

India has undertaken special programmes for Africa's faster development under the rubric of the two India - Africa Forum Summits—the first held in 2008 in New Delhi and the second in 2011 in Addis Ababa. The Delhi Declaration and the Addis Declaration together defined the future roadmap for cooperation between India and African countries particularly in the areas of technology transfer, economic cooperation and capacity building. This new paradigm of cooperation aims at building upon the historical trust, goodwill and political engagement between India and Africa to create a modern functional partnership for mutual benefit.

During 2012, President Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil paid the state visits to Seychelles and South Africa. India was honoured by the visits of Presidents of Mali and Burundi; and Prime Minister of Mauritius. Apart from these, several high level visits were exchanged between India and African countries. India and Africa share the mutual desire to expand economic cooperation and trade and investment linkages between them. India-Africa trade crossed US\$ 65 billion in 2011-12. India's unilateral non-reciprocal Duty Free Tariff Preference Scheme (DFTP) for LDCs announced at the time of the first India - Africa Forum Summit in 2008 significantly contributed to the ability of African LDCs to access the growing Indian market and contributed to the complementarity in their export baskets.

To give further push to their economic relations, 115 Letters of Credit of the value of US\$ 5.2 billion have been extended to African countries in the last decade. Africa has also effectively utilized concessional Lines of Credit offered by India for supporting the development of its infrastructure, industry and capacity building. Some of the projects executed and under execution include setting up of tractor assembly plant (Benin), rural electrification (Ghana, Burkina Faso), low cost housing, setting up of textiles project (Angola), Cassava plantation (Cameroon), hydro electric projects (Central African Republic, Burundi, Rwanda), development of Sugar industry (Ethiopia), renewal of urban transport system (Cote d'Ivoire), Setting up cement plants (DR Congo, Djibouti), Energy

transmission (Eritrea, Mali). This list is not exhaustive but just an indicative one of projects undertaken by India under lines of credit. India's efforts in Africa are directed at capacity building, infrastructure development, promotion of trade and industry and value addition/beneficiation.

As part of Joint Action Plan approved under the Framework for Cooperation of the India-Africa Forum Summits, India has been regularly organising familiarisation visits and training programmes for journalists from Africa as well as visits of Indian journalists to Africa. Overall from 2009 to 2012 India has hosted nearly 90 journalists from Africa and trained another 45 African journalists. The "INDIAFRICA: A Shared Future" programme is a dynamic platform to exchange ideas about emergent realities.

VII

AMERICAS

In the last few years, India-US relations have sustained an unprecedented level of bilateral engagements from strategic bilateral talks to trilateral involving a major East Asian country, Japan. Since the signing of the civil nuclear energy cooperation agreement, there is now enhanced cooperation in non-proliferation and nuclear security, besides deepening cooperation in counter-terrorism and intelligence cooperation. The launch of Homeland Security Dialogue in 2011 was an important initiative from India's point of view, considering India lives close to the epicentre of terrorism. It was in this context that India had welcomed the elimination of Osama bin Laden "as a significant step forward" which hopefully dealt a decisive blow to Al Qaeda and other terrorist groups.

Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai visited Washington in February to hold wide ranging talks with the US leadership on matters of bilateral, regional and global interest, including Afghanistan. India appreciated the US notification exempting from the scope of the US sanctions, the Indian financial institutions from application of the provisions of the US domestic law on energy related transactions with Iranian Central Bank and other financial institutions designated by U.S. Government, thus enabling the import by India of Iranian oil. In June, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton made a halt in New Delhi and availed of the opportunity to once again have in depth discussion with External Affairs Minister SM Krishna. In the same month India engaged the United States in the second Indo-US Dialogue on Higher Education unveiling the initiative "Connect to India". Significantly while on the Indian side the talks were chaired by the Human Resource Development Minister Kapil Sibal, the United States delegation was led by the Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. The month of June turned out to be a very busy for India – United States relations, since that month also witnessed the Indo-US Strategic Talks in Washington. This round, on the Indian side, was

led by External Affairs Minister, with the Secretary of State Clinton leading her country's delegation.

Recognizing that the India-U.S. relations draw their strength and dynamism from shared values, the breadth and diversity of the engagement and growing links between the people of the two countries, leaders of both countries placed promotion of closer ties between the peoples, private collaborations and public-private partnerships at the centre of the Strategic Dialogue. The comprehensive regional consultations touched on nearly every region of the world.

On the margins of the Strategic Dialogue, an unprecedented number of sub-dialogues took place, including the Global Issues Forum, S&T, Joint Commission Meeting, the Counterterrorism Joint Working Group, Cyber Consultations, the Information and Communications Technology Working Group, the Women's Empowerment Dialogue, Homeland Security Consultations and other events, besides the Higher Education Dialogue, as pointed out above. Also in June the US Defence Secretary Leon Panetta visited New Delhi for security related consultations.

The shared vision for peace, stability and prosperity in Asia, the Indian Ocean region and the Pacific region that the two countries shared, committed them to work together as well as with others in the region, for the evolution of an open, balanced and inclusive architecture. The talks reaffirmed their support for regional forums like East Asia Summit, ASEAN Regional Forum and ADMM Plus, and committed to regular consultations in this regard. The United States welcomed India's actions to strengthen regional economic connectivity. Both sides are committed to the promotion of regional trade, transit, and energy linkages. Secretary Clinton welcomed India's growing engagement in the Asia Pacific. They agreed to further enhance their consultations on the Indian Ocean. External Affairs Minister Krishna welcomed the U.S. interest in choosing to become a dialogue partner with the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC), and assured the United States that as the current Chair, India will take the American desire for a dialogue forward with the other IOR-ARC members.

Given the importance of Afghanistan in the promotion of peace in region, particularly in the post-2014 scenario, the two countries stressed the importance of sustained international commitment to Afghanistan "as it assumes full responsibility for governance, development and security". It was noted that both India and the United States had each signed Strategic Partnership Agreements with Afghanistan, and hence it was the responsibility of both of them to intensify their consultations "to achieve coordination and cooperation in promoting a stable, democratic, united, sovereign, and prosperous Afghanistan". India welcomed the election of President Obama for the second term in the elections held in November.

India has over the years increased its interaction with the other States in the American continent including the Caribbean. For a comprehensive review of its relations with the countries of the region, the first India, Community of American States and Caribbean (CELAC) consultations took place in New Delhi in August. It was an opportunity to discuss regional and multilateral issues aimed at, *inter alia*, strengthening the multifaceted bilateral cooperation between India and CELAC, coordinating responses to regional issues and addressing international challenges including UN reforms, the international financial crisis, climate change and international terrorism. The Foreign Ministers of India and the CELAC Troika expressed satisfaction at the First Meeting of the India-CELAC Troika Foreign Ministerial Dialogue after the commencement of CELAC in December 2011. The CELAC members were highly appreciative of the expanding relations between India and countries in the Latin America and the Caribbean region and reiterated their desire to work together bearing in mind each sides' respective development priorities based on the common shared values of democracy, freedom, equality and justice.

The Brazilian President Mrs. Dilma Rousseff paid a State visit to New Delhi in March and the Canadian Prime Minister came in November. The External Affairs Minister visited Toronto in June and the Canadian Foreign Minister visited New Delhi in September just before his Prime Minister's visit to prepare for it. The 11th meeting of the Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism between India and Canada was held in New Delhi on 29 November 2012. The meeting took place within the framework of the enhanced interaction in bilateral relations between India and Canada, and in keeping with the desire of the Prime Ministers of India and Canada towards greater cooperation in counter terrorism matters, as set out in the India-Canada Joint Statement of 6 November 2012. The Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago had visited New Delhi at the start of the year in January. The Cuban Vice-Foreign Minister came in August.

VIII

EUROPE

India and Europe have traditionally maintained cordial relations and in pursuance of those relations there was interaction among them during the course of the year. India welcomed the visit of the King of Spain in October and his foreign minister in August. The Belarus Prime Minister came for a visit in November and the Deputy Prime Minister of Belgium in August. With Austria, New Delhi signed a Technology Cooperation Agreement in Shipping and Port Development. In June the German Foreign Minister held talks with the External Affairs Minister in Bengaluru, and India signed the Tax Information Treaty with Monaco. Two other important agreements were signed with Netherlands and Switzerland with a view to sharing of information on tax matters to tackle the problem of tax avoidance and fiscal evasion.

With Russia there were series of engagements at various levels. The annual Summit took place in December when President Putin visited New Delhi and signed several important agreements. The Prime Minister and the President stressed the importance of special and privileged strategic partnership between the two countries. They expressed satisfaction that the year 2012 was marked by an intense bilateral dialogue, regular top and high-level meetings and multifarious cultural activities to mark the 65th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between them. The two leaders reviewed the progress made in all important areas of cooperation, including in sectors such as energy, trade, high technology and military-technical cooperation. They noted that they shared common views on all the important issues of regional and international cooperation. President Putin's visit was preceded by the holding of Inter-Governmental Commission meetings in New Delhi in October. One of these meetings was on Military and Technical Cooperation which on the Indian side was at the level of Defence Minister and the other at the level of External Affairs Minister. The annual Foreign Office Consultations were held in February. The 7th meeting of the India-Russia Joint Working Group on Terrorism met in April. In March the Prime Minister greeted President Putin on his election as President of the Federation. The External Affairs Minister Krishna visited Moscow in April to participate in the concluding functions to mark the celebrations of the 65th anniversary of the establishment of India-Russia diplomatic relations. In November India – Russia talks were held at the level of Foreign Secretaries of the two countries.

IX

MULTI-LATERAL COOPERATION

India hosted two most important summits during the year—the ASEAN Commemorative Summit and the BRICS Summit. Reference has been made to the ASEAN summit above and New Delhi hopes to build its Look East Policy on the Vision Statement adopted at the end of the Conference in December. The BRICS summit laid great stress on the global governance and sustainable development; it considered solutions to finance and promote the two challenges particularly in ensuring energy and food security. It adopted an Action Plan as reflected in the Delhi Declaration. The Agreement among the Development Banks of the BRICS member countries, it is hoped would boost trade among the member countries by the use of credit offered by the member countries in their own currencies. The proposal to set up a BRICS Development Bank is now under the examination of the finance ministers, who have been tasked to report the result of their deliberations at the next summit. When setup it would be a major step forward in the evolution of the grouping.

While the India-EU Summit was held in New Delhi, the Prime Minister travelled

to South America (Mexico and Brazil) to attend the Rio-20 Summit on sustainable development and G-20 Summit on global economic issues. He played an important role in the proceedings of the Rio Conference on sustainable development. Describing the Rio meeting timely since the world was facing a "serious economic crisis and political ferment", and also because "it focuses our minds on 'the future we want' and how to realize it." Prime Minister exhorted the conference to summon "the imagination to balance the costs that we will incur in the present with the benefits that will accrue to future generations". Therefore, he said: "Economic Development, social inclusion and environmental sustainability are all equally critical as components of sustainable development. The task before us is to give practical shape and content to this architecture in a manner that allows each country to develop according to its own national priorities and circumstances."

At the G-20 Summit he warned that the "global economic situation is deeply worrying", since the economic recovery was faltering and even the fast growing emerging markets were slowing down. This, he said "calls for policy action on several fronts". In a plain and straight forward looking speech at the G-20 Plenary he said "Of greatest concern at present is the uncertainty affecting the Eurozone. The sovereign debt crisis and the banking crisis now on the horizon have grave implications for the health of the entire global economy.... However, the risks of contagion in Europe remain because they reflect weaknesses in the banking sector arising from excessive sovereign debt and low growth prospects. A crisis in the European banking system can choke trade finance quite quickly, and end up choking economic growth not just in the Eurozone but in the world in general." He therefore suggested that this "Summit needs to send a strong signal to the markets that the Eurozone countries will make every effort to protect the banking systems and the global community will back a credible Eurozone effort and response." He said the International Monetary Fund "has a critical supportive role to play in stabilizing the Eurozone. All members must help the Fund to play this role." Playing a positive role, he announced the Indian contribution of \$ 10 billion to the IMF's additional firewall of \$ 430 billion.

Another important Summit was the 16th NAM Conference which Prime Minister attended in Tehran in August. He pointed out to the Summit that the deficit of the theme of the Conference "Lasting Peace through Joint Global Governance" was most starkly felt in "the sphere of international peace and security and in restoring just and fair economic and financial mechanisms". He regretted that "today's structure of global governance remain driven by the power equations of the past". The Prime Minister was candid in telling the Summit that "they have proved inadequate in dealing with the economic and political crises of our present" day.

X

Situated at the strategic crossroads of Asia and astride one of the busiest sea lanes of the world, India faces many security challenges. Their defence and security are a fundamental obligation of the Government to the people of India and an essential prerequisite for its national, social and economic transformation. The Government naturally attaches the highest priority to these tasks. It seeks to advance peace, stability, friendship and cooperation in the region and beyond, and it does so with the confidence that its Armed Forces can defend the country against any threat. This confidence is based on the many steps that the Government has taken to strengthen nation's defence capabilities.

India sought to achieve its security and foreign policy goals through the use of soft power and diplomacy by scrupulously avoiding the use of any coercive power in its relations with other countries. However in a world where use of coercive power has still not been outlawed, and given the challenges from the non-state actors, and non-conventional sources there are occasions when the use of coercive power to back diplomacy becomes necessary. India not wishing to be found wanting to defend itself and in its duty to the people of India, has in the last few years, added significantly to its defence forces to protect its borders and inducted new equipment to increase their firepower more as a deterrent than as an instrument of coercion. Improved infrastructure and enhanced air mobility have added considerably to the confidence level of the security forces. To deal with multiple security challenges particularly of non-conventional variety, and from non-state actors, it is geared to deal with them especially in the cyber and space domain through the implementation of a national architecture of cyber security. India, therefore, is now capable of facing the entire spectrum of security challenges, which given its difficult neighbourhood, holds the full range of conventional, strategic and non-traditional challenges. Given the importance of energy security and the fact that India has to look for resources far beyond its borders, added a new paradigm to security dimension. India is poised for a leap in outer space domain. This will bring in its wake new challenges which possibly could assume military dimensions.

Increased engagement in neighbourhood, deepened economic and strategic obligations in the Indian Ocean and Asia-Pacific and in West Asia, membership of multilateral, regional and intra-regional agencies and grouping call for greater and newer responses from New Delhi and it cannot be found wanting in meeting these challenges. Taken together, these challenges and opportunities prompt India to gear for higher responsibilities in the coming years.

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INDIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS – 2012

SECTION – I

GENERAL

001. Media Interaction of External Affairs Minister about the treatment of Indian children in Norway.

New Delhi, January 23, 2012.

External Affairs Minister (Shri S.M. Krishna): I have just spoken with the Foreign Minister of Norway in connection with the two young children currently being held in foster care by the Norwegian childcare services. I have urged him to find an amicable and urgent solution to ensure that the children are returned to the biological parents. I have also conveyed this earlier to the Norwegian charge d'affaires who met me.

Given the children's young age, their removal from the care of the natural parents and to be placed in foster care till they turn 18 is an extreme step which should normally be taken as a last resort. The children are Indian nationals and the Government as well as their extended family have legitimate right to protect the interest of the children. Mrs. Brinda Karat also has gotten in touch with me with reference to the fate of these two children. I have assured her also that we will be taking it up with the Norwegian Government.

The problem here is that it is before a court of law. The judicial process is on in Norway. We will have to work through our Embassy, and through the parents and through the grandparents of the children that a solution is worked out to the satisfaction of the Norwegian court because now they are seized of the matter and the children are now in a foster care in Norway.

After my talks with the local Embassy and my talk with the Norwegian Foreign Minister, I have come to this conclusion that a reasonable settlement of this issue can be worked out and our anxiety is that it should be worked out at the earliest so that the children are brought back to the protective umbrella of their biological parents and grandparents.

Question: Sir, the visa term of the parents ends probably by the 8th of March. What happens then? Have you expressed concern about the fact that the parents might have to return without the children?

External Affairs Minister: Let me here emphasise that we have very cordial bilateral relations with the Government of Norway. They are willing to accommodate the Government of India to the extent possible within the limits of their jurisdiction. And if there are certain visa issues, I think it can be worked out.

Question: Mr. Krishna, from your statement it seems that you are very clearly asking for the kids to be returned to their parents' custody, anything else is unacceptable. Custody with grandparents, is that acceptable to India? Custody with another Indian foster family, is that acceptable?

External Affairs Minister: No, I think this has to be worked out with the immediate family of the children. But in India we have a fairly legitimate institutional mechanism to protect the rights of the children and we can always use that in order to protect the interest of the children. But after my talks with my counterpart in Norway, and taking into consideration the kind of relationship we have between the two Governments, I think it should not be too difficult for us to work out an understanding.

Question: Sir, given that the case of Norway children is now in the court in Norway, what is the real possibility of working out an amicable solution? Is there any possibility or circumstances under which an amicable solution can be worked out and the kids can come back to their parents?

External Affairs Minister: The point to be noted and understood is that a court is seized of the matter in Norway, and on the orders of that court the children are in the foster care unit in Norway. Hence, when the courts are involved, we will have to work through the courts for an amicable solution.



002. Interview of National Security Advisor Shivshankar Menon with Kalyani Shankar for the All India Radio.

New Delhi, February 9, 2012.

Ms. Kalyani Shankar : Welcome to this programme Mr. Shankar Menon. Recently we have had another round of border talks with China. The two Special representative have had a meeting on the 15th Round. But the perception is that the 15th Round ended in a deadlock after Beijing ... China also will establish a working mechanism for consultation and coordination on the boundary issue to maintain peace and tranquility. How will this mechanism take the talks forward and also about Arunachal thing.

Mr. Shiv Shankar Menon : I am not sure how this. Well, thank you for asking me. In fact, it is a pleasure to be on your programme again. I am not sure how this impression has spread, because actually we had a very constructive and a very positive round this time in the 15th round, because we did three things. As you know, we are discussing a boundary settlement between India and China. And we had agreed originally that we would do this in three stages. We would first agree with principles which we did in 2005. Now we are discussing a framework. And finally, we will have an agreed boundary. In the framework, we have now exchanged our frameworks and we have found there are naturally, as would be expected, common elements and differences. So, we will now work on them and we will try and arrive at a common agreed framework which both the governments feel comfortable with, which will lead us towards a settlement. So that is the stage we are at. So we made progress on the framework. We also during this round, signed the agreement on a mechanism to maintain peace and tranquility in the border areas. And that I think, is a big step forward, because even if it takes time to settle the boundary itself, both sides have maintained peace along this boundary, border, it has been generally peaceful and both want to continue to do so.

Ms. Kalyani Shankar : Did the Chinese mention the Arunachal thing in your meetings ?

Mr. Shiv Shankar Menon: Well, not in these terms, but you know, what we are doing is not to restate positions, not in the terms in which you mentioned that in the story. It is not our purpose to go to the Round just to state our position. We know each other's position. But what we are doing is without prejudice to our stated position, we are exploring the possibilities of the boundary settlement, that is what we are doing. So, I am not sure really that how this impression spread. But, I think may be it is an expression, I see it positively. People are getting impatient, then it means that they want the boundary settlement.

Ms. Kalyani Shankar: Did you also discussed about the incursions, you know we have always been hearing about the incursions.

Mr. Menon: If you look at the facts on the ground, the actual situation on the border in terms of incursions and so on, is actually much better than it has been in the past. In fact, this has diminished steadily. Both sides have different perceptions of where the Line of Actual Control is. So, each side goes into the areas that they think are theirs which the other side might actually think it is theirs. But we have worked out a standard operating procedure. We have agreed means of dealing with these situations so that it does not lead to any mistakes or anything.

Ms. Shankar: What about the stapled visa ?

Mr. Menon: The stapled visas, we think that we have a solution for part of the problem but we hope to remove this entirely. It is a reflection of a more fundamental issue of the status of areas. So, therefore, it is an issue which touches on sovereignty and, therefore, becomes very sensitive, and it is an issue that we hope we can continue to address and ultimately solve.

Ms. Shankar: But Arunachal, we are not willing to yield at all.

Mr. Menon: You know, A) we don't negotiate through the media; B) there is no question that Arunachal Pradesh has been a part of India for centuries. It has elected Members in Parliament. So, I don't think that is the issue.

Ms. Shankar: How do you see the disturbing political developments in Pakistan. Do you see early elections there, and secondly, Pakistan Prime Minister Gilani in a newspaper has said the dialogue is the only way for settlement of Kashmir issue. How is the situation on Indo-Pak border and again infiltration ..

Mr. Menon: So many questions altogether. I will tell you frankly, I am not an astrologer. I don't know what will happen in Pakistan's internal affairs. From our point of view, we wish Pakistan well. We would like a stable, prosperous Pakistan which at peace with itself, because for us it is important. Just as we are concentrating on our own development, our own economic development transforming India, we need a peaceful territory, we need friendly neighbours who help us to achieve this. So, we wish Pakistan well. But whether, how it will develop, what will happen, I don't want to speculate frankly. The last thing we need to do is to become an issue in Pakistan's internal politics. But as long as everybody in Pakistan understands that India's approach to the relationship is to seek friendly relations with Pakistan and a friendly neighbourhood. I hope that is true.

As for the relationship itself, as you know the composite dialogue process has started up again. They are continuing to discuss the various issues at the

Secretary level and we hope that we can carry that forward. The plan which has been agreed by both sides is to work towards the Foreign Secretaries' meetings and then ultimately the External Affairs Ministers. But before that, hopefully, the Home Secretaries and Commerce Secretaries will meet. I believe that Speaker Lok Sabha is planning to visit later this month. Commerce and Industries Minister also will be visiting with a business delegation. So, things are moving steadily.

Ms. Shankar: But what do you make of Gilani's statement that dialogue is the only, it is just a public posture or?

Mr. Menon: Well I think we have always said, both of us have always said that the only way forward is dialogue. There are no other ways, second issue that might be wider or of building a cooperative relationship.

Ms. Shankar: And what about this Mumbai .. that nothing more has been done by Pakistan so far.

Mr. Menon: Well, I think we are, naturally in touch with the Pakistanis pressing for further action against the perpetrators because not all the perpetrators have been brought to book and we do need assistance from them in terms of actually bringing all of them to book. We have asked for various things for example. Let us see whether the Pakistanis can see their way to doing these things.

Ms. Shankar: You see there is such a political atmosphere in Pakistan. Who do you talk to ?

Mr. Menon: We talk to everyone.

Ms. Shankar: The army ?

Mr. Menon: We deal with everyone, we talk to everyone, and we have the same message to all of them.

Ms. Shankar: We have signed a nuclear Indo-US nuclear agreement with much fanfare in 2008. But not much has happened on that front, you know they have to pass some law, we have to make some rules all this. The actual investment has also not come into the power sector so far. Even our own investment has not been finalized. So, what is the next step ?

Mr. Menon: Well, there are two parts of the question. One is in terms of cooperation with the US. I think the inter-governmental arrangements which are required for nuclear cooperation between India and the US, are in place. We have done all those including the arrangements and procedures, under the 123 agreement, all that the government has to do is done. The companies

are now in touch with each other directly because they have to make the commercial, the technical and other understanding. Just last week, I think the Nuclear Power Cooperation of India had talks at a preliminary round of discussions with the US companies on an early works agreement where the US companies came and described what they would like to offer and what was possible. That is the first step in actually discussing these. This will take time. Frankly this is something that happens with all our partners. First the two governments set in place the framework, then within that the commercial arrangements and discussions take place. That is going on. That has actually continuing.

On the investment, we are not looking for foreign investment in the civil nuclear power sector, not at all in fact. So investment I think it will become clear once we announce the 12th Plan, the immediate investments over the next five years will become quite clear. And government as you know, is determined to build these power plants because India needs power, needs the electricity. So, the investment we hope will be forthcoming.

Ms. Shankar: In the last four years or so, many websites belonging to the government have been subject to cyber attacks. You know, even in December 15, 2009, even the NSA and then PMOs they were attacked, some e-mails were also sent. So how do you tackle that.

Mr. Menon: I think, you know we must decide what we want to protect, what we don't protect. Websites, by definition, are meant to be open to people, otherwise, I mean you measure the success of a website by how many hits they get. You want people to come to websites. You open a website, it is like putting up a political campaign, people will draw moustache on it and put their .. That is part of the risk of being out there in the public space. And this will happen to websites. Does it do real security damage to you if a website is hacked, not really. Because it is designed to be available and open to everybody. There are other things, networks which are critical to a state, to a society, which should not be attacked, which should be defended. And we in the process of putting in place the cyber architecture which allows us to defend these, whether it is in terms of creating the competences, not just within government, because most of these are either private or government and private together. So creating the competences, generating the manpower in India through the university and other systems or also to have, if necessary, the legal regulations in place, so that we can do this, so that we can defend the critical parts, networks which exist in the society.

Ms. Shankar: But when will you do that? You know people will talk about freedom of .

Mr. Menon: I think we can do this very well while maintaining freedom. We are

not the only democracy in the world and there are other democracies which do it. But after all people also have a right to expect to be able to conduct a normal day to day business safely and securely. And I think that right also must be protected. I don't think it is an infringement of anyone's rights if you defend the ability to lead a normal life. But as I said we need to define what we defend and the levels of defence that we need a little more carefully. Websites are being hacked, and the most obvious, everybody reacts. Yes, it hurts your pride perhaps. But, what do you put on a website if you are not willing to share on the websites, then why you put it there. So I think there is definitional problem here. But it is true, it is like as I said somebody puts up a political poster, somebody else comes and paints a moustache on it. And this is the price of being out there in the public space.

Ms. Shankar: Ever since India voted on Syria, there are a lot of debate going on about why did you do it why didn't you do it. And China and Russia join together and they have vetoed also. So, why did we do it?

Mr. Menon: Everybody on the Council except Russia and China voted for. We had three criteria which we applied. One was the original resolution as it came sounded as though it was asking for regime change in Syria. We made it quite clear that this is not for the international community or any external body to decide. Political arrangements within Syria are an issue to be decided by the Syrian people. So we got the resolution changed, we and others got the resolution changed and the final resolution actually calls for a peaceful resolution of issues through a Syrian-led political process. And that is what it calls for It does not call for regime change. Secondly, especially after the Libya experience, I think people are nervous that there would be attempts of foreign military intervention in Syria and other places. So, again the resolution was changed during the negotiations to include an explicit provision saying this does not enable foreign military intervention. In fact, no foreign military invention is .. Thirdly, from our point of view and most important that all our Arab friends came to us and said that they thought this was the way forward. Once they accepted our two basic points, we worked with them to try and say how it would be done. Now, why Russia chose to veto, why China did, I think that is the question you have to ask them. We have to make a calculation based on our interests. Don't forget, we have six million Indians in the Gulf, 63 per cent of our oil supplies come from the Gulf. We had over 35 billion dollars worth of remittances last year from this part of the world. This is important to us. For us, a peaceful resolution of all these issues, stability in the area is very important for India. And, therefore, we voted for what we thought was a way forward towards that, the best available alternative.

Ms. Shankar: On the domestic side, with the Maoists continuing to be a great concern is there a need for a relook of the Maoist and the Naxal policy

because people think of India as a soft power in dealing with these people. Secondly how many modules are there now. You know, your predecessor had always said some 600 modules or something like that.

Mr. Menon: As far as review of policy, I think the basic policy sounded has shown results. If you look on the ground at the situation at the end of last year compared to the year before, you will look at, by many matrix, if you measure incidents of violence, number of people killed etc. the area under dominance or controlled or threatened, all these have shown improvement during the course of 2011 when you compare the beginning of the year and the end. So I think the basics of the policy are sound, twin track walking on two legs. On one development, the other also providing security so that there can be development and I think this twin track is correct. But naturally, how you apply it — the emphasis, the relative emphasis, how good you are at implementing it, how good the instruments of state are doing this. I think all these things you need to continue to look at. And I think it is normal that policy will be constantly reviewed in the light of experience and that you learn from experience. Number of modules .. normally modules we talk in terms of smaller terrorist groups. This is essentially a cadre-based organization with very strong military wing. And also with over-ground workers who do some of their work for them. So you have to draw a distinction between each of these and how you deal with each of them. There is no question that armed strength has to be met with.

Ms. Shankar: How many modules are there ?

Mr. Menon: It is very hard to give a precise number and I don't want to put a figure on that.

Ms. Shankar: You know, this Indian Mujahideen is of recent origin. That also must be causing so much concern for you, are you trying to check this growth of Indian Mujahideen.

Mr. Menon: Yes. We are working and I think we have had some successes recently in the past you have seen, both in Delhi and in Mumbai. And I think now that we have created not just the NIA but also we have a decision to set up NCTC, the National Counter-Terrorism Centre which was decided last month and now that we also have the NATGRID the National Intelligence which shares information on these groups, you will see the results now, more and more results in practice in the years to come. And I think it is already visible when you see what happened in Mumbai what happened in Delhi recently and the progress that we have made in dealing in these cases. I think that is proof

Ms. Shankar: But how do you go to the root of it ?

Mr. Menon: I think there are three parts to this. One is, of course, social origin of how, but there will always be some individuals misguided who, now the

important thing is that the society itself must quickly pick them up and isolate them .. Secondly, you must be able, intelligence-base. This has to be based on good intelligence on knowing before hand what they are planning what they are doing. So, you have to strengthen your intelligence capacity and that we have been doing steadily, we have worked on it. Thirdly, you need the capacity to actually act to isolate and that we have improved, if you look at the training of our people who are involved in counter-terrorism work. It has considerably improved compared to what it was earlier. Now, it is never perfect because the day we think we are perfect then actually everything stops. So we need to keep improving. But if you compare to where we were three years ago, it is much better.

Ms. Shankar: You know, this NTRO set up recently, and there were so many other intelligence agencies also which are reporting to different Ministries – one to Home Ministry, one to PMO. You know, there was lot of confusion about it. Do you think there is a need for a single top man to supervise all these intelligence agencies.

Mr. Menon: I think each of them has very different mandates and this is why they exist. Of course, the idea of a premier internal agency, premier external agency or .. separate agencies. NTRO is a technical intelligence agency. The question is how well do they work together. It is not the question of one man or two men, because

Ms. Shankar: They will not work together even in American

Mr. Menon: Whether one or more is not important. The important thing is that they must understand their own rules, they need to work together, there has to be synergy in what they produce. And that they have to be responsive to each other. And that cannot be just at one point. It has to be right through the organization. I mean, if somebody finds out something about a terrorist plot and so on, then it has to work across, you will have to work outside you will have to work inside, you will have to work everywhere. So, it is not something that. So, for me these are not these are not solutions to the issue. The real issue which needs to be dealt with is much more fundamental.

Ms. Shankar: You know, recently the Chief of Army Staff Gen. Singh met you and he had also met with Pranab Mukherjee and Salman Khursheed.

Mr. Menon: But I am not going to comment on something that is in the court. And now it is in the Supreme Court.

Ms. Shankar: But what is the way out?

Mr. Menon: I have said I am not going to comment.

Ms. Shankar: Okay. Afzal Guru's mercy Petition is still with the President.

Jammu & Kashmir Assembly they said that it should be seen favourably, when do you think the decision should come?

Mr. Menon: I can't speak for the President.

Ms. Shankar: Here is the last question. In a recent speech you have said there is a possibility of a limited war in nucleus conditions.

Mr. Menon: I just said that one of the scenarios that people must think about is this, that is all. That was a theoretical discussion on what are the kinds of things. What kinds of deterrents are available, what kind of. I didn't say that a limited war is going to happen, not at all.

Ms. Shankar: No, with all the instability in Pakistan are you concerned about the nuclear establishment there.

Mr. Menon: You know, we are paid to worry about many things, so we worry. And we are also paid to make sure, to the extent we can, we have to mitigate any such events.

Ms. Shankar: Because how can anybody ensure that it does not go into the hands of the Talibanis or anybody else.

Mr. Menon: As I said we are paid to worry about so many things.

Ms. Shankar: Thank you very much for being with us.

Mr. Menon: Thank you very much.



003. Address by the Defence Minister A.K. Antony at the 14th Asian Security Conference.

New Delhi, February 13, 2012.

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

“At the outset, I extend a warm welcome to all the participants from the world over for the 14th Asian Security Conference organised by IDSA.

The concept of security has expanded and undergone a massive transformation to include economic progress, particularly given the direction the global economy has been taking, climate change and good governance. Such issues have assumed heightened significance for the comity of nations.

Over the years, Asian Security Conference has emerged as an ideal platform for academicians, researchers, scholars and security experts to discuss and analyse the recent trends in security across the world. The Conference is a unique opportunity to understand each other's perspectives and identify common issues for cooperation.

Today, the global community faces common challenges in the realms of economics, geopolitics, demography, sharing natural resources, climate change and information. The impact of basic issues such as food, water, economic instability and security-related issues such as terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and drug trafficking is having an impact on the dynamics of various societies and nations.

As one of the fastest growing economies of the region and a stable democratic nation, India has been and will continue to be committed towards building a peaceful, secure and economically stable Asia. However, to address such non-traditional challenges, we also need to move beyond conventional ways of dealing with them.

IDSA has been discussing these and other such issues since the first Asian Security Conference held in 1998. Late Shri K. Subrahmanyam had identified thirteen types of non-military threats to security, some of which I have just mentioned. IDSA has brought out publications on related themes, which include reports on climate change, environmental security and water security.

The themes for this year's Conference are extremely crucial and relevant. The threat to the overall security and well-being of the people from non-traditional factors continues to pose a threat to nations in general and Asia, in particular.

With the world population putting an enormous burden on existing natural resources, competition for these resources can lead to conflicts among various countries in Asia.

Terrorism, drug trafficking, money laundering and transnational crimes are common concerns the world over. Terrorism continues to remain a grave concern to world peace and stability. Nations must draw up collective and innovative measures to counter and defeat such asymmetric threats. Weapons of mass destruction go beyond nuclear weapons. These weapons may be biological, chemical and radiological, in nature. Often, these weapons do not require sophisticated delivery systems. There is always a danger that these weapons may fall into wrong hands. Thus, nations need to cooperate with each other and draw up a comprehensive approach to evolve institutional frameworks to defeat such challenges.

Natural disasters seem to be occurring with regularity. The destruction caused by Tsunamis has killed thousands of people. Earthquakes and floods too have caused havoc in various nations. We need to develop common institutional mechanisms to deal with such disasters. Disaster management occupies an important place in our policy and must be taken down to regional and local levels in our region.

We have been trying to address such concerns for a long time. For instance, in 1982, the Ministry of Defence initiated the Ecological Task Force (ETFs) to restore degraded ecosystems. These Task Forces have been undertaking afforestation, soil conservation and water resource management techniques. India is also the only country in the world to form a ministry for new and renewable energy. We have also drawn up a National Action Plan for Climate Change and set up an Advisory Council, chaired by the Prime Minister.

Climate change too has an impact on security. It is causing floods and resulting in changes in crop yields and crop patterns. The per capita availability of water is decreasing sharply worldwide. Water is actually fast emerging as a major source of insecurity and a potential issue for conflict among nations. Thus, nations need to cooperate on sharing water and efficient water usage and harvesting and initiate collective action for preserving our common environment.

Energy is a source of competition among nations for energy demands. Energy sources like fossil fuels are required for economic growth and development. However, as fossil fuels are depleting at a rapid pace, nations and societies need to focus on alternative sources of energy to meet our needs.

Cyber security is a critical area of concern. With digitisation of world and various services, the world is becoming increasingly dependent on internet and information technology. However, security of networks has become an urgent

concern, as enormous vital and critical data passes through them every day. Any breach of cyber networks can cause untold damage to the security of any society, or country. Nations must take serious and prompt note and cooperate with each other to strengthen seamless cyber security.

United Nations and other multilateral institutions will continue to play a proactive role. However, the time has come for Asian countries to set up a mechanism to take regular contact and dialogue mechanisms to the next higher level. A network of prominent Asian think-tanks to hold regular dialogues on security issues can make common recommendations to governments to help them address such challenges in an effective manner.

Peaceful coexistence and equitable development are the keys to the future and security of nations in the Asian region. I am sure that all of you will hold comprehensive deliberations on these issues and other common challenges, as well as come up with innovative and new ideas to aid planners and policy makers.

With these words, I wish all the participants, particularly from abroad, a pleasant stay in India. I wish you all the very best for your fruitful discussions at the Conference over the next three days.

Thank You. Jai Hind



004. Speaking Notes of the National Security Advisor Shivshankar Menon at the 14th Asian Security Conference on Non-traditional Security Issues organised by the Institute of Defence Studies and Analysis.

New Delhi, February 14, 2012.

Dr. Arvind Gupta, Director-General IDSA,
Distinguished participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Thank you for asking me to speak to the 14th Asian Security Conference on Non-Traditional Security Challenges — Today and Tomorrow. I see from your programme that you have a very distinguished list of speakers and participants and an exhaustive agenda on non-traditional security issues. I am glad that you are looking at these issues so carefully and look forward to learning from the results of your deliberations.

In the circumstances, there really is not much that I can add which most of you do not know about what you are considering.

So I thought I would share some personal thoughts on what constitute

non-traditional security challenges, and then to say a few words on which ones should really concern us in India.

What is non-traditional security?

In my present job I find that two of the most abused words are “security” and “strategic”. We have, in my opinion rightly, broadened our definition of “security” over time. The very fact that we use the term “non-traditional” for security challenges makes it clear that many of these issues, such as energy, water and natural disasters, were not originally regarded as security issues. This does not mean that the issues did not exist in the past. It is no one’s case that natural disasters, water scarcity and energy security did not affect mankind before the 20th century. But we include them today in our security considerations for two reasons. Firstly, our ability as societies to withstand, mitigate and adapt to the challenges of water scarcity and natural disasters sometimes appear less than before. Secondly, their consequences for our lives and societies are far greater, given our increasing dependence on complex systems in our economic, social and (to a lesser extent) political lives.

But have we taken this too far? I sometimes think that we risk being too inclusive in treating everything as a matter of security. The ultimate is the term “human security”, which reduces life and it’s living to a matter of security! I am not sure

that this is either helpful or useful. It is not helpful in understanding or prioritising among security challenges, and it is certainly no guide to the actions required to deal with such threats. For instance, I notice that you had a session yesterday on climate change as a non-traditional threat to security. I am not sure that thinking about climate change as a security issue really helps us to identify responses to it. Thinking of it as a scientific issue could.

From a practitioner's point of view I find it better to distinguish between security issues amenable to the application of hard power, those less so, and those which are not. Along this continuum, non-traditional security challenges would be those that require the mixed application of hard and soft power, where solutions are not so clear as victory and defeat, and where problems mutate into more benign forms. They would also include those which do not respond to the application of hard power, such as food security.

Another similar and largely overlapping way of looking at the problem is to distinguish between zero-sum challenges and non-zero sum challenges.

Let me elaborate. Zero-sum challenges are those like terrorist threats, espionage and other state-security threats, and traditional military threats. These respond to the application of hard power. Non-zero sum challenges are those like energy, water, maritime security and others. And there are those which overlap both categories, like cyber threats, space and nuclear threats. These are domains where the combination of intent and capability mean that the nature and definition of the threat is necessarily subjective, and perception management becomes an extremely important part of both the challenge and the response.

Which ones should concern India?

It is easy to do a catalogue of all the threats that we should be worrying about. The broader our definition of security is, the longer the list of challenges. But how do we choose which ones we should worry about and concentrate our effort on?

The traditional answer is that we should concentrate on those of strategic significance to ourselves. This brings me to the second most abused word that I mentioned earlier, "strategic". The dictionary meaning of "strategic" is of or serving the ends of strategy. And strategy is defined as the art of war, or of attaining longer term military objectives, or a long-term plan of action or policy. I assume from this that by strategic we mean of long-term and primarily military significance.

Now, not many of the non-traditional security challenges that we so blithely list these days actually meet the test of this definition. Not many of them actually

serve the attainment of longer term military objectives, or are of long term military significance. They are, instead, of varying long term significance to the attainment of India's grand strategy, the purpose of which is to transform India, so that every Indian has a fair chance of achieving his potential, untrammelled by poverty, illiteracy, and disease.

If India's transformation is our criterion, energy security must have one of the highest priorities among the many non-traditional challenges on your agenda. Energy is the one challenge and possible future constraint on our economic growth which could limit India's development. Besides, it is also the key to other challenges that you have listed. Water, for instance. Eighty percent of the surface of this planet is water. But it is unusable because it is salty. Given energy that problem could be solved.

My conclusions from this argument are simple. I would draw three lessons from an Indian point of view:

- It would be useful if we were to also rank and deal with our non-traditional security challenges from this point of view, examining how they could and do affect our ability to transform India.
- When security challenges are looked at in this manner, India's strengths could well be in asymmetric domains – cyber, nuclear and space – which require not just (the creation and design of) capabilities but also imagination (in doctrines and uses of those capabilities).
- Thirdly, traditional or hard security issues should not be under-estimated. There is an overwhelming need to undertake the hard power military modernisations and revolutions and internal security reforms necessary to defend our increasingly complex society and economy. We had a vivid reminder of this only yesterday in the terrorist attack on Israeli Embassy personnel in a vehicle not far

from here.

With these few words I hope I have provoked a discussion or even an argument.

I wish you and your conference success.

Thank you.



005. Press Release of the Ministry of External Affairs regarding External Affairs Minister's inauguration of the 50th Passport Seva Kendra.

New Delhi, February 23, 2012.

External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna today inaugurated the country's 50th Passport Seva Kendra at Herald House, ITO in the presence of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Delhi, Smt. Sheila Dikshit, Minister of State for External Affairs, Smt. Preneet Kaur, and other dignitaries.

2. 77 Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs) are being set up as part of the nation-wide implementation of the Passport Seva Project with the aim of providing easier accessibility, convenience and public services to citizens in a comfortable environment using world class infrastructure. The Project has been completed in several states and by the end of February 2012, Ministry plans to make 60 PSKs ready for operational launch. Work is in progress at other sites.

3. Speaking on the occasion, the External Affairs Minister reaffirmed Government of India's firm commitment to providing timely delivery of passport services to Indian citizens. A total of 73.65 lakh passport services were rendered in 2011 through the network of 37 Passport Offices (supported by Passport Seva Kendras) and 178 Indian Missions and Posts abroad.

4. The sprawling Passport Seva Kendra at Herald House is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities for processing nearly 1000 applications per day. Two other PSKs are already operational under the jurisdiction of Regional Passport Office, Delhi at Shalimar Place and Udyog Vihar, Gurgaon. The 4th PSK will be opened shortly at the premises of RPO, Bhikaji Cama Place for augmenting facilities for passport related services. Citizens are advised to visit website www.passportindia.gov.in or 24x7 call centre (toll free No. 1800-258-1800) for any query relating to passport services.

5. The Passport Seva Project is a flagship e-Governance initiative undertaken by the Ministry of External Affairs to comprehensively overhaul the Passport Issuance System. The Project is being implemented in public-private partnership mode with Tata Consultancy Services as service provider. The Pilot Project was launched in Bangalore in May 2010 and following requisite certification, the nation-wide rollout began in June 2011. In a short time, the Project has moved from Pilot Project mode to nation-wide rollout with 50 out of 77 planned PSKs already operational across the country. The Project is to be completed within next two-three months, setting a new benchmark for project execution and delivery of public services in the country.



006. Address by External Affairs Minister on “India’s External Environment and Current Foreign Policy Challenges” at the Institute of South Asian Studies, Singapore.

Singapore, March 9, 2012.

His Excellency Mr. Tommy Koh, Ambassador-at-Large,
Prof Tan Tai Yong,
Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to be here today to interact with you through the platform of the Institute of South Asian Studies. In a relatively short span of its existence, the Institute of South Asian Studies has established a formidable reputation internationally as a major centre for vigorous and objective study of South Asia from a policy perspective.

2. I see many familiar faces in the audience. This, given the proximity of ties between India and Singapore, is hardly surprising. As you all are aware, our Prime Minister had visited Singapore only a few months earlier. May I say how deeply touched public opinion in India was by the installation of a Nehru Bust and Marker in Singapore and I would like in particular to thank H. E. Tommy Koh for all the initiatives he took in seeing that this idea came to fruition.

3. We are now looking forward to the visit of the Singapore Prime Minister His Excellency Mr. Lee Hsien Loong to India later this summer. I am confident and hopeful that these two high level visits within a relatively short period of time will provide a substantive content to our bilateral agenda.

4. The topic of my address today is very broad. This necessarily implies that I have to be selective. This, however, does not mean that what are not covered by me are not our foreign policy priorities. Given the focus of the Institute of South Asian Studies, I think it would be appropriate today to look at India’s engagement with our immediate and extended neighbourhood. The challenges facing our foreign policy are directly related to this process of engagement.

5. I would begin by recalling the vision of our first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. During a visit to Singapore in March 1946 he had spoken of Singapore becoming the place where Asian unity is forged and had also gone on to say “In the future, the peoples of Asia must hold together for their own good as well as the good and the freedom of the world”.

6. The biggest development over the past two decades in our continent

has been the evolution of the process of Asian re-integration. Our engagement with our international partners, both in our immediate and extended neighbourhood, is testimony to this phenomenon. The rising profile of India as a major economic powerhouse, and the reciprocal interest of the international community in engaging with India in a broad-based manner, has added a significant global dimension to India's external engagement.

7. In our immediate neighbourhood of South Asia, India has been driven by the vision of encouraging regional integration to bring about peace and prosperity for the more than one and a half billion people living in this region. As part of this vision, India has been implementing a policy of asymmetric engagement in providing greater market access to our neighbours, which enables integration in a mutually beneficial manner. This is one of the most significant challenges facing our foreign policy today.

8. Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh articulated India's vision of regional economic integration at the last SAARC Summit held in Maldives in November last year. This vision is based on enhanced intra-regional trade in goods and services, investment flows and enhanced regional transport and communication links. He announced virtual elimination of sensitive lists affecting exports of all least developed SAARC countries to India. New initiatives for capacity-building and to enhance the sense of a South Asian identity were also announced.

9. A significant initiative taken by India in the SAARC process was the creation of a South Asia Forum. The first meeting of the Forum was hosted by India in September 2011 on the theme 'Integration in South Asia: Moving towards a South Asian Economic Union'. We are able to engage for the first time representatives of governments, academics, civil society and businesspersons on the same platform to discuss the future of SAARC. I am confident that this initiative will contribute significantly on charting the future direction of SAARC.

10. In our bilateral interaction with our immediate neighbours, we have sought to provide substance to this vision of South Asian integration through a number of initiatives.

11. India and Afghanistan have established a strategic partnership during the visit of President Karzai to India in October last year. Our historical and civilizational relationship with Afghanistan is being further strengthened by India actively engaging in the development and reconstruction of Afghanistan. We already committed two billion US dollars for this purpose. Afghanistan joined the SAARC community in 2010. We stand committed to help Afghanistan integrate into the regional economy of South Asia. The ambitious gas pipeline project from Turkmenistan in Central Asia to India through Afghanistan and Pakistan, known as TAPI, is an example of this vision.

12. Over the past two years, we have made major strides in reducing the 'trust deficit' between India and Pakistan. I hosted the Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Her Excellency Hina Rabbani Khar, in New Delhi in July last year, and plan to visit Islamabad myself this summer. We affirmed the importance of carrying forward the dialogue process with a view to resolving peacefully all outstanding issues through constructive and result oriented engagement. We agreed that terrorism poses a continuing threat to peace and security and reiterated the firm and undiluted commitment of our two countries to fight and eliminate this scourge in all its forms and manifestations.

13. We welcomed Pakistan's efforts to normalize trade relations with India by moving from positive to negative lists, and their eventual elimination. The Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan, during their meeting in November last year, reaffirmed that people are at the heart of the relationship between two countries and that people-to-people contacts and cultural exchanges should be promoted.

14. I accompanied our Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, on his historic visit to Bangladesh in September last year. The orientation of our discussions was directed towards creating a mutually beneficial framework for raising the living standards of people of our two countries. Two historic accords and eight other bilateral documents were signed, including the landmark Framework Agreement on Cooperation and Development, widening the cooperative landscape between the two countries significantly.

15. India attaches the highest priority to further strengthening the existing co-operation with Nepal. In this spirit, India has continued close consultations with the Government of Nepal and the major political parties with a view to support Nepal's transition to a democratic, peaceful and prosperous State. This was underscored during the visit of the Prime Minister of Nepal to India in October last year. Our two countries share a "special relationship" that has granted Nepal preferential economic treatment and provided Nepalese in India the same economic and educational opportunities as Indian citizens.

16. Many of you are familiar with the extremely close relations between India and Sri Lanka. During my visit to Sri Lanka in January this year, I had the opportunity to interact with the political leaders in that country across the spectrum. There was consensus on the increased Indian role in assisting the economic reconstruction and development of Sri Lanka, especially in the health, education, housing and infrastructure development sectors. I had the opportunity to hand over the first lot of housing units constructed under India's assistance to the beneficiaries at Jaffna.

17. India has conveyed in no unclear terms that it is committed to the unity,

sovereignty and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka. It is our hope that the vision and leadership that resulted in an end to armed conflict will now be employed in the quest for a genuine political reconciliation. We look forward to progress in the ongoing dialogue process, in order to address this issue in a timely manner. We will continue to work with the Government of Sri Lanka to take this process forward, in a spirit of partnership and cooperation.

18. Our priorities in relations with Bhutan are similarly driven by mutually beneficial socio-economic interaction. India is committed to assisting Maldives with its development cooperation across diverse sectors. The positive role played by India during the recent political turmoil in the Maldives has been welcomed by all political parties in that country, and we are confident that the road-map that has been agreed to will enable the hard-working people of this beautiful country to soon return to their normal lives, especially in the tourism sector where a vast majority of Maldivians are employed.

19. China, as another immediate neighbour, is a priority in India's foreign policy. We have attempted to establish a strategic and cooperative partnership with China. A stronger India-China economic relationship can make a direct contribution to the quality of life of over two billion people. China has emerged as the largest trading partner of India, and our engagement with China is now multi-faceted.

20. Naturally, as between any two large countries, there are areas of convergence as well as fields of divergence between our nations. We will continue to engage China in a constructive and forward looking manner so that both countries can achieve a win-win situation. It is true that there are some differences between our countries such as on the Boundary Question. Here we will maintain dialogue with China with the objective of minimizing such differences or bridging them.

21. Myanmar is our land bridge to the countries of the ASEAN. Today, winds of change are blowing through Myanmar. We have close political, economic and people to people ties of longstanding with Myanmar. Our relations will therefore assume even greater prominence for mutual benefit.

22. The challenges to the process of integrating the economies of South Asia cannot be understated. These challenges are rooted in geography, history and economics. However, we in South Asia have to only look eastwards towards our extended neighbourhood to see how these challenges can be successfully addressed.

23. I believe it was about a decade ago that the term "India fever" was coined in Singapore to describe the growing momentum then developing in our bilateral relations. Over the past few years our relationship with Singapore has also

catalysed our relations with the whole of ASEAN. It would be therefore true to say that there is an equivalent "ASEAN fever" in India now.

24. A few weeks ago I hosted a successful exchange in New Delhi with colleagues from ASEAN on a whole gamut of issues. This was held under a platform provided by the Delhi Dialogue and we were fortunate to have present with us six Ministers from the region. The Delhi Dialogue itself is the outcome of a very fruitful relationship built up by think tanks and business organisations in Singapore and India.

25. A very large number of initiatives and projects are under discussion and are at different stages of finalisation as we move towards commemorating the 20 years of our Dialogue Partnership with ASEAN by means of a Commemorative Summit in Delhi in December this year. How do we enhance connectivity and push forward the ongoing process of economic integration are the two large questions which will form the sub-text of the Commemorative Summit.

26. The Summit takes place in the backdrop of a changing architecture in our region through the East Asia Summit (EAS) process. We recognise the centrality of ASEAN in this process. We see a wider consultative structure in place with the inclusion of United States of America and Russian Federation. As you are aware we have a strategic partnership with both the US and Russia. This underlines our multifaceted relationship with them.

27. The ASEAN-India Commemorative Year 2012 has a rather full calendar ahead including ASEAN-India Car Rally, interactive expedition of Sail Training Ship "Sudarshini" to ASEAN countries to trace traditional trade routes and holding of 'marker events' to reinforce connectivity between India and ASEAN.

28. The challenges to greater economic integration between us driven by sentiments of protectionism, have been addressed through the implementation of the India-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement on Goods. India and ASEAN have put in place one of the largest free trade agreements on goods. We hope that the early conclusion of a similar Free Trade Agreement in Services and investments between India and the ASEAN will significantly broaden and deepen this process.

29. In our extended neighbourhood to our west, we enjoy traditionally close political, economic and cultural linkages with the countries of the Gulf region.

30. These countries are among our largest trading partners. Our trade with Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries amounted to 130 billion US Dollars during the past year. Secondly, close to 50 per cent of our crude oil requirements is met by the region. Thirdly, the region hosts more than six million Indians

who contribute to the economies of the region and remit significant foreign exchange back into their households in India. Accordingly, we have a vital stake in the peace and stability, and continued progress and prosperity, of the countries in the Gulf. Ensuring this is a major challenge facing our foreign policy today.

31. To our north are the countries of Eurasia, with which we have special relations based on our common civilizational heritage. The lack of appropriate communications, especially transportation, linkages with this region has acted as a major challenge for us. The proposal for a New Silk Road Initiative, which would enable the countries and more importantly, the peoples of Central and South Asia to restore the vitality of the Silk Road is, therefore, of paramount importance for us.

32. We are aware of the challenges that are pre-occupying the international community, which can adversely impact on the process of Asian re-integration. The global economic crisis, especially in the industrialized nations of the West, has thrown up challenges of constricting export markets and slowdown of inward foreign investment flows for many Asian countries, including India. The issue of climate change is crucial for the socio-economic development plans of all of us, and India is no exception to this. The continuing spread of terrorism, which has its epicentre in the Af-Pak region, is a major challenge for us.

33. However, the process of Asian re-integration has gathered momentum, and India is proud to be part of this process. By moving in a gradual and deliberate manner, Asian re-integration has enabled our economies to sustain their growth rates at a time of worrying economic problems in the older industrialized worlds of Europe and North America. In turn, our economic growth has helped lift millions of our people above the poverty line, and generated in them viable dreams of a peaceful and prosperous future.

34. It is this vision that drives India's engagement with the world today. At the United Nations, especially as a member of the Security Council representing Asia for a two-year term since January last year, India has played a constructive role in shaping the emerging international order. Based on our experience and performance, we believe that the time has come for India to become a permanent member of the reformed United Nations Security Council.

35. India has been active in the Security Council on the issue of piracy, which is of great importance to all of us, especially in Asia. We have stressed that there is an urgent need for the international community to address the problem of hostage-taking by pirates and consequent humanitarian problems faced by the hostages and their families, and seek their quick release by whatever means appropriate.

36. India remains an active member of the Commonwealth. India provides the largest number of technical experts engaged by Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation and extends assistance to developing Commonwealth countries in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean. India is also playing a meaningful role in revitalization of Non-Aligned Movement.

37. In the past decade, India has taken several initiatives to respond to the changing world around us. Revitalization of our relations with Africa is one such initiative. At the second India-Africa Forum Summit last year at Addis Ababa, we reiterated our commitment to meaningfully contribute in human resources and institutional capacity building.

38. The Pan-African e-Network Project has been commissioned in all the 47 countries that had agreed to join in the project. Under this Project, India is setting up a fibre-optic network to provide satellite connectivity, tele-medicine and tele-education for African countries.

39. Imbued with this vision, India is keen to galvanize the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation, which brings together 19 littoral states of the Indian Ocean Rim. India assumed the Chairmanship of this body at its Ministerial Meeting held in Bengaluru in November last year. I have placed emphasis on the need for building functional relationships between the Navies and Coast Guards of member States to enhance cooperation and security in the Indian Ocean Region. We have called upon member States to address issues of transport infrastructure and connectivity which hamper the growth of intra-regional trade and investment.

40. We are conscious that cooperation between states acts as a force multiplier in a fast-changing world. With this in mind, India has participated in the creation of trans-continental regional groups to maximize the way in which we can achieve our objective of sustainable development. These groups include the BRICS, which brings together Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. India would be holding the next BRICS Summit in New Delhi at the end of this month. It serves as a useful platform for consultation and coordination, and promotes mutual trust and understanding amongst its members, on global issues.

41. Similarly, the IBSA Dialogue Forum brings together India, Brazil and South Africa, three developing, pluralistic, multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, multi-lingual and multi-religious democracies from three different continents who face common challenges.

42. I would like to conclude by asserting that we can succeed in making the most of the opportunities for prosperous socio-economic growth by continuing to remain engaged in a process of dialogue. Our dialogue has been greatly

helped by setting before us clearly defined objectives, whether in terms of trade turnovers, or greater people-to-people exchanges. Above all, we have demonstrated our ability to meet the challenges along the way through calm and mature negotiations, which have enhanced trust and confidence between India and her partners across the globe.

43. I wish to convey my deep appreciation to Prof Tan Tai Yong and his team for giving me this opportunity to interact with you all.



007. Valedictory Address by Minister of State E. Ahamed at the Third Asian Relations Conference.

New Delhi, March 10, 2012.

Honorable Deputy Speaker of Lowesi Jirgah of Afghanistan
Honorable Former Ministers of Pakistan, Nepal and Bhutan
Parliamentarians, Distinguished guests,
Director General of the Indian Council of World Affairs Shri Sudhir Devare
Prof Swaran Singh, President, AAS
and dear friends

It is indeed an honour for me to be here among this august gathering and to be part of this important initiative of the Indian council of World Affairs and the Association of Asia Scholars. I must first congratulate the ICWA for reviving the process which was initiated way back in March 1947 in the form of the first Asian Relations Conference organized under the leadership of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. The Asian Relations Conference of 1947 brought together many leaders of the independence movements in Asia and represented first attempt to forge Asian unity and also to address the common concern of the people of the region encompassing social, economic and cultural problems of the different countries of Asia and to foster mutual contact and understanding. All these issues remain extremely relevant even today and in this context this new series of the Asian Relations Conference by the ICWA is really a commendable effort.

2. Over the past two days this august gathering of the parliamentarians, thinkers and leaders from the Asian Countries have mulled over a wide range of issues like commonalities and convergences, issues of economic integrations and social and cultural exchanges. I am sure the Conference will succeed in evolving a blue print of action to achieve these goals as it is important that the efforts of the governments go hand in hand with the efforts of the groups such as this.

3. India's approach towards its neighbours is predicated upon the need to develop mutually beneficial relationships to ensure a peaceful, secure and stable neighbourhood. India's growth has a beneficial impact on the region, and we are trying to build closer connectivity in physical and communication infrastructure to facilitate trade and communication links and enhance people-to-people interaction with the countries of the region. We are at a historic moment where expectations of the peoples of South Asia have risen to a new high and fulfilling these expectations is an imperative and a challenge in front of all of us. We are convinced that vibrant regional cooperation is good for each one of our countries.

4. In the Context of the regional cooperation and engagement SAARC remains the driving force as it seeks to address the needs for regional economic cooperation, trade, infrastructure development, social development and in the further development of a South Asian identity. India is, therefore, consciously pursuing its transformational role in changing SAARC into a more effective organization.

5. During the recently concluded 17th SAARC Summit held in Maldives in November 2011 India announced several measures to help build regional cooperation, most significant of which was the virtual elimination of India's Sensitive List for items exported to India by the five States considered to be Least Developed Countries within SAARC, namely Afghanistan, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Maldives. In doing so, we have reduced our Sensitive List from 480 tariff lines to 25 tariff lines, for SAARC LDCs. Zero Basic Customs Duty access has been given to all items removed. We are confident that these measures will certainly boost the cause of the SAFTA where significant progress has been made in past three years. Even though intra-SAARC trade has crossed US \$ 1.1 billion in 2010 it still remains well-below potential as compared with other blocs such as ASEAN and EU. However we remain committed to take whatever initiative necessary to realise the full potential of the SAFTA. We hope that our desire and commitment is shared by our friends in SAARC. India has also undertaken several other regional projects in the fields of tele-medicine, tele-education, solar rural electrification, rainwater harvesting, seed testing laboratories etc. These projects are in various stages of implementation in different SAARC member countries. India will continue to take the lead in pushing for greater integration of our economies to achieve the objective of a South Asian Economic Union.

6. The South Asian University, which was established in 2007 as a vehicle of cultural integration, is gaining momentum. The University is currently offering six courses to about 200 students. India offered 50 "SAARC Silver-Jubilee Scholarships" for meritorious students from SAARC LDC countries for the South Asian University. During the 17th SAARC Summit, India announced 100 more scholarships for the University. India also announced scholarships at Forest Research Institute, Dehradun and suggested initiatives to enhance connectivity in the region including conclusion of a Regional Air Service Agreement, Conclave of Tour Operators to boost tourism exchanges and enhance people to people ties, such as a travelling exhibition on the ancient history of the Indian people and by developing a regional telecommunications infrastructure to improve the quality of connectivity among SAARC countries.

7. 'South Asia Forum' was established at the 16th SAARC Summit for the generation of debate, discussion and the exchange of ideas on South Asia

and its future development. The first meeting of the Forum was held in New Delhi on 7-9 September 2011. We are hopeful that this mechanism will bring in new ideas and new initiatives to forge a better understanding between our societies.

8. In the end, I would like to say that the Government of India will do whatever is within its capabilities to enhance cooperation in South Asia to deliver on its vision of common peace, shared prosperity and cooperation. However there is a need for the private sector and other stakeholders to show greater involvement to contribute in diverse ways. The stencil of engagement should comprise more and more of the interactive agenda so that gains are visualized and felt across the board and in immediate term.

Thank You



008. Prime Minister's Reply to the debate in Parliament on the President's Address to the Two Houses of Parliament.

Reply in the Lok Sabha: March 19, 2012.

I rise to join all Members of this august House in conveying our sincere thanks to the Honourable President for her enlightened address. The debate on the President's Address has been very wide-ranging and Shri Jaswant Singhji has made his contribution as well. I thank all the Hon. Members from all sides who have contributed to this debate. The President's Address lays down the objectives and the roadmap that our Government is following and will pursue with greater vigour to deal with the challenges that are mentioned in the President's Address. The President's Address in paragraph 10 refers to five important challenges that our country faces today. They are :-

1. To strive for livelihood security for the vast majority of our population and contribute to work for removal of poverty, hunger and illiteracy from our land;
2. To achieve economic security through rapid and broad-based development and creation of productive jobs for our people;
3. To ensure energy security for our rapid growth;
4. To realise our developmental goals without jeopardizing our ecological and environmental security; and
5. To guarantee our internal and external security within the framework of a just, plural, secular and inclusive growth.

Madam, these five challenges sum up the task that lies ahead of our Government in the two-and-a-half years that remain.

As far as the economy is concerned, my colleague, the hon. Minister of Finance has placed the Economic Survey on the Table of the House and the Economic Survey gives an exhaustive account of the state of the economy. The Finance Minister has also referred to challenges facing us, in his Budget Speech. Madam, all these issues will be thoroughly debated during the general debate on the Budget next week. Therefore, I will be brief while dealing with the economy of the country.

I am sure, hon. Members are aware that we are charting our course through waters that are choppy for all countries today. The year 2011-12 has been a difficult year for all countries. Global growth decelerated everywhere. The Industrialised countries grew at the rate of only 1.6 per cent in 2011, which is half the rate in the previous years. The international economic environment that we face is highly uncertain.

The developments in North Africa and West Asia have led to a steep increase in the prices of hydrocarbons adversely affecting among others prices of fertilisers, food grains and have also put pressure on our balance of payment.

Madam, in this background, our own economic performance of about seven per cent growth- though slower than what we had hoped- must be regarded as commendable. Of course, we cannot view this as acceptable. We must strive to improve upon this in the next year and return as quickly as possible to a higher growth path and we must do this while also ensuring that we will progress towards our objective of achieving inclusive growth with reasonable price stability. Madam, for all this, we need a broad-based national consensus covering all sections of political opinion represented in this august House. This is an occasion when we must rise above narrow partisan ends and stand united as a nation.

Madam, we grew at 9 per cent for five years before 2008, and I do believe that we can get back to that kind of growth rate provided we can agree on a number of difficult decisions. If we succeed in that objective, we will ensure that India continues its rise as an economic power and acquires the economic capability of reducing persistent poverty from which we have suffered and filling the gaps, which are all too evident in critical areas such as health, education, skill-development, and provision of clean drinking water and sanitation. Shri Jaswant Singh referred to the problem of drinking water supply. I assure him that our Government attaches high priority to ensuring that all our citizens have access to clean drinking water. ... (Interruptions)

Madam, several Members have referred to the problems faced by weaker sections of our society and I do agree with them that we need to focus, in particular, on the developmental gaps affecting the weaker sections of our population such as Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, the Other Backward Classes, the Minorities and other disadvantaged groups. I would like to assure the Hon. Members that we will rise to this important task. ... (Interruptions)

Madam, the Twelfth Five-Year Plan, which will be presented to the National Development Council (NDC) sometime in the middle of the year, will lay out the credible plan of action for faster, sustainable and more inclusive growth. I do not wish to go into details, but only wish to remind the hon. Members that our path is not easy.

I am sure that the hon. Members also realize that the difficult decisions that we have to take are made more difficult by the fact that we are a coalition Government and we have to evolve policy keeping in mind the need to maintain a consensus. The challenges that this poses have been sharply brought out in the developments following the presentation of the Railway Budget. I would like to use this opportunity to inform the hon. Members of the latest

development. Madam, I received late last night an e-mail message followed by a formal letter from Shri Dinesh Trivedi tendering his resignation as the Railway Minister.

I propose to forward this letter to the President with the recommendation to accept Shri Trivedi's letter of resignation. I regret the departure of Shri Trivedi. He had presented the Railway Budget which promised to carry out the Vision 2020 that was outlined by his predecessor. A new Railway Minister will be sworn in shortly. He will have the onerous duty of carrying forward the challenging task of modernizing our railway system.

Madam Speaker, in a country as large and as complex as ours, and where the farmers of our country constitute 65 per cent of the labour force, it is inevitable that Parliament and the Government should be worried about the state of India's agriculture. I share the agony of the hon. Members, when they refer to the suicides of our farmers.

The House has my assurance that we will work with the renewed vigour to ensure that no farmer in our country is forced to go to the extreme level of committing suicide.

Our Government has attached high priority to the development of agriculture, to increase public investment in agriculture, to ensure that there is more attention, technologically, paid to the development of agriculture and as a result, the growth rate of agricultural production within the last five years has been as high as three per cent or 3.5 per cent per annum. This year we are likely to achieve a record production of food grains of 250 million tonnes.

Last year, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, the National Horticulture Mission, and the Food Security Mission have all contributed to create a more favourable environment for the growth of agriculture. But I will be the last one to say that more cannot be done. We will, in the Twelfth Five-Year Plan, focus more sharply on the development of our agriculture because the interest of farmers is uppermost in the minds of our Government. That will be the priority we will follow with due diligence.

Madam, there were references to the price situation in the country. I do admit that in the last two years, the prices have become a problem. Fortunately, there are indications that prices are coming under control, but we have to be vigilant. It was in this context that the Finance Minister's effort to control the fiscal deficit is very relevant. Our fiscal deficit did increase in the year 2008-09 because of the developments in the international economic environment, and it was our hope that we will be able to get back to a more reasonable level of fiscal deficit in the year 2011-12. The Finance Minister had projected a fiscal deficit of 4.8 per cent for that year. It turns out that the fiscal deficit will be as

high as 5.9 per cent. The Finance Minister has committed our Government to work towards a reduction in the fiscal deficit to 5.1 per cent in the next year. It is very important that the Finance Minister succeeds in the control of fiscal deficit, in the control over the balance of payments deficit to a more reasonable level as it is essential for us to achieve our objectives of growth with reasonable price stability.

Since these matters will be debated at length during the debate on the Budget, I do not propose to spend more time in dealing with these issues. However, there are certain matters which I would like to refer to and one of these relates to the establishment of National Counter Terrorism Centre. While discussing issue relating to the National Counter Terrorism Centre, Shri Rajnath Singh Ji questioned the sincerity of our Government while dealing with problems of the terrorism.

Madam, dealing with terrorism and dealing effectively as well as the control of left wing extremism constitute two big challenges before our country and for all the growth objectives that we have, particularly, the developments of the Central Indian regions. The States of Chattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand are infested with left wing extremism. Control over the left wing extremism and control over terrorism are absolute necessities if we are to achieve our growth objectives.

Madam, let me assure the House that our Government is committed to providing fully secured living conditions to its citizens and it will take every possible step to deal with the menace of terrorism. In fact, setting up the NCTC is an important step in that direction. Concern has been raised that the Central Government is trying to encroach upon the jurisdiction of the State Government and it has been suggested that they should be taken into confidence before the National Counter Terrorism Centre becomes operational. The question of setting up of National Counter Terrorism Centre has been discussed at various fora since the report of the Group of Ministers appointed by the previous Government and the recommendations of the Second Administrative Reforms Commission were submitted. Multi-agency Centre that was established in 2001 was a precursor to the NCTC and the need for a single and effective point of consideration for coordination for counter terrorism has been discussed in meetings on internal security of Chief Ministers. As has been pointed out by some Members that a number of Chief Ministers have expressed their concern after the order was issued and I have replied to them that there will be consultations before the next steps are taken. The consultation was held on 12th March, 2012 with the Chief Secretaries and DGPs from different State Governments. The meeting of the Chief Ministers on Internal Security has been called which was originally scheduled for 15th February, 2012 but because of elections, it had to be postponed. It is now scheduled on 16th April, 2012. Therefore, adequate and full consultations will take place before the next steps are taken.

Madam, I think that the idea of NCTC and the manner in which the NCTC will function are two separate issues. The idea of NCTC, you have all agreed is unexceptional. And the manner in which the NCTC will function, there may be differences about tingle but I am confident that through discussions and dialogues, these differences could be narrowed down and a consensus can be arrived and that will be our sincere efforts.

Madam, another issue which was raised during the debate relates to the state of Sri Lankan Tamils. Some Members have raised concern regarding the situation in Sri Lanka. The Central Government fully shares the concerns and sentiments raised by hon. Members regarding the welfare of Sri Lankan Tamils. Since the end of conflict in Sri Lanka, our focus has been on the welfare and well being of the Tamil citizens of Sri Lanka. Their resettlement and rehabilitation has been of the highest and most immediate priority for our Government. The steps taken by the Central Government in this regard has been outlined in the suo motu statement made by the External Affairs Minister on 14th March, 2012. As a result of our constructive engagement with the Government of Sri Lanka and our considerable assistance programme, the modicum of normalcy is beginning to return to the Tamil areas in Sri Lanka. There has also been progress, given the withdrawal of emergency regulations by the Government of Sri Lanka and the conduct of elections to local bodies in the Northern provinces of Sri Lanka.

Members have also raised the issue of human rights violations during the protracted conflict in Sri Lanka and on the US initiated draft resolution on promoting reconciliation and accountability in Sri Lanka at the on-going 19th Session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva. The Government of India has emphasised to the Government of Sri Lanka the importance of a genuine process of reconciliation to address the grievances of the Tamil community. In this connection, we have called for implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Commission appointed by Sri Lankan Government that has been tabled before the Sri Lankan Parliament. These include various constructive measures of healing the wounds of the conflict and fostering the process of lasting peace and reconciliation in Sri Lanka.

We have asked the Government of Sri Lanka to stand by its commitment towards pursuit of a political process through a broader dialogue with all parties including the Tamil National Alliance leading to the full implementation of the 13th Amendment to the Sri Lankan Constitution so as to achieve meaningful devolution of power and genuine national reconciliation. We hope that the Government of Sri Lanka recognises the critical importance of this issue, act decisively and with vision in this regard. We will remain engaged with them

through this process and encourage them to take forward the dialogue with the elected representatives of Sri Lankan Tamils.

As regards the issue of a draft resolution initiated by the United States at the on-going 19th Session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, we do not yet have the final text of the Resolution. However, I may assure the House that we are inclined to vote in favour of a Resolution. That, we hope, will advance our objective, namely, the achievement of the future for the Tamil community in Sri Lanka that is marked by equality, dignity, justice and self-respect.

Madam, Shri Jaswant Singhji has raised the issue of Gorkhaland Darjeeling Hill Council. I wish to assure this House that we have worked with sincerity to find an amicable solution to this difficult problem. We recognise the contribution made by the Government of West Bengal in facilitating this outcome. Whatever issues are outstanding, the House has my assurance, we will work with the same constructive spirit to find a pragmatic, practical and viable solution.

Madam, I would not like to take more of the time of this House. I once again join all Members in thanking hon. President for her enlightened address which I hope we can adopt with acclamation.

Thank you.



Reply in the Rajya Sabha: March 20, 2012.

Honorable Chairman sir, I rise to join all honourable members of this august house in conveying our sincere thanks to the Honourable President for her enlightened address. The debate on the President's address has been very wide-ranging. I thank all the honourable members from all sides who have contributed to this debate.

Shri Venkaiah Naidu, speaking on behalf of the NDA, mentioned that the President's address does not lay out a roadmap. I do not agree with this finding of Shri Venkaiah Naidu, and I will draw his attention to Paragraph 10 of the President's address, and I quote:

My Government will work on five important challenges that our country faces today:

1. to strive for livelihood security for the vast majority of our population and continue to work for removal of poverty, hunger and illiteracy from our land;
2. to achieve economic security through rapid and broad based development and creation of productive jobs for our people;
3. to ensure energy security for our rapid growth;
4. to realize our developmental goals without jeopardizing our ecological and environmental security; and
5. to guarantee our internal and external security within the framework of a just, plural, secular and inclusive democracy.

Since the presentation of the budget 2012-13, the finance minister has elaborated in his budget speech on further challenges that our economy faces. The Economic Survey that has been presented to both houses of Parliament also deals with these issues, and therefore I will be very brief when it comes to dealing with the State of the Economy.

The President, in paragraph 9, mentions that the year 2012-13 will mark the first year of the 12th 5-year plan that sets the goal of faster, sustainable and more inclusive growth. The approach paper sets a target growth rate of 9% for the 12th Five year plan, with four percent for the agricultural sector. The President's address highlights the working of the existing programme as well as some new initiatives that the government proposes to take to bring about faster, sustainable and more inclusive growth.

At the outset I would like to mention that honourable members will recognize that all the economies of the world are in the midst of very uncertain times. The industrialized countries in the wake of the crisis of 2008-09 have registered

mainly a fragile recovery. In the year 2011, the growth rate of the industrialized countries was half the level that was achieved in 2010-11. We are all affected by this disturbing economic environment that faces us. There has been too much liquidity in the global economy. This has put pressure on commodity prices. Commodity prices of foodgrains, of petroleum products, of fertilizers in particular, have gone up. Therefore, there has been pressure on our Balance of Payments. There has also been pressure on prices. These are circumstances in which our economy has to chart out a path. I would be the last one to say that we do not face difficulties. We do face difficulties. It is my honest assessment that the difficulties that we face – a balance of payments deficit on the current account which is now as high as 3.6%, a deficit on the fiscal balance account of 5.9%, is something that we cannot tolerate, year after year. Therefore, I appeal to all the members of this august house to recognize the pitfalls, the dangers that lie ahead if we do not rise to the occasion, and help the government to undertake remedial measures in time.

Amidst uncertain environment, our own economic performance of about 7% growth, though slower than what we had hoped, must be regarded as commendable. Of course, we cannot view this as an acceptable outcome. We must strive to improve upon this next year, and return as quickly as possible to a higher growth path. And we must do this while also ensuring that we make progress in achieving our objectives of inclusive growth with reasonable price stability.

For this we need a broad-based national consensus covering all sections of political opinion represented in our Parliament. This is an occasion when we must eschew narrow partisan ends and stand united as a cohesive nation. We grew at 9% for the five years before 2008, and I do believe that we can get back to that kind of growth rate provided we can agree on a number of difficult decisions. If we succeed in that objective, we will ensure that India continues its rise as an economic power with the economic capability of reducing the age-old poverty from which we have suffered and filling the gaps, which are all too evident in critical areas such as health, education, skill-development, and provision of clean drinking water and sanitation.

We need to focus, in particular, on the developmental gaps affecting the weaker sections of our population such as Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, the Other Backward Classes, the Minorities and other disadvantaged groups. I would like to assure the Hon. Members that we will rise to the occasion.

The Twelfth Five-Year Plan, which will be presented to the National Development Council (NDC) sometime in the middle of the year, will lay out a credible plan of action for faster, sustainable and more inclusive growth. I do not propose to deal with the economic scene in greater detail. The Finance

Minister has discussed that in his budget speech. There will be a debate on the General Budget. That will be an occasion for the Hon. Members to express their views and for the overnment to reply to their concerns.

I wish to deal only with one or two issues. Once is the charge that the government is destroying the federal structure of our country. Sir, Nothing could be further from the truth. Let me assure the House that our government is committed as ever before, to uphold the constitutional imperatives in letter and spirit.

Terrorism and Left-wing extremism are two issues, which I believe would unite the nation to work out comprehensive coordinated strategy to work out the menace of terrorism and left-wing extremism. What happened in Orissa earlier this week, where two Italians were abducted by Left-wing extremists, is a grim reminder to all of us that our nation's security can be in danger if we are not careful or alert to tackle the anger of left-wing extremism or terrorism.

Our Government is committed to providing fully secured living conditions to its citizens and it will take every possible step to deal with the menace of terrorism. In fact, setting up the NCTC is an important step in that direction. Concern has been raised that the Central Government is trying to encroach upon the jurisdiction of the State Government and it has been suggested that they should be taken into confidence before the National Counter Terrorism Centre becomes operational. The question of setting up of National Counter Terrorism Centre has been discussed at various fora since the report of the Group of Ministers appointed by the previous Government and the recommendations of the Second Administrative Reforms Commission were submitted. Multi-agency Centre that was established in 2001 was a pre-cursor to the NCTC and the need for a single and effective point of coordination for counter terrorism has been discussed in meetings on internal security of Chief Ministers in the last couple of years. As has been pointed out by some Members that a number of Chief Ministers have expressed their concern after the order was issued and I have replied to them that there will be consultations before the next steps are taken. The consultation was held on 12th March, 2012 with the Chief Secretaries and DGPs from different State Governments. The meeting of the Chief Ministers on Internal Security has been called which was originally scheduled for 15th February, 2012 but because of elections, it had to be postponed. It is now scheduled on 16th April, 2012. Therefore, adequate and full consultations will take place before the next steps are taken to operationalize the National Counter-Terrorism Centre. I think that the idea of NCTC and the manner in which the NCTC will function are two separate issues. The idea of NCTC, you have all agreed is unexceptionable. And the manner in which the NCTC will function, there may be differences of opinion but I am confident that

through discussions and dialogues, these differences could be narrowed down and a broad-based consensus can be arrived. That will be our sincere effort and this House has the assurance that nothing will be done which will in any way impinge on the federal imperative of our Constitution.

Some other members brought up the question of the problems of Sri Lankan Tamils, and I will therefore devote a few minutes in describing our job of dealing with the problem of the Sri Lankan Tamil community. Some Members have raised concern regarding the situation in Sri Lanka. The Central Government fully shares the concerns and sentiments raised by hon. Members regarding the welfare of Sri Lankan Tamils. Since the end of conflict in Sri Lanka, our focus has been on the welfare and well being of the Tamil citizens of Sri Lanka. Their resettlement and rehabilitation have been of the highest and most important priority for our Government. The steps taken by the Central Government in this regard has been outlined in the suo-motu statement made by the External Affairs Minister on 14th March, 2012. As a result of our constructive engagement with the Government of Sri Lanka and our considerable assistance programme, a modicum of normalcy is beginning to return to the Tamil areas in Sri Lanka. There has also been progress, given the withdrawal of emergency regulations by the Government of Sri Lanka and the conduct of elections to local bodies in the Northern provinces of Sri Lanka. Members have also raised the issue of human rights violations during the protracted conflict in Sri Lanka and on the US initiated draft resolution on promoting reconciliation and accountability in Sri Lanka at the on-going 19th Session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva. The Government of India has emphasized to the Government of Sri Lanka the importance of a genuine process of reconciliation to address the grievances of the Tamil community. In this connection, we have called for implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Commission appointed by Sri Lankan Government that has been tabled before the Sri Lankan Parliament. These include various constructive measures of healing the wounds of the conflict and fostering the process of lasting peace and reconciliation in Sri Lanka.

We have asked the Government of Sri Lanka to stand by its commitment towards pursuit of a political process through a broader dialogue with all parties including the Tamil National Alliance leading to the full implementation of the 13th Amendment to the Sri Lankan Constitution so as to achieve meaningful devolution of power and genuine national reconciliation. We hope that the Government of Sri Lanka recognises the critical importance of this issue, act decisively and with vision in this regard. We will remain engaged with them through this process and encourage them to take forward the dialogue with the elected representatives of Sri Lankan Tamils.

As regards the issue of a draft resolution initiated by the United States at the on-going 19th Session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, we do not yet have the final text of the Resolution. However, I may assure the House that we are inclined to vote in favour of a Resolution. That, we hope, will advance our objective, namely, the achievement of the future for the Tamil community in Sri Lanka that is marked by equality, dignity, justice and self-respect.

There are a number of other issues which have been raised. Several members have expressed concern about the state of our education. Concerns have been expressed about the suicide of farmers. Let me say that I share these concerns. It has been the effort of our government to revitalize, to put more vigour into the development processes for agriculture in the last seven and a half years that we have been in office. Already there are indications that the growth in our agriculture production has gone up to about 3 to 3 and a half percent in the eleventh five-year plan, as against less than 2 percent in the preceding five years. But I am not saying that we are satisfied. We will work with all the vigour that we are capable of, in imparting a new momentum of dynamism to our agriculture, and that is a commitment that we have undertaken, we will discharge our responsibilities in that direction.

Concerns have been addressed about various other matters, like black money. The finance minister, in his budget speech, has explained the government's approach, how we propose to deal with the menace of black money. He has also promised the House that the government will come forward with a white paper. I therefore hope that there will be ample opportunity in the rest of the session to deal with these issues. Therefore I will not take more time of the House. I join all the members in conveying our grateful regards and thanks to the Hon President and I sincerely hope that we will pass the motion of thanks with acclamation.



009. Address of Prime Minister at the Inaugural Function of the 7th Asia Gas Partnership Summit.

New Delhi, March 23, 2012.

"I am truly happy to participate in this inaugural function of the 7th Asia Gas Partnership Summit 2012. I compliment the Gas Authority of India Limited and FICCI for taking the initiative to organize this very important conference.

The use of natural gas offers greater supply security through diversification of the energy basket and also helps in promoting sustainable economic growth and development. Compared to other hydrocarbons, the use of gas is not only price-competitive but also environmentally benign for a number of user-industries. Gas is an efficient fuel for power generation, a better feedstock for fertilizer production and a cleaner alternative for vehicular transport.

The emerging economies of Asia are rapidly increasing their use of natural gas. As an illustration, in the last five years, natural gas consumption in India and China has witnessed compound annual growth rates of 14% and 18%, respectively. The remarkable growth in the use of gas in the Asian economies underscores the greater role that this region is poised to play in the future development of gas markets in the world.

The Asia-Pacific region, particularly Australia and the Middle-East, has already emerged as a principal source of gas supply. The Asian region, led by China and India, is also emerging as a major destination for that supply. Asia Pacific accounts for about 60% of world's total LNG imports. Therefore, there is a natural synergy in promoting greater flow of trade, investment, skills and services, across the gas-value-chain within the Asian region. Indeed we should move beyond the conventional buyer-seller relationships to more a comprehensive gas and energy partnership in this vast region.

Such partnerships can benefit the gas-endowed countries in the region from capital investments in their gas fields and also from the associated long-term purchase agreements. Simultaneously the fast-growing emerging markets in the region can gain in terms of securing reliable supplies of gas at affordable prices.

The large and growing markets in Asia also provide an opportunity for collaboration through joint research and technology development for the supply of clean and cheaper energy to the people.

Expanding the use of natural gas in India is one of the most important and immediate ways of responding to the challenges of energy security and the management of climate change. The Government of India had launched the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) way back in the year 1997-98. The

policy has resulted in investments of over US\$14bn and discovery of 87 oil and gas blocks, with three blocks in production. The 9th round of NELP has just been completed covering a sedimentary area of about 88,000 sq km, which saw participation by 37 companies including eight foreign ones.

The opening up of the oil and gas sector to private industry participation has resulted in higher domestic gas availability and has also led to growing participation by multinational corporations.

To cater to the large demand for gas, India has accelerated investment in creation of LNG re-gasification facilities. With new re-gasification LNG terminals coming up at Kochi and Dabhol, the country's current import capacity of 14 million tonnes a year is set to increase to 20 million tonnes a year by 2012-13.

We have also launched an ambitious pipeline development programme. I understand that the Gas Authority of India alone will expand its pipeline length from the existing 9000 Km to around 14,500 km by 2014. Private operators are also expected to add another 5,000 km in the same period. The target is to have a country-wide gas grid of about 30,000 km by the end of the 12th Five-Year Plan in 2017.

The 2000 km long Dahej-Vijaipur-Bawana-Nangal/Bhatinda pipeline of GAIL has been completed recently. I have great pleasure, I have the privilege of dedicating it to the nation today. I understand that it has the potential to be extended up to the border with Pakistan. I am happy therefore, to dedicate this pipeline to the nation today.

We are pursuing the development of sources of unconventional gas such as Shale gas and Coal Bed Methane. The mapping of India's shale gas resources has been undertaken and we are working to put in place a regulatory regime for licensing rounds by the end of 2013. We are also harnessing coal bed methane for which four licensing rounds have been held and commercial production has commenced at Raniganj in West Bengal. As India has one of the world's largest coal reserves, we wish to work with international companies having the requisite experience and expertise for exploitation of coal seam gas.

The Government has initiated gas pricing policy reforms to incentivize production of natural gas. We are conscious that remunerative energy prices are needed to ensure expanded energy supply. At the same time oil and gas are national resources and, therefore, should be within the framework of government and regulatory oversight. The economic exploitation of these resources should lead, therefore, to win-win solutions for both the investors as well as the people of India at large.

Let me take this opportunity to reaffirm that our government is committed to

taking all possible steps to find viable solutions to meet the concerns of the gas industry. We are committed to ensuring the predictability and transparency of our policy and regulatory environment. While governmental support can greatly help in developing useful partnerships in the gas and oil sector, I expect the industry to also come forward with innovative ways and means to create a better and sustainable energy future for the Asian region.

With these words, let me end by wishing this summit all success. Thank you.”



010. Inaugural Speech by External Affairs Minister at the formal launch of Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs) in Kerala.

Kochi (Kerala), April 2, 2012.

Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Oommen Chandy ji

Hon'ble Ministers of State Shri E. Ahamed ji, Shri K.V. Thomas ji

and Shri K.C. Venugopal ji

Hon'ble Ministers, Members of Parliament, Members of Legislative Assembly,

Additional Secretary Shri B.K. Gupta,

Joint Secretary (PSP) and Chief Passport Officer Shri Muktesh Pardeshi,

Passport Officers from Kerala,

Friends from Media, and

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am extremely pleased to be present in this beautiful city of Kochi on the occasion of the formal launch of 13 Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs) in the State of Kerala. Today, we cross yet another milestone of operationalizing 70 PSKs, out of a total 77, in fourteen States under the Passport Seva Project which is part of National e-Governance Plan.

I would like to reiterate on this occasion the firm commitment of the Government of India to provide timely delivery of passport services to our fellow citizens. The setting up of PSKs is a first step in this direction. More reforms are indeed needed and many reforms are underway to further ensure citizen-centric role of Passport Offices and also to facilitate speedier service, greater convenience and comfort to the public at large.

We are witnessing rapid transformation in the nature of engagement of our people with the rest of the world. India's rising international profile and its growing integration with the global economy and with more disposable incomes, more Indians are traveling abroad than ever before. The travel of Indians abroad for the purposes of education, tourism, pilgrimage as well as for social purposes is also growing rapidly. The number of passport applications at the national level has trebled since 2000.

I am conscious of the need to further streamline service delivery systems in Passport Offices particularly with the ever increasing pace of demand for such

services. Sustained attempts are underway to streamline passport issuance procedures, computerization of passport offices, decentralization of passport applications collection and reforms in the Central Passport Organization.

The people of Kerala have had historical contacts with the Gulf and have been more globalised than our other compatriots since the early days. In response to the fast growing demand for passports in this State, four Passport Offices have been set up in Kerala, with the first one in Kochi as early as in 1975, and the fourth one in Malappuram in 2006. A total of 7.46 lakh passports were issued in Kerala last year, which represents an increase of 21% since 2006. In addition, 90 thousand miscellaneous services were also rendered last year. It is indeed heartening to note that over 5.5 million Indians working in the Gulf, largely from the State of Kerala, is a standing testimony to the enormous contribution made by the people from the State of Kerala. It is indeed an unfolding drama of excitement and drama of confidence exhibited by the people from Kerala. The biggest contribution to India's Foreign Exchange reserves comes from people from Kerala who are living abroad. I wish to acknowledge on behalf of the Government of India, that this contribution is indeed an important one and also speaks about their direct contribution to the economic development of the country.

I am aware that Kerala Government has also launched a number of citizen-centric e-governance projects such as Akshaya, e-grantz, LOG.IN KERALA, SAGE and SAMEEKSHA for making technology and e-government services accessible to common man.

There is considerable progress in the implementation of this high impact Passport Seva Project of the Government of India. In a short time, we moved from Pilot Project mode in May 2010 in Bengaluru to the commencement of nation-wide rollout of Passport Seva Kendras in June last year. I would like to acknowledge the contribution of the service provider Tata Consultancy Services, in speedy implementation of the Project. I also wish to convey thank Shri Ratan Tata for his personal commitment in ensuring deployment of sufficient resources for timely implementation of Passport Seva Kendras.

We are looking at the next steps in our endeavour to further improve passport services in the country. Apart from adding 77 PSKs, the Ministry is working on setting up 16 Mini PSKs in North Eastern States and other parts. The Ministry is also working on other related issues such as integration of Indian Embassies and Consulates abroad with the Passport Seva Project. The Project provides for integration with other e-Governance initiatives of the Government such as CCTNS (Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems), IVFRT (Immigration, Visa and Foreigners' Registration & Tracking) and e-Migrate, which will be useful for sharing of required information.

I would place on record our appreciation to the Passport Officers and the officials of the Central Passport Organisation for their diligence and dedication in helping to realize the vision of passport services closer home. I am also confident that with increased coordination between the Passport Offices and the local police authorities, requisite police clearances would be obtained speedily to minimize pendency in issuance of passports. I also wish to compliment the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala for announcing the initiative to organize meetings of the Chief Secretary and Home Secretary, along with relevant senior officials from the Police Department, with the passport officers in the State of Kerala to address bottlenecks in speedy issuance of police clearances. I am confident that this measure would further result in reducing pendency in issuance of passports.

I would like to felicitate the people of Kerala on this momentous occasion of launch of 13 PSKs. I would also like to express my deep gratitude to the Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Oommen Chandy for the whole-hearted support that we received from the Government and people of Kerala in the timely execution of this prestigious Project.

I have also taken note of the suggestions from Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala for opening 5 mini-PSKs at Pattanamthitta, Palakkadu, Kasargode, Idikki and Wyanadu. We will certainly look into this request from Hon'ble CM.

Thank you.



011. Press Release of the Ministry of External Affairs regarding its documentaries being screened on Air India flights.

New Delhi, April 12, 2012..

Over the last three decades, the Ministry of External Affairs has worked with independent film makers to produce a broad range of documentary films. These films are aimed at creating a better understanding of India amongst global audiences. They have been acclaimed for providing a wide angled and in-depth view of India by focusing on our rich cultural and civilizational values, our democratic and pluralistic society, our secular aspirations, our vibrant economy and on the innovativeness and enterprise of Indians. Our diplomatic missions around the world have used these documentaries over the years as an important tool of public diplomacy.

2. The Ministry has taken a number of initiatives to create new audiences for these documentaries. Some recent films have been screened on international TV outlets like Discovery and The History Channel. Shorter versions of the films have also been uploaded on the YouTube channel of the Ministry (www.youtube.com/indiandiplomacy) under a Creative Commons License and these have already received over 235,000 views. They are also available in DVD format through Magic Lantern Movies (mlf.core@gmail.com) and are being used as audio-visual training material by some foreign universities running India studies programmes.

3. As part of this process, MEA has now tied up with Air India to make its films available on the airline's in-flight entertainment system. Air India have made an initial selection of 24 of MEA's films and these are reflected in their In-flight magazine of April 2012. This programme is expected to grow significantly over the coming months.



012. Speech by Foreign Secretary on Building Global Security at the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies (IPCS) – Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS).

New Delhi, April 16, 2012.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. I would like to thank the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung and the Institute Of Peace and Conflict Studies for the opportunity to address this distinguished gathering in New Delhi. This event brings together two well known and reputed think tanks from India and Germany. The Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies (IPCS) has been making a valuable contribution through its research on nuclear issues, disarmament, non-proliferation, and other related subjects ever since it was set up in 1996. The Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung provides a platform for study of peace and security in the world. Through its very name KAS reminds us of the great achievements of this Chancellor of West Germany from 1949 to 1963, “Der Alte”, as he came to be known, led Germany through a period of transformation at the end of which it emerged not just as an industrial giant but as a democracy, with stability, the respect of the international community and a growing impact on world affairs as the axis of a new Europe. When he started Germany was not only divided between the East and West but with occupation zones – within the Western Zone. Here it was said jokingly that “US got the scenery, France got the wine and British got the ruins” When Der Alte finished Germany had got the scenery and wine back, while the British were pondering the ruins of staying out of the ECM.

2. This collaboration gains significance, as India and Germany are celebrating the 60th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations in 2011-2012. India and Germany have had an instinctive feeling of respect for each other – through ties of culture, trade & technology and travels and diplomacy. Just think of Max Mueller. (Or as Mr. Chandran told us we should remember also Wassmuss and others who rattled the railings of the British Empire.) After the Second World War, India was among the first nations to recognize the newly formed state of Germany. Diplomatic relations were established with Germany as early as in 1951, but the Cold war politics pervading the globe, complicated the growth of relations between the two countries. Nonetheless, the two countries signed the Indo-German Development Co-operation Agreement some fifty years back, and the Indo-German Chamber of Commerce which remains a successful model, added to the pace for Indo-German industrial co-operation.

The scenario changed more rapidly as the 1991 economic reforms undertaken

by India coincided with the unification of Germany and the emergence of the European Union. This has helped to deepen and expand our relations with newer possibilities of interaction through political and strategic consultations and in the spheres of long term investments, bilateral trade and technical and scientific co-operation. The Agenda for German-Indian Partnership in the 21st Century was adopted by the Foreign Ministers of the two countries in May 2000. India and Germany entered the phase of strategic partnership in 2001. Germany has become India's largest trading partner in Europe and the 5th biggest trading partner in the world with \$ 18.37 billion in trade (though this level is below the potential). It also stands as India's second largest technology partner. You have heard about Germany's constructive role in helping India move towards participation in the NSG and our move away from technology denial.

3. The current range of issues in Indo-German dialogue reflects in a sense the theme given to me today – Building Global Security. We are members together in the G-20 and look to German leadership in resolving the Eurozone crisis. We are in the G-4 as aspirants for UNSC permanent membership, we speak about terrorism and piracy, we plan together to facilitate investments, development of hi-tech, energy efficiency, environmental sustainability and so on. There is great pragmatism in the theme chosen by Germany for the year of German celebration viz. "Urban Spaces", which is particularly relevant for a rapidly urbanising India. We will respond with a mix of cultural and technological presentations in the "Days of India" which will be formally launched in Hamburg where India has been chosen as the Partner Country for the 823rd birthday celebrations of Hamburg Port. Successful transfer of German skills for Industrial Training Institutes would enhance our relations and I believe add to not only our economy but to our security.

Global Security

4. What do we mean by Security? As a concept security implies freedom from apprehension, anxiety, or care. It leads to confidence of safety and hence, assurance and certainty. Security is the much-valued product of freedom. These are all psychological states of mind. For the diplomatic practitioner, this is too wide-ranging a definition. The NSA in a recent speech suggested a more concise way of handling the definition of security. I quote:

Quote

"From a Practitioner's point of view I find it better to distinguish between security issues amenable to the application of hard power, those less so, and those which are not. Along this continuum, non-traditional security challenges would be those that require the mixed application of hard and soft power, where solutions are not so clear as victory and defeat, and where problems mutate

into more benign forms. They would also include those which do not respond to the application of hard power, such as food security.

Another similar and largely overlapping way of looking at the problem is to distinguish between zero-sum challenges are those like terrorist threats, espionage and other state-security threats, and traditional military threats. These respond to the application of hard power. Non-zero sum challenges are those like energy, water, maritime security and others. And there are those which overlap both categories, like cyber threats, space and nuclear threats. These are domains where the combination of intent and capability mean that the nature and definition of the threat is necessarily subjective, and perception management becomes an extremely important part of both the challenge and the response.”

Terrorism

5. Let me now start with terrorism, which in our age has become a primary concern of civilized societies. Terrorism is often used not just to impose a political agenda but to force unacceptably backward codes of life and governance on democratic societies. It invariably translates into meaningless and horrific incidents of violence. The 2008 Mumbai attacks were symbolic, striking at everything India has been able to achieve – economic success, openness to the world, freedoms, conventional defence capabilities and pluralism in society. The targets were carefully chosen. Fortunately despite killing 164 people and wounding at least 308, the terrorists could not blow India off its path or diminish our international exposure. Recently, the United States has announced \$10 million for information leading to arrest of Hafiz Mohammad Sayeed and Abdul Rahman Makki under the Rewards for Justice Programme. We welcomed the notification as it sends a strong signal to LeT and its patrons that the international community remains united in combating terrorism.

6. Building Global Security requires the international community to come together and forcefully combat the use of terror as state policy by countries as well as root out safe havens for terrorists. This requires action at the global level through a CCIT and through multilateral cooperation in every region affected by terror. There must be concerted action by security forces, and political consensus that terrorism as a means is not justified by any ends. Improved governance is a common goal of all of us but ending terrorism has to take priority in operational terms.

7. Afghanistan is currently in the process of transition and transformation in a region which is the epicenter of world terrorism. Virtually all dangerous acts of terrorism in the world recently, can be traced back to the Af-Pak region.

Any perception of lack of will on the part of the international community to deal firmly with terrorist groups will risk Afghanistan sliding back to being a safe haven for terrorist and extremist groups that threaten the region and beyond. During his visit to Afghanistan in May 2011, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh announced additional assistance of US \$ 500 million, over and above the existing commitments of US \$ 1.5 billion. India's assistance programme is spread across Afghanistan and spans almost the entire gamut of economic and social developmental activities from schools and hospitals to trade, power lines and hydro-electric projects. Construction of Afghanistan's new Parliament building, a symbol of the common commitment of both countries to pluralism and democracy, is also progressing.

8. We believe the international community must remain engaged with Afghanistan in the decade ahead. External Affairs Minister, Shri S.M. Krishna led our delegations to the two International conferences organized on Afghanistan in Istanbul and Bonn in November and December, 2011 respectively. These conferences were aimed at generating international and regional consensus for long term engagement of the international community - and the region - with Afghanistan, in the backdrop of the announcement of withdrawal of NATO forces from a combat role in Afghanistan by the end of 2014. While the "transition dividend" did not emerge clearly in these conferences, there will be further opportunities in Kabul and Tokyo to ensure continued support for modernization and stability in Afghanistan. We recognize that regional economic cooperation involving all the countries of the area also has a role to play. But we expect that Germany and EU as a whole will remember that there can be no compromise with terrorism and its sponsors. We need to be clear where the danger is emanating from and what we can do about it. Otherwise as Adenauer said, "the one sure way to conciliate a tiger is to allow oneself to be devoured."

9. The AfPak region is faced with problems not only of conventional terrorism but also the danger of proliferation and nuclear security. So let me take Nuclear Security as a second item. On 26-27 March 2012, 53 countries and four international organizations, namely the UN, IAEA, EU and NATO, attended the Second Nuclear Security Summit at Seoul, South Korea. The Summit focused on one of the foremost challenges of our times; the danger of nuclear explosives, materials and technology falling into the hands of terrorists. The Final Communiqué of the Summit listed nuclear terrorism as one of the most challenging threats to international security. Prime Minister of India attended the Summit in Seoul, as he did in Washington D.C. in 2010. During the Seoul Summit, Prime Minister emphasized that nuclear terrorism and clandestine proliferation continue to pose serious threat to international security. He announced a contribution of \$ 1 million for IAEA's Nuclear Security Fund.

Clandestine Nuclear proliferation is one of the gravest threats to global security as it enables this greatly destructive technology to fall into the hands of irresponsible actors. India shares and supports the non-proliferation objectives of the international community. We have an impeccable non-proliferation record and have in place a stringent export control system in line with the highest international standards.

10. The more fundamental problem is the one which deals with the issue of nuclear weapons themselves. India has also been steadfast in its support for the goal of universal, non-discriminatory and verifiable elimination of nuclear weapons, leading to global disarmament in a time-bound framework. The then Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi had put forward the Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan of 1988 which offers a comprehensive plan to take this process forward. In a 2006 working paper on nuclear disarmament in the UN General Assembly, India made specific proposals towards achieving this goal, including negotiating a Nuclear Weapon Convention. We believe the goal of nuclear disarmament can be achieved by a step-by-step process underwritten by a universal commitment and an agreed multilateral framework that is global and non-discriminatory. The issues in Iran and DPRK need to be seen in this context as well as in the framework of tackling proliferation. These are major subjects which would require a separate address. Suffice it for me to say today that we support the P5 + 1 dialogue with Iran and the Six-party engagement with DPRK. We feel there is a vital need to find diplomatic solutions conforming with relevant UN resolutions with the overriding need for these countries to keep to commitments taken on by them themselves in the past.

Security on the Seas

11. Piracy on the high seas is as old as the history of seafaring itself. Piracy is a resurgent threat which has come to the fore in recent times. Concerns over maritime security have been not only centered around piracy in the Gulf of Aden, but also in the Malacca Straits and the Mozambique Channel. Somali pirates, by far the greatest global piracy threat, have increasingly pushed farther off the Somali coast. They have moved deeper into the Indian Ocean.

12. Today's pirates are not swashbuckling raiders of the past but trained fighters aboard speedboats, equipped with satellite phones and global positioning systems, armed with automatic weapons and rocket propelled grenades. According to the International Maritime Organisation almost 90% of world trade is transported by sea. The continuing threat of piracy raises the cost of trade directly and indirectly. Examples of direct effects are robbery and ransom payments, losses of ships and cargo and additional pay for crews. Indirect effects are the security costs incurred in the fight against piracy and higher insurance premiums in the dangerous areas. The cost of trade is further

pushed up by the need to take longer alternative routes to avoid pirate infested sea-lanes and the need for convoys and naval protection. The threat posed by piracy attacks to maritime traffic and seafarers continues to be a major problem. As a result of these challenges, many ships have begun to hire armed guards as a deterrent for would-be attackers. However, there is not yet a process or an internationally accepted regulatory framework for regulating these guards, creating legal complications. Presently, there are around 27 Indian seafarers in the captivity of pirates. Their well-being and early release is a priority for our government.

The numbers are not surprising as one out of every 10-12 merchant mariners, on any ship, is an Indian, irrespective of the flag of the ship. Some countries believe the problem is limited to Somalia and the waters nearby and insurance companies don't seem to be complaining. As Adenauer said *wir leben alle unter – dem gleichen Himmel aber wir haben nicht alle den gleichen Horizont* (We all live under the same sky but do not have the same horizon or perspective). But the seas are open and everybody is getting affected; recent incidents have highlighted the need for international cooperation to evolve a common strategy to combat the global scourge of piracy at sea. The international community has of course taken a number of steps to tackle piracy since Somali pirates emerged as a threat to international maritime security four years ago. In 2008, the UN Security Council passed a series of measures targeting Somali piracy, culminating in the unanimous approval of US-led Resolution 1851. The move authorized states with navies deployed in the Gulf of Aden to take action against pirates and armed robbers within Somalia. India has committed its full support to international anti-piracy efforts. Our Navy has been conducting anti-piracy patrols in the Gulf of Aden since October 2008. Our naval ships provide security escorts to both Indian and foreign flagged ships. We participate actively in the anti-piracy efforts of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia. We believe that a more robust strategy is required to effectively deal with the problem of piracy. Such a strategy should involve an UN-led anti-piracy force to conduct naval operations. This would help in greater coordination of anti-piracy operations by various naval forces. The shipping industry and national governments must coordinate their response better to combat this resurgent threat of sea piracy.

Reform of UN Security Council

13. International security is a function of the measures taken by nations and international organizations, such as the United Nations, to put in place systems which ensure respect for concerns of countries and lead to mutual survival and safety. These measures include military action and diplomatic agreements such as treaties and conventions. International and national securities are

invariably linked. International security is national security or state security in the global arena. In the UN, the Security Council enjoys the unique position among the principal organs of the UN, as it is devoted to the objective maintaining and preserving global peace and security. It is also bestowed with the unique authority to undertake actions under Chapter VII of the UN Charter with respect to threats to the peace, breaches of the peace, and acts of aggression to maintain and restore international peace and security. However, the Security Council has hardly changed since the establishment of the UN in 1945 though the membership of the UN has grown from original 51 members in 1945 to 194 in 2011. Its non-representative character and somewhat opaque working methods have been criticized by the wider membership of the UN. The efforts for the Security Council reform have, however, been thwarted by the lack of consensus which has been thwarted by the veto powers enjoyed by the Permanent Five members over the UNSC reform process and the high procedural bar for reform involving Charter amendments and their subsequent ratification.

14. India is seeking an expansion in both the permanent and non-permanent membership of the Council and permanent membership of an expanded Security Council. It has also called for an improvement in the working methods. India in collaboration with Brazil, Japan and Germany (together known as the G-4) has proposed expansion of the membership of the United Nations Security Council from fifteen to twenty-five by adding six permanent and four non-permanent members.

15. India's claim for permanent membership is based not only on its strong credentials and factors, such as its population, size, GDP, economic potential, civilizational legacy, political system but also contribution to the activities of the UN and its profound conviction that a more representative Council can genuinely contribute to global security.

G-20 and Reform of International Financial Institutions

16. The financial crisis of 2008 which has grown into a global economic crisis clearly impacted on global security – through decreased confidence and a boost to protectionist instincts. The G-20 has thus evolved into an institutional mechanism which can contribute to global security. We believe that the G-20 needs to retain its focus on economic issues and conditions for ushering economic growth worldwide. While the Eurozone difficulties need attention, in the long term it is the recovery of growth worldwide and the reform of international financial institutions that can contribute to a global architecture of governance which enhances security. The creators of the Bretton Woods multilateral system had designed an international economic architecture to deal with the causes of the global financial breakdown in the 1930s and with

the economic and security problems they thought would follow World War II. The policy prescriptions of the IMF, be it the Structural Adjustment Programme or the so called "Washington Consensus" as coined by the economist John Williamson in 1989, with the focus, amongst others, on Fiscal policy discipline, Tax reform, Trade liberalization, and aggressive Deregulation often ended up exacerbating the situation in the affected borrowing countries. Many of the painful financial crises in Africa, Latin America, East Asia, Russia, and Turkey have been attributed to the above measures. It has been argued that a greater voice to the developing world in International Financial Institutions would have allowed for modulating policies, which would have been in consonance with the requirements of developing countries. Reform of the Bretton Woods Institutions, by enhancing the voice and participation of the developing world in these International Financial Institutions would, we believe, make an important contribution in building Global Security.

India's role and collaboration with other developing countries.

17. India stood shoulder to shoulder with the developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America as they fought for political freedom from colonial yoke. Once this fundamental freedom was attained, India shifted focus aiding fellow countries in their social development and capacity building, even within the constraints of India itself being a developing country. Towards this end, the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme was instituted by a decision of the Indian Cabinet on 15 September 1964 as a bilateral programme of assistance of the Government of India.

Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, who also served as the External Affairs Minister, was the main architect of the ITEC programme though it actually came into being after his lifetime. After their independence, the most important task facing the developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America was the promotion of social and economic advancement of their people which had been retarded and in most cases reversed during the years of colonial rule. Skilled manpower and experts, financial resources and transfer of technology were the bottlenecks to be overcome. To meet the challenges of socio-economic development, cooperative efforts of the developing countries were as important as assistance from developed countries and international organizations. India has made substantial progress and gained useful experience in industrial and technological development after it regained its freedom in 1947. It has extended assistance for infrastructure, industrial, agricultural and capacity building, programmes in other developing countries particularly in South Asia. These projects along with the wider ITEC schemes are an earnest attempt by India to share the fruits of its socio-economic development and technological achievement with other developing countries.

It is about cooperation and partnership for mutual benefit. We hope that such cooperation between countries will go a long way in promoting prosperity and enhancing security in the developing world. We are now seeking to improve the quality of India's assistance program by creating a separate agency within MEA to give specialized attention to the task.

A word about Africa and our development partnerships there

18. With growing economic dynamism in India, India's efforts have concentrated on enhancing economic development as the best antidote to poverty which is an issue connected to global security. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, visited Ethiopia in May 2011 to participate in the Second Africa-India Forum Summit at Addis Ababa – Ethiopia, the seat of the African Union. The Addis Ababa Declaration and the Framework for Enhanced Cooperation, adopted in 2011, bring out clearly the striking convergence of views between India and Africa, not only on bilateral matters, but also on issues such as UN reforms, Africa's place in world affairs, climate change, and countering of terrorism. It may be recalled that in April 2008, our Prime Minister hosted the first historic India Africa Forum Summit, in Delhi that heralded the commencement of institutionalized interaction with Africa, injecting new momentum into an old relationship. The political will and commitment to build ties afresh with Africa have thus been on display in abundance. I believe that the collaboration between India and countries in Africa will have a salubrious role in enhancing stability in both the regions and contribute to mutual security.

19. India also draws upon its being the largest democracy in the world with a tradition of respect for rule of law, and its own experience in nation building to assist the UN in the maintenance of international peace and security in many of these countries. India has contributed nearly 100,000 troops, the largest number from any country, participated in more than 40 missions and more than a hundred Indian peacekeepers have made the supreme sacrifice while serving in UN missions. India has also provided and continues to provide eminent Force Commanders for UN Missions. This is not just a contribution to the UN but draws policy drive from a general commitment to what is today called "the Global Commons". Building rule based international systems, with improved international monitoring and control can contribute to building global security. In the same way our Election Commission is gearing up to help with capacity building for election management in newly emerging democracies.

20. It is a fact of life that even in a world in which the UN has a greater role, the individual weight of nations will create polarities in the world order. It is our assessment that multipolarity would enhance global security. In the past we had non-alignment which started out as an attempt to preserve strategic autonomy but became an alternative center of activity in a bipolar world. Today,

even as we speak of NAM 2.0, we are party to groups like BRICS which enhance multi-polarity. The original economic rationale put forward by Goldman Sachs in 2001 when they coined the term BRIC was the potential of these four countries to be drivers of global growth. However, the impact on global security due to the economic growth of the BRICS cannot be underestimated. The Fourth BRICS Summit was held recently in New Delhi on 29 March 2012. The Delhi Summit, which was the Fourth in the series so far, took place under the broad rubric of 'BRICS Partnership for Global Stability, Security and Prosperity'. What the five BRICS nations have in common is a focus on eradicating poverty, securing food and energy supplies, developing infrastructure and gaining new technologies. The BRICS countries seek political dialogue towards a more democratic multi-polar order, in a world that is undergoing major and swift changes that highlight the need for corresponding transformations in global governance. The BRICS are brought together by their shared capacity and will to engage with each other as well as with the rest of the world in the global quest for meaningful, sustainable solutions to contemporary challenges of regional as well as global ramifications.

21. In another setting, India, Brazil and South Africa as democratic nations have created IBSA. The relative importance of these groupings may increase over time and it is unlikely they will remain exclusive.

Conclusion

22. Security remains an important prerequisite for supporting the freedom of our societies and in providing a just and equitable system for our people. I have looked at security through the prism of power but it cannot be so limited. While noting the caveats in NSA's description, security cannot finally be seen in a narrow sense. Instead it should be embraced in the broadest possible way to include access to food, managing and arresting climate change, arresting the degradation of environment, and the need for the respect of harmony between human beings and the natural world. These are themes for another larger address; but it seems clear that a balance and harmonious existence between the two would go a long way in enhancing global security in our time and the ages to follow.



013. Press Release of the Ministry of Defence on the Address by the Defence Minister at the Commanders' Conference.

New Delhi, April 16, 2012.

Describing the situation in the Af-Pak region as a 'continuing cause of concern', the Defence Minister Shri AK Antony today called upon the top brass of the Indian Army to be vigilant and take all appropriate steps keeping in view the developments in Afghanistan in the last couple of days. Addressing the Army Commanders' Conference here, Shri Antony said, India remains steadfast in its commitment to provide support and assistance to Afghanistan so that it evolves into a stable country, strengthened by pluralism and free from external interference. He called upon the Defence Forces and all other Security Agencies to remain prepared to tackle the entire range of security challenges. "Balancing the imperatives of engaging globally with other powers and maintaining autonomy in decision-making, is one of the most important challenges of our times," he said.

Referring to sharp increase in the defence spending by China for the modernization of its Armed Forces, Shri Antony said on our part we will continue to bolster our infrastructure and strengthen our capabilities along the border areas.

"However, our efforts are focused on safeguarding our security interests and not dictated by what other nations are doing. Several of the proposals of the Army are under implementation. Some others are expected to be cleared in the days ahead. We will provide all the support to modernize and enhance our defence capabilities to successfully meet any challenge," he said.

Describing the situation in Jammu and Kashmir as stable, Shri Antony said, this is a direct consequence of the untiring efforts of the security forces. He, however, said the peace process is extremely fragile and the Armed Forces need to operate with maximum restraint and control without dropping their guard.

Turning to modernization of the Armed Forces, Shri Antony said the Government's endeavour has been to provide the desired impetus to modernization in a systematic manner. He assured that the Government will continue to improve and fine-tune procedures whenever and wherever necessary, to ensure that the Army meets its modernization goals in an acceptable timeframe. Shri Antony observed that the acquisition of critical technologies from foreign countries will no doubt get subjected to various technology denial regimes and post-procurement dependencies. There is

clearly an urgent need, he said, to achieve self-reliance in the field of critical defence equipment.

“This can be made possible only with the continuous cooperation of the Armed Forces, the scientists and other participants in the Defence Industry,” he said.

Shri Antony also called for strengthening further the Jointness in various operational, training and administrative facets among the three Services and the Ministry of Defence.

“The various security challenges before our Armed Forces require a concerted effort by all the wings of our Armed Forces. No single service can achieve the national goals all by itself,” he said.

The Defence Minister also ‘strongly urged’ the Army Commanders to adhere to the highest standards of personal behaviour and professional probity in their day-to-day dealings.

“I wish to emphasize that any act of corruption will not be condoned and we will take the strictest possible action against any wrongdoer,” he said.



014. Keynote Address by Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai at the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses' Seminar on National Export Control.

New Delhi, April 18, 2012.

Director General IDSA,
Excellencies and
Distinguished participants,

I am happy to speak at the National Export Control Seminar today, which is being organized jointly by the Ministry of External Affairs and the Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis. I would like to thank DG IDSA for the excellent arrangements his Institute has put in place and for bringing together a wide range of participants - government officials from all Departments dealing with export controls, representatives from industry, analysts and scholars from the research and academic communities as well as foreign experts who will be participating in today's deliberations. I would like to recognize the presence of members of the diplomatic corps, in particular representatives of countries currently chairing the various multilateral export control regimes.

Let me begin by addressing a simple but fundamental question. Why are export controls important for India?

We have for long recognized the challenge proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery poses for our national security and world order. The danger of terrorists gaining access to WMDs has added another facet to this grave threat. At the same time as a responsible member, India is committed to promoting and working with the international community in advancing the common objectives of global non-proliferation and international security.

Flowing from these considerations of national and international security and as a state possessing advanced and sensitive materials and technology, we are conscious of the need for responsible handling of these sensitive items from the point of production or manufacture, to their use internally or export abroad and eventual safe and secure disposition. India has no interest what so ever in aiding or abetting proliferation of WMDs, the misuse of dual use items or in non-state actors or terrorists gaining access to sensitive items. On the contrary we view a strong and effective national export control system as an essential link between our broader national security goals and our wider foreign policy objectives.

There is a second and equally compelling rationale for export controls. Just as export controls are vital for national security and global non-proliferation

objectives, they are also essential for the pursuit of growth and national development by harnessing the benefits of globalization. Export control standards are increasingly the norm for global trade in sensitive material, equipment and technology and thus necessary if we are to increase the quantum of high technology items in our external trade and commercial exchanges. As India's integration with global trade patterns and supply chains deepens, it would increasingly become an important hub of manufacturing and export of high technology items. Foreign investment including through offsets for governmental procurement will strengthen our global links. Our export control system would add to the reliability and credibility of Indian companies in the global market and thus increase their competitive edge. High technology companies would invest in India confident that apart from favorable commercial returns, access to a huge market and skilled workforce and protection of IPR, there would be no risk of unauthorized diversion or re-exports. That export controls are an added burden on industry is a mistaken and short sighted notion. At the same time, Government is conscious that there be no unreasonable restrictions on legitimate trade and commercial activities and export control procedures are clear and implementable without undue delays.

Let me describe briefly India's export control framework. India has a law based export system covering about 9 different legislations. I will mention only the most important: the Foreign Trade Development and Regulation Act or FTDR of 1992, the Atomic Energy Act of 1962, the Customs Act of 1962 and the Weapons of Mass destruction Act of 2005. Systematic dual use control lists in India were first notified in 1995 and were named as SMET - "Special Material, Equipment and Technology", published under our Foreign Trade Act. This list has subsequently been revised in 1999, 2005 and 2007 and is widely known as "SCOMET" – Special Chemicals, Organisms, Material, Equipment and Technology - List.

I would like to highlight a few points with respect to more recent developments. Our WMD Act of 2005 incorporated into national legislation key international standards in export controls, covering technology transfers, end-user or "catch-all" controls, brokering, transshipment and transit controls. In 2010, these changes were translated into our Foreign Trade Act through an amendment adopted by our Parliament which widened the ambit of dual-use controls. Second, the harmonization of SCOMET controls with the Nuclear Suppliers Group and Missile Technology Control Regime guidelines and annexes was notified in 2008. Our export controls are thus in line with the highest international standards and in some cases, in view of the generic coverage of controlled items or controls at the stage of manufacturing, they extend beyond the controls of the multilateral regimes. Third, our regulatory framework is updated regularly, for example following adoption of UN Security Council resolutions 1874 and

1929. Fourth, we have increased engagement with various countries and our participation in international and regional export control seminars and conferences. . This engagement includes the four multilateral export control regimes, which I will return to a bit later in my speech.

In terms of implementation, an Inter-Ministerial Working Group coordinated by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade administers the SCOMET regulations. The regulations outline the procedure, process and factors relating to the licensing of controlled items. The licensing process is rigorous and involves assessment of export applications by various departments. Due restraint and responsibility in the transfer of sensitive systems and technologies is exercised based on a dynamic risk assessment system and changing proliferation trends.

It is true that any export control system is as good as its enforcement on the ground. Our national enforcement mechanisms cover prevention, detection and penalization of unauthorized exports. Customs and other enforcement agencies are active participants in these efforts. These activities are coordinated through an inter-agency Core Group which meets periodically to review these issues. As part of our regular review of implementation of export controls, we are looking at updating our control lists, strengthening national capacity through training for enforcement officials, commodity identification support and installation of detection equipment at ports and border checkpoints and other measures. The DGFT is in the process of introducing by June this year an online application system that would not only further ease the application process but also facilitate implementation.

We believe that industry is the first line of defence in terms of effective export controls. Industry outreach is an important area not only to enhance understanding about export controls among producers and exporters of controlled items but also share best practices in internal control systems for due diligence at the level of companies. This requires a continuous effort in various parts of the country, involving even small and medium enterprises. Industry leadership is important and the Ministry of External Affairs was pleased to support a Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) event last month on export controls. I am glad to note that the CII is working on a voluntary "Code of Conduct" on export controls, which can be a useful guide as companies work on strengthening their internal compliance systems. India is also open to cooperating with other countries in sharing of experiences and best practices in export controls.

With this brief survey of the national scene, let me return to the international aspects of export controls. India shares global non-proliferation objectives and supports strengthening the non-proliferation regime. Since 2002, we have been piloting a UN First Committee resolution on "Measures to prevent terrorists

from acquiring WMDs” which is traditionally adopted by consensus. We supported the extension of the mandate of the 1540 Committee pursuant to UNSC resolution 1540. An eminent Indian expert worked as part of the Expert Group of the 1540 Committee from 2007-09. We have also announced our intention to host a UNSCR 1540 workshop to strengthen the implementation of the resolution. India has contributed to the success of the Nuclear Security Summit process. Our Prime Minister has participated in both the Summits held in Washington in April 2010 and in Seoul in March 2012. In January this year, I hosted a Sherpa meeting involving more than 50 countries in New Delhi to prepare for the Seoul Nuclear Security Summit. India has joined the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism and participates in all its activities. India has also participated in the preparatory process for negotiating an Arms Trade Treaty at the UN. India is in full compliance with its obligations as a State Party to the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention.

India's impeccable non-proliferation record has been widely recognized and was reflected in the milestone NSG decision of September 2008 on Civil Nuclear Cooperation with India. With respect to India's implementation of the Statement on Civil Nuclear cooperation, I would like to mention the following:

- India concluded the Safeguards Agreement with IAEA which entered into force in May 2009.
- An Additional Protocol was also approved by the Board of Governors in March 2009 and signed in May 2009. India is committed to its ratification as soon as necessary internal preparatory work is completed.
- With respect to implementation of the Separation Plan, we have already put 12 out of 14 reactors under IAEA Safeguards. Only two more reactors are required to be notified by 2014.
- India has signed civil nuclear cooperation agreements with France, US, Russia, Canada, Argentina, UK, Namibia, Mongolia, Kazakhstan and ROK. Negotiations are taking place with Japan on a bilateral Nuclear Cooperation Agreement. India and the United States signed an Agreement setting out Arrangements and Procedures for Reprocessing pursuant to their bilateral Nuclear Cooperation Agreement in July 2010.
- India has adhered to the NSG and MTCR guidelines and will maintain adherence. India has continued with its policy of refraining from transfer of enrichment and reprocessing technologies to states that do not possess them and supporting international efforts to limit their spread. We supported the establishment of an IAEA fuel bank resolution contained in Gov/2010/68 adopted by the IAEA Board in December

2010 and resolution GOV/2011/16 adopted by the Board of Governors in March 2011. India has the capabilities to be a supplier state.

- India has a longstanding commitment to complete, universal, non-discriminatory and verifiable elimination of nuclear weapons in a time bound manner- a vision that was set forth in the Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan. We remain committed to a voluntary and unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosive testing. We are also committed to work together for the commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a multilateral, universal, non-discriminatory and verifiable Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty.
- To sum up, India has consistent record of implementation of its voluntary commitments and has made progress since September 2008 in the implementation of the Civil Nuclear Initiative.

In November 2010, India expressed interest in taking forward this engagement with the international community to the next phase of seeking membership of the four export control regimes - NSG, MTCR, Australia Group and the Wassenaar Arrangement. We are aware that there are regime specificities. Each regime has its own membership criteria, control lists and methodology of work. But at the same time, there are underlying objectives and principles which are common to all the regimes to which India subscribes to fully as it has demonstrated responsible non-proliferation and export control practices and has shown the ability and willingness to contribute substantially to global non-proliferation objectives. In this sense, India is a 'like-minded' country that shares the same objectives and goals. Further, in a material sense given the size of India's industry and its projected growth, it is clear that India has the ability to produce, manufacture or supply a vast majority of items that are controlled by these regimes. As India's integration with the global supply chains moves forward, it would be in the interest of the four regimes that India's exports are subject to the same framework as other major supplier countries. Third, India has the ability to enforce a legally based domestic export control system which gives effect to the commitment to act in accordance with the respective guidelines of the regimes. Finally, India has developed considerable experience in the implementation of its export control system. We have witnessed instances of would be proliferators targeting India to source or route their supplies; our agencies have taken appropriate preventive action in such cases. We believe that India's participation in discussions relating to proliferation assessments, trends, licensing experiences, enforcement issues, etc. will be mutually beneficial.

We appreciate the support extended by a number of countries for the objective of India's full membership of the four export control regimes, in particular the

United States, Russian Federation and France. While we wish to move forward in tandem on all the four regimes, our engagement with NSG is seen by observers as the most important. India cannot be a target of regime based restrictions. The logical conclusion of partnership with India is its full membership of the four multilateral regimes.

India has engaged actively with all the four regimes through outreach meetings. This year, we have already completed outreach meetings with NSG in Vienna where I led the Indian delegation (March 1), and in Delhi with MTCR (30 January) and the Wassenaar Arrangement (21 March) and plan the next outreach meeting with the Australia Group in the coming weeks. From India's point of view, the main purpose and primary objective of India's enhanced and sustained engagement with these regimes is full membership. We will take forward this process of engagement and apply for membership when the necessary preparations have been completed and the ground has been prepared for India's full membership. We believe that India's membership of the four regimes will be mutually beneficial on grounds of common non-proliferation objectives, India's ability to contribute to the fulfillment of those objectives, global industry cooperation and linkages, transfers subject to the highest export control standards, sound commercial considerations and the contributions that the Indian industry can make with its expanding capabilities and highly qualified work force.

Let me conclude by quoting from Prime Ministers' statement at the Seoul Nuclear Security Summit last month. He said

"India has never been a source of proliferation of sensitive technologies and we are determined to further strengthen our export control systems to keep them on par with the highest international standards. We have already adhered to the guidelines of the NSG and MTCR. As a like-minded country with the ability and willingness to promote global non-proliferation objectives, we believe that the next logical step is India's membership of the four export control regimes."

Seminars like this are most valuable in bringing together policy makers, administrators, experts and industry to assess various dimensions of export controls, as listed in the Programme. You have a full agenda for today's seminar and I wish you success in your deliberations.

Thank you.



015. Keynote address by Minister of State E. Ahamed on the occasion of the release of CII publication “Doing Business with Eurasia”.

New Delhi, April 30, 2012.

Ladies & Gentlemen

I am delighted to join you to launch this publication on “Doing Business with Eurasia”. We in the Ministry of External Affairs find this exercise commendable and timely, since we are ourselves engaged in working out ways of intensifying our economic and commercial contacts with this extended neighbourhood. This volume provides a wealth of information which, I am sure, businessmen on both sides would profit from. One of the reasons, often cited, for low levels of trade and economic engagement between India and many countries of the region, is the information deficit: we lack credible and authentic information on key business data, like rules and regulations, finance sector details, export/import tariffs, or procedures for setting up businesses. This publication is bound to competently fill this gap. I am also glad to see that this project is the fruit of cooperation between an apex chamber- CII- and the Ministry of External Affairs, the Ministry of Commerce, our Missions and local Missions of the countries in the Eurasia region. Such cooperation between the business sector and representatives of governments is vitally important not just to bring out a reliable publication, but also for the larger cause of finding ways of increasing our economic engagement.

The year 2012 marks the twentieth anniversary of diplomatic ties between India and the countries in the region, and with Russia we have just marked the 65th anniversary of bilateral relations. While our diplomatic relations with Eurasia may be only two decades old, our links with the region go back centuries. Our economic ties too, are as old as the legendary Silk Route. The common challenge before us all is to revive the magic of our silken bonds.

With Russia, our bilateral relations continue to progress on a positive trajectory. The 12th Annual India-Russia Summit between our leaders was held in Moscow in December 2011 and they met again during the BRICS Summit in New Delhi in March. We have also seen multiple bilateral visits at the Ministerial level, meetings of Intergovernmental Commissions and visits of numerous expert delegations. These exchanges reflect the multifaceted and dynamic nature of our time-tested and historical ties, which are now characterized as a “special and privileged” strategic partnership. We have close political coordination and robust cooperation in key sectors like defence, civil nuclear energy, space, hydrocarbons and S&T. But this very special political and Government-to-

Government relationship is not yet matched by a strong enough Business-to-Business relationship. Our trade stands at less than 10 billion dollars and we have a long way to go to meet our target of 20 billion dollars by 2015.

India today enjoys a warm and growing relationship with each of the Eurasian countries but is not a significant enough economic partner, largely due to the political and geographical constraint of connectivity. This however has not dampened India's interest in cultivating stronger multi-dimensional ties with these countries. With Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia the trend of consolidation & gradual strengthening of bilateral relations continues. High level exchange of visits with Ukraine and Belarus have served to intensify bilateral relations. But with each of these countries, the vast economic potential remains untapped.

In Central Asia, with which we share deep civilizational links, India's presence may not be very visible but is prominent in several niches. To name a few, the IT sector, capacity building under our ITEC programme, pharmaceuticals, lines of credit and projects under our Eurasia Aid program. We have set up IT Centres of Excellence in Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, as also in Belarus and Armenia, and are planning one in Kazakhstan. There are several other projects on the anvil covering e-networking, health, education, connectivity and development assistance and we hope through them to strengthen and enhance India's presence in the region.

Yet it is clear to all of us that on the ground, our levels of economic engagement in this area have a great deal of room for growth. The true potential of bilateral trade and commercial relations is yet to be explored and tapped. The Eurasian region today constitutes only 2% share in India's total global trade. This is hardly an impressive number. The Government and industry need to clearly identify problem areas and work together for solutions.

One way to energize the trade basket can be by exploiting each other's comparative advantages, and bridging the information gap regarding new and emerging areas of opportunities- this compilation today is an effort in that direction.

The Eurasian region is endowed with vast resources and opportunities. Rich in mineral resources, the Eurasian countries also have well-developed agri business sectors. Eurasian countries are also keen to adopt agri-business solutions that are affordable and vital to SMEs. In the Energy sector, there are obvious complementarities between energy surplus Eurasia and energy deficient India. These spell profitable opportunities in a wide array of businesses.

Eurasian countries have also demonstrated expertise in research and development in scientific and technological sectors and in transport services.

The two regions could also consider building a strong platform for sharing views on innovation and research and development in these areas so as to learn and benefit from each other's competence.

We also need to work together on several areas like trade barriers, conformity of standards and measures of quality, trade linkages, financing SMEs, and mobilizing lines of credit. We need to further look at simplified work permits and business visas to reduce its growing trade imbalance with the region.

India also has a lot to offer to Eurasia. India is ranked third globally for factors favouring FDI investment, (with China and the US being the other two leading destinations). Sectors in which India has shown high export growth over the last few years are information and communication technology, professional services such as medical health, engineering, travel and tourism, as well as certain financial services. All these have markets in Eurasia.

India is considered the 'Pharmacy of the World' and India has emerged as the most reliable supplier of quality generic drugs to Eurasian region, and the potential for further cooperation is promising. There are significant opportunities for companies in Eurasia to invest in India in the area of Construction and Engineering services. Most of the Eurasian countries are net importers of food items, but India's share in their imports is at present not very significant.

We can enhance our exchanges through visits by trade and industry delegations / economic missions. These trade/ economic missions could focus on specialized and industry specific fairs and exhibitions; organizing buyer-sellers-meets; joint venture facilitation; organizing specialized 'Made in India' exhibitions showcasing Indian expertise; and preparation of product catalogues in electronic form. We also need to look at increasing direct flights to cover more cities in the Eurasian region and also increase the frequency of destinations to which flights are already operating.

Lack of direct surface transportation routes has hampered trade relations between India and the region. We are hence placing importance in developing the International North South Transport Corridor project as also the Trans Afghan Corridors, which would link India to the Central Asian region, Russia and beyond, through sea ports/ surface routes in Iran. We also need to look at air links to cover more destinations and increase frequency of present flights.

The Eurasian economic space is fast unifying. The Russia-Belarus-Kazakhstan Customs Union is already a reality and may integrate newer members. We are looking at a possible Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement with this Union.

In conclusion, we see tremendous potential for India's steadily rising engagement with the countries of the region. This engagement will be driven

by a desire for general peace and prosperity. We look forward to working together with cooperation from the public and private sector, thus strengthening opportunities both for growth, prosperity and security.

I once again congratulate CII and all those who contributed to the publication of this important information tool. I would like to say on behalf of the Ministry of External Affairs that we welcome suggestions that will help boost trade and economic relations between India and the Eurasian countries.

Thank you.



016. Press release of the Ministry of Home Affairs regarding Institutional Mechanism Required to Tackle Terrorism.

New Delhi, May 11, 2012.

The threat perception of terrorism in the country continues to be high and we need an institutional mechanism to tackle it. Given the gravity of the situation, everyday we delay NCTC, we increase our risk. This was stated by the Union Home Minister P. Chidambaram while replying to the Consultative Committee Members here today. Naxalism and insurgency in North East are now becoming terrorist in nature and we need institutional mechanism to deal with it. He said that we need to counter terrorism not just as a police operation but we need a counter terrorism organization that mobilizes all elements of national power; diplomatic, financial, investigative, intelligence and police. Therefore, he said we need counter terrorism body like NCTC or similar organization.

Members expressed concern over growing terrorist activities and cross border terrorism and smuggling and circulation of fake currency notes. They emphasised the need for a strong mechanism to deal with terrorism which has now taken global dimensions. Some members suggested early finalization of NCTC in this context. Member also suggested stopping of Hawala funds. Members expressed concern/highlighted spread of opium and other drugs and growing terrorism in Punjab, linking it with Pakistan and suggested strong measures to counter these.

Earlier while initiating the discussion, the Union Home Minister said that Counter-terrorism structure in place consists of Multi Agency Centre (MAC) & Subsidiary Multi Agency Centres (SMAC), National Investigation Agency (NIA) and National Security Guards (NSG). Those being put in place are NATGRID and Crime & Criminal Tracking Network System (CCTNS). The Centre for Counter terrorism is not in place. He explained that apart from subversive activities of militant groups in North East and violence perpetrated by Left Wing Extremist Group (LWE) in some States, the growing concern remains on combating cross border terrorism. He said the Government is committed to ensure that perpetrators of terrorist activities and their masterminds and conspirators are brought to justice and that prosecution and sentencing to the fullest extent of the law is ensured.

Scheme for Modernization of State Police Forces (MPF) is being reviewed and extended by the Central Government beyond 31.3.2011 and work for conceptualizing the next phase of the Scheme has also commenced. Since 2009 to 2011, under the MPF Scheme, 745 new police stations have been constructed. In addition, 17824 vehicles, 26465 bullet proof jackets and 107786 weapons have been provided to the State and UT police forces. Integrated

Action Plan (IAP) is being implemented with series of developmental schemes to deal with poverty in naxal affected areas.

The policy of the Government is to undertake intelligence-based operations to neutralize terrorist/espionage cell/modules. This is done in a coordinated and sustained manner by the Central and State Security and intelligence agencies.

As a result of the coordination action by the Central and State intelligence and security agencies, 51 Pak backed terrorist/espionage modules have been detected/neutralized in various parts of the country.

Answering queries of Members, the Union Home Minister said that there are only two terrorist bomb blast cases which are not completely solved as yet i.e. Mehrauli bomb blast case of March 2010 and Sheetal Ghat Varanasi case of December 2010.

The following members of Consultative Committee were present at the Meeting:

Sh. H.K. Dua, Nominated, Sh. Mohd. Ali Khan, INC Andhra Pradesh, Sh. Vinay Katiyar, BJP, Uttar Pradesh from Rajya Sabha. Shri Bhisma Shankar alias Kushal Tiwari, BSP, Uttar Pradesh, Sh. D.B. Chandre Gowda, BJP, Karnataka, Dr. Thokchom Meinya, INC, Manipur, Sh. Mahabal Mishra, INC, Delhi from Lok Sabha. Ministers of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs Shri Mullapally Ramachandran and Shri Jitender Singh were also present.



017. Keynote Address by the National Security Advisor Shivshankar Menon at the Release of the IDSA Report on “India’s Cyber Security Challenge”.

New Delhi, May 16, 2012.

Dr. Arvind Gupta, DG, IDSA,
Shri Nitin Desai, Chairman of the Task Force,
Members of the Task Force,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Friends.

I am delighted to speak at the release of the IDSA Task Force report on India’s Cyber Security Challenge. The wealth of experience and expertise in the task force is impressive, as is the quality of the report that you have produced on a subject that should be of wide interest. I therefore, wish to thank the IDSA and the Task Force members for this very useful initiative.

The report is also topical, coming as it does when Government is in the final stages of preparing a Whole-of-Government cyber security architecture. There is also considerable and increasing concern in the strategic community and the general public about cyber security. Your report is therefore well timed.

Our increasing dependence on cyber space and the internet is evident. We had over 100 million internet users in India over two years ago. Add to this the 381 million mobile phone subscriptions with internet connectivity and the increasing seamlessness with which all sorts of devices connect to the internet. There are well over 2 billion internet users in the world — a number that doubled in the five years between 2005 and 2010. These numbers are growing exponentially and give one some idea of the increasing reach of the internet and our growing dependence upon cyber space. Most of us in one way or other use and depend on cyber space in the performance of our work and in our daily lives.

Public concern about cyber security is rising, partly because of the weight of anecdotal evidence that is building up about cyber war and attacks. Stuxnet and Ghostnet, for instance, appear to most citizens as unseen forces having apparently magical effects in the real world. It is also fear of the unknown, because most persons lack a conceptual framework or understanding that would enable them to deal with the issue. The Task Force Report is therefore welcome as a significant contribution to increasing understanding of the issue of cyber security and of what we should be worrying about in this field.

The other reason for public concern and anxiety is the anarchic nature of the domain of cyber space, glimpses of which naturally cause alarm. When this is combined with the potential effects of malicious attacks and disruptions in the cyber world upon such basic social necessities as power supplies, banking, railways, air traffic control, etc. it is only natural that people should worry about cyber security.

Nor do experts help to allay concerns in their choice of terms to describe these phenomena. We speak of cyber Crime, when these acts are not a traditional law and order problem. Nor can they be dealt with as such, thanks to problems of attribution, lack of legal frameworks and without enforcement capabilities and punishment.

We also speak of cyber war, even though conflict or attacks in the cyber world do not follow the rules or logic of war as understood so far in other domains. In this new domain of contention war, espionage, surveillance, control and the traditional security functions, activities and crimes occur but differ from those in traditional domains. Here we have to unlearn some of the lessons we learnt earlier. Traditional deterrence hardly works in a battle-space like the cyber world where operations and attack occur almost at the speed of light. At these speeds there is a premium on attacking first, or offense.

The effect of ICT on warfare is evident in command and control, in the new surveillance and communication technologies and in cyber operations which have kinetic effects in the real world. We have seen a new way of warfare, a true RMA, since the early 90s, enabled by ICT.

The ICT revolution has also brought power to non-state actors and individuals, to small groups such as terrorists. It has given small groups and individuals the means to threaten and act against much larger, more complex and powerful groups. Since the technology is now available or accessible widely, and is mostly held in private hands, ICT has redistributed power within states.

We see the practical effects of these changes all around us. Look at the social and political effects of the new technologies in the turmoil in West Asia. The cocktail of social media, 24-hour television, NGOs and Special Forces create a virtual reality which soon has effects in the real World. These are not just law and order problems, and they are not amenable to the traditional responses that states are accustomed to. We have seen technology place increasingly lethal power in the hands of non-state actors. The effects can range from the benign to the dangerous, though the technology itself is value neutral. In West Asia today we see its use by popular movements to mobilise people and influence opinion against regimes across the Arab world. Autocratic regimes across the world now take the power of ICT very seriously.

Equally, intelligence and espionage increasingly rely on what are euphemistically called national technical means, namely cyber penetration and surveillance. The same technologies also empower the state in terms of its capacity for internal surveillance, interception and so on. Their power and reach raise fundamental issues about the lines that a democratic society must draw between the collective right to security and the individual's right to privacy. What makes this more complicated is the fact that these technologies are not just available to the state, where laws and policies can control and limit their use. They are widely available in the public domain, where commercial and individual motives can easily lead to misuse that is not so easily regulated, unless we rethink and update our legal and other approaches.

Between states, information technologies and their effects have made asymmetric strategies much more effective and attractive. In situations of conventional imbalance between states we see that asymmetric strategies are increasingly common. Cyber war and anti-satellite capabilities are uses of technology by a weaker state to neutralise or raise the cost and deter the use of its military strength by a stronger country.

In the name of defence all the major powers are developing offensive cyber capabilities as well as using cyber espionage. So are smaller powers who see ICT as an equaliser. One estimate speaks of about 120 countries developing the capacity for cyber warfare. But by its nature, as Wikileaks showed, the threats in this domain are not just from states. These technologies have also enabled individuals and small groups to use cyber space for their own ends. We in India are subject to unwelcome attention from many of them, state and non-state.

Government are in the process of putting in place the capabilities and the systems in India that will enable us to deal with this anarchic new world of constant and undeclared cyber threat, attack, counter-attack and defence. We need to prepare to deal with both threats to cyber space and risks arising through cyber space. This will be a step towards the "coherent and comprehensive cyber security policy" that the Task Force Report rightly calls for on page 25. While NTRO is tasked to deal with the protection of our critical security cyber infrastructure, institutions like CERT-IN have proved their worth during events like the Commonwealth Games in defending our open civil systems. We are making a beginning in putting in place a system of certification and responsibility for telecommunication equipment and are working on procedures and protocols which will rationalise communication interception and monitoring. We need to harden our critical networks. And we will develop metrics to certify and assure that our critical cyber networks, equipment and infrastructure are secure. We also need to create a climate and environment within which security is built into our cyber and communications working methods.

As your report rightly points out, this clearly has to be more than just a whole-of-government effort. It must include the entire scientific and technological strength of the country, whether in laboratories, universities or in our private sector firms.

I therefore welcome the main recommendations of the Task Force as a useful contribution to the evolution of national cyber security policy. There is only one part of the Task Force's recommendations with which I personally have a difference of emphasis. It speaks about "proactive diplomatic policy" on cyber security, and suggests that multilateral efforts for international internet governance are useful. The Report itself recognizes that most proposals for international internet governance are thinly masked efforts to control or shape the internet, and that some are ideologically driven. Inter-governmental rules of the road are certainly desirable. No one can argue against them. But in my personal view we must be clear that they will not have practical effect or be followed unless they are in the clear self-interest of those who should be following them.

One final point. I do hope that the Task Force Report will also bring some reason and proportion into our discussion of cyber security.

To cite one example, there is invariably a big hullabaloo when one of our websites is hacked. But websites are meant to be hit. Their success is measured by how many people access or hit them. So when a website is defaced by hackers, as happened to the CBI website, it is not necessarily a security breach, though it might hurt one's pride. It seems to me that available resources would be better used to defend and harden our critical cyber infrastructure, expanding what is secure, from the known to the unknown. The Task Force report suggestions on how we could do so are very useful.

I therefore have no hesitation in commending the central messages in the report to those interested in cyber security in India as we work together to strengthen India's cyber defences.



**018. Address by the Minister of State E. Ahamed at the
Valedictory Function for the IFS Probationers of 2010 Batch
at Foreign Service Institute, New Delhi.**

New Delhi, May 17, 2012.

Dean, Foreign Service Institute, Dr. Ajai Choudhry
Members of Association of Indian Diplomats
Probationers of the 2010 and 2011 Batches
Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure to be here with all of you at the Valedictory Function for the Indian Foreign Service Probationers of the 2010 Batch. I congratulate these young Probationers for successfully completing a yearlong professional training at the Foreign Service Institute. I am also happy to know that currently they are further sharpening their skills at desk attachments with various divisions of the Ministry and very soon will be going for their language assignments abroad.

It is also a matter of pride for me to present the External Affairs Minister Gold Medal for the best probationer of the 2010 Batch. I am also delighted to note that the Foreign Service Institute is also conferring Ambassador Bimal Sanyal Memorial Silver Medal for the best dissertation, Dean's Certificate of Merit and Best Sportsman Trophy to the deserving Probationers.

I would like to take the opportunity to convey to these young members of the Foreign Service Fraternity that, after having been selected through a rigorous selection process, all of you have earned the faith and respect of people of India to represent this great country across the globe.

You have joined the Indian Foreign Service at a very important phase for Indian diplomacy. In today's World, increasingly dominated by the corporate and private businesses, Foreign Service still remains an exciting and a challenging professional career. Backed by a vibrant democracy and a resilient economy, India is poised to play a role commensurate with its prowess and destiny in the future. India is emerging as an acknowledged leader in several multilateral fora and increasingly making its presence felt as a major player in regional and international affairs.

The complexities in today's world have reached new heights. Terrorism, energy security, climate change, and piracy are some of the challenges that have become more diverse and complex in their content.

Given these complexities, all of you are required not only to have a deep understanding of a wide range of topics but also need to be versatile and adaptable and develop qualities like modesty, loyalty, sincerity and patience in abundance to deal with such challenges. All of you share the responsibilities to represent and to contribute towards the development of India. It is imperative, therefore, for all of you to constantly strive to update your skills and take up the challenges with a positive and open mind.

I would also like to note here that when you first get posted abroad many of you may tend to get overwhelmed by the foreign cultures and influences. It is not bad to learn and understand foreign cultures and traditions, but you must never lose your Indian-ness. You must never forget the fact that you are representing a great country which has always stood for values like unity in diversity, respect for differences and confluence and co-existence of civilizations. You should all imbibe these values and spread these to whichever country you are posted to. This is also something that will always give you inner strength and conviction to sail through the difficult times that you may face in your assignments.

I would also like to briefly mention the role of the Foreign Service Institute. The Institute is doing a commendable job in training the young entrants of the service. I am also delighted to note that FSI has diversified its activities over the years to include courses for staff and officers at all levels of the Ministry of External Affairs, officers from other civil services as well as for foreign diplomats. I am confident that in the coming years the Institute will continue to maintain its sterling track record and meet the growing training needs of the Foreign Service.

In the end I again congratulate this wonderful 2010 batch of the Indian Foreign Service Probationers for completing their training at headquarters and wish them all success in their careers as they embark upon this exciting journey as Indian Diplomats in the 21st century.

Thank You.



019. Inaugural Address by External Affairs Minister at the 28th All India Annual Conference for Haj – 2012.

New Delhi, May 22, 2012.

Chairperson of the Haj Committee of India Smt Mohsina Kidwai ji,

Hon'ble Members of Parliament,

Secretary (East) Shri Sanjay Singh,

Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to India His Excellency Saud Mohammed AlSati
Ambassador Hamid Ali Rao,

Distinguished Guests and Invitees,

It is indeed an honour and privilege to address the Haj Conference 2012. I welcome the dignitaries on the dais and the distinguished audience from all over the country to discuss the issues of concern and collectively consider the solutions and improvements to make Haj 2012 successful.

Chairperson Smt. Mohsina Kidwai ji personally wrote to me that Haj 2011 was a relatively smooth and efficiently organized operation. But I must emphasize that it would not have been possible without the close cooperation of all the stake holders including the Chairperson of the Haj Committee herself and her team of officers in the forefront apart from the officials of the Ministry of External Affairs, our Embassy in Riyadh, the Consulate General in Jeddah and, last but not least in importance, the Haj Mission of India comprising over 500 doctors, paramedics, Assistant Haj Officers, Haj Assistants etc., and others. Having said that I would like to alert all the officers dealing with Haj 2012 not to let their guard down and remain alert and ahead of the plans and programmes for Haj 2012. Haj is such a complex and tedious operation that we can ill-afford complacency at any point in time.

This year, we started the preparations for Haj very much ahead of time. As always, we have framed our Haj policy keeping in view the principle objective of the safety and security and comfort and convenience of our pilgrims. We had planned to announce the 2012 Haj policy in January or February itself. However, the Special Leave Petition filed by Government of India in the Hon'ble Supreme Court to seek a stay of the Order of the Mumbai High Court on the Haj PTO Policy 2011 was converted by the Hon'ble Court into a Public Interest Litigation to examine the entire Haj policy.

It was only after the interim verdict was announced by the Court on May 8, 2012 that the Haj 2012 Policy could be finalized and released and that was

done on May 18, 2012. At this juncture, I would like to share with you the fact that representatives of Private Tour Operators, the Haj Committee of India and experts from the legal field were closely involved with the Ministry in the process of making the 2012 Haj Policy. Such a participatory and transparent procedure has been adopted perhaps for the first time ever by the Government.

I hardly need to reiterate the fact that Haj is one of the most complex tasks undertaken by Government of India outside its borders and involves close coordination with a large number of Agencies within India and in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The principle objective of the Government is to ensure that the best possible service is provided to our pilgrims from the time they arrive at their respective embarkation points in India till they return home safely after fulfilling their dream of performing Haj.

At no point in time we must lose sight of the fact that it is a once in a life time chance in which a pilgrim expends the savings he would have painstakingly accumulated over his life time. It is the duty of the Government, therefore, to ensure that his hard earned savings are utilized carefully and optimally and every effort is made to ensure that the great journey of each pilgrim is made safe, affordable, comfortable and enjoyable and the collective and cumulative experience of every stake holder engaged in the management of Haj works towards that objective.

Ours is one of the largest Haj contingents to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. A large number of Governmental and other Agencies in India and in Saudi Arabia are involved in planning, preparing and conducting the great annual exercise of the Haj pilgrimage. Problems will continue to be encountered and they would need to be constantly envisaged and addressed. The city check-in system introduced last year proved to be very effective in ensuring that Hajis do not lose their baggage and return happy, contented and with their baggage and the holy zam zam water cans. We therefore intend to continue to use the city check-in this year too.

We have introduced some new improvements this year too. At the outset, effective Haj 2012, a pilgrim can use the facility of performing Haj through the Haj Committee of India only once in his/her life time as against once in five years which was the case hitherto. Effective Haj 2012, Haj applications must have the proof of valid Passports. The Ministry of External Affairs has worked hard to bring about this significant change because of which every pilgrim this year will have an international Passport before proceeding on his pilgrimage. I am happy to state that the Haj Committee has received more applications this year than last year despite the Passport having been made compulsory.

The Haj Committee this year has come out with a very lucid and easy to

understand Haj Guide which will be a great help to Hajjis. We have also commenced the work to explore the possibility of permanent accommodation for our Hajjis so that their stay can be made comfortable and affordable as and when the regime is put in place. I am informed that a Committee has been set up on this issue and it has already had its first meeting last evening.

In conclusion, I would like to request that all officers, officials and interlocutors involved in the preparation for Haj 2012 must keep in close touch so that we work as a closely knit team. The nearly six hundred Government of India Deputationists comprising Doctors, Paramedics, Haj Assistants and Assistant Haj Officers including Khadim ul Hujjaj must reach Saudi Arabia well in time and be ready to receive the Hajjis. They must remember that they are the family for each pilgrim in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia away from his home in India and they must ensure that they are accessible immediately to any pilgrim who needs their assistance.

I wish our pilgrims a safe, successful and enjoyable Haj 2012.

Thank you.



020. Press Interaction of Prime Minister on-board his special flight *en route* from Yangon to New Delhi.

May 29, 2012.

Prime Minister of India (Dr. Manmohan Singh): Ladies and gentlemen, I have had a very productive and fruitful two-day visit to Myanmar. I had the opportunity of fairly detailed discussions with President Thein Sein. I also had the privilege of having a fairly long conversation with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

Our relations with Myanmar have taken a new turn after the visit of the President of Myanmar to India in October, and what we have discussed and agreed upon yesterday has further strengthened our multifaceted relationship with a friendly neighbour that Myanmar is.

I believe Foreign Secretary has briefed you about the details of what we have been talking, what we have agreed upon, and what is the way forward. I will be very happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Question: Good evening, Mr. Prime Minister. You seem to have had a historic visit. What do you say would be the single biggest message that you delivered to the Myanmar Government?

Prime Minister: That India is very appreciative of the efforts being made by the President of Myanmar for national reconciliation and democratization, and it is our fond hope that this process will be carried forward for the good of the people of Myanmar as a whole.

Question: Sir, is there a common thread between the discussions you had with President Thein Sein and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi?

Prime Minister: I had a whole range of issues being discussed between me and the President of Myanmar. But most of my discussion with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was concentrated on the process of national reconciliation and how development can be made more inclusive, how the process of development can be really made people-friendly, and have greater transparency. She is now a legislator, and she was telling me the difficulties that the ordinary people find in accessing various services being provided by the Government. And I said we have the same problem, and despite long experience we do not claim that we have all the answers to these problems. I also said to her that our problems are very similar, judging from what she told me, and that we would be very happy to engage with the Government and people and civil society of Myanmar. Not that we have something to tell Myanmar what to do or what not to do but to work out joint common pathways to find productive, mutually acceptable solutions to these difficult problems of development and inclusion.

Question: Sir, in the North East there are four States which border Myanmar. There are lots of concerns about insurgent groups who operate from areas across the border in Myanmar. Was this issue discussed?

Prime Minister: I had a detailed discussion with His Excellency the President on this issue, the problems that Indian insurgent groups pose to us in taking shelter in Myanmar to evade arrest and to commit acts of violence. And I have assurance from the President of Myanmar that they would make every effort to ensure that Myanmar territory is not used for anti-Indian operations, and that we should strengthen cooperation in ensuring that our borders on both sides are as peaceful as is humanly possible.

Question: As you did during your visit to Dhaka when you carried with yourself Northeastern Chief Ministers, don't you think similar venture this time would have given greater dividends because many states have common borders with Myanmar?

Prime Minister: I do recognize problems are very similar, and what I discussed would have been of interest to all the Northeastern States. I am conscious of that fact. But quite frankly, I felt that we had not prepared for this visit that fully as to find out practical, pragmatic solutions to the problems of border management. Therefore, I thought that we should first discuss basic principles and modalities and that should take place sooner or later.

Question: Rupee appreciation is alarming, oil prices are going up, your reaction on it? Are we going back to 1991 situation?

Prime Minister: The situation is a cause of concern, but I do not think we are anywhere near the 1991 situation. The fall of the Rupee is taking place against the background of what is taking place in the global economic scene, the Eurozone crisis. And, therefore, the Foreign Institutional Investors and the Foreign Direct Investors are hesitant to go to countries where they were earlier very positive in investing. I believe this is a phenomenon which is not going to last very long. One way or the other, European countries have come to terms with the crisis that prevails in Europe. The global economy is also facing challenges. And I sincerely hope that the G20 meeting next month in Mexico will come to terms with some of these issues. Hopefully some credible solutions about better management of the international financial system will emerge. But I do agree that the situation as it is, is hurting even the emerging economies. India and other emerging economies like South Africa are also affected by this turn of events.

Question: (in response to a question on insurgents from North East India using Myanmar soil-question inaudible)

Prime Minister: Yes, it was discussed with great seriousness. I do not want to say more than that. As I told you earlier the President of Myanmar assured me that their territory is not used for activities against India. He wanted us to tell Myanmar where these insurgents were located, they would cooperate with us against them.

(Unofficial translation from Hindi)



021. Address of External Affairs Minister to the First Batch of Yatris of Kailash Manasarovar Yatra – 2012.

New Delhi, May 31, 2012.

Hon'ble Shri Tarun Vijay Ji, Member of Parliament,
Joint Secretary Shri Gautam Bambawale,
Distinguished Pilgrims,

I am delighted to be amidst you today as you embark on a fascinating Yatra to the abode of Lord Shiva. This is a very special occasion. You are indeed privileged to be able to undertake this Yatra.

It is heartening to note that the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra has completed 30 years. During the last 30 years, our endeavour has been to work closely with the Government of People's Republic of China and authorities in Tibet to improve the facilities offered to the Yatris and to ensure that the Yatra proceeds smoothly every year. We are informed that in the 12th Plan of China, special focus is being made to improve facilities in the Tibetan side.

On our part, we have also been working closely with the Government of Uttarakhand and the Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam to improve facilities. For this, the Ministry of External Affairs is even making financial provisions from time to time.

We are constantly introducing improvements and changes based on the feedback from Yatris. In this regard, we look forward to receive your suggestions as it will enable the Ministry of External Affairs to make improvements for the Yatra to be more convenient and safe.

India and China are commemorating this year as the Year of Friendship and Cooperation. The Kailash Manasarovar Yatra is a lasting symbol of this friendship and cooperation. I am thus pleased to be present at this send-off ceremony. I would like all of you to see yourself as cultural ambassadors of India to China, and be an important contributor for deepening people-to-people contacts.

There is no doubt in my mind that the Yatra is arduous and strenuous. However, to compensate for the difficulties, the nature will open its heart to you. You will traverse through numerous places of touristic and religious significance, which are also well known for their scenic and the breath-taking beauty.

Your journey will offer you the splendid views of mountain peaks and flora and fauna of the Kumaon region of Uttarakhand and mesmerizing beauty of Mount Kailash and Manasarovar. The Yatra, I am sure, will also give you an opportunity for spiritual deliverance.

As the Yatra route is difficult, I would urge you to take the prescribed precautions. Your personal cooperation is what we solicit for making the Yatra successful.

I once again felicitate you and I wish you all a safe and fulfilling Yatra.



021.A Press Release on External Affairs Minister's sends-off first batch of *yatris* of Kailash Manasarovar *Yatra* – 2012.

New Delhi, May 31, 2012.

The Kailash Manasarovar Yatra conducted by Ministry of External Affairs in close cooperation with Government of Peoples' Republic of China and State Government of Uttrakhand has completed 30 years. To commemorate the occasion as well as to mark 2012 as the Year of India-China Friendship and Cooperation, External Affairs Minister Shri S.M. Krishna hosted a function on 31 May 2012 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan to send off the Yatris of the first batch. The Minister congratulated the Yatris on their selection and wished them a safe and fulfilling Yatra.

2. In his remarks, EAM brought out the unique characteristics of the Yatra which takes the Yatris to the Holy Mount Kailash and Lake Manasarovar situated in remote parts of the Tibet Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China. The Yatra involves trekking at high altitudes of up to 19,500 feet under arduous conditions. He said that the Yatris were indeed fortunate to be able to undertake the Yatra which traverses through numerous touristic and religious sites known for picturesque, scenic and the mesmerizing beauty all over the world. The Yatra is also a lasting symbol of India-China cooperation.



022. Speech of Defence Minister A. K. Antony, at the Second Plenary Session of the 11th International Institute of Strategic Studies Shangri-La Dialogue.

Singapore, June 2, 2012.

Dr John Chipman, Director General and Chief Executive, IISS Probably one of the most important subjects in the Asia Pacific is the idea of protecting maritime freedoms and the acceptance that this is an international and global role, not only a regional and particular role.

We have three speakers in this second plenary, from India, Indonesia and Japan, and I shall ask each of them to give their perspectives on the issue of protecting maritime freedoms in the order in which they appear on the agenda.

I would like to begin by welcoming very warmly A.K. Antony, the Minister of Defence of India. When he was first appointed Minister of Defence he honoured us with his presence here; we are delighted to see him back at the Shangri-La Dialogue at an extremely busy time in Indian domestic politics, and at a very busy time in the Defence Ministry as well. I am very grateful for his acceptance of our invitation. I think the Indian perspective on protecting maritime freedoms is becoming increasingly important to appreciate, so I look forward, Mr Antony, to your remarks.

A K Antony, Minister of Defence, India

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am honoured to be amidst you today. Over the years, the Shangri La Dialogue has grown into an important forum, which enables wide-ranging discussion on security issues relevant to the regional and global community. The event brings together a wide spectrum of participants who play important roles in defence and security developments. It provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the major security challenges of our time, and contributes significantly to the strengthening of the process to address these important issues.

I must thank The International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) for inviting me to share my thoughts on the important issue of maritime freedoms, which has attained a high and urgent resonance in the current global security paradigm.

I begin with a reflection on the genesis of the maritime freedoms debate, which has become so salient in our security discourse today. The interplay between the concepts of the closed seas and the open seas was linked to the changing needs of the powers which sought to control maritime trade. The revival of the concept of open seas gained relevance when the needs of the industrial revolution in the West had to be fuelled by supplies from Asia and Africa.

Unlike in previous centuries, maritime freedoms cannot be the exclusive prerogative of a few. Large parts of the common seas cannot be declared exclusive to any one country or group. We must find the balance between the rights of nations and the freedoms of the world community in the maritime domain. Like individual freedoms, the fullness of maritime freedoms can be realised only when all states, big and small, are willing to abide by universally agreed laws and principles.

It has been widely recognised that maritime security is an indispensable and fundamental condition for the welfare and economic security of this region and the global community. There may be different perspectives of maritime freedoms in history, but for us in the twenty first century, it is important to reaffirm the importance of maritime security and freedom of navigation for all, in accordance with the relevant universally agreed principles of international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. This is the essence of maritime freedoms in the age of interdependence and globalisation. These freedoms are needed by all and their observance is in the interests of all, given the multifarious threats to maritime freedoms.

Today, the threats and challenges to maritime security and maritime freedoms arise from piracy, terrorism and organised crime, and also from the conflicting interests of countries. These may arise from the quest for political influence or military dominance, maritime territorial disputes, competitive exploitation of marine resources or environment challenges.

India's own security and prosperity is intimately tied to the security and prosperity of the extended Indian Ocean Region, which also includes the Asia Pacific region. A significant percentage of our global mercantile trade – almost 90% by volume and 77% by value – is carried by sea. India has a coastline of over 7,500 kilometres: the chain of the Lakshadweep and Minicoy Islands to the west and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands on the east cover more than 600 islands, the northernmost tip being just 10 nautical miles from Myanmar and the southernmost tip 90 nautical miles from Indonesia. Our exclusive economic zone is more than 2.5 million square km and the mining areas allotted to us under UNCLOS are about 2,000 km from our southernmost tip. As in other parts of the world, the seas around us are now believed to have substantial hydrocarbon potential. As we seek to satisfy the growing demand for mineral resources to meet our growth and development aspirations, we will seek to increase our investments in the exploration of our maritime domain.

Given India's geographical location, extensive maritime interest, dependence on the seas for trade and the evolving asymmetric threats in the form of maritime terrorism, piracy and drug trafficking, maritime security issues have become a strategic priority for us. There are two different aspects to this imperative. The

first is the concern for safeguarding our territories and our adjacent waters against seaborne threats. The second is the desire to ensure that the traditional freedoms at sea ensure access for all.

As a matter of national policy, India has always championed and advocated adherence to the international regime that governs maritime freedoms, even while asserting our national sovereignty where it is applicable. We believe that in an era of globalisation and interdependence, the balance between the rights of states and the freedoms of the larger global community, to which I referred earlier, is vital for international trade and global security.

In the light of the challenges we face, and the security and economic interests at stake, it is natural for all countries to enhance their capabilities to protect their national interests. In our own case, particularly in the aftermath of the Mumbai attack, we have taken a number of measures to develop our coastal and maritime security capabilities.

However, as countries seek to bolster their capabilities to respond to perceived challenges in the maritime domain, there also arises a need to avoid conflict and build consensus. In this connection, keeping in view the issues that have arisen with regard to the South China Sea, India has welcomed the efforts of the parties concerned in engaging in discussion, and the recently agreed guidelines on the implementation of the 2002 Declaration on the Conduct of Parties between China and ASEAN. We hope that the issues will be resolved through dialogue and negotiation.

The growing menace of piracy needs to be thwarted and suppressed by robust anti-piracy operations, as well as through speedy prosecution of the guilty. A permanent solution to the threat of piracy will require sustained and concerted efforts by the international community, at sea and on land.

I am encouraged by the cooperative approaches we have seen between nations when it comes to defending our collective freedoms against the activities of pirates, whether in the Malacca Strait or the Gulf of Aden. We have ensured that our navies have engaged in communication and dialogue to better coordinate anti-piracy operations. The Indian Navy, which has been operating in the Gulf of Aden, has provided escort to a number of ships of non-Indian flags. The same is true of some other navies operating in the region.

There is a need to extend this spirit of cooperation to de-conflict contentious areas in the maritime domain. This is possible only through the process of dialogue and consensus building within the framework of accepted principles of international law. In particular, it is essential to remain sensitive to the problems of smaller nations and ensure that their rights, as equal members of the global community, are not overlooked or compromised.

India is actively engaged in the process of constructive dialogue on security issues with a number of countries, especially with the ASEAN community, many members of which are our immediate maritime neighbours. We have wide-ranging bilateral exchanges with the ASEAN nations in the area of defence and security. We also support ongoing initiatives like the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM+) mechanisms in building an inclusive security architecture, which would foster a spirit of consensus on all issues that have common resonance. The Suez and the Gulf of Hormuz are also vital arteries of world trade. We also maintain regular dialogue with the countries of the region. We will continue to contribute to the strengthening of fora like the Indian Ocean Rim-Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) and the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) to promote cooperation among the IOR and rim countries.

To conclude, I will reiterate that India has vital interests in the maritime domain and we will make our contribution, as a responsible member of the international community, for the evolution of an open, transparent and inclusive maritime security architecture that will ensure the protection and preservation of maritime freedoms.

Thank you.

Answering questions raised at the conference Mr. Antony said:

Most of the questions raised issues mainly connected with sovereignty. In the Indian Ocean Region we are not that concerned. At the same time, we are very clear whether it be the Indian Ocean, the South China Sea or the Pacific, we believe in the freedom of navigation in international waters to all countries. At the same time, the right to passage should be as per the internationally accepted procedures and principles.

Coming to the question of surveillance, we are also willing to cooperate with countries and to share the information, but any mechanism of surveillance we strongly believe must be under the auspice of the United Nations. We do not support any other type of mechanism.

Regarding the issues concerning Saudi Arabia and the Middle East, we are developing closer relations with Middle Eastern countries, because our energy security mainly depends on energy from the Middle East. 20% of our energy comes from Saudi Arabia and nearly 12% from Iran, so we want peace and stability in the West Asian and Gulf countries. We believe our issues in the Middle East and the Gulf should be resolved through dialogue and discussions. We do not subscribe to the view of any approach of confrontation or

destabilisation in the Middle East. That is our basic approach. The issues should be resolved through dialogue and discussions. We do not subscribe to any approach of confrontation.

We are very concerned about developments in Afghanistan. Before our independence, Afghanistan was our next-door neighbour. Even now, we have very close relations with Afghanistan – although more so with the people of Afghanistan than the government; it is the only way they will engage with us. Engagement is crucial to stabilisation in Afghanistan. We are also concerned about the possible fallout after 2014. But we believe any political process to find a solution to the Afghan problem should be led by the Afghan government and the Afghan people themselves. At the same time, it should be inclusive and transparent. After 2014, when the Afghan government and Afghan people take on responsibility themselves, we believe that we have to strengthen the Afghan national army. It is the responsibility of the international community to strengthen the Afghan army and defence forces. In the end, our aim should be to strengthen the Afghan government and the people of Afghanistan to have a democratic, pluralistic and peaceful Afghanistan. For that, whatever help is needed must be extended to the government and the people of Afghanistan. We must allow them to have their own way to find a solution to the Afghan problem. So any [Inaudible] to find a solution to Afghanistan's problem and long-term prosperity should be left to the Afghan government. It should be entirely led by the Afghan government and at the same time it should be inclusive and totally transparent. That is the Indian approach.

Regarding freedom of navigation in the South China Sea, I have already stated our position. We believe in the freedom of navigation for all countries in international waters, including the South China Sea. Any issues regarding freedom of navigation or other [Inaudible] issues in the South China Sea should be settled between the concerned parties through negotiations and dialogue as per the accepted international law and practice. That is our stated position.

Regarding whether or not China is a threat to India, I do not think this is a relevant issue. China's exponential military growth is a matter of concern to us. At the same time, even though we do not believe in an arms race, since China is increasing its capabilities and spending more on defence, in our own way, to protect our national interests, we are also strengthening our capabilities on our borders. At the same time, even though there are still unresolved border disputes between India and China, we believe both India and China have an interest in maintaining peace and stability, not only in Asia but beyond Asia. That is why of late we have started establishing military to military contact. The Indian Navy had also started cooperation with the Chinese Navy. At the moment, this is mainly in the area of anti-piracy. It is a beginning. In the area

of anti-piracy we are sharing information and in coming years, wherever possible in the area of anti-piracy and also maintaining maritime security, we will try to have close relations with China. This is only the beginning. It has to evolve in the coming years, but between India and China military-to-military of late we have started a dialogue, joint exercises and relations. This is what I would like to say about this.

Meanwhile China news agency Xinhua responding to US plans to redeploy its naval fleet in the Pacific Ocean by 2020, said: “It is advisable for some to refrain from muddying the waters and fishing therein and for some others to desist from dancing behind a Pied Piper whose magic tone, as tempting as it is, might lead its followers astray.” Defence Minister A. K. Antony, however, stressed that India strongly “believes in unhindered freedom” of navigation in international waters as per universally agreed laws, principles and norms. Referring to his June 2 address at the 11 Asian Security Summit in Singapore, Mr. Antony said that he had made India’s position amply clear there while speaking on “Protecting Maritime Freedoms.” In an obvious reference to disputes in the South-China Sea where China’s presence was growing, Mr. Antony said that maritime disputes between nations should be settled through negotiations and discussions among themselves without any third-party intervention. Elaborating on India’s position on settlement of disputes between countries, Mr. Antony said: “Whenever any dispute arises between countries, we believe it should be settled through negotiations and discussions among the parties themselves and not by any third-party intervention. India does not believe in policy of confrontation. That is our approach in West Asia also.” “Regarding U.S. strategy, I do not want to comment much. I have explained our stand in Singapore,” Mr. Antony said. In Singapore, U.S. Defence Secretary Leon Panetta, who later visited India also, had announced that the U.S. would be moving the majority of its warships into Asia-Pacific region over the next few years.



023. Press Release of the Ministry of Defence regarding the Operational Reach of India's Maritime Diplomacy.

New Delhi, June 13, 2012.

Four ships of the Indian Navy's Eastern Fleet entered Shanghai today on a four day port visit. The four IN ships Rana, Shivalik, Karmukh and Shakti under the command of Rear Admiral P Ajit Kumar, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet are on an operational deployment to the South China Sea and North West Pacific. Earlier in the deployment, the first Bi-lateral maritime exercise between India and Japan 'JIMEX 12' (Japan India Maritime Exercise) was conducted, coinciding with commemoration of 60 years of diplomatic relations between India and Japan. Even as four ship's of the Eastern Fleet are in the South China Sea, another ship viz INS Savitri is in Port Victoria, Seychelles. INS Savitri is planned to participate in the National Day celebrations of Seychelles and thereafter be deployed for about two months to undertake surveillance of the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) of Seychelles and Mauritius. The IN continues to maintain one Dornier in Seychelles to provide aerial surveillance for the Seychellois EEZ. One Dornier is actively flying from Maldives to meet Maldivian requirements of EEZ surveillance and anti piracy patrols. The IN support to Mauritius, Maldives and Seychelles is provided on request of the respective government. INS Tabar continues its deployment in the Gulf of Aden on convoy escort and anti piracy patrol. The Western Fleet is set to deploy four ships on an overseas deployment to Horn of Africa, Red Sea and the Western Mediterranean under the command of Rear Admiral AR Karve, Flag Officer Commanding Western Fleet. Such long range deployments, covering the IOR and beyond, bear testimony to the blue water capabilities and operational readiness of the Indian Navy. It may be recalled that during the recent Naval Commander's Conference the Defence Minister Mr AK Antony, had said "India's strategic location in the Indian Ocean and the professional capability of our Navy bestows upon us a natural ability to play a leading role in ensuring peace and stability in the Indian Ocean Region." He had also added that "Considering the challenges in the Indian Ocean Region, it is essential to maintain high levels of operational preparedness at all times."



024. Statement by the Prime Minister at the Plenary of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20 Summit) at Rio de Janeiro.

Rio de Janeiro, June 21, 2012.

Mr. President
Excellencies,
Ladies & Gentlemen,

Let me begin by congratulating President Dilma Rousseff for hosting this conference and for her outstanding stewardship of the negotiations. We thank the people of Brazil for their warm hospitality and the excellent arrangements made for this conference. Brazil, like India, is a confluence of cultures and peoples. I feel honoured to be among you.

Mr. President,

We meet at a time of serious economic crisis and political ferment in the world. The Rio+20 Summit on Sustainable Development is timely because it focuses our minds on “the future we want” and how to realize it. Difficult though it may seem, we have to summon the imagination to balance the costs that we will incur in the present with the benefits that will accrue to future generations.

Economic Development, social inclusion and environmental sustainability are all equally critical as components of sustainable development. The task before us is to give practical shape and content to this architecture in a manner that allows each country to develop according to its own national priorities and circumstances.

For developing countries, inclusive growth and a rapid increase in per capita income levels are development imperatives. The 1992 Rio Summit correctly acknowledged that poverty eradication must remain the over-riding priority for developing countries. Those living at the subsistence level cannot bear the costs of adjustment and their livelihood considerations are important in determining how scarce natural resources such as land, water and forests are used. The severe deterioration of land and water resources is already affecting the well-being of millions of people living on the edges of subsistence, particularly women and children.

Sustainable development also mandates the efficient use of available natural resources. We have to be much more frugal in the way we use natural resources. A key area of focus is energy. We have to promote, universal access to energy, while, at the same time, promoting energy efficiency and a shift to cleaner energy sources by addressing various technological, financial and

institutional constraints. In India, we are implementing an ambitious National Solar Mission as a critical option for our energy security.

Moreover, current consumption patterns in the industrialized world are unsustainable. We need to find new pathways for sustainable living.

Environmental sustainability is the third leg of the sustainable development architecture. Economic activity invariably results in negative spinoffs, either by way of local pollution, or by way of global effects such as Greenhouse Gas emissions. We need to tackle both.

Local pollution can be regulated and such regulation may impose costs on various economic actors. To ensure equity, there may be a case for targeted assistance to small producers to meet part of these costs and this should be built into policy.

At the global level, our approach to the problem should be guided by equitable burden sharing. It is for this reason that the first Rio Summit enshrined the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. I am happy we have reaffirmed this principle as well as the principle of equity during this Summit

This does not, however, mean that countries should not take proactive actions to promote sustainable development. In India, our efforts over the last two decades have yielded positive results. Over the period 1994-2007, our emissions-GDP intensity, excluding agriculture, has declined nearly 25%. Looking ahead, we have set a target to further reduce the emissions intensity of GDP by 20-25% between 2005 and 2020.

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. The ongoing economic crisis has made matters worse.

One of the key challenges that demands urgent global action is the worrying depletion of bio-diversity across our planet. The Eleventh Conference of Parties on Convention on Biodiversity is being hosted by India in October this year at Hyderabad. We look forward to working with the global community to make it a success.

Mr President,

The future we want should be a future in which there is ecological and economic space for sustainable growth for all.

Let us work together to attain the future that we all desire. With these words I once again thank you Mr. President.



025. Media Briefing by Foreign Secretary and India's Deputy Permanent Representative at the United Nations (Mr. Manjeev Singh Puri): Mr. Akbar on Prime Minister's Bilaterals and Rio+20 Conference.

Rio de Janeiro, June 21, 2012.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Syed Akbaruddin): Good afternoon friends. Thank you very much for coming to this briefing. We have here with us Foreign Secretary who will brief us on Prime Minister's bilateral meetings. After that, if any of you would like any information on the ongoing Summit, we also have with us Mr. Manjeev Puri who is Deputy Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, who has been involved in the entire process for the last several months on the Rio+20 Conference.

With that I will now first ask Foreign Secretary to brief you about the bilaterals that Prime Minister had.

Foreign Secretary (Shri Ranjan Mathai): Prime Minister had bilateral meetings with Prime Minister of Nepal Mr. Baburam Bhattarai and with President of Sri Lanka Mahinda Rajapaksa. During the session yesterday he also briefly spoke to President Waheed of the Maldives.

There is a possibility we are going to have a pull-aside both with the President of Maldives and with Prime Minister Thinley of Bhutan during the session this afternoon. As soon as I get something on those I will find the time to speak about them but I thought I will just mention the two meetings which took place first with Nepal.

Prime Minister and Prime Minister Bhattarai recalled the good meetings they had held last year both during Prime Minister Bhattarai's visit to India and the meeting they had on the sidelines of the SAARC Summit which was in November in Addu. Prime Minister Bhattarai did mention that subsequently after those two very productive meetings there had been a preoccupation with domestic politics in Nepal. But he underlined that they continue to attach very great importance to taking forward the bilateral relationship with India.

Referring to the internal security in Nepal, Prime Minister Bhattarai noted that on what is called the peace process and integration there had been great progress and the issues had been more or less settled. But the drafting of the Constitution was not completed by the May 27 deadline, and hence they had no option, since the Supreme Court had said that the Constituent Assembly could not be extended, so the decision was to seek another election.

As far as our Prime Minister is concerned, he reiterated that India wants the

success of democracy in Nepal. And he expressed the hope that all parties would show the wisdom to work together so that acceptable arrangements are made to complete the Constitution-making process on time.

In terms of the bilateral relationship, PM said that as a friend of Nepal we are committed to support it in the development process and we would support Nepal in a manner which is sought by the Nepalese people, but we in India do have a vision of the working together.

The Prime Minister of Nepal referred to negotiations with Indian companies for hydropower projects. And our Prime Minister said he recognized that this is an area of particularly great importance in our relationship. But at the moment we are in the process of helping Nepal deal with some development challenges which include supply of power from India to Nepal. It was agreed that the Joint Commission which is chaired by the two Foreign Ministers should meet as soon as feasible and look at all areas including power, railways and other areas of our interaction.

The Prime Minister and Prime Minister Bhattarai also reviewed security matters and the working of our mechanisms to deal with security cooperation. Prime Minister Bhattarai recalled that he had invited PM to visit Nepal, and PM said that he would be very happy to visit at a mutually convenient time.

The two leaders also discussed the conference which is under way here, and had the sense that outcome was, as they could see it, favourable in terms of how both countries looked at it.

With President Mahinda Rajapaksa of Sri Lanka, PM started first with a one-on-one discussion and then in delegation-level meeting. They covered all bilateral relations. On security related issues, they noted that our dialogue would be taken forward on the 29th June when the National Security Advisor Mr. Menon would be visiting Colombo. There was a substantial discussion on our economic relations, and the Power Minister of Sri Lanka gave an update on Sampur Power Project which is one of the very big projects being undertaken in Sri Lanka as a joint venture between the Ceylon Power Board and the NTPC.

In terms of the overall relationship, both felt that the scope for progress was very great and we must now concentrate on dealing with those areas where we can make good progress.

The President also referred to the situation within Sri Lanka and mentioned the continuing discussions on the issue of devolution. But the large focus was on what is being done for the rehabilitation of Internally Displaced People. He quoted the figure of about 3,000 who now continue to remain in the camps compared to 300,000 when the war ended.

He also noted that the resettlement process was under way, and electrification of the Northern nger of collapse given that the Madhesia Party and the Maoists have both split under their primary components. Is there any concern or any reassurance that the agreements that we have done with Bhattarai and the promises we have made to him or both sides have made to each other will stand even after his Government falls?

Foreign Secretary: There was no specific reference to the agreements which we signed apart from, as I said, the Bilateral Investment Protection Agreement and the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement. Those are in place and they would be expected to continue. The point is that they at the moment are in a state where an election has been announced by the Prime Minister for November. Whether that election actually will be held on that date is still to be actually confirmed because the Supreme Court had actually made the conclusion of the Constituent Assembly on May 27, and an issue has been raised through a petition to the court that under the interim Constitution under which they were functioning, there is no provision for holding such an election. That the courts will decide on it. So, what I am trying to say is that there is a degree of political fluidity right now which I think we need to get through this period. But as far as all the bilateral mechanisms at the official level are concerned, those continue. As far as we are concerned, the agreements which have been signed are government-to-agreements, and those will be maintained.

Official Spokesperson: Since there are no further questions, I will ask Mr. Manjeev Puri to make his opening remarks, and then if there are any questions he will take them.

India's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations (Mr. Manjeev Singh Puri): Mr. Akbar, thank you very much.

I think most members of the group here were briefed yesterday by the Hon. Minister of State for Environment on the salient features of the Outcome Document which is likely to be adopted tomorrow here. I am quite prepared to answer anything in addition, if you wish to know.

But I think it is also instructive to note if any of you have followed the statement of the President of Brazil when she inaugurated the Plenary yesterday where she pointed out that in this particular conference, it is extremely important to note that developing countries have been able to re-emphasise not only the Rio principles but bring to the fore that in the year 2012 poverty eradication continues to remain our overriding priority, and that we need to do all that we can to tackle this particular thing especially in the context of MDGs and the future development goals.

I think it is also very important to note that we have an agreement which is a good and balanced agreement, perhaps the best that was possible under the

circumstances that the world faces today and which are fairly well-known to all of you.

I want to stop here now. If there is something very specific which the Hon. Minister may not have addressed yesterday, please go ahead. Thank you very much.

Question: The question really is as far as the earlier goals of funding being made available to developing countries for meeting certain goals. Now there is no funding. The earlier commitments have not been met. Therefore, on what basis are we concluding that there is a significant success because the reportage from the developed world is actually slamming this entire exercise?

India's Deputy PR to the UN: I think we need to be of course very cognizant that we are meeting at a time when there are serious economic challenges in the world, and certainly you are well aware and familiar with what the developed countries are going through. The Rio Conferences in the past too, what have they reaffirmed in 1992 is the set of principles and the mechanisms. In this particular conference we have agreed in terms of the draft outcome document to set up two mechanisms - one to deal with the area of financing and the other to deal with the area of technology. This is a significant breakthrough especially considering the circumstances. These are the mechanisms which will then look at ways and means by which we can reach either figures or ways and means of reaching those figures.

So, this is a document which obviously has a certain degree of balance, certain degree of being rooted in the realities of the world today. But it is a document which recognizes very clearly that the developing world could do much more provided it was assisted both in terms of technology and in terms of finance.

In terms of what you are hearing from the developed world, again I think you need to recognize this, and I can perhaps just tell you what Dr. Pachauri said to me just a few minutes back when I saw him in the corridor that look when they could afford it, they were not willing to do anything, now that they cannot afford it, what is it that we can really expect. This is Pachauri to me but do not quote it as it is to you.

Question: Why are we saying that the document reflects a lack of political will on the part of developed countries when the document says that developed countries will part with 0.7 per cent of GNP? It also says that South-South cooperation will be complement to North-South cooperation and not the substitute to it? And will SDGs have specific goals like MDGs?

India's Deputy PR to the UN: The lack of political will is perhaps best reflected in the question that your colleague here just asked. This is a document which

is in the process of negotiations. In these particular negotiations to get these paragraphs of old commitments on 0.7 per cent itself took a great deal of doing. So, these are reiterations. To hold people to their old commitments itself was a significant achievement on the part of the developing countries and the G77. In terms of political will, surely political will could have been shown by, as you have heard, promising funding or being much more broad on technology transfer. But best that could have been achieved at this stage was the setting up of mechanisms. The reasons are of course fairly obvious, rooted in the realities of today as you see it.

So, it is a balancing act. But I think from the perspective of developing countries it is a good balancing act because policy space for developing countries has been clearly recognized. Differentiated burden sharing and on the basis of equity has been clearly recognized, and the fact that mechanism for international cooperation have also been initiated. We need to now take this process further from here.

On SDGs, what has happened is the process has begun whereby the UN General Assembly will set up an Expert Committee, we will start discussing on how SDGs would look like. Just to recap, where the Millennium Development Goals, these were actually drafted by experts, the Secretary-General, and actually have never really been adopted, although they are accepted in common parlance and all of us are working towards them. For the Sustainable Development Goals, the idea really is that we would work in this for the post-2015 development agenda but in an inter-governmental setting. So, all of us, governments etc., would be deliberating within the framework of the United Nations General Assembly. How they pan out, how do they work out, difficult to say at the moment. The kind of broad areas are obviously food security, energy access. These are the kind of important critical areas for sustainable development for all.

Question: My question would be to you or to the Foreign Secretary. Could you give us a sense of Indian industry in this summit? They have been looking at various themes. So, industry being now very important and they are talking about poverty eradication and funding and other things. So, could you give us a sense of the participation of top industrialists and what are they committing, or what kind of delegation is here?

India's Deputy PR to the UN: At the opening time you may have heard Mr. Kris Gopalakrishnan spoke on behalf of global industry, and he has been around here. The Conference itself the way it works, is that major groups have an opportunity to speak and private sector is one of them. So, we have been very well represented in having an esteemed member and a very venerable member of the Indian industry speaking out here in terms of what the industry wants.

Let me just remind you of what Mr. Gopalakrishnan said. He said that we are looking forward to contributing and working towards inclusive green growth. In terms of what Indian industry is otherwise doing here, the conference of course is primarily inter-governmental with civil society and others participating including major groups. But I think Indian industry is rather active here in Brazil, rather active worldwide. And we see on our domestic side on various other aspects there has been a tremendous amount of positive response of the Indian industry as such towards sustainable development, towards environment protection, while working towards growth and inclusive growth in the country.

Question: What we are hearing here is just general kind of assurances and commitments. There are no concrete targets or something like that being set up. You yourself are saying that they are only reiterating the old commitments, they are again reassuring that they will be committed to all central points. What is the new theme being added in this conference?

India's Deputy PR to the UN: In this conference the principal gain for the developing countries is a reaffirmation of the Rio Principles, and the commitments which were already there. There has been a great deal of effort and a great deal of action to try and dilute the commitments, to try and perhaps walk away from them, or as your colleague here mentioned, try and substitute them by something else whether it is South-South cooperation or any other form of this kind. What has this conference done? This conference has reaffirmed the validity of the Rio Principles, the validity that the cooperation amongst South-South countries is one of partnership, partnership in which both are equals and they work towards national priorities of the others, distinct from the aged paradigm of North-South which retains its validity and its importance. And what this particular conference has done is, it held them to their promises. We need to work to get those promises implemented. You are absolutely right. Critical deficit has been a deficit of implementation. But that is a deficit which we will have to recognize. The fact that we have been able to hold them to those promises itself is a particularly successful outcome of this particular negotiation process, and the fact that we were able to keep them together.

Question: In many ways US and Germany actually they ...(Inaudible)... moneybags. Now in the absence of Mr. Obama and Chancellor Merkel through the Conference, how does India view it? A disappointment? Lack of responsibility? How does India view this particular thing?

India's Deputy PR to the UN: The facts are of course there for you to see. People give several reasons for it. The President of the United States is engaged in his elections, the Chancellor of Germany with the Eurozone crisis. I think in some senses what you are saying certainly does have a certain

amount of validity. But let us remember, the United States is likely to be represented by the Secretary of State. The United States has been very active in the negotiations here. They have a high-level delegation here led by their Special Envoy in the State Department. And they have been extremely active in all elements of the negotiations which have taken place here. Similarly Germany. Not only as part of the European Union at its negotiating team here, the Germans have been here in their own way at a very high level here. So, I think the way I would look at it is that for whatever reasons the leaders may not have been able to come but Germany and the United States have been very actively engaged in the process, and actively engaged in the negotiations, and actively present politically in this particular meeting out here.

Question: You spoke about technology as one of the mechanisms. But then how do you look at resolving the IPR issues? And you spoke about this kind of developing centres of excellence. Will the centres be run on the CG model?

India's Deputy PR to the UN: It is the India's position for a long time that we need to have a kind of fair use of the IPR regimes, and allowing the best use of the existing modalities of the IPR regimes under the WTO in the TRIPS. We have also been very strong on collaboration. And you are right, the CG model is something that we often allude to and try and have that brought into place. Our efforts here have basically been that the mechanism that we set up to work on technology are such that these models, the CG model as well as what we can do with IPRs gets brought into the fore and that we are able to discuss them in the context of sustainable development, not just in the very specific context where they have currently moved in the WTO. So, these are certainly areas that we will work on. These will be priority areas for our delegation as we work through the transfer of technology mechanisms which are due to be set up.

Official Spokesperson: Thank you very much. With that we come to the end of this interaction.



026. Speech of the Vice President at the launch of the book “Pax Indica: India and the World of the 21st Century”.

New Delhi, July 11, 2012.

“Dr. Shashi Tharoor has written a timely, interesting and thought provoking essay on a subject that is very much in the public domain.

His academic credentials are impressive. He brings to the subject a unique perspective of multilateral diplomacy. Above all, his knowledge of the actual conduct of foreign policy, at the political level, gives the volume before us significance beyond ordinary.

The dust jacket of the book does arouse curiosity. I refer to the elephant, the term Pax, and to the world of the 21st century.

The elephant, of course, is a noble creature, has an important place in our faith system and culture, has a well deserved reputation for longevity and sturdiness and has been honoured down the ages. In terms of history and strategic thinking, however, its role has been a mixed one. Since ancient times it has been used as an instrument of war, with different results. Is it necessarily the best symbol for our foreign policy aspirations in the 21st century?

Pax, again, has an established connotation in history and strategic literature. Our author wishes to impart a new meaning to it. Many years back Ezra Vogel had written about Pax Nipponica. It did not quite happen. And, of course, there have been other pax-es in recent and not-so-recent history. Each raises questions of durability and conceptual validity.

As for the 21st century, we have experienced it for over a decade. It is characterised by fluidity and impermanence. For this reason, futuristic projections beyond short periods do tend to become difficult. Multi-polarity is a reality, with each participant seeking strategic autonomy.

Dr. Tharoor has offered the term “Multi-Alignment”. Others have suggested “Nonalignment 2.0”. Both seek to depict a menu of options in a new, very complex, world. Both need to be debated seriously to avoid strategic confusion.

The author has rightly noted that “foreign policy is basically about fulfilling domestic objectives.” Some questions unavoidably come to mind:

What would be the contours and dynamics of our society in the coming years?

Would technological change – particularly in areas of food production, health and energy

– keep pace with our needs?

Would we improve upon our delivery mechanism to fulfil the requirements of an inclusive society?

What would be our capacity to deal with disasters like pandemics?

Would the external environment remain benign? If not, what would be the nature of external challenge? Would it hamper the achievement of our primary socio-economic goals? What would be the Indian impact on the external world?

I do hope this book would help scholars and policy makers focus on the perspectives and questions raised in it."



027. Remarks by Foreign Secretary at the Launch of IDSA Report – “India’s Neighbourhood: Challenges in the Next Two Decades”

New Delhi, July 13, 2012.

Dr. Arvind Gupta, Director General, IDSA,
Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure to be present amongst this audience to launch a document that is the result of a unique collaborative effort between the Ministry of External Affairs and the Institute of Defence Analyses.

We live during what has been called an Asian Century. This title was used by some academics in the international arena but today it is used mostly by Asians! Over the last few decades, Asian nations, including India, launched themselves along high-growth trajectories that have led to a discernible eastward shift of global political and economic centres of gravity. This has increased their weight and profile in international relations and enhanced their capacity to influence global events. Hence the new slogan. But this has also created unprecedented challenges for policy makers and strategic establishments that have to grapple with difficult and often unfamiliar problems. One is the need to put in place policies and measures that make the trajectory of high growth sustainable over time. Historical experience suggests caution in accepting projections of continuous growth. The second is the need to deal with an inevitable backlash. Shifts in the global balance are not necessarily welcome to those at the losing end even if they only lose in relative terms. The determined effort to choke our growth through environmental norms and regulations is an example.

These are challenges that cannot be overcome by any one organisation. Multiple strands of thought, multiple perspectives and multiple courses of action have to be taken into account and woven together into composite solutions. “India’s Neighbourhood: Challenges in the Next Two Decades” – the document that is being launched today, needs to be viewed in this perspective.

It is in many respects a path-breaking document that is the first output of the MEA-IDSA Strategic and Perspective Planning Research Group. This Group is itself the product of a sustained effort by MEA and by IDSA to draw upon the best available talent in the country to peer beyond the immediate policy and time horizon. In this report, independent researchers, with the full support of MEA and IDSA have made an effort to find out what lies, in military parlance, on “the other side of the hill”.

The intention is to focus attention on the challenging policy environment in our immediate neighbourhood. The intention is also to provoke a debate, and hopefully a lively debate, both within India and beyond its borders. We hope to

generate ideas and solutions. We hope that we will be able to think out of the box. Mostly, we hope that this debate will allow MEA to find ways to strengthen, in practical terms, its forward-looking and proactive approach to engaging with our neighbours.

The promotion of a politically stable and economically secure periphery is a paramount foreign policy objective for India. This is essential to deal with the challenges of fostering sustainable growth and to ensure that regional differences cannot be exploited by those who would keep us absorbed in disputes. We have been hard at work in fostering inter-connectivity and mutual confidence in multiple areas, in promoting trade and investment, and in trying to leverage India's rapid economic growth into win-win arrangements with our neighbours.

We are also conscious of the currents of globalization and of the need to take advantage of global trends in political economy. We believe that common South Asian interests must factor in the policy-making process of South Asian nations. A South Asian Economic Union is a distant dream; but even an expanded set of economic connections will not only transform the economies of South Asia but will be a force for political stability.

I would be stating the obvious in reiterating that there are very few areas of the world where the benefits or logic of regional cooperation are as obvious as in South Asia. But it is also a fact that there are very few regions where the challenges in creating the structures for regional cooperation are so daunting.

This places South Asian problems in a peculiarly difficult position. Even as we attempt to surmount the challenges that history has imposed upon us, we are being called upon to confront a new generation of problems, the problems of the 21st century. For example, the difficulties in demarcating borders are now accompanied by a completely different set of issues that arise from the growing irrelevance of borders in a globalized world. Demographic trends are producing a South Asia that is young and has high expectations. The so-called demographic dividend, if not managed properly, can turn into a demographic nightmare. Governments that are unable to cope with these expectations will turn their nations into "fragile" or "weak" states that will create challenges of the kind the international community is already struggling to cope with. The dividing line between terrorists and trans-national criminals is disappearing and access to technology is increasing the dangers that they pose. Even as South Asian nations struggle to bridge their internal digital divides, they have to divert resources to foil cyber-criminals who operate in a virtual world.

One of the major issues identified by the report is the rapidity with which change is taking place in South Asia. Policy makers and practitioners operate in an environment where the unexpected is the norm. Policy and responses have to be constantly updated to ensure that we do not apply 20th century solutions

and mindsets to 21st century problems. The democratic upsurge mentioned by the Director General is one of them. We can best influence this by being an example – rather than trying any policy presumption.

We also have to be mindful of the fact that South Asia does not exist in isolation. This year marks two decades of India's engagement with ASEAN and a commemorative Summit will be held in New Delhi in December this year. It also marks twenty years of India's policy of connecting with Central Asia. Our exceptionally close ties to the Gulf region need no elaboration. We are also building an Indian Ocean Littoral community. Our engagement with all these regions is progressing rapidly and it is apparent that many of the problems and opportunities presented in this report need not just a South Asian perspective but have to be seen from a trans-regional angle. We would like our policy towards South Asia and towards these regions to present a seamless continuum.

The document ends by declaring that South Asia is at a cross-roads. We are presented with threats and opportunities, strengths and weaknesses. It is identifying these and suggesting a policy framework to address them that this report has added value to the ongoing discourse on improving linkages within South Asia. The recommendations of the report about the broadening of India's foreign policy approach are being examined seriously and will be taken on-board in our internal deliberations.

I would like to conclude by noting that the Ministry of External Affairs has not been entirely reactive. Nor have we let the acute shortage of resources stop us from taking some proactive steps. We have created bureaus within our Ministry that deal with emerging issues. We have stepped up recruitment of personnel into the Indian Foreign Service. We have also increased the intake from other services and backgrounds to build in-house expertise on non-traditional areas. We are funding an increasing amount of academic research across India on foreign policy issues. We understand that domestic factors will influence policy towards our neighbours and have created a presence in State capitals through Branch Secretariats. We have created a Development Partnership Administration that will look into optimising the programmes that are being devised for development cooperation with our partners in the developing world, particularly with our neighbours. Visa regimes and consular issues remain a challenge but receive our constant attention.

We will continue with our efforts to be responsive to the needs of changing nation. As the world evolves so will we. But our first priority is and will be for some time the neighbourhood. That is why this is the right time to see how it will look over the next 2 decades and I commend this book to you for opening our debate.



027-A. Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson on India – Bangladesh Foreign Office Consultations.

New Delhi, July 24, 2012.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Syed Akbaruddin):the Foreign Secretary had Foreign Office Consultations with his counterpart from Bangladesh. These were held in a very cordial, warm and constructive atmosphere. The two sides had comprehensive discussions on the entire gamut of bilateral relations. This includes security related matters, border management, counterterrorism, trade and investment, water resources, power cooperation including renewable energy, connectivity, development cooperation, and increasing people-to-people ties.

That is what I have in terms of formal announcements. I am willing to take a few questions if any of you have any.

Question: Was it held in Delhi?

Official Spokesperson: Yes, it was held in Delhi this morning.

Question: You said water resources was also discussed. Was Teesta problem also discussed and has anything come up?

Official Spokesperson: When we mentioned all aspects I am certain that it includes the issue that you refer to. Yes, it was raised. You are aware of our position on this that we are in the process of working out an internal consensus on this, and when we are ready, we will take it forward.

Question: About Bangladesh, how big was the delegation from our side? Which Departments were represented? Has anything conclusive come out of this meeting? Is there going to be any high level visit between the two countries in the near future?

Official Spokesperson: Yes. Both the Indian and the Bangladeshi delegations were composite ones. That means they were not only from the Ministry of External Affairs but also from other Ministries - the Home Ministry, the Commerce Ministry, the Shipping and Transport Ministry, these are the ones which I can recall off hand. As regards the meeting and its outcome, first of all I would like to mention to you that this meeting is to take forward the policies that are already agreed to by the two Prime Ministers last year and the two Foreign Ministers at the JCM meeting which was held in May. So, it is more a policy implementation meeting than a policy formulation.

You have also asked about likely visits. We are expecting the Commerce Minister to visit Bangladesh in December for an India Trade Fair. And that will be a major activity that we intend to focus on during the rest of the year. There

are also other smaller visits of various officials that are likely to take place. These are just being worked out. The major visit that we have next on the calendar is the visit of the Commerce and Industry Minister.

Question: There have been reports about Border Haats between Bangladesh and India? Was that issue discussed? has there been any expansion in bilateral trade between India and Bangladesh

Official Spokesperson: You are talking about Border Haats I think. These were opened in Meghalaya and both the sides seem to think that they have been very successful. As you are aware, since then we have suggested that these should be opened in other States. And careful attention is being given by both the sides to opening these elsewhere. We hope to have some good news at some stage in the future because the experience of both Bangladesh and India of these Border Haats has been a very happy one.

To respond to your second question, since the agreements came into being we have not completed a year. So, it is difficult to make an assessment of an increase in trade because you can only do it for a comparable period in the previous year. But yes there have been increases in various areas, for example readymade garments. Also there are various other areas where Bangladesh, as you are aware now Bangladesh enjoys duty free access to India in virtually every area except for alcohol and maybe one other thing. Therefore, there is likely to be an increase in trade activity. The figures will be known at the end of the year and we will certainly share them with you.

Question: Bangladesh is setting up a nuclear power plant close to Indian border. First of all, is this with the help of the Chinese? Has this issue been raised? What is the status of that? It is in the plan stage now.

Official Spokesperson: This is not a new story that Bangladesh, like India, is interested in nuclear energy. Nuclear energy we in India feel is a clean form of energy, it is also in the context of requirement of energy security various countries are looking at it. There are thirty countries in the world which have nuclear power plants including India. And Bangladesh has been looking at it. I do not want to get into the detail but my understanding is that they have signed memorandum of understanding with the Russian Federation on this, and perhaps they will be better placed to explain to you what type of reactor, where it is, etc. But I would just like to tell you based on my own experience of such matters that these things take a long gestation period. A nuclear power plant takes anything between six to ten years to come up. So, we are talking of a timeframe which is long, but I would suggest that you may like to address your question about the specifics of that to our colleagues and friends in Bangladesh.

Question: But the site is close to the Indian border.

Official Spokesperson: I think there are IAEA conventions on the location of nuclear sites and trans-boundary issues. We are very familiar with it because India is a very active member in the International Atomic Energy Agency and we understand what are the requirements for these and what countries need to do. At this stage, as I said, ten years in advance of something, let us not jump the gun on that. Let us wait for decisions and there will be discussions if they are required.

Thank you very much.



028. Speech of External Affairs Minister at the Inauguration of Passport Seva Kendras in Jammu & Kashmir.

Srinagar, July 26, 2012.

Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Omar Abdullah Saheb,
Hon'ble Minister Dr. Farooq Abdullah Saheb,
Hon'ble Ministers, Members of Parliament,
Members of Legislative Assembly and Council,
Additional Secretary Shri B.K. Gupta,
Chief Passport Officer Shri Muktesh Pardeshi and
Passport Officers from Srinagar and Jammu,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

May I, at the outset, extend my warmest greetings to you on the auspicious occasion of the holy month of Ramadan. May your life be filled with peace, prosperity and happiness!

It gives me immense pleasure to be present today in the serene surroundings of Srinagar to launch Passport Seva Kendras in Srinagar and Jammu, and also to lay the Foundation Stone for building a new premises of the Passport Bhavan.

Indeed, it has been a long journey – from a mere five Passport Offices in 1955 to 38 Passport Offices in the country at present. With India's growing international profile and greater integration with the global economy, coupled with more disposable income, the number of Indians traveling abroad is witnessing phenomenal growth in recent years. In the 1950's, merely 30,000 passports were issued in a year. Last year alone, the Ministry rendered over 73 lakh passport services.

Speaking of Jammu and Kashmir, during 2011, the Passport Offices in Srinagar and Jammu rendered 89,270 passport related services, which marks a remarkable 39% increase compared to 2010. Both these Passport Offices are also playing an important role in the implementation of the confidence building measures between India and Pakistan by way of facilitating travel of persons on either side of the Line of Control. I convey my deep appreciation to the Passport Officials based in Jammu & Kashmir for their hard work and dedication.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Ministry of External Affairs continues its sustained efforts to streamline passport issuance procedures, computerization of Passport Offices, decentralization of passport applications collection and reforms in the Central Passport Organization. The service delivery system still needs considerable reform to

keep pace with steep rise in demand for passport services. The launch of Passport Seva Project, a flagship initiative of the Central Government as part of National e-Governance Plan, is specifically aimed at addressing these problems.

In a short time, we moved from Pilot Project mode in May 2010 in Bengaluru to the commencement of nation-wide rollout of Passport Seva Kendras in June last year. In June 2012 all the 77 PSKs were set up and operationalised in the country. This has been a remarkable journey over last two years. In this connection, I acknowledge the significant contribution of the service provider Tata Consultancy Services. I would like to commend the Passport Seva team for their devotion to public duty and to our service partner, TCS, for their earnest efforts in speedy implementation of the Project.

Passport Seva Kendras are extended arms of the Passport Offices and are integral to Government of India's firm commitment to provide timely delivery of passport services to our fellow citizens. I take this opportunity to re-affirm the citizen-centric role of Passport Offices. In this endeavour, we will continue to adopt measures which facilitate speedier service, greater convenience and comfort to the public at large.

Innovative measures such as Passport Melas and Adalats have been undertaken to keep pace with the rising demand for passport services. We have also taken special steps for issuance of passports to prospective Haj pilgrims, including from the Kashmir Valley.

With the completion of 77 PSKs, the Ministry is working on setting up Passport Seva Laghu Kendras in North-Eastern States and other parts of the country. The Ministry is also working on integration of Indian Embassies and Consulates with Passport Seva Project.

Thanks to the Passport Seva Project, the Central Passport Organisation Cadre has been expanded and restructured, promotions fast tracked, office environment improved, and uniform and simple work procedures introduced. A unique Productivity Linked Incentive Scheme has also been notified last month for CPO employees. The Scheme will be supplemented by recognition given to outstanding employees through award of Passport Seva Puraskars, which will be implemented soon.

The Passport Officers and other officials of the Central Passport Organisation are crucial to help realize the vision of passport services going closer to the home of our citizens. I commend them for their diligence and dedication.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We also recognize the need for increased coordination between the Passport Offices and the local police authorities for issue of requisite police clearances.

To address this aspect, I will be launching a pilot project next week in Bengaluru to link Passport offices directly with the police stations, which is expected to reduce the time taken for issuance of police verification, thus, speedier issue of passports.

I thank the Government of the State of Jammu & Kashmir for allotting a spacious site at Rajbagh for the Passport Bhavan, the foundation stone of which was laid today. I assure that the passport office would be a state-of-the-art building. I would request Hon'ble Chief Minister Omar Saheb to favour with a plot of land in Jammu as well for housing our Passport Office and Passport Seva Kendra there. We also plan to establish a Passport Seva Laghu Kendra in Leh for extending passport services in that region.

In conclusion, I express my deep gratitude to the Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Omar Abdullah saheb and the Ministers present here for the whole-hearted support that we have received in timely execution of this citizen-centric Project.

Thank you.



029. Press Release on the External Affairs Minister's inauguration of the Passport Seva Kendras in Jammu & Kashmir and the Foundation Stone laying of Passport Bhavan in Srinagar.

New Delhi, July 26, 2012.

External Affairs Minister Shri S.M. Krishna today formally launched Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs) in Srinagar and Jammu at a function organized at the prestigious Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC), Srinagar in the august presence of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir Shri Omar Abdullah, Union Minister for New & Renewable Energy Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad and other dignitaries. The PSKs in the State have already been operational for over two months and have combined capacity to handle 400 applicants per day. He also laid the Foundation Stone of Passport Bhavan Building planned at Rajbagh in Srinagar. The new building will be coming on an one-acre plot and will be housing the Passport Office, Passport Seva Kendra and staff quarters.

2. The setting up and operationalisation of 77 PSKs in the country has been envisioned under Passport Seva Project (PSP) - a high impact citizen centric e-Governance initiative as part of the National e-Governance Plan. The objective was achieved swiftly as the pilot projects had been launched in Bengaluru and Chandigarh in May 2010 and August 2010 respectively and after certification of the Project in January 2011 by the Standardisation, Testing & Quality Certification, the Third Part Audit Agency under the Department of Information Technology, the Project was cleared for launch across the country only in June 2011. More than 36 lakh passport related services have been rendered under the new system.

3. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Krishna underlined Government's firm commitment to providing efficient delivery of passport services to Indian citizens in keeping with the PSP's vision "to deliver all Passport-related services to the citizens in a timely, transparent, more accessible, reliable manner & in a comfortable environment through streamlined processes and committed, trained & motivated workforce".

4. The Project has been launched in Private Public Partnership mode. The intended benefits to common man are service provisioning in a transparent manner within defined service levels, closer and larger number of access points for services, easy availability of a portfolio of on-line services (www.passportindia.gov.in) with real-time status tracking and enquiry, availability of excellent public facilities at PSKs and an effective system of grievance redressal. For assistance one can call toll-free helpline 1800-258-1800.

5. The MEA has taken a big lead in the country in improving governance in Passport Offices by focussing on citizen-centricity, service orientation and transparency and setting up a new benchmark for project execution. The innovative measures like taking government decisions including verification of requisite documents and granting of passports are done in presence of citizens which require good co-operation and understanding of citizenry as well.



030. Response of the Official Spokesperson to a question on the Arms Trade Treaty Negotiations.

New Delhi, August 2, 2012.

In response to a media query on the Arms trade treaty negotiations, the Official Spokesperson said:

“A Diplomatic Conference was held at the United Nations between 2-27 July 2012 to negotiate an Arms trade treaty (ATT). Though considerable progress was made, it was not possible for the conference to adopt an agreed text. A number of delegations, including India, felt that the draft text needs further work and a treaty of this kind, which would be legally binding when in force, should not be rushed through. It is important to bring all stakeholders on board in a manner that promotes the prospects of a treaty that is practical and implementable and is able to attract universal adherence.

India believes that ATT should make a real impact on preventing illicit trafficking in conventional arms and their diversion to terrorists and other non-state actors. The Treaty should establish a balance of obligations of exporting and importing states and ensure that national implementation and domestic jurisdiction are fully respected. From India’s point of view, we are prepared to engage in further work in a consensus based process and outcome.”



031. Press Release on the Fourth Conference of Indian Heads of Mission.**New Delhi, September 14, 2012.**

The fourth Conference of Indian Heads of Mission commenced today (14.9.2012) at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The salient features of the remarks made by the Prime Minister, External Affairs Minister and Foreign Secretary are provided below.

Remarks by the Prime Minister

PM in his address to the 4th Conference of Indian Heads of Mission emphasised that in the complex strategic environment that India confronts it is essential that senior foreign policy managers regularly take stock of policies and evaluate their effectiveness on the ground.

Our economy, our polity and our society are resilient enough to overcome the present adversities. India's future growth and development depends substantially on a favourable external environment. There are also challenges thrown up by globalization, which has led to entirely new paradigms and discourses on issues ranging from the environment and sustainable development to international terrorism, piracy and crime.

We have worked towards establishing friendly and cooperative ties with our neighbours. We have also emphasized the idea of establishing greater connectivity in South Asia to promote the movement of goods, services, investment and technology so that India's growth provides the engine of progress for our neighbours. HOMs in the region need to consider innovations that make the most effective and efficient use of our limited developmental resources.

Over the last two decades, our political and economic engagement with the major powers has increased manifold. While our interaction with major emerging economies like Brazil and South Africa in formats like the IBSA, and along with Russia and China in the BRICS, have grown in importance.

Africa is on the path of resurgence and it is our stated intention to become a close partner in this process through the India-Africa Forum Summit. I am glad that the Ministry of External Affairs has now established the Development Partnership Administration, which seeks to accelerate the implementation of our development assistance.

For foreign policy to effectively serve domestic growth needs, it is imperative that efforts be equally geared toward finding economic opportunities in trade and financial flows and assisting the search for privileged access to critical or

rare natural resources – these could be sources of energy or other minerals vital for modern industries.

The imperatives of our foreign policy have not changed. Security against external threats, economic prosperity and sharing in global public goods remain the central impulses. A dynamic environment, however, demands constant fine-tuning of the instruments of policy. We must also not remain content with making the best of a difficult external environment, but instead attempt to actively shape a favourable external environment for India.

Remarks by External Affairs Minister

The External Affairs Minister while inaugurating the 4th HOMs Conference on 14.9.2012 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, described the gathering as consisting of “representatives of India’s finest civil servants and best diplomatic minds”. He acknowledged that many of the Indian envoys are called upon to respond to unusual crises in unusual circumstances and this requires innovative and affirmative interventions. Emphasising on the priorities of the government on the foreign policy front, the External Affairs Minister said that an important objective continues to be creation of an external enabling environment for country’s transformation through inclusive growth.

Our immediate neighbourhood is of paramount importance for our national interests and outlined the initiatives taken during the course of last year to enhance our interaction with neighbours. We remain committed to building a stable and prosperous South Asia. Our engagement in the SAARC process has gained momentum. The asymmetrical and result oriented approach adopted by us has pushed forward the SAARC process.

We are reasonably satisfied at the progress achieved in the last round of the resumed dialogue, given the complexities of the issues that we face, in our relations with Pakistan. We are also cognizant of the fact that there is a long way and the path ahead will not be easy. India-China relations, will be one of the most important bilateral relationships in the 21st century. The forthcoming commemorative 20th anniversary summit of our dialogue with ASEAN is a landmark event which would signify our extensive engagement with the region.

In the area of multilateral diplomacy, India’s global profile has been steadily growing. Its credentials for becoming a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council are gaining momentum. Engagement with like-minded countries in the Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa (BRICS) process on issues of mutual interest in the international arena provided opportunities to deal with issues of global governance.

India’s developmental cooperation has emerged as an important component

of our foreign policy with a number of countries. The establishment of Development Partnership Administration (DPA) was a significant institutional development aimed at bringing all development assistance programmes under one umbrella.

The well being of overseas Indians is one of the core responsibilities and concerns of Indian Missions. Embassies and Consulates should be proactive in terms of mitigating problems faced by Indians abroad. Heads of Missions have a special responsibility to play a leadership role in taking up and resolving issues faced by Indian citizens abroad.

The operationalization of 77 Passport Sewa Kendras through out the country in a period of two years is part of efforts to provide timely delivery of passport services to fellow citizens.

We are blessed with a heritage which is unmatched and unparalleled. It is not just the cultural aspect of India that is unique and special, it is our vibrant democracy, talented English speaking workforce our enterprises, our governance, our leadership role in international forums- that are special and needs to be portrayed in an appropriate way. Public diplomacy both in India and abroad needs to find its rightful place.

The emerging multipolar world and multiplicity of issues on the agenda of international relations require all to ensure that Missions are effective outposts of India abroad. Emphasis needs to be put on 4 Cs- 'Commerce, Connectivity, Consular and Community'.

Remarks by the Foreign Secretary

Foreign Secretary Shri Ranjan Mathai briefed the 117 High Commissioners and Ambassadors from across the world, who had gathered at Vigyan Bhawan for the 4th Conference of Indian Heads of Mission (HOMs).

He welcomed the HOMs as representatives of India which is at its mid passage in its transformation. The country's economy is resilient enough to weather the worst global economic and financial crisis since the Great Depression, and continues to register one of the highest economic growth rates in the world. The world's largest democracy is still a role model of the enduring strength of democracy.

The continued integration into the global economy and the expansion of institutional linkages in political, social, academic and cultural spheres worldwide require greater sophistication in the way diplomats articulated their message. There was a demand for much vaster specializations of the foreign service in view of the accentuated public expectations of the conduct and

implementation of India's foreign policy. The need to present holistic answers to issues relating to political dialogue, security, financial flows, trade, economic relations, cyber matters and priorities, information, culture, science, etc has been accentuated.

In the attainment of Indian foreign policy objectives, a high priority has always been given to the development of close ties with the countries of our neighbourhood based on the fundamental principles of equality and mutual respect and mutual sensitivity to each other's concerns. India's engagements with major powers have also visibly and substantively increased in a more nuanced way than previously.

Other Interactions

The Home Minister Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde shared his thoughts on India's security environment and challenges with the participants. He also interacted and responded to questions relating to visa issues.

In addition, National Security Adviser, Dy National Security Adviser, Finance Secretary, Secretary Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs also addressed the HOMs and responded to a number of questions on a variety of issues.

“Fourth Conference of Heads of Mission - 2nd day deliberations”

New Delhi, September 15, 2012.

The second day of the Fourth Heads of Mission's conference witnessed discussions on a wide range of issues which focused on India's immediate neighbourhood, its multilateral engagements, energy security, the Euro zone crisis, India's development partnership programme, the passport seva project and consular services. Presentations were made on National Manufacturing Policy and on Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC). Also discussed were the outcomes of the six regional Heads of Mission meetings that were held across the world during 2012.

Taking cue from the Prime Minister's inaugural address calling for engaging with our neighbourhood with renewed vigor and a fresh outlook, developments in our neighbouring countries were taken stock of and some intense brainstorming on their potential implications on our current relations and outlook for future engagement was carried out.

Speaking on the Euro Zone Crisis, Minister of State for External Affairs Smt. Preneet Kaur drew attention to the fact that the economic situation in Europe

is unlikely to return to “business as usual” on its own . Rising unemployment and recession induced by top down austerity measures has already begun to take a toll. However the euro zone leaders are fully committed to saving the Euro and the measures taken by them will help the Euro zone emerge stronger with greater fiscal integration. Highlighting the likely adverse impact of the persisting Euro Zone crisis on India’s economy given the strong trade and investment links between India and the EU, she called for greater vigilance in safeguarding India’s interests.

Earlier Secretary (Petroleum and Natural Gas) addressed the gathering, highlighting the steps being taken to strengthen the energy security for India and emphasized the important role played by Indian missions abroad in achieving this objective.

India’s engagement with multilateral organizations and groups and its complementarity and importance for our growing bilateral relations with various countries and regions was discussed at length. Permanent Representative of India to the UN, Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri provided an update on the ongoing process of UN Security Council reforms, including the approaches of the G4, C10, L69 processes and the current situation relating to India’s quest for permanent membership of the Security Council. Also discussed during the session were India’s Look East Policy in the light of the forthcoming ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit, strategic importance of engaging with Indian Ocean Rim Countries, and our relations with other important multilateral groups like BRICS, IBSA, India-Africa Forum Summit and CELAC.

The efforts to streamline passport delivery systems through enhancing awareness of online applications through PSK’s, improving the amenities at PSK’s, pilot projects for integrating the Passport Seva Project (PSP) network with state police across some states and union territories and establishing call centres and help-desks to facilitate citizens were deliberated in the session on passport and consular services.

Fourth Conference of Heads of Mission - concluding day deliberations.

September 16, 2012.

The concluding day of the 4th Heads of Missions conference saw lively discussions on non traditional but nevertheless crucial aspects of foreign policy practice, including Public Diplomacy, role of think tanks and cultural diplomacy. In addition, commercial diplomacy and multilateral negotiations on environmental issues and climate change were also addressed.

Terming India a “Cultural Super Power” Dr Karan Singh, President of ICCR in his address to the Heads of Missions re-emphasized the role and importance of cultural diplomacy and public diplomacy tools in projecting India’s soft power. He also stressed on the message of universalism enshrined in our ancient philosophy of Vedanta. He compared cultural diplomacy to be ‘Saraswati’ which together with the ‘Ganga’ of political diplomacy and the ‘Yamuna’ of economic diplomacy completes the Triveni of India’s diplomatic engagement with the outside world.

He also pointed out the close civilizational links and common roots of culture and language between India and the rest of Asia and observed that Indian culture has the same resonance in terms of Eastern philosophy that ancient Greek philosophy had for Europe and the West.

Minister of Commerce, Industry and Textiles Shri Anand Sharma in his address on Economic Diplomacy reiterated the need for strengthening our commercial engagements with emerging economies of Asia, Africa and Latin America and called for embracing the globe through sound trade and investment linkages that are mutually beneficial. He noted that economic engagement has become integral to bilateral and regional relations.

The Minister dwelt at length on Africa’s emergence as an important economic destination and called for firmly reinforcing the historical bonds that exist between India and Africa.

He explained the measures taken by the government to correct the current account and trade deficits and the policy changes that are being pushed to make India a favourable destination for much needed foreign investments. In this context he spoke of the ambitious National Manufacturing Policy, which aims at creating nearly 100 million new jobs and establish over a dozen world class manufacturing zones. He stated that this was an investment being made in the future of our country with the goal of increasing the share of the manufacturing sector in our GDP to levels comparable to that of other emerging economies.

Speaking on the challenges in the field of environmental diplomacy and climate change negotiations, Minister for Environment and Forests, Smt. Jayanti Natarajan said that among the three important debates on sustainability, development and environment, India’s priority is and should remain growth and development. Nevertheless given the fact that there can be no real growth without preserving the integrity of the environment, she contended that growth culture and environmental culture should go hand in hand.

On the debate on green economy and green growth, she stated that there cannot be a one size fits all solution and advocated the need to have an

independent perspective and asked for working towards an Indian model for green growth.

Emphasising on India's commitment to tackle Climate Change, she observed that India was the only developing country which has unilaterally committed itself to reduce intensity of green house emissions by 25% by 2020 and has diligently sent its 2nd National Communication to UNFCCC. She also recalled that India was the only developing country that has said its per capita emissions will not exceed those of developed countries.

She reaffirmed commitment to taking forward the Bali agenda at next Conference of Parties at Doha while ensuring the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities.

Summing up the three day conference, Foreign Secretary called on the Heads of Missions to be always ready to take on the multifarious challenges facing us in the rapidly changing global environment.



032. Key-Note Address by Minister of State Smt. Preneet Kaur at the Inaugural Session of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs 7th Annual Conference of Heads of Mission.

New Delhi, September 17, 2012.

Hon'ble Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs Shri Valayar Raviji,
Secretary Shri Parvez Dewan,
Heads of Missions,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies & Gentlemen,

1. It gives me great pleasure to be here today at the 7th Annual Conference of Head of Missions (HOMs). I thank the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs for inviting me to deliver a key-note address.
2. This year, the 7th HOMS conference by Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs is organised so as to coincide with the MEA's Conference of HOMs. I understand that there was a panel discussion on overseas Indian during the HOMs Conference organized by the Ministry of External Affairs on 14th September. The HOMs Conference by Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has become an established forum for discussing matters relating to overseas Indian workers and address the concerns of Indian workers effectively. It also allows Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs to review its schemes designed for protection, welfare and security of Indian workers abroad and receive recommendations for fine-tuning its policy.
3. The Indian Diaspora is the result of various waves of migration over last century driven by a variety of reasons such as mercantilism, colonialism and globalization. Indian Diaspora constitutes a diverse global community representing different regions, languages, cultures and faiths. Overseas Indians share a strong bond with their country of origin. They represent a bridge between India and host country.
4. While the Indian workers contribute to our economy and spread our culture abroad, we should always remain conscious of their needs and concerns.
5. Our workers face various problems such as : False promises made by unscrupulous recruiting agents in India; Low salary and substandard living conditions in labour camps; Non-payment or under-payment of salary, delays in payment; Non-renewal of visa and labour cards on time; Refusal of their medical treatment by the employer; Arbitrary changes in the terms of their employment; Problems of housemaids; and Delay or non-payment of compensation on death.

6. Government of India has taken several measures and initiatives to protect the rights of the Indian workers such as : Establishment of a dedicated Community Welfare Wing; Compulsory attestation of Service Agreement of all household workers; Open House sessions; Free legal counseling assistance; Provision of shelter to Indian women workers in distress; Labour Welfare Fund for the needy workers; Setting up of 24 x 7 helpline; Labour Welfare Fund to financially assist poor Indian workers; A new e-governance project for e-migrate linking the passport system, immigration system and emigration clearance; Pension and Life Insurance Scheme for India workers abroad.
7. The Indian Community Welfare Fund instituted by Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs enables HOMs to provide on-site relief measures for distressed Indian workers. I am sure the HOMs, who are implementing this scheme, would recommend many activities to be included in the Indian Community Welfare Fund.
8. I understand Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has launched Skill Development Programme in this regard which would greatly help in reducing the labour dissatisfaction. Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has also signed an agreement with the UAE Government for web-based attestation procedure which needs to be introduced in other GCC countries as well.
9. We need awareness campaign for the training and counseling of workers intending to go to Gulf countries.
10. I am pleased to learn that the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs is implementing an e-governance project for e-migrate which would link the passport system, immigration system and emigration clearance thereby making the whole emigration process transparent and easy for everyone. I would expect HOMs take keen interest in successfully implementing this project.
11. Another initiative of the Government is the Pension and Life Insurance Scheme for Indian workers. I understand that this scheme is being implemented on a pilot basis and soon it will be taken up in all the 17 ECR countries and all over India. This scheme is very beneficial to the workers and I would urge the HOMs to take active interest in the scheme so that workers in large number take advantage of this scheme.
12. Our Mission in these countries plays a critical role in welfare of Indian workers. The initiatives and efforts made by Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs together with the Mission's support would go long way to find solutions of the problems of overseas Indian workers.
13. I urge the HOMs to play a proactive role for satisfactory resolution of the problems of the workers in these countries and also to equip the community

with the right information so that several issues could be resolve amicably at their level.

14. I thank the Hon'ble Minister of Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs for inviting me to give this keynote address.



033. Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson and Joint Secretary (Administration) on the World Hindi Conference.

New Delhi, September 18, 2012.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Syed Akbaruddin): Good afternoon friends and thank you very much for coming for this interaction. I would especially like to welcome all those who are going for the World Hindi Conference and who have been able to make it for today's briefing.

I have one announcement to make and subsequently, in response to requests from several of you, we have something to display. But we will go with the announcement first. Please be patient. We are very transparent and everything that we say or display will be available for all of you to see. This was just sort of an appetizer for you to wonder what that is, but we will let you know.

The announcement that I have is about the Ninth World Hindi Conference which is going to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 22nd to 24th September. The Conference will be held at Sandton Convention Centre, which will be named as 'Gandhi gram' for the duration of this conference. The main theme of the Ninth World Hindi Conference will be *Bhasha ki Asmita aur Hindi ka Vaishvik Sandarbh*. For those of you who are not able to understand Hindi, it means, "Identity of Language and Hindi in Global Context".

The Conference has nine sessions on a variety of subjects. Rather than me speaking about it, I have requested my colleague Joint Secretary (Administration), Mr. Anup Mudgal, who will briefly talk to you about the Conference and will be able to respond to any questions that you have on that Conference. So, I would request him to speak a little bit about the Conference and then respond to questions, before we go to the next element of our interaction today.

Joint Secretary (AD) (Shri Anup K. Mudgal): Thank you so much for being patient to have this briefing on the World Hindi Conference. Since I am going to talk about Ninth World Hindi Conference, I will speak in both Hindi and English languages. If there is any issue where you feel that I should translate from one to the other, I will do it for you.

As my friend Shri Akbaruddin said we are going to have the 9th World Hindi Conference in Johannesburg, South Africa. This will at this week end from 22nd to 24th. Its tradition is very old. It started in 1975. The first conference was held in Nagpur in 197. Its initiative was from our National Language Organisation, Wardha. You will be happy to know that it was set up by Mahatma Gandhi himself.

Since this series started in 1975, we have had 8 such conferences. Out of the

eight two were held in India, two in Mauritius, one in Trinidad and Tobago, one in Surinam, one in the UK and one in the United States. If you observe the way it has spread, it has grown in popularity.

With time, its theme have also gradually changed in the academic contents. New issues, new subjects were added. As Akbar said the theme this year is "Identity of Language and Hindi in Global Context". With this there will be eight academic sessions. We will run it for 2 ½ days. If you have a look at the academic sessions you will see how with time it has been given a contemporary touch.

We are having this conference in South Africa. This will be first conference in the African continent. I would give you the background of the issues that have been taken into account while deciding to hold the conference in South Africa. This did not happen at the mainland. In Mauritius we had two conferences., but in continental Africa there was none.

As you know we have old contacts with Africa and there are several reasons for that, there is history, there is a big diaspora, there are cultural links, and the main thing is that the economic contacts are increasing very fast. We deciding on Johannesburg, there was also the added consideration of its links with Mahatma Gandhi.

In that there is a theme, "the Language Vision of Mahatma Gandhi in the context modern context". In fact what Mahatma Gandhi did for Hindi, is very important. Therefore Gandhi's historic relationship with South Africa, and secondly his relationship with Hindi; Putting these two together, we decided that the main theme should be " The Language Vision of Mahatma Gandhi's in the Modern Context".

Apart from this other issues are very contemporary and modern, like, "Hindi Films, Drama and Drama Language." There is one issue which we experience in our daily life: how Hindi is reaching our homes every day through this channel of films, drama and drama language.

Information Technology – Devnagri script and its capability—It has basically to do with technology. Today we all carry cell phone, iPods, and laptops. Adaptation of devnagri scrip in information technology is a major requirement. If the devnagri is not adapted to the IT tools, it will suffer handicap. That is why we have put it on the agenda, to eliminate this handicap and we are able to adapt the Devnagri script in our communication technology.

Next is, "Lok Tantra aur Media ki Bhasha ke Roop mein Hindi"(Democracy and Media in the Hindi language". Of course, being the largest functional democracy we are aware why this theme has been kept.

"India and the Role Indian Epic Abroad". Now, this was a subject which came

from our South African interlocutors and partners. They were of this opinion that in many places the role of *granth* which means our epics and other books, those books have played in keeping the language alive. *Whichever epic it may be it helped in keeping the language alive in foreign lands and there is a need to consider its importance.*

One is Hindi as a language of the profession of Science and Technology. Whatever be the profession your language should not be a handicap. It should facilitate and not really become a hindrance. There is a special session on this theme for discussion —in terms of technology, in terms of tools, in terms of whatever is needed, are we up to the mark or not? So, this is an important subject.

The Role of Diaspora writers in the development of Hindi— For some of you really it might come as a surprise though of course we know there are foreign scholars who have taken interest in Indian culture, in Indian languages for ages in fact and some of those were somehow also role models for study of our own history and culture and our civilisational values. There are scholars abroad, they are not necessarily of Indian origin, who are working on Hindi, Sanskrit, other Indian languages and trying to understand what contribution they are making for the - what should I say because I somehow control myself and not use the term promotion and propagation because it looks like as if we are trying to promote some consumer goods - how to really carry this whole thing forward? So, there will be a session on the foreign scholars and their work in Hindi.

"Hindi broadcast and translation ...". This is a very technical subject of course because the works are translated very regularly from one language to the other. So, they want to have a technical session on what is the role of translation in the promotion of a particular language.

Lastly, this has also come from the South African interlocutors, *"Hindi Education in South Africa and Youth Cooperation"*. In fact you will be again probably pleasantly surprised there is an organization called Hindi Shiksha Sangh, they are our partners for the Ninth World Hindi Conference, who run hundreds of language centres for teaching Hindi to interested locals. And they have done it on their own without anybody's help, which means those students who go there, do so out of sheer interest and some of them are paying for those classes. So, this is important.

Then of course in addition to these academic sessions we are also going to have an exhibition there where we would have exhibition of literature, books, IT tools related to Hindi language. Then, also as part of the conference there is a tradition of awarding or recognizing scholars both from India and abroad.

So, normally up to twenty scholars are recognized at World Hindi Conferences.

Before I round up, in fact we will also have some publications. One is called Smaarika which in fact brings out what we have done since 1975 as part of the World Hindi Conference. And then there will be daily newsletters. We will also have cultural activities in the margins.

We expect something about six to seven hundred people to participate in the World Hindi Conference. It is going to be a big event. Probably participants should come from about 25 to 30 different countries which will include of course the main diaspora countries also.

With this I will conclude, Akbar, I know you want to give time for questions. Thanks for being patient with me.

Official Spokesperson: Before we open the floor for questions, we will take you back in history to 1966. 24th January, 1966 was a sad day in Indian history. That was when the Kanchenjunga crashed in the Alps. There was much this talked-about diplomatic bag which was on that flight. Several of you wanted to know about this bag and wanted to see what its contents were. So, my colleague Mr. Bishwadip Dey has arranged for the contents to be brought here along with the bag. The bag is available there.

It was a C category bag which means that it had largely publications and newspapers. And to the credit of the newspapers of that period, they all survived. All of you can have a look at some of the newspapers which have survived for more than forty years in the snow at a height of 1830 metres on Mont Blanc. The idea was just to indicate to you that when you request information from us, we take it seriously and when the bag came back home we decided to make it available for you in full transparency.

For those of you who want to know about what this bag carried, it basically had calendars, it had the leading newspapers of that time both in English and in Hindi, it had magazines, also it had personal letters. It was travelling from here to France and then onwards to New York. So, there were some personal letters for our Consulate in New York. That is about what I have. When we end this, you are welcome to have a look at it. It still is wet with the snow and ice of the Alps. But you are welcome to use any information that is available, the dates of the newspapers and other items that we found there.

With that, I close this part. We are now open to questions. Let us begin in our usual way with first questions on the Hindi Conference and then we will have questions on the bag, and then questions on anything else that you would want me to answer. So, let us begin with questions on the Hindi Conference.

Question: Who will inaugurate the Conference?

Joint Secretary (AD): In fact it will be jointly inaugurated of course. The Indian Delegation would be led by Minister of State Shrimati Preneet Kaur, and we expect a senior level Ministerial presence from South Africa for jointly inaugurating this. We also have some confirmation from other countries of Ministerial participation. Since we are still about four days away from the event, these things sometimes are really confirmed at the eleventh hour. But we expect from South Africa and from other countries some Ministerial presence. Then we will jointly inaugurate because this is World Hindi Conference, so it has to be done. But from our side we know it is the Minister of State Shrimati Preneet Kaur.

Question: What would be the cost?

Joint Secretary (AD): I will be able to tell you after the Conference is over because then only I will know how much we have spent. But I will tell you how much was spent on the Eighth Conference in New York. The total cost including everything was about six crore rupees. There also we had about seven hundred participants.

Question: Hindi is the mother tongue of about 40 crores of Indians living in the country. What is the estimate of Hindi speakers out of the 25 million strong diaspora? Do you have any figures?

Joint Secretary (AD): The question is how many would understand and manage speaking Hindi. I do not have to be a mother tongue Hindi speaker to speak Hindi. I cannot say Bishwadip's mother tongue is Hindi. I think today with the media or with cable channels reaching right into our homes, I am very happy that most people, they may not be native Hindi speakers, have picked up Hindi. Thanks to Bollywood, thanks to the various TV programmes, they are able to speak and understand Hindi. But, when we talk about for example these major diaspora countries like Mauritius, Fiji, Guyana or Surinam where in fact the population of Indian origin people is huge, they also speak a slightly different Hindi. When you talk to them probably you will say it is a slightly different Hindi because they took their Hindi with them long ago. These are slightly different dialects but they do understand and are able to speak Hindi.

Question: Just wanted to know how much was the fund outlay the MEA set aside for promotion of Hindi language. Secondly, you said the whole process of World Hindi Conference started in 1975. It has been 37 years now and we have only had nine conferences so far. How do you explain that?

Joint Secretary (AD): In fact World Hindi Conference is probably the largest international event that we have on Hindi. Normally it is done every three-four years. But that is not the only thing that we do. In between two World Hindi Conferences, we also have several countries organizing what is called the

Regional Hindi Conferences. For example recently over the last about year and a half, we had a Regional Hindi Conference in UK, we had one in Japan, we had one in Spain, and just before that we had one in Budapest. For example, I was asked to go to Madrid. I could not go. But then I was told it was a very successful Regional Hindi Conference. There, a large part of the participation was local scholars. So, in fact we do not only have World Hindi Conferences, we also have in between the Regional Hindi Conferences.

Then it comes to for example our standard activities in terms of supporting those organizations and institutions. We have a very regular practice of, for example, supporting with books, literature, IT tools, software. Though we have a relatively small budget, it works very effectively. Something which is very important here is we receive a large number of requests from our Missions and universities and centres abroad asking for books for children, those small tiny, tiny bedtime story books. And we send a large number of those books to various centres so that the children are able to appreciate and are able to relate to their own languages.

We have about a little less than three crore rupees of budget every year on such activities like books and software and IT applications, and also for Hindi classes abroad. If there is a place where they want to organize Hindi classes for locals and they need some help in terms of paying to the teacher some small honorarium, we help in that also. So, while the overall budget is small, it is a very effective tool of helping those who want to be in touch with the language.

Question: Are there many people who speak Hindi in South Africa and are we getting their participation in this conference and how many from India?.

Joint Secretary (AD): *From India we have about three hundred persons have registered. I have a list of South African delegates who will participate in our academic session. Their names are (1) Prof. Rambhajan Sitaram, (2) Dr. Veena Lakshman, (3) Dr. Usha Desai, (4) Shri Faqir Hassan, (5) Shrimati Shiva Shrivastava, (6) Shrimati Bhavani Pritipal, (7) Dr. Dhruv Pande. These six are the experts who will participate in our academic session..*

(The portion in italics is unofficial translation from the Hindi Transcript)



034. Inauguration of the 9th World Hindi Conference in Johannesburg.

Johannesburg, September 23, 2012.

The 9th World Hindi Conference was inaugurated at a grand ceremony held in The Ballroom, named as Nelson Mandela Sabhagar at the Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg, South Africa on 22nd September 2012.

The main theme of the conference is Bhasha Ki Asmita Aur Hindi Ka Vaishvik Sandarbh.

The conference was inaugurated jointly by the Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India, Smt. Preneet Kaur and Shri Pravin Gordhan, Minister of Finance, Government of South Africa. The Minister of Art and Culture, Government of Mauritius Shri Mukhesswur Choonee, Deputy Foreign Minister, South Africa Mr. Marius Llewellyn Fransman, Smt. Ila Gandhi and Smt. Malthie Ramballi, President, Hindi Shiksha Sangh, South Africa also graced the occasion.

The programme commenced with colourful and musical presentations by the artists of Indian Cultural Centre in Johannesburg and the local folk artists of South Africa.

At the outset Shri Virendra Gupta, the High Commissioner of India in South Africa spoke about the cultural and historical links between India and South Africa, Mahatma Gandhi's struggle against racial discrimination and the use of non-violence as the main tool of his struggle.

Shri M. Ganapathi, Secretary (West), Government of India paid rich tributes to the people of South Africa for keeping the language and culture of the native land of their ancestors alive despite adverse political circumstances and numerous upheavals faced by them. The Minister of Art and Culture, Mauritius Shri Mukhesswur Choonee spoke about the love of the people of his country for Hindi. He also invited the people gathered in the Nelson Mandela Sabhagar to the mini Conference of people of Indian diaspora to be held in Mauritius in the October 2012.

The Chairperson of the inaugural ceremony Smt. Preneet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs spoke about the link between the organization of the 9th World Hindi Conference in South Africa and Mahatma Gandhi's association with this country and how, in this respect, coming to South Africa has been no less than a pilgrimage for the participants from India.

The Deputy Foreign Minister of South Africa Mr. Marius Fransman, Smt. Ila

Gandhi, Smt. Malthie Ramballi, President of Hindi Shiksha Sangh also spoke on this occasion.

The opening ceremony was followed by the inauguration of a composite exhibition of Hindi books, IT tools etc. The exhibition has been put up jointly by National Book Trust, Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, C-DAC and co-ordinated by Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Vishwavidyalaya. It was followed a symbolic unveiling of the bust of Pandit Nardev Vedalankar, the founder of Hindi Shiksha Sangh in South Africa.

The academic sessions started in the afternoon. There were three parallel sessions on Mahatma Gandhi *ki Bhasha Drishti Aur Vartaman ka Sandarbh*, *Africa mein Hindi Shiksha – Yuvaon ka Yogdan*, *Soochna Praudyogiki and Devnagari Lipi Aur Hindi ka Samarthya*.

In addition there were two more parallel sessions for presentation of papers on *Bhasha Ki Asmita Aur Hindi Ka Vaishvik Sandarbh*, *Mahatma Gandhi ki Bhasha Drishti Aur Vartaman ka Sandarbh*, *Loktantra Aur Media Ki Bhasha Ke Roop Main Hindi*.

The themes for other academic sessions are Hindi : *Film, Rangmanch Aur Manch ki Bhasha*, *Loktantra Aur media ki Bhasha ke Roop Mein Hindi*, *Videsh Mein Bharat : Bharatiya-Granthon ki Bhoomika*, *Gyan – Vigyan Aur Rozgar ki Bhasha ke Roop mein Hindi*, *Hindi ke Vikas Mein Videshi/Pravasi Lekhakon ki Bhoomika*, *Hindi ke Prasar Mein Anuwaad ki Bhoomika*.

A large galaxy of scholars from India, South Africa and other countries attended the opening ceremony and the academic sessions.



035. Address by Minister of State Smt. Preet Kaur at the closing ceremony of the 9th World Hindi Conference.

Johannesburg, September 24, 2012.

(Unofficial translation)

Respected Member of Parliament Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi, Secretary (West) Shri Madhusudan Ganpathi, the High Commissioner of India in South Africa Shri Virendra Gupta, the Joint Director Gauteng branch of Hindi Shiksha Sangh Shri Heeralall Sewnath and dear friends. When we last met two days ago, I had expressed my hope that the 9th World Hindi Conference would be successful in realizing its objectives. In the academic sessions spread over the last two days, there have been in-depth deliberations encompassing various aspects of Hindi. Over a hundred papers were presented and reports were submitted based on the deliberations and recommendations in those sessions. A resolution incorporating certain action points has been formulated based on the issues highlighted during the conference. Now we all have to work together to implement those action points. I am very happy to see that this conference was like a celebration in which along with writers and scholars others also participated undertaking a long journey merely for their love for the language. People of Indian origin and others from Johannesburg, Durban, Pretoria and other cities of South Africa came here, artists from South Africa and India performed cultural programmes, and a composite exhibition on diverse aspects of Hindi was put up. All this turned this conference into a celebration, a festival. Our's is a country of festivals. There is a festival for every occasion; every region has its own festivals which lend color to the Indian culture and give it a unique identity. This conference also was no less than a festival which was made more beautiful by your smiling faces. Our languages have always taken the message of love, peace and brotherhood to far off places. We got to see a glimpse of that in this conference. We are happy to honour Indian and Foreign Scholars at this conference. It is my belief that the foreign scholars would work together sincerely for promotion of Hindi in their respective countries. I would like to thank the scholars and Hindi lovers who have come from India, South Africa and other countries to participate in this conference. This conference has come to an end but this is not an end of our work. It was just another milestone covered; the journey ahead has only just begun. I once again thank the Ministers and officers of South Africa and Mauritius for sparing their valuable time for the conference giving us the much desired encouragement.

Thank you.

Resolution of the 9th World Hindi Conference.

Johannesburg, September 24, 2012.

- The 9th World Hindi Conference was organized in Johannesburg, South Africa from 22-24 September, 2012. Organization of the conference in South Africa reflects historic, strong and growing relationship of India and its people, with not only South Africa but the entire region of Africa. This is also a tribute from the global community of Hindi lovers to Mahatma Gandhi's association with the country.
- The conference expressed its gratitude to Dr. Nelson Mandela, the great leader of the South Africa who imbibed the eternal principles of peace, non-violence and justice propounded by Mahatma Gandhi, who showed the way to an honourable life to the people of not only his own country but the entire humanity.
- The 9th World Hindi Conference, which was attended by Hindi scholars, litterateurs and Hindi lovers from all over the world, underlined the following issues:
 1. Gandhi's linguistics vision has a fundamental contribution to the growing globalization of Hindi.
 2. The idea of setting up the World Hindi Secretariat was conceived at the first World Hindi Conference. This Conference appreciates the efforts and support of the Govt. of India and Govt. of Mauritius for realizing this idea by setting up the Secretariat in Mauritius.
 3. The Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalya is also an outcome of the decisions adopted by the World Hindi Conference. This University is doing a commendable job in promotion and propagation of Hindi as also in developing appropriate modern teaching tools.
 4. The Conference also appreciates the work being done by the Kendriya Hindi Sansthan for developing appropriate syllabus and by conducting classes for foreigners as well as for Indian student from non Hindi speaking regions, and thus promoting and propagating Hindi.
 5. The Conference also appreciates the work being done by the electronic and print media especially Hindi media, films and theatre who are taking knowledge at the door steps through the media of Hindi.
 6. It appreciates the work being done by Hindi Shiksha Sangha and other organizations in South Africa for Hindi teaching and for promotion of Hindi. It expresses its gratitude to them for their support to Hindi.

7. The interest of the youth in Hindi is increasing which is also a part of role being played by development of IT tools as well as Hindi films, electronic media and social media. It is also a result of linking Hindi language to trade, commerce and the market.
 8. The foreign students are learning Hindi for reasons other than their interest in Hindi language, literature and Indian culture which proves its relevance and importance in the global context.
 9. The role of Pravasi writers in the promotion of Hindi is also commendable.
 10. A Samarika and a special issue of Ganganchal magazine were published on this occasion. The Conference commends the work of the editorial boards for the publication of this magazine.
 11. A composite exhibition on Hindi language, literature, Information Technology and life and works of Mahatma Gandhi was put up on this occasion. All participants showed great interest in the exhibition. The conference appreciates the efforts of the organizers of the exhibition.
 12. The cultural programmes performed by the artists of Indian Council of cultural relations and local artists of South Africa also greatly impressed the participants. The conference appreciates the organizers of these programmes.
 13. A daily news bulletin was brought out on the various activities of the conference every day. It appreciates the efforts and the hard work put in by the Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Vishwavidyalay for this.
 14. The conference expresses its deep gratitude to the Government of South Africa for their support, cooperation, assistance for the conference due to which the conference could be organized successfully.
- In view of the action taken as detailed above, the conference desires that:
 1. The World Hindi Secretariat in Mauritius may create a resource centre of database regarding Universities, Schools and Educational Institutions engaged in teaching Hindi in different countries.
 2. The World Hindi Secretariat may also create a database regarding Hindi scholars, writers and the people engaged in promotion of Hindi worldwide.
 3. In view of the compatibility of Hindi language with Information Technology the IT institutions may continue the important work of developing Hindi

language related tools and all possible support should be given in realization of the subject.

4. Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha is authorized to prepare a standard syllabus for teaching Hindi to the foreigners.
5. In order to promote Hindi teaching in Africa and in view of the global environment, interest and aspiration of the youth, appropriate literature and books may be prepared.
6. Adequate software in Devanagari Lipi may also be developed so that Hindi speakers and lovers across the world may benefit from it.
7. In view of the importance of translation and in the context of its various dimensions there is need for research, appropriate action may be taken in this direction.
8. Thematic Regional Hindi Conferences are held in different countries in the interim period between the World Hindi Conferences. Their objective is to address the problems faced in teaching and promotion of Hindi in the respective regions. Commending this effort the conference emphasized that this work should be encouraged further.
9. There is a tradition to honour Indian and Foreign scholars during the World Hindi Conferences. In keeping with the prestige of the honour, the commendation should be given an appropriate nomenclature and called 'Vishwa Hindi Samman'.
10. Underlining the resolution passed in the previous World Hindi Conference the conference calls for ensuring a time bound action for getting Hindi recognized as one of the official languages of the United Nations.
11. As far as possible the interval between two World Hindi Conferences should be a maximum of three years. The 10th World Hindi Conference may be organized in India.



036. Speech by External Affairs Minister on “India’s Foreign Policy Priorities for the 21st Century” at launch of the “India Initiative” by the Brown University.

New England (USA), September 28, 2012.

Distinguished Provost Mark Schlissel,
Ambassador Nirupama Rao
Professor Ashutosh Varshney,
Dear Students,

It is a privilege for me to be here at one of America’s earliest and most prestigious Universities. Brown, I understand, will soon celebrate the 250th anniversary of its founding.

I thank President Paxson and Provost Schlissel as well as Professor Ashutosh Varshney for giving me the opportunity to visit a university of such great repute.

Nations’ progress and societies prosper on the foundations laid in the institutions of learning and research. The great universities of this country have not only benefited the United States, but also drawn students and scholars from across the world, including more than a 100,000 students from India today.

Over the past decades, through the vicissitudes of relations between India and the U.S., our engagement in higher education, science and research was a strong bridge between our two countries. This has contributed in immeasurable terms to the close relationship that our two countries share today.

Friends,

The ongoing India-U.S. Higher Education Dialogue is now a key pillar of the India-U.S. Strategic Dialogue. Our educational institutions, scholars and students are brought into closer partnership through this Dialogue. Our two governments place a strong emphasis in our relationship on the youth, which not only easily embraces the future, but will also have the responsibility in shaping it.

I want to congratulate Brown on launching an ‘India Initiative’. I hope it will focus on India’s heritage and its progress, its achievement and its challenges, its engagement with the world and, equally important, on the growing India-U.S. strategic partnership. I do hope the India Initiative will become an important part of Brown’s story in this century.

Friends,

I would now like to share my thoughts on India's foreign policy priorities in the 21st century.

It is hard to predict what the century will turn out to be, but we live in a time when our inter-dependent and networked lives co-exist. As our world is globalizing, our societies and communities are becoming more diverse. We now have unprecedented possibilities to spread prosperity, but we are also bound deeply by shared vulnerabilities.

Friends,

Our economies and security are being shaped increasingly outside national boundaries, in the domain of outer space, seas or cyber space. The era of globalization and growing power shifts between and within societies call for greater cooperation among nations and new models of global engagement and governance.

India is in an exciting transition. A nation constituting one sixth of humanity is undergoing economic and social transformation on an extraordinary scale. It is taking place in a democratic and federal framework; in the midst of growing political pluralism and social diversity; and, in the context of continuing debate on equity, opportunity and sustainability.

Our policies are not only concerned about the growth of the aggregate, but also by the welfare of the individual. It is a complex political and economic challenge. We need to continue with a high growth trajectory and also make it more inclusive. This calls for an innovative, dynamic and sustainable engagement with the world around us.

Today, the world is troubled not so much by the specter of a major war, but by conflicts within and between societies, cultures, religions, peoples and nations. Promoting the values of pluralism, mutual respect and understanding is a great challenge of our times, and one that is vital for global stability and security.

India has been guided since ancient times by the ideals of *Vasudhaiva Kuttambakam* – the world is one family - and *Sarva Dharma Sambhava* – all faiths are equal. India has been challenged forces of intolerance, discrimination and violence, but time and again, when they have been tested the most, Indians have spoken as one people and one nation.

As a pluralist democracy that stands at the cultural cross-roads of Asia and many of its fault lines, India will serve as a bridge across the region's – and, indeed, the world's - great diversity.

India's commitment to internationalism, independence of judgment in the conduct of external relations, support to the democratization of world order, and contributions to the maintenance of international peace and security are

enduring legacies of our national movement. This enjoys strong support across the political spectrum in India.

Friends,

India's foreign policy in the 21st century will remain rooted in these core values, but it will continuously adapt to the changing external circumstances and the shifting domestic needs.

As we look ahead, I would identify few more major priorities for India's foreign policy.

The foremost priority of India's foreign policy will be to create a favourable external environment for the pursuit of collective prosperity and the individual welfare of all the Indian people. Our interests are firmly anchored in a stable global order and a peaceful neighbourhood. We need an open and equitable international trading system; a stable financial system; reliable, affordable and secure energy supplies; and, food security.

We will need bilateral as well as international partnerships of technology and innovation to meet the extraordinary scale of our development challenges. In turn, India's own progress will, in its own modest way, affirm the values of democracy and pluralism; contribute to peace and stability; and provide one of the pillars of the global economy.

Our foreign policy will, therefore, be an instrument of our development, but also a vehicle to fulfill our global responsibilities.

Friends,

Another major priority of our foreign policy will be the creation of an area of peace and prosperity in South Asia. For more than three decades the north-western parts of the Subcontinent have seen much turbulence, and conflict has affected not only India but the entire world.

India is determined to work with its neighbours in the region as well as major powers in the world to defeat the scourge of violent extremism that has taken root there. India is committed to support the efforts of the Afghan people to reconstruct their war-ravaged economy. Our commitment to Afghanistan has been reflected in the Strategic Partnership that was signed last year.

Our pursuit of normalization of relations with Pakistan is evident from finalization of a road map for normal trade relations, and also from liberalizing the visa regime to promote greater people-to-people contacts.

Our vision seeks political stability, economic modernization and regional integration of the region. This will enable India to reconnect more closely with

Central Asia, and also contribute to stability and prosperity in inter-linked South and Central Asian regions.

India is also asymmetrically opening its markets to other countries in South Asia, contributing to internal stability and actively resolving outstanding bilateral issues. India has demonstrated the political will in leading South Asia in a positive direction. We are keen to transform South Asia as a peaceful and prosperous region.

Friends,

A stable and secure Asia, Indian Ocean and the Pacific Region is a key requirement of India's own security and prosperity in the 21st century, and yet another key priority of our foreign policy.

The idea of an 'Asian Federation' deeply animated the Indian national movement. Promoting political solidarity and economic cooperation within a newly liberated Asia was one of the independent India's diplomatic initiatives. These ideas were way ahead of their time.

More than six decades later, many of these ideas have become a reality. Greater integration of Asia has generated unprecedented levels of prosperity in Asia. Asia's extraordinary accomplishments in the last few decades could be reversed if great power rivalry, national chauvinism and arms race take hold of the region.

India is determined to avoid such an outcome by contributing actively to the deeper economic integration of the region and construction of a stable and inclusive political and security order for Asia and the Pacific.

Too often, the idea of balance and stability in Asia, Indian Ocean and the Pacific Region is seen in terms of the paradigms of the past century, but that is neither inevitable nor feasible or desirable. We will work to build a regional architecture that promotes cooperation and reinforces convergence, reduces the risks of confrontation and conflicts, and draws all countries of the region into a common framework of norms and principles of engagement.

Friends,

It applies as much to the challenges of maritime security, which is so crucial to stability and peace across the region. We will work with others to foster an environment of shared acceptance of the principles of freedom of navigation, unimpeded lawful commerce, peaceful resolution of maritime disputes, and access to resources, in accordance with international law. A durable order in the region requires not only the participation of, but also enduring commitment, from all countries.

Our engagement in the Asia Pacific region is characterised by strong bilateral ties extending from Myanmar to Australia; deepening linkages with regional organisations, especially ASEAN; a web of comprehensive economic partnership agreements and ambitious plans of connectivity.

While our Look East Policy began with a strong economic emphasis and content, it has expanded to encompass strategic and security engagement in the region. Two decades of engagement with ASEAN will be celebrated through the India-ASEAN Commemorative Summit in December this year. We will use this occasion to chart a road map for intensifying our engagement with ASEAN.

We will continue to invest in building a stable and cooperative relationship with China that is mutually beneficial, and also a source of regional stability and prosperity.

Friends,

Today, West Asia is home to six million Indians and a key source of energy and export earnings. Apart from a major source of energy, it will always remain our near neighborhood, with strong cultural and religious ties to our country, and of great significance for our economy and our security.

In the Indian Ocean region, we are assuming greater responsibility for security and stability, through bilateral engagement with countries in the region, but also through regional initiatives like the Indian Ocean Rim-Association for Regional Cooperation.

Our special and privileged strategic partnership with Russia has not just withstood the test of time. It has helped shape a balanced and inclusive world order, and it has contributed to the rapid growth of both the economies. It is geared for next level of engagement with greater economic content in the coming decades.

The strategic partnership between India and European Union is on a strong footing with annual Summit-level meetings. This engagement will be further strengthened with greater EU participation in India's development agenda. It will assume greater global significance in the years to come.

Friends,

India's vision for a partnership with Africa is premised on making the people of Africa its primary beneficiaries. This is why the India-Africa Forum Summit process was initiated in 2008 with a view to develop pan-African institution-building. These initiatives will assume greater salience in the coming years.

Our engagement with Latin American countries has grown into a multi-faceted

one. The newly formed Community of Latin America and Caribbean States (CELAC) held their first-ever Ministerial meeting with India in Delhi last month. We look forward to enhance it to Summit level, on the lines of similar Summit level meetings with European Union and Africa.

As a country that has lived in the shadows of the arc of proliferation, India will not only maintain its impeccable track record on non-proliferation, but will play a more active role in building international partnership to combat proliferation and pursue the goals of nuclear disarmament.

Finally, we will seek to further reform multilateral institutions such as the United Nations, including the Security Council, World Bank and IMF to reflect contemporary realities and to improve their ability to address new challenges.

Friends,

As we look at the priorities for India's foreign policy in the decades ahead, we see not only convergence of interests with the United States, but also a belief in the importance of a strong partnership between our two great democracies in achieving our shared goals.

It is this recognition that has led to an extraordinary political investment in the two countries in transforming India-U.S. relations and in establishing a durable and broad-based framework of a global strategic partnership.

Our political dialogue is at an unprecedented level and our strategic consultations have expanded to cover every major region and challenge in the world. We have a strong and growing defence relationship characterized by security dialogue, regular military exercises and expanding defence trade and collaboration. Our intelligence and counter-terrorism cooperation reflects our strong strategic partnership. We have redefined the framework of our engagement to pursue our shared goals of non-proliferation and disarmament.

Friends,

The United States is an important partner in our development efforts. Our rapidly growing ties of trade and investment constitute a strong underpinning of our relationship. Our businesses, universities and laboratories are creating exciting new partnerships of innovation, not only to pursue global competitiveness and leadership, but also address societal challenges in infrastructure, clean energy, education, agriculture, health and delivery of services.

Indeed, the enduring strength of our relationship comes from the public goodwill in our two countries and the warmth of ties between our peoples.

We come from different circumstances, history, location and levels of

development, but we are united by shared values. We deeply value the independence of our choices, but also have a fundamental stake in each other's success. We sometimes differ in our approaches, but we seek the same future for our people and our world. Our collaborative achievements tell us of the enormous potential that lies ahead of us, but also inspire us to pursue it.

The success of India-United States partnership will not only contribute to the prosperity in our two countries, but, in a world of great flux and diversity, it will be a model of international partnership and a factor of global and regional peace, security and stability. For India, it will remain a relationship of great priority and importance in the 21st century.

Thank you.



037. Address of the External Affairs Minister on “India Now” at the Carrington Endowed Lecture Series event, hosted by the Southern Methodist University, Dallas.

Dallas (United States), October 3, 2012.

Distinguished Provost, Mr. Paul Ludden,
Ambassador Nirupama Rao,
Consul General Harish,
Distinguished Dean, Law School, Prof. Attanasio,
Distinguished members of Academia,
Friends,

At the outset, allow me to convey my profound gratitude and appreciation to President Turner and Dean Prof. Attanasio for giving me this wonderful opportunity to return to my alma mater. It is, indeed, a happy home coming for me, though after a gap of over five decades.

As I entered the campus of SMU today, I cannot but reminisce the wonderful and eventful time I had spent in very formative years of my student life. I owe a great deal of my success to the knowledge that I acquired in this great University.

I am greatly indebted to President Turner and Dean Prof. Attanasio for inviting me to address this gathering on a topic of great interest, namely– ‘India Now’.

Friends,

It was not so long ago that India was considered a mere idea! For over one and a half century, India was subjugated by colonial powers. Emerging independent in 1947, India transformed in diverse ways and in diverse sectors.

In the past decade or so, the global interest on India has increased by leaps and bounds. This new mindset globally is borne out of a realisation rooted in rapid economic transformation of India and the emerging role of India as a stabilizing power in the new global strategic architecture.

This is further amplified by the fact that a large number of countries, including the Permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, have entered into strategic partnerships in the last decade. Most salient aspect of such partnerships is that they are not targeted against any country; the sole aim is to bring most optimal mutual benefit to the peoples of India and other countries in such partnership.

In the last decade, India has been among the fastest growing economies of the world, next only to China. India’s GDP grew roughly by 8% over the past decade and has more than doubled in this period. It is poised to touch 2 trillion

US Dollars this year. This actually translates into 5 trillion US Dollars in Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) terms, a measure more commonly followed by the World Bank and IMF. In this period, India managed to reduce poverty levels at twice the pace seen in the decade of the 1990s. Of course, a lot of work still remains to be done on the poverty alleviation front.

Friends,

The world saw India even more admiringly when it staved off the disastrous effects of the worst recession after the Great Depression which shook the global economy in 2008. India's average annual GDP growth in 2008 to 2010 was close to 8%. After the 2008 global financial crises, most analysts had predicted that India would succumb to the deleterious effects of the global financial meltdown.

No doubt, there is an economic blow back but India has so far shown remarkable strength to stay afloat due to its domestic economy and its sheer diversity. But the embedded resilience of the domestic economy to deal with the blow back surprised foreigners and Indians alike.

It appears that Europe is in the throes of a recession. The Western world is watching India with even more interest as it is becoming clear that the developing economies led by China, India and others will have to become the engine of global economic growth over the next few decades.

Already the fast growing developing economies in Asia, Latin America and Africa account for over two thirds of the incremental global output. This relentless shift in the axis of economic power is also witnessing a fascinating transition in the global institutions of economic, security and political governance, of which India is a major part. The world, including the United States, wants to see India to play a substantive role in this seminal transition taking place in the institutions of global governance. India would be a focus of attention from this perspective also.

Friends,

India and the United States have built a strong global strategic partnership. President George W. Bush showed great vision and made an extraordinary political investment in the transformation of the relationship between our two great democracies. I am, therefore, pleased that my Alma Mater will host the President George W. Bush presidential library.

President Obama has carried the process of deepening the strategic partnership forward as a key factor of global stability and prosperity in the 21st century. In India, successive governments have pursued the relationship as a strategic priority. Our relationship has met the test of broad, bipartisan political support and public goodwill in both countries.

Friends,

Our relationship is anchored in democracy and diversity. Our partnership covers not only political, defence, counter-terrorism and other security-related issues, but also economy, energy, science and technology, healthcare and agriculture.

Our relationship is blessed with enormous enterprise and skill, and endowed with synergies drawn from India's rapid growth and U.S. global economic leadership. We have a natural partnership for enhancing mutual prosperity and stimulating global economic recovery and growth. We see our partnership not only as a tool for growth and global competitiveness of our two economies, but also as a means for social transformation and empowerment of people.

I have just outlined why the world has focused so much of positive attention on India. All this attention has also raised expectations of India hugely.

Friends,

Currently, India is under some criticism from the world media for not doing enough to derive economic growth through better governance and institutional changes. I must gently remind the critics that India is a civilisational entity and change occurs sometimes at a very slow pace. But history has shown how India has always proved its critics wrong.

To delve a bit into history, at the time of independence from British rule, Sir Winston Churchill famously pronounced that India was ungovernable and soon it would descend into social and political chaos. That was some 65 years ago. If Churchill were to be revisiting this issue now, I am sure he would watch in amazement how India has not only survived but also done well, all these years.

India is, no doubt, very large and contains one sixth of humankind. Its territory is astonishingly diverse, with its people differentiated by religion, language, caste, ethnicity, as well as by ecology, technology, dress and cuisine.

Friends,

But beyond its size and diversity, what truly makes India interesting, it is undergoing change on extra-ordinary scale in several ways, that it is simultaneously witnessing an urban revolution, industrial revolution, social revolution, and democratic revolution. Of course, all this is also creating a new sense of national identity among the diverse peoples of over 28 Indian states.

The political culture of India was once feudal and deferential; it is combative and participatory now. All this is changing, even if slowly, the institutions of governance within the framework of the remarkable Indian constitution, which drives the critical pillars of democracy namely the Legislature, Judiciary and the Executive.

Friends,

It is remarkable that India is witnessing these changes simultaneously. In the United States, national independence came in 18th century, industrialization in the 19th century and it became a full democracy in the 20th century. So these seminal events were staggered. In India it is occurring together, which is why modern Indian society is a true melting pot !

For instance, American capitalism had a free, unhindered run without many regulations imposed by democratic institutions for much of the 19th century. Indian capitalism is taking it roots within a robust democratic framework, often in the midst of democratic protests in nook and corner of the country. Simultaneous self-correcting mechanisms are operating within this democratic framework. This may be frustrating for foreign investors, but they gradually understand the process when they look closer.

For instance, India is currently in the process of implementing major reforms in foreign investment in multi-brand retail, which has the potential to transform the country economically. Foreign investment in multi-brand retail is capable of changing the way agricultural economy works in India.

Friends,

The United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government has come up with a unique democratic model by allowing each of the 28 States to choose whether they want to invite foreign investment in multi brand retail. In my view, it is a landmark experiment in calibrated decentralization of federal powers.

While these experiments are on, the fast expanding Indian middle class is naturally keen on timely and efficient delivery of various public goods and services. The gigantic challenge, which is also an opportunity, is how over 1.2 billion people of India will move up the consumption ladder.

For starters, how will they consume energy? Over 850 million people in India with less than 3 US Dollars a day earning are the right candidates to use clean energy. Thus, lifting these people out of relative poverty and making them consume clean energy will, in some sense, has to be achieved in a cooperative and collaborative framework between India and other technology rich nations like the United States.

Clean energy and carbon optimal urbanization is, therefore, at the core of the new strategic economic and technology-based partnership. President Bush and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh made an enormous contribution to changing the global nuclear order, which led to the historic India-U.S. civil nuclear agreement in October 2008.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and President Obama have broad-based

our energy cooperation to include not only civil nuclear energy, but also promote cutting edge cooperation in clean and renewable energy, energy efficiency and hydrocarbons. We also hope that the U.S. would become a key supplier of hydrocarbons to India, which will be in our mutual economic and energy security interests.

Friends,

As I had said in the beginning, this is another reason why the world is watching the evolution and emergence of 1.2 billion people to prosperity in the vast and diverse nation called India. This process will need visionary thinking at the domestic as well as global level.

On the domestic policy place, India will have to soon take a more decisive call on what sort of consumption culture does it want to spawn for its people. A certain mode of consumption, such as excessively energy intensive, can be out rightly incompatible with the resources, local and global, available at our command. India is working out the optimal energy consumption pattern given the current and future realities in regard to energy availability.

India is already facing a difficult situation as high international crude oil prices have sent its oil import bill soaring to unprecedented levels. India's import of oil, which accounts for nearly 80% of its consumption, has widened our current account deficit. In fact, paradoxically even as the global economy slows down sharply and the Western economies shrink, oil prices continue to rise.

The longer term solution for India is to gradually reduce dependence on hydrocarbons and move to renewable sources of energy. This is India's biggest energy security challenge today.

Friends,

India has inherent democratic checks and balances to tackle the various social and environmental spin-offs of consistently high economic growth. As spelt out by me, it is not mere growth but an inclusive growth that is the objective of our developmental policies and programmes. This requires a deepening of dialogue within India, and also with other countries as we live in the age of globalisation.

India as a nation of over a billion people, driven by the energy and enterprise of its youth, living in a democratic framework, celebrating its unparalleled diversity, pursuing sustainable and inclusive growth, and fulfilling its role as a responsible international citizen, will be a major factor of global peace, stability, development and prosperity in the 21st century.



038. Address of External Affairs Minister to the Sikh Community during his visit to the Oak Creek Gurudwara in Milwaukee, where in a shoot out some devotees were killed.

Milwaukee, October 4, 2012.

Distinguished Mayor Stephen Scaffidi ,
Ambassador Nirupama Rao, Consul General Mukta Tomar
President of Gurudwara Dr. Kulwant Singh,
Members of the American Indian Community and
Members of the Sikh Gurudwara Community,

I have come here not only to offer prayers at this sacred temple but to express our deepest condolences for the tragic shooting here two months back that killed 6 innocent precious Indian and American citizens and caused injury to three others. I visited the hospital where I found one of the victims, one of the priests at the Gurudwara who is recuperating. I talked to the doctors there and they conveyed to me that they are providing the best medical treatment available at the medical centre. I would like to express our profound grief for the families of those who lost their loved ones and for the residents of Oak Creek and for the Sikh community of the United States. On behalf of the Government of India and People of India, I would like to convey our deep sense of pain and grief that we have also gone through after we received news of this shocking incident. I carry the message of symp

This senseless act of violence is more tragic because it took place in a place of worship which radiates the message of love, devotion and peace. People in United States, India and around the world have strongly condemned this barbaric attack. Incidents like this remind us of the challenges that we all face from perverse ideologies.

The United States and India are defined by pluralism, diversity and respect for religious freedom. People from all parts of the world have found home and enjoy rights and opportunities in the United States. The nearly three million people of Indian origin in the United States, including the Sikh community, form a vibrant part of U.S. society. Their enormous contributions in their professional lives and as members of the community have been widely recognized in India and the United States.

I wish to place on record the deep sense of appreciation from the Government and people of India for the quick and selfless response by local police officers in averting what perhaps could have been a much bigger tragedy. I am taking this opportunity to convey in particular our gratitude for the service of Lieutenant Brian Murphy and wish him speedy and full recovery.

We are thankful for the emotional support that has been provided to the affected families and the community by Governor Walker of Wisconsin, Mayor and other officials. We appreciate the support of the members of U.S. Congress from Wisconsin.

Let me record our deep sense of appreciation and thanks to President Obama's strong and extraordinary gesture of ordering the U.S. flag to fly at half-mast. His message of support and sympathy is a source of reassurance to the affected community. First lady's personal outreach to the families and the community will also add a healing touch at a moment of great anguish and grief.

President Obama spoke to Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and Secretary Clinton and I also spoke after the incident.

We agreed that as two democratic and privileged societies that have always upheld the highest ideals of pluralism, diversity and religious freedom, we must stand together against violence and hate. The world has to be rid of such intolerance because it perpetuates the culture of hate and culture of violence. In this effort all of us should be united. We are of different nationalities, different religious affiliations, different countries but all of us must unite to condemn and not be intimidated by such senseless violence. On the other hand we will continue to pursue faiths in which we have faith and nobody dare obstruct that culture.

Once again I would like to convey our deepest condolences and reassure the American Sikh Community that the entire Indian Nation and the Government of India is behind you and the United States government and its people are behind you. That should serve as a message of peace, good will and mutual respect for religious beliefs.

I came here to Milwaukee, I had no other commitments except to come to the Gurudwara and meet with the families that have been victims of this tragedy and convey how strongly the Government of India and the People of India feel about it.

Thank you very much.



039. Speech by Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai at the International Institute for Strategic Studies for the 5th Edition of Foreign Policy Dialogue.

New Delhi, October 4, 2012.

Director,

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am happy to be here for the 5th edition of our foreign policy dialogue with the International Institute for Strategic Studies. I have been to this Institute many times in my past avatar as DHC in London and I am happy to see that Asia remains a key priority of your focus, and that IISS continues to influence international discourse on strategic issues, relating to the rise of Asia.

Today's one day dialogue will consider three subjects: Afghanistan and its neighbourhood towards 2015 and beyond; emerging Arab developments and implications; and India UK Strategic Relations – Can they be built further? The first two are themes in every discussion of broader trends in the globe. They are subjects of vital importance to us as they take place in our vicinity if not immediate neighbourhood. The third is also of special relevance to our outlook and our ability to handle the changes taking place at the international level.

Before touching on these I must re-emphasize that India's approach to planning and articulating its foreign policy remains what it has been; for us foreign policy is an enabler in the transformation of India. India is increasingly plugged in to a globalized world and events worldwide will affect our future. We need a peaceful periphery; and a global environment which fosters constructive dialogue and cooperation around the world. In areas of tension we support the development of suitable architecture for discussion and the maintenance of stability. We are aware that almost half our GDP is linked to foreign trade; up from about 20% in the 1990s; foreign investment and technology continue to be significant inputs for our growth. We are a country poorly endowed with natural resources relative to our share of the world's population and depend on energy and critical raw materials from abroad. Global communications, models and best practices influence the thinking of our people. How the world grows and develops and how our foreign policy navigates the shoals ahead and finds the appropriate channels for safe and rapid travel is therefore a matter of vital importance for India.

Since we began our foreign policy dialogue in 2007, the world has come through a major financial crisis which almost turned into an economic crisis. Measures taken through the institutional structure of the G-20, by regional groupings, and by individual countries have helped us stave off anything like the Great

Depression of the 30s. But we continue to function in a difficult environment for growth with uncertainty in markets, worries about the Euro zone, and the overhang of fiscal difficulties in the US. Dealing with slow down in major economies at a time when there is increasing pre-occupation with domestic policies and priorities has made the task harder. Policy attention continues to focus on national level analyses, even though the processes of globalization and economic inter-dependence have been pushing in another direction. These processes are also bringing new subjects into the context of foreign policy management. As our Prime Minister remarked in a recent address to Indian Ambassadors

“There are also challenges thrown up by globalization, which has led to entirely new paradigms and discourses on issues ranging from the environment and sustainable development to international terrorism, piracy and crime. Two decades ago, the internet was regarded as a great enabler. Today, cyberspace is one of the most worrisome sources of threats to our national security.”

We have also seen an increasing polarization over developments in various parts of the world and new elements of discord in a number of sensitive spots around the world. Some of these are in what might be described as our extended neighbourhood – in the Gulf and in South East Asia. These weigh on us and we have sought to use our influence to support dialogue and reconciliation and negotiations for practical outcomes which meet the concerns of all parties. Actual progress has been slow and fitful. It is therefore against a somewhat somber background that I will take up the issues before us and which are also at the head of the international agenda.

Afghanistan and its neighbourhood - 2015 and beyond:

Afghanistan is passing through a critical phase as it transitions towards greater responsibility for its own security and governance and as NATO/ISAF forces move from a combat-role to an advise, train and assist role. Success or failure of this transition process will impact security and stability for many years to come, not just in Afghanistan but also in Afghanistan's immediate neighborhood - particularly in Central Asia and South Asia. For many of us who are Afghanistan's immediate neighbors, we have neither the luxury of a 'withdrawal' or a 'draw down' from the situation that prevails in that country today.

Against the backdrop of this ongoing transition taking place in Afghanistan, the continued support of the international community for Afghanistan remains vital. We have all announced our 'commitments' of support - at international fora like the Bonn and Tokyo conferences. and at various quadrilateral, trilateral and bilateral forums that we have been participating in. What is now essential is that we make good on these commitments - that actual technical and financial assistance begins to arrive on the ground in Afghanistan. We need to move from rhetoric to actual implementation.

For far too long, the tragedy in Afghanistan has been that the international community sees the country as a zone of conflict, competition, or to develop some notion of "strategic depth". These zero-sum games, that have historically bedeviled the situation in Afghanistan, must come to an end. India's vision is of an Afghanistan that will develop and leverage its resources for a better future; which will play the role of a transport and trading hub linking Central Asia with South Asia and beyond, and through which will flow trade, investment, energy and people bringing benefits not just to the people of Afghanistan but also to the wider region. This was the idea underlying the Delhi Investment Conference on Afghanistan held in June this year. This is also the idea underlying most of India's aid programs in Afghanistan that focus on infrastructure and capacity building projects.

The continuing threat of terrorism, the safe havens across the border and the menacing narcotics trade remain the most immediate challenges facing Afghanistan. The role of Afghanistan's neighbors in combating these pernicious evils assumes great importance.

In a number of conferences, but particularly in Istanbul, Bonn and Tokyo, the international community has reaffirmed its commitment to stay the course in Afghanistan and continue its support for the Afghan Government's stabilization and developmental efforts. In Chicago in May 2012, the NATO also underlined that in the post 2014 era, Afghanistan would not be left without support.

Peace and stability within Afghanistan affects our entire region and we all have a stake in the success of the Afghan Government and its partners in ISAF. We believe that reintegration must be based on the approach endorsed by the international community in the international conclaves, which I referred to, namely, that the political process in Afghanistan should be Afghan led, and red lines must be adhered to. We must preserve the gains of the last 10 years. We have to take forward the training and equipping of the Afghan National Security Forces. Of course, Afghanistan will need to take further steps to reassure its partners about safety and proper management of the security training programme. We are cognizant of the serious stresses caused by the attacks on foreign security personnel.

India's assistance programme is now estimated to involve a commitment of US\$ 2 billion. It includes a number of large projects like the new Parliament building, Salma Dam etc. There are also medium-sized projects and many programmes of assistance for HRD which are spread out throughout the country and where we will continue to provide assistance through our Embassy in Kabul and the Consulates in the provinces. Our assistance programme is aimed at development partnership with the strategic objective of helping Afghanistan emerge as a self-reliant nation, and one which can play its part in the SAARC

region and as a link between Central Asia and South Asia. This is why it is formalized in a Strategic Partnership Agreement.

We took the initiative to organize the Delhi Investment Summit for Afghanistan in June 2012 to underline that Afghanistan represents an opportunity for the entire region, and for international partners in the period 2015 and beyond. Afghanistan's mineral resources and its potential for hydrocarbons could be a game changer in the way we all look at the prospects of collaboration rather than competition in that country. The work done to take forward the TAPI pipeline provide an opening for all of us in the region to take a re-look at the scope for intensified regional cooperation. This can be done under any name – whether the New Silk Route or simply Central Asia - South Asia cooperation.

If the vision of an inter-connected region investing in prosperity rather than in futile "Great Games", is to become a reality, Afghanistan's neighbours have to be stakeholders. We ourselves are committed to supporting an architecture of regional cooperation, and to engage on an Afghan policy founded on equal cooperation with all its partners. During academic dialogues there have been references to a policy of positive non-alignment which could provide a support for the kind of framework we have in mind.

Emerging Arab developments and implications;

The Arab Spring is historically unprecedented and has already brought in phenomenal changes and has altered the character of regional politics. While some countries have experienced the 'Spring' and are in the phase of transition (such as Tunisia, Egypt, Yemen and Libya,) others such as Syria are experiencing a winter of discord. We are engaging with the new leadership in Tunisia, Libya and Egypt and have conveyed our readiness to enhance our cooperation.

This region, which is part of India's extended neighbourhood, is of vital and strategic importance to us. The wider region is home to more than 6 million Indians, many of whom have been there for generations and contribute more than US\$35 billion in remittances. Our economic and commercial engagement with this region is more than US\$150 billion a year. It is a source of more than 65 per cent of our oil and gas requirement and hence critical for our energy security. The region is also a major source of phosphatic and other fertilizers and hence a significant factor in our food security. Continued peace and stability in the region is therefore of immense interest to India.

Our policy on the Arab Spring and towards countries in the WANA and Gulf regions and our posture in the Security Council have been guided by our long standing ties with the region and our desire not to interfere in the internal affairs of States and being non-prescriptive. We have, however, called for

restraint in the use of coercive measures against people who should be permitted to freely articulate their aspirations. We believe that societies cannot be re-ordered from outside through military force and that people in all countries have the right to choose their own destiny and decide their own future.

India has, as I said, welcomed democratic transitions in the Arab world and has been willing to share its experience in areas such as electoral management and practice. We are also of the view that sustainable change must take account of diversity and the quest for freedom, for equality, and identity. An inclusive approach is essential for dealing with the realities of multi-cultural societies and regional specificities. It should also be clear that democracy is for the long term; that change is the only constant in politics as in other walks of life. Constitutional structures and political practices should therefore take account of the possibility of change; of rulers finding themselves in opposition and vice-versa.

In the last few months, the situation in Syria has required particular salience in international politics. In 2011, India Brazil and South Africa engaged with the Syrian authorities in dialogue on reform and political progress. Regrettably, the situation today has become fraught, and one in which guns rather than political parties are doing the talking. The continued stalemate must give way to a Syrian led political process to bring about democratic change. The UN Security Council and General Assembly both dealt with the crises in Syria on a number of occasions during the last few months. We have supported every effort of the United Nations to play a mediating role and to operate a credible monitoring mission. Support for these instrumentalities has been the basis for our voting. We have been supportive of regional initiatives to calm the situation and provide good offices for advancing internal dialogue in Syria.

India UK Strategic Relations

India and UK are strategic partners since 2004. We greatly value our relations with UK and seek to strengthen and deepen our partnership in all areas. India-UK Strategic Dialogue helps to strengthen our strategic partnership and will have its next round next week. It will examine various areas of strategic importance to both countries, including counter terrorism, cyber security, defence cooperation, nuclear disarmament, as also issues of regional and global nature. In a globalized and fast changing world, cooperation in such areas between like-minded countries is of crucial importance. There is mutual interest in strengthening our relationship in these areas and a number of mechanisms have been put in place for taking our strategic relationship forward.

In the world after 9/11 in New York, after July 2005 in London, and after 26/11 in Mumbai, there is greater awareness of the international contours of terrorism.

Considerable work is being done on counter terrorism through the Joint Working Group on CT which was set up in 2000. Much more can be done by our two countries, for instance, by establishing mechanisms for exchange of actionable intelligence in real time.

Cyber security has emerged as a major challenge facing international community in the last few years. It requires close international cooperation to secure cyberspace, which is a borderless domain. India and UK both have a common interest in ensuring a secure and resilient cyberspace as major players in this field. Both are members of the UN Group of Governmental Experts on International Information Security. There is an active ongoing dialogue between the National Security Councils of the two countries. We are looking forward to starting a policy dialogue on bilateral cooperation in this field between the Foreign Offices in October this year. There are a large number of Indian IT companies based in UK, which is an additional dimension in our cooperation. India had participated at Ministerial level in the London Conference on Cyberspace organized by the Government of UK last year, which reflects the importance we attach to this domain for multifaceted human development.

On issues of disarmament India's record and credentials need to be underlined and we count on the continued support of UK in ensuring India's full membership of the four multilateral export control regimes. Such support would be consistent with our strategic partnership wherein our robust bilateral relationship reinforces the commonalities in our position on issues of global interest and concern. These commonalities do create space for working together in some critical areas such as space, nuclear energy, and high technology for defence, sectors in which our collaboration with some other partners has moved ahead in the past decade. I do believe that given the links between our technological institutions and scientific communities the scope for developing synergies could evolve in the decades to come. UK remains an important defence partner for India and we should look at building more strategic collaboration in defence industry.

It would therefore be appropriate to conclude that our strategic relations can be built further. Going beyond the subjects usually classified as "strategic", we can already see a very extensive broad based relationship. Our business and industry already have established a basis of partnership on equal footing with prospects for growth. Along with our political dialogue, technological exchanges and defence collaborations, this provides us a platform for further strategic ties. There are of course obstacles in the short term. The policies intended to curb illegal immigration into the UK have led to the perception that there could be collateral damage in the fields of education and people-to- people relationships. Building up understanding of each other's priorities necessary

for forging new strategic links requires a regular and continuing dialogue, which requires travel facilitation.

It also needs to be said that in India's approach we take due regard of the UK's regional context and the state of its relations with other countries in this part of the world and do not find this limiting the scope for taking forward common interests.

There is a larger sense, however, in which our strategic relations could be made to grow. India is in many ways a part of the democratic world, an English speaking part of the world; we also share many of Europe's civilizational values, a respect for scientific attitudes, and an understanding of the importance of a secular approach to issues in the domain of politics. That is to say, we share much in common in our vision for the world of tomorrow. If in addition to our common interests, we can build on this vision, Indo-UK strategic relations could have a beneficial impact well beyond our bilateral sphere.



040. Statement by Minister of State E. Ahamed at the Preparatory Ministerial Meeting of the First Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Summit.

Kuwait, October 14, 2012.

Mr. Chairman, His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah

Excellencies,

Ladies & Gentlemen,

At the outset, I wish to thank the State of Kuwait, H.E. The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah for the gracious hospitality accorded to me and my delegation and for the excellent arrangement for this meeting. India congratulates State of Kuwait for providing dynamic leadership under its chairmanship for the last two years. We also extend our full support to the Republic of Tajikistan as the new chair in their endeavour to take ACD forward.

India warmly welcomes Islamic Republic of Afghanistan as the new member and looks forward to active participation of Afghanistan.

Excellencies

On the eve of First ACD Summit, I would like to share my views on some areas of cooperation which India considers important.

Transport linkages is a key area. As a prime mover, India is ready to extend its support for realising connectivity among ACD member countries linked by effective road, rail, air and shipping services through which there would be free movement of people and goods. On this occasion, I request members to provide their valuable comments on the Concept Paper on "Transport Linkages among ACD Countries" circulated in 2009.

India has established Regional Centre for Biotechnology which is carrying out biotechnology research of highest calibre and developing knowledge rich highly skilled human resource. We will be sharing soon the information on fellowships for training four young scientists (below the age of 40 years) for a period of 6-12 months in the agriculture and health care biotechnology areas.

We recognise that our shared cultural heritage and rich diversity of languages, arts, crafts and traditions provide ample opportunity for multi-dimensional cooperation within our region. We need to take forward the momentum generated during the 2nd Senior Officials Meeting on cultural cooperation held

in April 2002 in New Delhi. We will be sharing the Concept Paper on "Publishing Anthology of Poetry of Eminent Writers of ACD countries".

Excellencies

Among us we have the largest producers and simultaneously largest consumers of energy. Given our unique strengths and natural advantages in the energy sector we should provide new vigour in the area of energy cooperation.

Asia has been fortunate to witness elements of economic resurgence even in times of global economic slow down. The current scenario points to strengthening regional financial arrangements to offset the spiralling effect of financial down turn.

Majority of people in our region still depend on Agriculture. Despite rapid strides in economic growth in recent period, large number of people are still in poverty in Asia. We need to enhance cooperation in agriculture and poverty alleviation. Simultaneously, we also have to make health care affordable to our people. We need to focus on this area also.

Many activities have been undertaken in 20 areas identified. The time has now come to look at the working methods of ACD. We may strengthen the mechanism of national focal points in the respective foreign ministries of our member countries. We need to institutionalise the Senior Officials Meeting. We believe strengthening of the ACD process will result in substantive cooperation of long term nature with tangible benefits to our people.

Before concluding I would like to once again reiterate India's commitment to ACD process.

Thank you.



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042. Speaking Notes of National Security Advisor Shivshankar Menon at the Workshop on Kautilya – ‘Kautilya Today’.

New Delhi, October 18, 2012.

It is customary on such occasions to say how delighted one is to come to a meeting and how appropriate its subject is. Today, for once, I mean it in full measure. I am truly delighted to be here at the workshop on Kautilya organised by the IDSA. I must congratulate Director Arvind Gupta on this initiative.

I have three reasons to be so delighted. You forced me to read Kautilya again, and that gave me great pleasure. Secondly, the conference enables us to reconnect with the rich Indian tradition of strategic thought. And thirdly, it could contribute to the evolution of our own strategic vocabulary and thought.

Let me expand on that.

1. On Reading Kautilya Again

The *Arthashastra* meets one essential criterion for a great book. It bears reading again and again. Every time you read it you learn something new and find a new way of looking at events. But it is a very different sort of text from the *Bhagwad Gita*. This is not a book that you keep on your bedside table and turn to for daily inspiration. This is a serious manual on statecraft, on how to run a state, informed by a higher purpose (or *dharma*), clear and precise in its prescriptions, the result of practical experience of running a state. It is not just a normative text but a realist description of the art of running a state.

Reading the text again now, I was struck by how evidently Kautilya himself, (if indeed the author of the *Arthashastra* was one man and not a historical composite), is clearly the product of centuries of evolved strategic thinking. He cites several previous authorities differing views on many issues. Bharadvaja, Vishalaksha, Parasara, Pisuna and others are mentioned often. Kautilya argues with them, while presenting their views before his own. Sadly, what we know of many of them is limited to what Kautilya tells us.

Equally, Kautilya's is only one voice, and the *Arthashastra* is probably meant to be a normative text, describing how the state should work. Ashoka's imagining of the state's place in the world, judging by his inscriptions, and his practice do not bear out what the *Arthashastra* says. Other Indian texts have different points of view, for instance the Buddhist Nikaya texts, on statecraft and defence. The *Arthashastra* and Kautilya are therefore one of several approaches to statecraft in Ancient India. It is also a text of its time and place, Mauryan to Gupta administration, and should be read as such.

I was also struck by the fact that Kautilya's is more than just a power maximisation or internal dominance strategy for a state. He has an almost modern sense of the higher purpose of the state, and of the limits of power.

2. Reconnecting with Indian Strategic Thought

We are afflicted with neglect of our pre-modern histories, and many of us believe orientalist caricatures of India. India's supposedly incoherent strategic approach is actually a colonial construct, as is the idea of Indians somehow forgetting their own history and needing to be taught it by Westerners who retrieved it. The version that they "retrieved" was a construct that was useful to perpetuate colonial rule and, after independence, to induce self-doubt and a willingness to follow.

Reading Kautilya and the other indigenous texts is one way to give the lie to these theories.

The other is to consider strategic practice in India over the ages. One only has to think of the Mahabharata, (our own Warring States period slightly later), the histories of the Deccan, Kerala, and Bundelkhand in medieval times, (to pick a few examples at random), and what we have undergone in the sixty-five years since independence, to see continuity in Indian strategic practice. Fortunately younger Indian historians are now working on these subjects with unblinkered minds. I have just read a book by Jayashree Vivekanandan called *Interrogating International Relations* (Routledge, 2011) which analyses Mughal grand strategy. It strengthened my faith that our scholarly tradition is alive.

But as a general rule, today our theory has yet to catch up with our rich historical praxis.

Reading Kautilya (and other texts like the *Shantiparva* of the Mahabharata) one is reminded that this was not always so. One is also reminded of the rich experience in our tradition of multipolarity, of asymmetries in the distribution of power, of debate on the purposes of power (where *dharma* is defined), of the utility of force, and of several other issues with contemporary resonance. In many ways it is India's historical experience of poly-centric multi-state systems, plurality, and of the omni-directional diplomacy and relativistic statecraft that it produced, that is closer to the world we see today. (In contrast, the single-sovereign, universalist, and hierarchical statecraft and diplomacy of traditional China is easier to explain and attractive in its simplicity but fundamentally different.)

Let me be clear. I am not trying to idealize the Indian past. There is a risk here that the analytic tradition becomes the historical tradition, that we confuse cause and effect, and that imageries become the reality that they were intended

to reflect. All I am saying is that some of the problems in IR and strategic studies that we think we are dealing with for the first time have been considered by great minds in India before. We are the poorer for ignoring them. We can, instead, use the past to learn ways of thinking about these problems, improving our mental discipline, as it were.

Besides, states behave in ways that cannot be entirely explained by rational calculation or logic. (If they were they would be predictable.) Studying strategic traditions and cultures gives us a better understanding of why this is so. And where better to start than with oneself. A little self-awareness cannot hurt.

Let me give you an example of what I mean. When we in India call for a plural, inclusive and open security architecture in the Indo-Pacific we are well within a tradition and culture of thought which was relativistic, idea driven and omnidirectional. Other traditions, which are more hierarchical, claiming universal validity, find these ideas hard to understand. (And we are shocked when they do not espouse what to us are our eminently sensible views!) Friends tell me that Chola, Pandyan and Oriya manuscripts and inscriptions are early examples of what the free flow of goods, ideas and people could achieve — the ancient version of the open, inclusive architecture that we speak of today.

3. Creating our Own Modern Strategic Vocabulary

Some of you will groan and say, “There he goes again on his hobby horse”. But let me explain why this is important.

To be honest among ourselves, much of what passes for strategic thinking in India today is derivative, using concepts, doctrines and a vocabulary derived from other cultures, times, places and conditions. This is why, with a few honorable exceptions like the home-grown nuclear doctrine, it fails to serve our needs, impact policy, or to find a place in domestic and international discourse.

Jawaharlal Nehru made a beginning towards creating modern Indian strategic thought. But his work was incomplete, even though it was taken forward and developed by others like K Subrahmaniam. Besides, the world has evolved rapidly since Nehru's time.

There is also no question that we live in a world that is different from Kautilya's in terms of technology and experience,. But human responses are still similar, as is the behaviour of the states that humans create and run. That is why reading Kautilya helps us by broadening our vision on issues of strategy.

It will, naturally, take time and practice for us to develop our own strategic vocabulary and doctrines. This will require patience, but must be done if India

is to truly seek the broadest possible degree of strategic autonomy. After all autonomy begins in the mind. As I said earlier, fortunately the younger generation of Indian scholars shows signs of doing the necessary work and are thinking for themselves.

Strategic doctrines and cultures are not built in a day. I was, therefore, happy to see that this workshop is part of a broader Indigenous Historical Knowledge project by the IDSA. May I also suggest that this workshop be the first of a series that builds upon the beginning that you are making here? I assume that future workshops and work in the project on Indigenous Historical Knowledge will also cover other Indian thinkers and themes.

With these words, let me wish you and your workshop every success.



043. Address of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to the Combined Commanders' Conference.

New Delhi, October 19, 2012.

"It gives me great pleasure to address once again this annual conference of the leaders of our armed forces. India is proud, and rightly so, of the achievements of its officers and men and women in uniform. Be it in the line of fire or in aiding civilian authorities to carry out relief and rescue activities, the armed forces have regularly answered the call of duty and brought exemplary dedication to their task. For their bravery and their many sacrifices, the nation is eternally grateful.

In the year that has passed since we last met here, India has confronted persistent challenges on the external front. Global economic recovery has failed to materialize. The continuing uncertainty and weaknesses in the Eurozone economies have hobbled the pace of growth, including in Asian economies. Inevitably, India too has had to deal with the fallout of slowing growth, falling exports and expanding deficits.

Our security challenges, including cross-border terrorism, transnational crime and drug trafficking, remain diverse and serious. Added to these are new challenges in areas that constitute the 'global commons' – such as Space, the high seas and cyber-space. India has been a strong proponent of efforts to promote international peace, security and development and to act as a factor of stability in our region and beyond. Our size, technological capabilities and standing as a responsible state contribute to our ability to engage in regional and global efforts to shape responses to existing and emerging challenges.

In the political arena too, our neighbourhood remains complex with elements of instability. All around us, we see a churning of the political, economic and social systems of various countries with uncertain outcomes.

We cannot hope to develop and grow peacefully while our immediate neighbours struggle with poverty, strife and underdevelopment. Our external policies will therefore emphasize friendly and cooperative ties with our neighbours. We will also focus on establishing greater connectivity in South Asia and our expanded neighbourhood to promote the movement of goods, services, investment and technology so that we can act as a motor of growth in this region. The Services are an inalienable arm of our diplomatic outreach and I expect them to play a full and effective role in this national endeavour.

Our immediate geo-strategic environment comes with its own conventional,

strategic and non-conventional security challenges. India's strategic calculus has long encompassed the waters from the Gulf of Aden to the Straits of Malacca. Very recently, we have seen precisely these areas turn once again into fresh theatres of contestation.

We have consistently maintained that all issues must be resolved peacefully through dialogue. Wherever feasible, multilateral and international organizations such as the IAEA and the United Nations must be allowed to play their due role.

Even as we formulate responses to foreign and security-related challenges, concrete increases in our comprehensive national strength can come only if we solve our most pressing domestic problems. Affordable healthcare, quality education, remunerative jobs and reliable infrastructure for our people are fundamental to unlocking the human potential of India, which, to my mind, is limitless. The resources we need to do this can be generated only through economic growth at a faster rate than is the case today.

We need an aggregate growth rate of 8 per cent per annum to create new job opportunities for more than 10 million persons who are going to enter our labour force each year. This is not going to be an easy task, given the international economic environment. However, it is not unattainable if we make determined efforts to increase our investment rate to 37-38 per cent as was the case three years ago.

We also have to create an environment conducive for increased investment and savings rates, paying particular attention to investment in infrastructure sectors. Simultaneously, we have to work hard to improve the environment of internal security, ensuring communal harmony and control over disruptive forces such as terrorism, insurgency and left wing extremism. Our government remains committed to the achievement of these objectives.

As India grows, so will the responsibilities associated with protecting our new-found equities. For example, an expansion of our exports and a diversification of their destinations will call for equal measures to protect them from threats such as piracy. The security of our sea lanes would be equally vital in ensuring our energy security and access to other vital natural resources. Indian expatriates and our overseas investments, already present around the globe, are also going to be in need of assurances regarding their well-being. Security, therefore, will remain a pre-eminent and key pillar of our national strength. The Services, which are an important institution of our democratic and secular structure, will have to equip themselves to meet these evolving challenges.

Addressing these challenges will require addressing issues of joint-ness and skills, of training, doctrines and strategies, and of integrated decision-making

structures and weaponry, all of which will need to be supported by indigenous research and production capabilities. These issues require constructive debate, not just about our strategic options, but also on our need to develop composite capabilities.

As commanders, you are all aware that growing complexities must be met by comprehensive responses. We should aim to abandon single service or segmented approaches and develop synergies across services. Compartmentalized views will only delay our response and dilute its impact.

In particular, there is a need to increase our capabilities in emerging areas like cyber and space, which can be the sources of new threats. We must therefore reorient our mindsets and define a long-term integrated perspective that aligns these capabilities with envisaged outcomes. It is my hope that the commanders will discuss these issues and not limit themselves to only material capabilities.

Preparedness is a function of modernizing and indigenizing our defence research, production and acquisition infrastructure. Our acquisition processes and procedures must stay abreast of global best practices. The Defence Public Sector Undertakings and Ordnance Factories too need to do more in absorbing technology and building capacities. They must also learn to adapt quickly in order to respond to changing needs and provide the required confidence to the users of their products.

Fortunately, the Indian private sector is now in a position to contribute to the defence industrial base and must be leveraged in the nation's interest. Without this, the users' levels of dissatisfaction due to time and cost overruns and technological obsolescence are bound to grow.

Many of the issues I have referred to above deserve greater debate and inquiry. You would all be aware that, in addition to the Task Force led by Shri Naresh Chandra on security structures and decision-making processes, we had also asked another Task Force led by Shri Ravindra Gupta to look into the issue of defence modernization and self reliance. Both these reports have been submitted and I understand they have made a number of very valid and relevant suggestions. It would be in our national interest to evolve an early consensus on their recommendations.

In this forum of leaders, I do not need to emphasize that leadership is the touchstone that will define the end result of any conflict and the outcome we are able to achieve. Technical excellence and domain knowledge are important in this regard. Equally, as leaders, your task is to grow more leaders. I am sure that adequate attention is being given to this aspect and that building the next generation of leadership is something that you are focusing on.

To conclude, let me re-emphasize the nation's implicit trust in the

professionalism, competence, commitment and dedication to duty of the Indian armed forces. The nation is fortunate to have military leaders like you. I wish your deliberations all success.”



044. Statement to Media by External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid on assuming charge as the new External Affairs Minister.

New Delhi, October 28, 2012.

External Affairs Minister (Shri Salman Khurshid): Good afternoon to all of you. I would imagine that you know a lot more about this Ministry than I do. This is the beginning of my briefing. Foreign Secretary and his colleagues had a round of discussions with me. We have flagged the items on which formal briefings will begin tomorrow. It is a learning curve which will have to be steep because we have really hit the ground running. We have important visitors this week. I will need to get up scratch on everything that I need to know before I get into dialogue and conversations with them.

I would simply say this that it is indeed both an honour and a great responsibility to become part of one of India's greatest traditions in modern times and that is the Indian foreign policy which is being admirably supported and implemented by generations of outstanding Foreign Service officers and experts and my predecessors who made contributions which I do believe are invaluable to India's profile in the world and India's engagement in the world for the betterment of its people, betterment of the entire country.

Some very difficult questions are thrown at us from time to time and we have to be prepared in very very difficult atmosphere in the world because of stress on the economy, because of the very contested claims on issues like climate change, on issues like restructuring of institutions, on issues like international security and terrorism, and all the issues that have continued to plague the world. We have I think managed to tackle all of them with great distinction providing leadership to the world, and that is the tradition that I would like to carry forward.

The Prime Minister and the Congress President have placed a very very important responsibility on my shoulders. It will be my endeavour to ensure that I live up to their very very high standards.

Thank you.



045. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Memorial Lecture - 2012 delivered by the Afghan President Hamid Karzai.

New Delhi, November 12, 2012.

Bismillah ir-Rahman ir-Rahim. Good evening and a very happy Diwali to all of you here today, ladies and gentlemen

Your Excellency Dr. Karan Singh,

Your Excellency Mr. Salman Khurshid,

Dr. Goel,

Mr. Rangarajan

I am so honoured to be given this privilege of talking in a lecture in the name of a personality so immense and great that transcends time proving his philosophy to be a flowing current of water nonstop. For someone like me who does not stand even close to a human being of that stature, it is indeed to bestow upon me an honour that I do not deserve. But thank you anyway.

Ladies and gentlemen, as a student in India and when we were reading about the Indian movement for Independence, inevitably all students of the subject or as a matter of fact all students in India, Indian or foreign, do come across the name of Maulana Azad and the other great leaders of India during the struggle for Independence here and there and often during their lifetime of study.

I was one of those students too, impressed by Gandhiji and the peaceful struggle and his associates from Maulana to Pandit Nehru, to Patel, to Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan the Frontier Gandhi, to all other leaders. But then as students since you are in history as a subject you come across these names in passing. And later in life there are occasions of course that confront you with the depth of these personalities.

My second encounter with Maulana Azad was in Mr. Jaswant Singh's book on the Partition of India in which I read a speech, or the translation of a speech, that Maulana Azad probably gave at the Jama Masjid in Delhi perhaps right after the Independence of India. Then I began to get impressed by him and by the ideas and the vision that he had. When I learned last year or a few months ago that I would have the privilege of speaking in his name, I asked for his books and writings. And going through his writings and books I was amazed to see the scope of vision and the thoughts, and how deep Maulana's thinking and knowledge of this region and of the world was.

A man who did not have a formal education but a man who learnt Persian language by the time he was 12, and a man who learned Arabic because he was born in Mecca and also because he was raised in a religious family of

clergy and Mullahs and the Alim-e-Deens they are called, a man then who goes on to learn English though his preference was for French, as was mine for French but English of course is a colonial dominance now and we have accepted it. So, he did go to English too and he mastered in English in a manner that few of us at that time would have mastered having come from a religious family.

Reading through his book somewhere, he refers to the death of his wife while he is visiting Bombay three years before that and on his way of returning to his home he visits her grave site and he recites a poem from Wordsworth. Goes even into poetry in English! A journalist, he published newspapers, he published articles, he published books. A great Urdu writer, a great Persian writer, and a par excellent Arabic speaker and writer.

So, a journalist, a revolutionary man working for the Independence of India, a revolutionary man in the sense of the social reform that he was seeking for us all in this region. A politician, a practical person, a moralist who admits to his moralism along side the practical application of politics. A personality of many beautiful colours. Rarely you find an occasion where you find one man having such a variety of qualities assembled in him.

When you go through his life, when you read his work, during the struggle for Independence there was a remarkable episode of a conversation between him and Gandhiji. Right after the Independence of India, when the unfortunate events occurred and when the loss of life took place, when migrations took place East to West, and when Gandhiji goes on a fast unto death, and when the people of Delhi get together in their thousands and assembled to give Gandhiji the assurance that there will not be trouble any more or communal disharmony, even Azad goes to Gandhiji and says, "Well, what are your conditions?" And Gandhiji says that his conditions are that the Muslims who left Delhi must be returned back to their homes.

And Maulana Azad says, "Well, very good idea. But how about the Hindus who have taken residence now in Delhi who have been expelled from their homes?" A Hindu and a Muslim - one talking of the Muslims and the necessity of their return back to their homes. Then he says, "Well, right. It is a good thing. But how about the Hindus who have now settled in those homes?" It is like the most enchanting music especially at the miserly time of hours today to have people of that caliber, of that great humanism and humanity. Greatly impressed!

And on the issue of war, during the World War II, on whether India should join as a colonial power of the British force, for Gandhiji it was no, under any circumstances because he was against war itself, no matter who was fighting whom. There were no wrongs or rights on any side fighting a war. But Maulana Azad said, "No, I will join Britain or the democratic world, as he puts it, against

the non-democratic world provided Britain assures that India will be given freedom". Then he said, "Not fighting a war was not a matter of creed for me, but a matter of a political demand". And yet he coexisted with Gandhiji's high super morality. And he is heart broken when his own associates who agreed with him, like Ghafar Khan and perhaps Lal Bahadur Shastri, I do not recall all the names, they break rank with him eventually and side with Gandhi on not joining the war.

A man who is also at the same time a Maulana, a great educator of Islam, and Alim-e-Deen. There is no translation of this phrase – an Alim-e-Deen. Should we say theologian? No, no translation. So, let us say Alim-e-Deen, who in his pursuit of religion excels so much that he translated Quran. And a Mullah from Afghanistan who travels all the way from Afghanistan with businessmen to Lahore to Delhi follows him to Ranchi. And he writes that one day in Ranchi after the early morning prayers, cultural prayers, when he was I believe under internment, house arrest at that time, when he is going back home, he finds that someone is trailing him, fast, very close to him. And he turns back and sees a man there and says, "Yes, Sir, do you have some work with me?" And the man says, Yes, "Maulana sahib, I have something to ask you. I have been reading your translation of the Quran as it is called, the Tafseer, and I have some problems understanding parts of your translation.

He says, "Who are you? Where are you from?" The man says, "I am a Mullah from Afghanistan and I have come all the way here to Ranchi to ask you this." And Maulana says, "Let us go home with me". And they go home. And he stays a few days with the Maulana. The Maulana gives him the meaning as the understood of those translations of the Quran that he has done. And one day in the morning the Mullah from Afghanistan says, "Well, Maulana sahib, now I want to beg your leave and I want to go home." And the Maulana says, "Wait a minute. I will come back in a second". He goes home to bring some money to this very poor person who came all the way from Afghanistan to learn the Quran from Maulana, and the Maulana finds that the man has already left, has not waited. A great interaction! Beyond Delhi or beyond Ranchi. People knew him.

But for me, as I was reading Maulana Azad, the biggest moment came when reading 'India Wins Freedom' a Maulana's work, his memoirs, on the fourth or fifth page of his book you come across the man Maulana. And if you want to know about him, there is no need to go further in this lovely book of hundreds of pages. You are stuck there with the whole meaning of Maulana and his philosophy.

A religious man, a Mullah, a Maulana who tells you that for me religions are to unite humanity. For me, religions are to unite people, especially the people of India and beyond. And that we as one nation of different religions and different

varieties of groups live together. And, therefore, I shun away all those who speak for division – Muslims, non-Muslims, whoever. Here you find Maulana, a man who sees in God and the religions that God sent to earth to mankind a message of unity not of division. And that message of unity then he takes as his creed and moves forward.

Therefore, Dr. Karan Singh, your title “A Maulana for Our Time”, is exactly true to the spirit. He is a Maulana for Our Time, especially for our time today with all that radicalism, with all the brutality coming in the name of radicals and by the radicals, with all the terrorism in the name of religion, with all the violence perpetrated against innocent people in the name of religion.

Look at the story of Afghanistan of the past so many decades. Look at the destruction of schools in the name of religion. Look at the killing of teachers in the name of religion. Look at Pakistan, what is happening there. Look at the bigotry and the hatred spread there. Look at the shooting of a teenaged little girl. Malala Yusufzai going to school has been shot because she has been seeking education. And look at it before Malala in Afghanistan. Acid thrown on the faces of girls, teachers killed, Ulema killed, Mullahs killed, parents destroyed by the life of their children lost, all in the name of religion.

Who is representing Islam better? Is Maulana a true representative of Islam and of unity of religions and of people or all these extremists, the faceless extremists? They do not dare show us their faces. Or are they the representatives of Islam? Ladies and gentlemen, the representative of Islam is the Maulana of Our Times. And if you have to choose between what Maulana is teaching us and what these extremists are perpetrating, no doubt if we take a vote in this room the absolute great majority, unanimously will go for Maulana, the Maulana that is poetic in his writings as well.

I was going through his book “Ghubar-e-Khatir”, a beautiful title for a book. If you speak Persian, ladies and gentlemen, if you read the title of the book “Ghubar-e-Khatir, that title itself would take you to reading the whole book, just like I was attracted to the title of the book “God of Small Things” by a lady writer, Arundhati Roy. “The God of Small Things”, when I saw this title I was drawn to the book and read it first page to the last page. Maulana’s Ghubar-e-Khatir is equally romantic and yet with a message. Ghubar-e-Khatir perhaps means in English the “Dust of a Pensive Heart” or the “Mist of the Pensive Heart”. The mist of the Pensive Heart. If you go through it, I am sure lots of you read Urdu, it is a great mixture of Urdu prose and Persian verse. The same is the case in Tazkirah, another book of his where he speaks of his life and of his thinking and of his philosophy wherein he speaks of it in Urdu and relates it to beautiful Persian poetry.

In one of his those writings called Estederaq, the Maulana is talking about his education and his life. And then he goes to narrate a beautiful Persian poet

perhaps by Bedil, I do not know by Hafiz or one of these great poets, he says, "Rahrawan ra khastagee-e-rah nest. Those who are moving forward, who are in the movement, who are walking ahead, have no tiredness or exhaustion of the way they are following. "Ishq hamrah ast wa hum khud manzil ast". The love of an objective, of a purpose is the way itself and also the end in it. This is what we should learn from Maulana and follow.

Whether Maulana achieved all of his objectives there or not, we must walk ahead the journey that he began and completed. And that journey is a journey of peace, a journey of togetherness, a journey of tolerance, a journey of us as a civilization, like Dr. Karan Singh referred to, being one and indeed we are one. We are one in the examples that Maulana set for us, we are one also in the many examples subsequently that came to us.

Just as I became the President eleven years ago, the second day of my arrival in Kabul, an elderly man from Kandahar who was a Headmaster for about fifty years called Headmaster Ibrahim Jaan came to me and stayed with me for fifteen days or twenty days. Suddenly one morning he came to me and said, "Mr. President, I beg your leave. Now I need to go home." And I said, "Sir, Mr. Headmaster, but what brought you here and why are you leaving so suddenly?" He said, "Well, I have nothing else to ask you, Mr. President, but one thing." And I said, "What is that?" He said, "That one thing is that the Muslims in Afghanistan will regain their lost properties and goods. But it is the Hindus of Afghanistan who you should pay great attention to. Call them back and give them their property." This is the Maulana in the aam aadmi. So, the story continues. So, the story does not end.

Or, take an example much more recent, just in the past two or three months. When there was some atrocity committed in Pakistan against Hindus somehow, there was a gentleman called Advocate Khurshid who went to Gurudwaras and temples, and who began to polish shoes of the visitors of Gurudwaras and temples. I believe he also came to the Golden Temple in Amritsar to do the same. Take this by extension to others. There are hundreds of thousands of examples in our ordinary life of the pursuit of Maulana and his message..

So, the Maulana of Our Time lives on and inspires us. A man so great as him can only be given meaning in the words of great people like him. And I believe Tagore's "The ocean of peace lies ahead of me. Sail the boat, Oh pilot!" is the best meaningful description of the purpose that Maulana had.

So, let us say, "The Ocean of peace lies ahead of us. Sail the boat Oh, Maulana!" That is our future

Thank you very very much.



046. Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Lecture, 2012: “Discovery of Nehru” by Aung San Suu Kyi.

New Delhi, November 14, 2012.

There can be few occasions in life more fulfilling than those on which debts of kindness and friendship can be repaid. These past few months have furnished me with many opportunities to thank peoples and organizations and governments for their staunch support for the democratic cause in Burma and for me personally. The sympathy and understanding we received from around the world enabled us to continue with renewed vigour along our chosen course in the face of immense difficulties. Words of thanks alone are barely an adequate return for encouragement and help given in generous measure when we were most in need.

Today, I wish to thank you for the Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Prize that was awarded to me in 1995, the year that I was released from my first term of house arrest. The links between the independence movements of our two countries and my personal ties to India imbued the prize with a special meaning for me. The thoughts and actions of the leaders of the Indian independence movement provided me with ideas and inspiration. Our movement for democracy in Burma is firmly rooted in the principle of non-violence that Gandhi made into an effective political force even against the most powerful opponents. His influence on my political thinking is widely recognized. The influence of Jawaharlal Nehru on my life in politics is less well known.

“Panditji” was a name known to me since I was little past the toddler stage. My mother spoke of him as a revered friend, almost a father figure, both to her and to my father. I had little idea of his importance as a statesman beyond the fact that he was the Prime Minister of India. To my infant mind he was the kindly old man who had provided my father with two sets of uniform, the smartest he ever possessed. In January 1947 my father had stopped in Delhi for two days on his way to London for the Aung San-Attlee talks that were to be the first phase of formal negotiations for Burmese independence. He had left Burma in the thin cotton uniform of the People’s Volunteer Organization. Panditji took one look at the flimsy khaki outfit and decided it would not do for the icy weather of London. (That was one of the coldest winters in the history of England.) He gave instructions that two sets of a warm and smart version of the PVO uniform be made immediately. He decided that my father would also need a heavy overcoat but since there was not enough time to have one made to measure, a British Army issue greatcoat was procured. The most widely known photograph of my father shows him wearing this garment in the garden of 10 Downing Street.

My father was still a university student when he first met Jawaharlal Nehru and other Indian leaders. The student unions were at the forefront of the independence movement in Burma and shared aspirations led to ties of friendship between anti-colonial forces in our two countries. However, as the Second World War approached, the paths to freedom chosen by the Burmese diverged from the non-violent way of Gandhi. My father led a group of young men, the 'Thirty Comrades,' to Japan for military training and this small pioneer force became the core of the Burma Independence Army.

During the years under Japanese occupation, 1941 to 1945, Burmese independence leaders had little contact with the leaders in India but came to know Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and the Indian National Army. At the end of the war, when Netaji's brother Sarat Chandra Bose came to Burma to offer his services as a defence lawyer in the trials of members of the INA, my father delivered an address of welcome at a reception held in the City Hall of Rangoon. He referred to Sarat Chandra Bose as "one of the leaders of India. . . a great brother of a great Indian." He went on to say:

- as far as the AFPFL (Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League) of which I am the President . . . is concerned, our policy towards India and Indians in this country is one of the broadest conception and generosity . . . We have no axe to grind, we nurture no feelings of racial bitterness and ill will. We stand for friendly relations with any and every nation in the world. Above all . . . we stand for more than friendly relations with our neighbours. We want to be not merely good neighbours, but good brothers . . . We stand for an Asiatic Federation in a not very, very remote future, we stand for immediate mutual understanding and joint action, wherever and whenever possible . . . for our mutual interests and for the freedom of India, Burma and indeed all Asia. We stand for these, and we trust Indian national leaders . . . implicitly. A few months ago. . . Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru stopped for one night in Rangoon on his way back to India from Malaya. At that time, I met him and we discussed these questions for about two hours.

The next and last time my father and Nehru met was in those few days in Delhi that acquired unexpected sartorial significance.

After my father's death, Nehru continued to keep an avuncular eye on my mother from afar. Whenever she went to India or whenever he came on official visits to Burma, he made her feel his concern for her well-being and the well-being of her children. I may even have been taken along to meet him during one of his visits but I can only remember seeing him for the first time at Delhi Railway Station when I was about sixteen.

My mother was then ambassador to India and she and I and a small group

from the Embassy and the Ministry of External Affairs were waiting to welcome Prime Minister U Nu who was travelling up by train from Calcutta. Nehru also came to meet U Nu and onlookers spotted him as soon as he stepped into the area that was cordoned off from the teeming crowds in the station. Cheers went up and shouts of "Pandit Nehru ki jai" resounded. His lower lip protruding in that famous petulant look, Nehru ignored all the plaudits and all the people (including me) and walked up and down the empty platform with my mother and talked to her exclusively. His aristocratic disdain for public approbation filled me with both astonishment and admiration. I wondered if Nehru's public liked his cool arrogance or whether there was a bond between them that made exchanges of mutual courtesies unnecessary. Then I remembered that my father had been notorious for his stern, almost scowling expression and for his lack of social graces. Our people loved him for these very defects, which they saw as proof of his honest, open nature. I should add that towards the end of his life my father acknowledged that as a national leader, he could not continue with the rough diamond manners of a young revolutionary.

The year I went to Oxford, 1964, was one of the most significant turning points in my life. It was also the year Nehru died. Next to the overwhelming grief of the people not just in India but in all parts of the world, I remember most vividly reports of the poem by Robert Frost found on his desk. Oxford did not take me away from India for I made many Indian friends there. After my marriage, my husband's work in Himalayan studies took our family frequently to the north of the country. My last sojourn in India was spent as a research fellow in the Indian Institute of Advanced Studies in Shimla from 1987 to 1988.

The year of Nehru's birth centenary, 1989, was the year I was placed under house arrest for the first time. It could be said to have been the year of my political coming of age. When I joined the movement for democracy in 1988 the whole country was in a state of upheaval and my major concern was to try to unite the myriad political groups that had emerged from the cracks in totalitarian rule into a strong, coherent force for democracy. Each day was more than eventful: discussions, debates, public meetings, founding the National League for Democracy, touring the country to explain the aims of our party to the people.

The State Law and Order Restoration Council had announced that elections would be held in 1990 and the election laws were made public in April 1989. The Central Committee of the NLD was divided over whether or not the party should contest the elections. I pointed out that the laws made no provision for the transfer of power and that I did not believe the military regime would step down unless the winner turned out to be the erstwhile Burma Socialist Programme Party. We were still undecided with regard to the election issue when I was placed under house arrest in July.

The Chairman of the Township Law and Order Restoration Council, an army major, appeared at my gate with a warrant and a group of officers, civilian, military and police, in the morning of 20 July and I thought I was going to be taken to prison. As all members of the NLD had to be prepared for such an eventuality, I had already packed a small bag with the necessities of life in jail. My sons had come for their summer holidays and they understood that I was going to be arrested. When the Chairman appeared at the front door, Kim asked him if I would be kept as an 'A' class prisoner or a 'B' class prisoner. Somebody must have been talking to him about colonial times when political prisoners were given 'B' status, better treatment and more privileges than the criminal 'C' class. ('A' class was reserved for Very Important Prisoners, such as retired prime ministers.) The Chairman was somewhat disconcerted by Kim's question and replied that I would not be taken to prison. This was how I learnt that I would be placed under house arrest under a section of the law that had previously never been invoked.

House arrest meant that external activities suddenly came to a halt. It was also an indication that our struggle would be difficult and long. I would have to decide how I would chart the course of my life for the foreseeable future. Among the 'maps' I used to see me through the years that headed into the unknown were Nehru's autobiography and *Discovery of India*.

"Time seems to change its nature in prison. The present hardly exists for there is an absence of feeling and sensation which might separate it from the dead past. Even news of the active, living and dying world outside has a certain dream-like unreality, an immobility and an unchangeableness as of the past."

I read the above words of Nehru and made comparisons with my own situation. I certainly did not see the present and the past as inseparable, perhaps because I had access to a short wave radio that kept me in touch with the outside world and made it come vividly alive for me. Or perhaps it was an unlikeness in our attitudes to life that made us view isolation in different ways. Even when I was put into prison briefly during 2003 I never had the sensation that present and past had merged into one. There was of course a sameness to the days but each was separate and distinct, so many different stones in a string of perfectly matched diamonds. I use the diamond metaphor deliberately because each day had to be used to forge anew an adamantine resolution to continue along the chosen path.

There was, however, also much in Nehru's books to make me feel we had many things in common. I was struck by the fact that the very first fragment of poetry he quoted in *Discovery of India* was from one of my favourite poems, one that had lodged itself in my memory almost instantly at my very first reading of it, Yeat's *An Irish Airman Foresees His Death*. Yet even in our liking for the same lines there was a difference. Nehru wrote of wanting to experience again

'that lovely impulse of delight' that 'turns to risk and danger and faces and mocks at death.' I had remembered the words as 'that lonely impulse of delight,' and I could not check to see which version was correct as I did not have the poem to hand. To me, 'lovely' changed the entire meaning of the poem. I wished I could have discussed the matter with Nehru himself. Was it not essentially lonely, rather than lovely, to delight in what would seem at least inexplicable if not outright undesirable, to most of those around us? When, after the years of house arrest, I managed to look up the poem I found that 'lonely' was indeed the right word. Was 'lovely' a misprint in my copy of *Discovery of India* or had Nehru misread the line?

To mull over the meaning of a word, to build a whole philosophy on the interpretation of a poem, these are pastimes in which prisoners, particularly prisoners of conscience, engage, not just to fill empty hours but from a need to understand better, and perhaps to justify, the actions and decisions that have led them away from the normal society of other human beings. To begin with, what exactly is our conscience? My father once spoke about the need to be able to stand confidently before the court of his conscience. But this court, how broad is the range of its jurisdiction? Did it restrict its mandate to our convictions and our public commitments or would it also enquire impartially into the love and care we owe in our private relations, our obligations to friends and families? This is a question that must surely trouble all who, regardless of the condition of near and dear ones, accept distress and danger in the name of a cause or a belief.

Nehru explores this dilemma in writing about his wife Kamala. In 1934, while serving one of his many terms of imprisonment, it was suggested to him "through various intermediaries" that if he were to give an assurance, even an informal one, that he would keep away from politics for the rest of the term to which he had been sentenced, he would be released to tend to his ailing wife. This roused a deep indignation in the proud independence fighter.

Politics was far enough from my thoughts just then, and the politics I had seen during my eleven days outside had disgusted me, but to give an assurance! And to be disloyal to my pledges, to the cause, to my colleagues, to myself! It was an impossible condition, whatever happened. To do so meant inflicting a mortal injury on the roots of my being, on almost everything I held sacred. I was told that Kamala's condition was becoming worse and worse and my presence by her side might make all the difference between life and death. Was my personal conceit and pride greater than my desire to give her this chance? It might have been a terrible predicament for me, but fortunately that dilemma did not face me in that way at least. I knew that Kamala herself would strongly disapprove of my giving any undertaking, and if I did anything of the kind it would shock her and harm her.

Early in October I was taken to see her again. She was lying almost in a daze with a high temperature. She longed to have me by her, but as I was leaving her, to go back to prison, she smiled at me bravely and beckoned to me to bend down. When I did so, she whispered: "What is this about your giving an assurance to Government? Do not give it!"

The above passages fascinated me. The monumental egoism: 'my pledges,' 'my colleagues,' 'myself,' 'the roots of my being,' 'everything I held sacred.' The briefest appearance before an impartial court of conscience before deciding that he would be doing Kamala more harm than good by doing what was repugnant to his principles. And of course Kamala's own words put the seal of approval on his decision.

Yet in full awareness of the egoism and some possible self-deception on the part of Nehru, I have to confess that I wholly endorsed his stand on the matter. After my release from my first term of house arrest, I made public speeches to supporters who gathered in the street outside my garden at weekends. On one such occasion, I spoke of the above episode and urged the families of democracy activists to cultivate Kamala's fortitude and dedication. Such are the exigencies of dangerous causes. The lesson I really learnt however was not to deceive myself, or others, with the claim that we are making self-sacrifices when we follow our conscience; we are simply making a choice and possibly an egoistic one at that. When we give up what is dear to our hearts is it not sometimes to make ourselves less vulnerable? The ones who make the real sacrifices are those who let us go free to keep our secret trysts with destiny.

Politics is about people and people are about relationships, whether at a private or public level. The two Indian leaders to whom I feel closest are undoubtedly Gandhi and Nehru because many of the challenges they faced along the path to independence are the ones we have been facing over the course of our struggle which will mark its quarter century next year. The survival of their relationship, which was both personal and political, in spite of their many differences is one of the triumphs of Indian politics. When Gandhi decided to withdraw the Civil Disobedience movement, Nehru was deeply distressed. He railed: "Why should we be tossed hither and thither for, what seemed to me, metaphysical and mystical reasons in which I was not interested? Was it conceivable to have any political movement on this basis?" The doubts that arose in his mind over Gandhi's methods caused Nehru intense agony. In his cell in Alipore Gaol, life appeared to him "a dreary affair, a very wilderness of desolation. Of the many hard lessons that I had learnt, the hardest and the most painful now faced me: that it is not possible in any vital matter to rely on any one. One must journey through life alone; to rely on others is to invite heartbreak."

The lesson Nehru learnt is one we have to learn and relearn, again and again,

along the long and difficult journey to goals that can only be won through hard work and perseverance. At the same time, if our hearts cannot cleave to our colleagues, if our loyalty to those who share our values and aspirations becomes strained, or we have reason to doubt their loyalty, we are cast adrift into a wilderness of uncertainty. During one of my periods of isolation, I jotted down on a piece of paper that if I could be sure of one, just one, totally trustworthy, totally reliable, totally understanding, totally committed friend and colleague, who would keep faith with me and with the cause in which we believed throughout the vicissitudes of this existence, I could challenge the combined forces of heaven and earth. In isolation, one tends towards melodrama.

When I heard on the radio, suddenly and unexpectedly one day, that the Central Executive Committee had expelled me from the party for the simple reason that I happened to be under detention, I felt myself to be in a curious no man's land, far away from everything except my own volition. I realized that pressure must have been exerted on the party and that it must be going through a very difficult period. Finally I decided that it was for me to keep faith with my party as long as it kept faith with our cause, regardless of their official position with regard to me. I thought of Nehru's ability to keep true to Gandhi in spite of serious differences between them and it strengthened my conviction that we had to cleave to comrades and colleagues despite dissension and disagreement.

As the hundredth anniversary of Nehru's birth, 14 November 1989, approached, I copied a long paragraph from his autobiography on to a large sheet of paper:

Law and order, we are told, are among the proud achievements of British rule in India. My own instincts are entirely in favour of them. I like discipline in life, and dislike anarchy and disorder and inefficiency. But bitter experience has made me doubt the value of the law and order that states and governments impose on a people. Sometimes the price one pays for them is excessive, and the law is but the will of the dominant faction and the order is the reflex of an all-pervading fear. Sometimes, indeed, the so-called law and order might be ore justly called the absence of law and order. Any achievement that is based on widespread fear can hardly be a desirable one, and an 'order' that has for its basis the coercive apparatus of the State, and cannot exist without it, is more like a military occupation than civil rule. I find in the Rajatarangini, the thousand-year-old Kashmiri historic epic of the poet Kalhana, that the phrase is repeatedly used in the sense of law and order, something that it was the duty of the ruler and the State to preserve, is dharma and abhaya – righteousness and absence of fear. Law was something more than mere law, and order was the fearlessness of the people. How much more desirable is this idea of inculcating fearlessness than of enforcing 'order' on a frightened populace!

Nehru's words not only reflected my own sentiments exactly but were so entirely appropriate at a time when the State Law and Order Restoration Council was imposing rule by fear in Burma. I hung the sheet of paper in the entrance hall of my house at a place where the security personnel, usually members of the military intelligence, who were my only 'visitors' could not fail to see it. At the bottom of the sheet, I wrote 'Jawaharlal Nehru' in large red letters not just in acknowledgement of authorship but as a defiant name flung at all who had a warped view of law and order.

During the years of house arrest I felt closer to those with whom I could identify politically, intellectually or spiritually through their thoughts, even if they were complete strangers or figures of the past, than to those whom I knew well personally. This I imagined to be a predictable state of mind for those incarcerated with nobody except their own conscience for company. What I had not expected was that such a state of mind would become as firmly rooted as the tree of life that joins the ground of everyday activities to the heights of aspiration.

Gandhi once said that Motilal Nehru's most striking quality was love for his son: "Motilal's love for India was derived from his love for Jawaharlal." This comment led me to wonder if my love for Burma derives from my love for my father, whom I do not really remember. His image for me is inseparable from his part in the independence movement of our country, which often in my mind merges with our present struggle for democracy that has not yet come to an end. In spite of the strong ties of love, temperament and blood between his father and himself, or perhaps because of it, Jawaharlal Nehru was able to accept Gandhi as a father also, a political, spiritual father whom he could regard as the light of the people of India. The nature of such political, spiritual kinship binds us with a fastness difficult to put into words, as cold as calculation ("we fall unless we stick together") and warmer than any personal passion ("we need one another to keep the core of our being intact").

Recently, in a tribute to Vaclav Havel, I tried to explain why he and other friends and mentors whom I have never met in person are a major driving force in my public endeavours, which are no longer separable from my private life, by referring to an article about me written many years back, Ann, a friend from Oxford days. She applied some lines Yeats wrote for the Irish revolutionary, Maud Gonne to me:

How many have loved your moments of glad grace,
And loved your beauty with love false or true;
But one man loved the pilgrim soul in you,
And the loved the sorrows of your changing face.

Ann omitted the last line, perhaps because she considered it inauspicious, but

I am including it because the whole adds up to a most moving testament to friendship. To be loved for one's questing spirit is to be loved in the best possible way and to be given understanding and support through the hardships of a long struggle is never to be alone.

Today, as I thank all of you for honouring me with the Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Prize, I would like to express my deep appreciation for the leaders of India who became my most precious friends because their lives helped me to find my way through uncharted terrain. The discovery of Nehru was also a discovery of myself.



047. Press Release regarding the Passport Seva Project wining CSI-Nihilent e-Governance Award for Excellence.

New Delhi, November 22, 2012.

The Computer Society of India (CSI) has adjudged Ministry of External Affairs' Passport Seva Project as the most significant e-Governance initiative of the Government of India undertaken during 2011-12. The final selection for the award was done after a multi-stage evaluation, which included field visits to Passport Seva Kendras.

The Computer Society of India is the largest association of IT professionals in India. It joined hands with Nihilent Technologies in the year 2002 to institute CSI-Nihilent e-Governance Awards for recognising successful efforts in application of ICT for good governance.

The PSP, approved by the Union Cabinet and launched in Public-Private Partnership mode with Tata Consultancy Services as service partner, aims "to deliver all Passport-related services to the citizens in a timely, transparent, more accessible, reliable manner & in a comfortable environment through streamlined processes and committed, trained & motivated workforce". The Ministry of External Affairs successfully completed setting up and operationalisation of 77 PSKs in the country in June 2012.

The Ministry is improving governance in Passport Offices by focussing on citizen-centricity, service orientation and transparency. The intended benefits to common man are service provisioning in a transparent manner within defined service levels, closer and larger number of access points for services, easy availability of a portfolio of on-line services with real-time status tracking and enquiry, availability of good public facilities at PSKs and an effective system of grievance redressal. The award is a clear recognition that enhanced usage of ICT as envisioned in the Passport Seva Project has brought about transformation in the functioning of the Passport Offices and delivery of public service to citizens.



048. Interview of External Affairs Minister to NDTV 24X7.**November 23, 2012.**

Interviewer (Ms. Nidhi Razdan): Joining us now is India's Foreign Minister Mr. Salman Khurshid who has already had a rather interesting tenure in the less than one month that he has been at his new job.

Mr. Khurshid, thank you for joining us today. Like I said, you have only been at this new job for less than a month now. Do you feel it is a refreshing change from what you were doing? We are already seeing you generally wear more suits and ties than kurtas although today is an exception.

External Affairs Minister (Shri Salman Khurshid): I am trying to give a clear message that I am not breaking off from my other engagements. Of course, in sartorial terms you have to sometimes make adjustments, which I do. But more than that I think you have to make adjustments in attitudes and give up some preoccupations because this is a job with which you have to be extremely careful. You cannot afford to make mistakes. You do not make mistakes easily but even then you just have to be extremely careful that do not make mistakes because so much turns on what you are doing. So, yes, it is different, and it is exciting, and it is certainly very challenging. Now we will have to see how one does.

Interviewer: You have already faced some challenges. There are interesting and challenging things happening in the neighbourhood. I will start with Pakistan first because Kasab's hanging just happened a few days ago. What is your assessment of the reaction to his hanging in Pakistan both officially and even in the media where everything seems to have been generally quite understated?

External Affairs Minister: I think that as far as Pakistan is concerned, there seems to be a reasonably acceptable level in terms of the response that we have had, and some signals have been I think particularly satisfying. It could not have been easy for them. And I am sure many many things that we expect of them are not easy looking at their ground conditions and the complicated politics that they have in their country. We certainly understand it. But at the same time we expect that they understand our compulsions and they understand our aspirations and our obligations. I think it is that balance between us that is called for and necessary and that is the balance that can allow us to move forward, mend the relationship whenever it has been damaged because of acts either of state actors or non-state actors, and then look at the positive side where we can, as we must, grow towards a more meaningful relationship.

Interviewer: I will come to that a little later in more detail. But there was also this rather contradictory sort of statements from both sides about whether

Pakistan accepted the letter about Kasab's execution. You said on record, the Government said, Mr. Shinde also said, that when we sent them the letter first in person with the Deputy High Commissioner they rejected it. Rehman Malik, the Interior Minister of Pakistan, has denied very categorically. He said that no we always accepted it. Who do we believe where both are saying opposite things?

External Affairs Minister: I think that was in process communication that we were offering to you as the media to keep you posted and informed about what the situation was at that time. It was important for us to underscore that as a country that believes in rule of law and the commitment that we have including human rights, it was important that the family of the person be informed and certainly the country, which is what we did. I think to go now into greater detail of whether they accepted, or was there an indirect way in which they discovered or the fact that we faxed that ...

Interviewer: But you stand by what you said on day one that they did not accept the initial letter.

External Affairs Minister: I do not want to get into an argument on that but I think we did what was the best and possible. We do not go back on what we said that day. The important thing is that the communication was complete. They knew what was going to happen and the consequences. Our concern that the family be informed, and that could only be informed by authorities in Pakistan, to the extent that we could indicate this we had done so.

Interviewer: Okay. So you are not going back on those words. But why do you think then they contradicted that? What would the possible logic be?

External Affairs Minister: If you read all their statements, I think by and large there is adequate convergence between what we are saying and what they are saying. But this is not an issue on which we should stand on ceremony and on any kind of rigid ego positions. The substance of it is that they were informed. They have accepted that they were informed. And I expect that they thereafter have done what was necessary for them to do which was to inform the family. We also had an address where it was indicated to us that the family would be available and we couriered to that address the information that we felt should be shared with them.

Interviewer: Has anyone claimed Kasab's body? He has been buried there in Pune in Yerawada Jail. But has anyone come forward at all from the government, from his family, anybody?

External Affairs Minister: Not to my knowledge. And I would imagine that this is consistent with the position that was taken for those people who suffered fatal casualty during the operation. They were also buried in unmarked graves

in our country because there were no takers for them. I assume that since it was the same group and the same operation, one would have thought that they would consistently do whatever they had done in the past. We have not had any other contrary information. Certainly we have had no signals whatsoever from any source seeking his body or his remains.

Interviewer: But if his family does seek his body, or Ansar Burney - who is a well-known human rights activist in Pakistan who said he is willing to take the body from India – would we be willing to consider that?

External Affairs Minister: This is a matter that will have to be considered on merits, if such a request was formally made. I request made by family or on behalf of a country of the citizen is one thing. But a request by any well-meaning third party is quite another. As I said, if there is a formal request, I am sure the authorities concerned would examine it as rationally and objectively as possible.

Interviewer: There has also been a threat from the Pakistani Taliban in the last 24 hours saying that if Kasab's body is not handed over, then they will target more targets in India. How seriously are you taking that threat?

External Affairs Minister: I think any form of terrorism should not cause you undue anxiety but you have to be careful. You cannot be dismissive. We have had very unpleasant experiences in the past. So, we cannot be dismissive and that is the reason why we requested the Government of Pakistan to provide adequate security. And we would continue to do so as and when we feel that that is in the coming days or months found necessary according to our analysis. We would continue to make that request ...

Interviewer: So, you take that threat seriously. You have to, I guess.

External Affairs Minister: I think one should not take chances. As I said, we have seen some extremely unpleasant things happen in the past. So, one should not take chances. But this is responsibility of the Government of Pakistan. It is a law and order issue for them. It is a security issue for them as well. And I hope that they will take it seriously.

Interviewer: The families of the victims of Mumbai and many others have commented in the last few days that Kasab's hanging does not really close the matter here, and I certainly think the Government would not think that either because the masterminds are still roaming free in Pakistan. On the question of Hafiz Saeed, do you think we have hit a dead end with Pakistan on even being able to detain him? There seems to be a sense that it has just become frustrating to deal with them on this and it is not going anywhere.

External Affairs Minister: No, we are not giving up and we have not given up. I think it would be unfair on many people in this country and on ourselves

if we did give up. I think that there are some intractable issues on which you cannot expect immediate relief, response and reaction that you desire and you aspire to. But still you have to continue, you have to continue your struggle, and you have to continue striving. And we will continue to do so because it is not just about something that has happened in the past which was extremely hurtful and tragic, but it is also in a sense unraveling systems that can be put in operation against us in the future. And unless we know the entire story and we are able to make people accountable for what they did, there would remain a big question mark about our security, safety of our citizens in the future. I think that is why it is important in both dimensions that we get to what we believe is the logical conclusion.

Interviewer: So, you are saying you will not give up on that. I do not want to use the word precondition, but is it now fairly clear that the Indian Prime Minister's visit to Pakistan is linked to 26/11 and concrete progress on that?
External Affairs Minister: I would not say that but at the same time I cannot say that it is irrelevant. Whatever is in totality different dimensions of our relationship with Pakistan and whatever is linked with our relationship with Pakistan will obviously every time we take a call has to be factored in. What the impact of each of those things will be at any given time in an evolving situation, will have to be decided at that particular moment. But our strategic, safety concerns and obviously accountability for what happened in Mumbai is not the only factor. There are other factors that you look at as well. It is a totality of those factors that makes you take a decision.

Interviewer: Is the Prime Ministerial visit looking, therefore, highly unlikely?

External Affairs Minister: I am not prepared to venture a guess on this. When the Prime Minister feels that he is ready to take a call he will probably ask us to provide analysis, inputs and suggestions, and then he will take a call. I do not think we should anticipate one way or the other, and we should leave it to the Prime Minister to take the call when he feels it is appropriate.

Interviewer: But is it a smaller window now? There are elections coming up in Pakistan.

External Affairs Minister: Yes, I think the window is closing in because of elections in Pakistan. And then our own elections will not be too far away once the elections in Pakistan are over. There are a lot of other things that are happening between now and then. Of course the window is a very small window but sometimes you can fly through a small window and sometimes there is a very large window and you still cannot go through. So, as I said, I do not want to be more specific than this.

Interviewer: Very diplomatic answer I must say, Mr. Khurshid. Let me turn my

attention to China now with whom we have a rather complicated relationship. There has been a leadership transition that is going on there. And from time to time these irritants crop up between India and China. Today, as we have reported as well, a new row that has broken out over two Chinese passports that have been issued where they are stamping a map of China that includes Arunachal as part of China, Aksai Chin as part of China. The Indians have sort of given them back in kind, as one official told me, by stamping the Indian version of the map on visas that are given to Chinese nationals. What can you tell us about this latest map row?

External Affairs Minister: You know that sometimes you disagree and sometimes you agree to disagree. We have issues with China, everyone knows that. And we have a history with China and everybody can recall that history. But we as a nation, and this is not just successive governments but I think as a nation, have opted I believe for an enlightened view of a relationship between India and China as being imperative, as being desirable, and as being useful for both sides, mutually beneficial for both countries. I think both countries have come to this conclusion. But the fact that we have come to this conclusion does not mean that problems that have existed have disappeared. We have put in place resolution methods as well, conflict resolution methods and solving the issues that cause the problem in the first place. And that is quietly and discreetly moving forward. Inching forward maybe, but definitely moving forward. Now there is a new generation of leadership in China. The signals we have had from them, the limited signals we have had from them, are encouraging, are positive, are good. Our response is, as it should be, that *prima facie* we should trust them, we should welcome them, and we should put forward our best foot.

Interviewer: But yet these things will happen that they will continue to draw maps showing Arunachal as their own.

External Affairs Minister: And we will continue to say what we say. Why should we get ...

Interviewer: Is this an agree-to-disagree situation? What do you think it is?
External Affairs Minister: We never sat down and talked about how much we can disagree. But some things are implicit and some things are explicit. Some things you get accustomed to because the other side is doing it for a while, some things they get accustomed to because you are doing it for a while. And you do not every time sit down and take a tally of where you disagree and where you agree. But I think ...

Interviewer: So, you are not planning to lodge a protest diplomatically over this issue. It is not just India that is concerned with this new Chinese map. They have claimed the entire South China Sea as their own. Vietnam and the

Philippines have officially lodged a protest with the Embassies in Beijing. So, are we planning to do anything?

External Affairs Minister: Every country has its own style, and I think every country takes a call according to the circumstances as they exist at that given time. You know that we have participated in many different fora where freedom of navigation for the South China Sea is something that has been emphasized over and over again. There are different resolution methodologies that are being proposed by China. Largely they want to do it bilaterally with the countries involved. We have accepted much more of a multilateral approach. But ...

Interviewer: But on the specific issue of maps, are you saying in other words that this is something in a sense we have gotten used to over the years –you are right it is not the first time that the Chinese have come up with the map that shows Arunachal and Aksai Chin as their own – and, therefore, we have learned how to deal with it our own way?

External Affairs Minister: It is familiar. It is familiar, and in that sense you might say that one gets accustomed to it, but not by accepting it. We are not prepared to accept it and we would not. We, therefore, ensure that our flags of disagreement are put up immediately when something happens. Now you can do that in an agreeable way and you can do it in a disagreeable way. We think that nothing calls for us to be disagreeable. I think that what is being done is only one of the many things that we share and that we come across in our relationship with China. So, you do not want to let anything hold the rest of the relationship hostage unless it becomes something that at that given moment in the circumstances that exist becomes a very significant matter on which you then have to take a firmer opinion.

Interviewer: Since we are on the issue of the South China Sea, we have seen China far more aggressive with so many other countries and in the kind of conflicts that it has with the Philippines, with Vietnam, with Japan, what does India make of this highly aggressive China?

External Affairs Minister: We have noted it. It is aggressive in the sense that it is a pushy and a firm position they have taken, but they do that also with Japan where they do it with Japan over the islands, etc., but that is their style. We have a different style. All the countries involved in the region, each one of them, have a different style. I think it is all the styles put together that give you a sense of how Asia thinks and how Asia feels. I do not think that this should be seen as something to be unduly alarmed about. But that it is something on which we would wish to express our concern and would be concerned is certainly very clear. But I do not think these are alarm bell issues.

Interviewer: But issues of concern.

External Affairs Minister: But they are issues of concern and that concern has been consistently expressed. We do find the occasional opportunity and appropriate opportunity to show our concern and to share it with the other countries as well. I think that we should not rush into a very optimistic or a very pessimistic view of the final outcome as and when it happens.

Interviewer: I would just ask you, Mr. Khurshid, to wear your political hat for a few moments. There are lots of big political developments happening in the last few days. First let me ask you on today's issue. There is a huge row over the 2G report and the CAG's role with a former official in the CAG who was responsible for drafting the 2G report basically saying that he was forced to sign off on it, he did not agree with the final number, also accusing the BJP's Murli Manohar Joshi, the Chairman of the PAC, of contacting CAG officials and trying to influence them on the 2G report. The BJP has called it a government's conspiracy today. And they have asked serious questions about why Mr. Singh, the CAG official, suddenly appeared after one year and made these comments in the media when there were reports about his reservations even a year ago. Why did he give these interviews now? What would you say to them?

External Affairs Minister: I would ask the same question. I wish he had said it earlier. Why is he saying it now? And I would ask that question of the media why are you carrying these statements now, why could not you get the statement earlier. I do not think that it is fair for anyone of us to dissect the CAG. I know that some of my colleagues in Parliament may be doing so. But they perhaps have greater freedom than I have as a Minister. We do respect Constitutional authorities. Therefore, for us to dissect the CAG and actually look at and put them through a scanner to see what exactly was the difference of opinion between one official or another official, I think is not fair. You just take whatever is coming at face value, factor that into the preconceived notions and positions that people have had all these months, and then come to a conclusion.

Interviewer: But do you think that R.P. Singh's statement discredits the CAG's reports across the board, not just the 2G report?

External Affairs Minister: I do not want to use the word discredit at all. I am going to say it contradicts. Now, every time you have two positions, there is a thesis and there is an antithesis, then you have to find a synthesis. And when you contradiction on facts or you have contradiction on interpretations and on opinions, you have to choose. Frankly in our system when such a thing happens, with or without it happening, who is supposed to interpret and who is supposed to put a final stamp on it, accept or reject it? It is Parliament. So why do not we just allow Parliament to do this? If Parliament will not be permitted

to decide an opinion of the CAG is to be accepted or not accepted, is to be treated as correct or not to be treated as correct, does it require modification, does it require moderation, if Parliament is not to be allowed to do this, then who else can do it?

Interviewer: But there has been this collision course between the Government and Vinod Rai the CAG for some time now. What do you think could have motivated Vinod Rai to put pressure on someone like R.P. Singh, as he alleges, to sign off on this report or to have this inflated figure of 1.76 lakh crore as the government claims.

External Affairs Minister: You cannot attribute anything or imagine anything that happens within an organization. You can only go by the product of that organization, what they finally produce. What are the internal mechanics and how the internal chemistry of how things happen and work, etc., really is not for people on the outside to assume or to ...

Interviewer: I am asking whether you feel that Vinod Rai has been politically motivated to do this because it has been suggested by people in the Congress.

External Affairs Minister: You can disagree, you can disagree with the CAG on what the CAG says, without attributing motives. The trouble we have now in our country is that if we disagree, we have to attribute motives. I believe that you can disagree without attributing motives. Just as I said ...

Interviewer: So, you are not attributing a political motive to him.

External Affairs Minister: No, I am not attributing any motive, forget about political motive. I think in this country we have to learn to disagree without questioning a person's integrity and motive. This is true about the CAG just as much as it is true about us, or for that matter any other Constitutional authority. It is true about judges, it is true about investigative agencies, it is true about the police, it is true about Parliament. You can question and disagree, but to question and disagree should not automatically be seen as a politically motivated or a narrowly motivated attack on the person with whom you disagree. Equally, the person who takes a position that you disagree with should not immediately be painted with a brush of motive simply because you disagree with him. Is it not possible in a democracy to disagree? That is why we have an opposition in a democracy. You cannot say that every time you are in opposition you are dishonest and when you are in government you are honest, just as you cannot say simply because you were elected into government you must be honest. That is the kind of conversation in this country and discourse in this country that will destroy us and destroy our democracy if we do not learn to respect each other.

Interviewer: You are also facing a big political challenge on the FDI issue.

There is a sense we are getting today that the government may actually be ready for a vote and that everything will depend of course on how the resolution is finally worded. Is that a correct assessment?

External Affairs Minister: I know that my colleagues are working on it, I know that the Parliamentary Affairs Minister and the Commerce Minister have been working overtime to reach out to people, persuade them, take their genuine concerns on board, and certainly persuade them not to stand on their ego about concerns that are not as serious as could be.

Interviewer: But you are ready for a vote.**External Affairs Minister:** I do not know. I think this is something which you will see only when we get on to the floor of the House and give you our decision.

Interviewer: But not ruled out then.

External Affairs Minister: When you go into Parliament you do not rule out anything. But you go into Parliament hoping for the best outcome for yourself. What is the best outcome in the circumstances that prevail today is something that my colleagues are better informed upon. And I am not going to make their job more difficult by suggesting that the best option is or the best outcome is the one that I have thought of.

Interviewer: One final question, Mr. Khurshid, and this is on Rahul Gandhi. When he was appointed head of that election panel for the next election you said that now we know who our leader is, he is our commander. Is that a hint that he is also going to be the face of the party in the next General Election to lead the country?

External Affairs Minister: But he is the face of the party. In fact I do not even know why these questions are asked. He is the face of the party but he is not the only face. Mrs. Gandhi and the Prime Minister are also faces of the party.

Interviewer: I am asking whether he is going to be projected as Prime Minister. Is this one step towards that?

External Affairs Minister: The most important thing about what Mr. Rahul Gandhi will do is what Mr. Rahul Gandhi will do. It will be his decision and I can assure even now very clearly and categorically, this must be his decision. He is very clear in his mind how he wants to move forward. I think that it is important that we respect him for being very rational, very objective and very careful about step-by-step forward movement taking the party along.

Interviewer: But you have already declared him your commander. So, he is the leader.

External Affairs Minister: He is a commander. There can be not one, two,

three, four commanders. There is also a commander-in-chief. I said he is a commander. And sometimes the field commander is more important for you and the commander-in-chief sitting somewhere else is not that important for you because you as a soldier are actually taking commands directly from your field commander. So, in that sense he is a commander. We are moving with him. The army will be listening to him, hearing him, taking commands from him, but he is part of the overall command which includes the Prime Minister and ...

Interviewer: So, you are not willing to say whether he is going to be commander-in-chief yet, too early to say.

External Affairs Minister: If I have said that he is commander, then when will he be commander-in-chief or would he like to be more than a commander or a special commander, we would like to hear from the commander himself. I think soldiers must not speak for the commander but speak when asked to speak by the commander.

Interviewer: Alright. Mr. Khurshid, it was a pleasure talking to you. Thank you very much for joining us.

External Affairs Minister: Thank you very much.



**049. Remarks by Permanent Representative of India at the UN
on the launch of the Aakash2 Tablet at United Nations.**

New York, November 29, 2012.

H.E. Mr. Ban ki-moon,
Secretary General of the United Nations,
Excellencies and
Colleagues from Permanent Missions and Observer Missions,
Dear Friends from the Media, and

Most importantly, the architect of Aakash2, Mr. Suneet Singh Tuli, CEO of Datawind, who flew all the way from India to Canada and then here for this event.

On behalf of the Permanent Mission of India first let me extend to all of you a very warm welcome. We are gathered today for a special event that focuses on one of the principal goals of the UN, a better world for all.

Mr. Secretary General, you have kindly consented to unveil today an innovation that has the potential to fundamentally alter the development discourse. It allows millions of young people the opportunity to benefit from technology and move towards realizing the Millennium Development Goals for themselves. This innovation is unique, not just from the view point of the technology, OR for being the world most cost competitive tablet, as it is widely billed as,

BUT more importantly in actualizing the an idea of development innovation - and that's the reason why Government of India embarked upon the pursuit of this pioneering technology. With pricing determined through an open international tender, Aakash2 is the world's lowest cost tablet at end-user pricing. It harnesses top of the line technologies at costs, which the neediest can embrace. And believe me, the technologies and applications that have been put in it, are indeed the world's best.

It also bridges the digital divide within our societies. No doubt, Mr Suneet Tuli has been recently voted amongst the world's top 15 education innovators by Forbes magazine. In India, the National Mission on Education through Information Communication Technology will equip 220 million students across the country with low cost tablets and internet access. The Government of India is subsidizing 50% of the cost of this device. With State governments and local institutions along with other development partners chipping, the devices would ultimately be, made available FREE to all students.

It may be pertinent to mention here Mr. Secretary General, that while outlining your 'generational imperatives and opportunities' in the beginning of this year,

you had outlined that '*harnessing the full power of partnerships across the range of UN activities*' was a key enabler.

It is our considered submission, that by partnering with key initiatives such as these, the UN development system would be able to 'force multiply' to achieve the MDGs of universal education and global partnership.

The development of Akash2 also reflects India's continuing commitment to the principles of the United Nations Academic Impact, including those of educational opportunity for all and fostering global citizenship. It is just two years since you launched the Academic Impact, Mr Secretary-General, and we are delighted to commemorate its second anniversary with this innovative product.

The first Aakash2 was unveiled in India, on 11 November by the Hon'ble President of India. With devices such as Aakash2, **Technology Enabled Learning**, would be implemented to leverage the potential of ICT in providing high-quality, personalized, and interactive knowledge modules over the internet in a any-time, any-where mode, across all primary schools. Using Aakash2, teachers & students in the remotest corners of our country can join a classroom and benefit from lectures delivered by the best teachers.

Mr Secretary-General, in a knowledge economy, the wealth of a nation will not be measured in terms of its natural resources but in terms of its human capital. We need to promote research and innovation in national institutions and create an eco-system of excellence right from the elementary level upto the institutions of high-end research and innovation.

To us, Aakash2 is an epitome of such high end research, innovation and excellence. It is said that the taste of a pudding lies in its eating. Very soon this device would be unveiled and then you can yourself decide, whether this 20\$ pudding, is worth its taste, for 220 million students who could have never ever afforded to see this pudding, lest alone taste it. (20 \$ approx being the price at which GOI after 50% subsidy intends to give it to Indian students)

Aakash, to those here who dont understand Hindi - **means SKY**-something that many aspire to reach out for. It is our earnest hope that for students in India, and, indeed in time across the developing world, this device helps in getting them their 'mouthful of the skies'.



050. Interview of External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid to Bloomberg TV India.

December 6, 2012.

Interviewer: China's decision to include maps in its new passports that show its sovereignty of disputed territories in the South China Sea and regions in India appears to reflect a new assertiveness. Why do you think it has taken this move now, and has India formally protested the Chinese move and if so what was the response?

External Affairs Minister (Shri Salman Khurshid): These are things that we have encountered in our relationship over the years. Understandably, there is a difference of opinion. We have a Joint Working Group that is very steadily but slowly moving forward. I think over the years various propositions have come from both sides on how this matter can ultimately be resolved. But I think it is understood that there isn't a sense of urgency that it must be resolved right away. Knowing fully well that these are difficult issues, these are not issues that necessarily get resolved if you push them for a resolution in a very short space of time, I think you will need to let a lot of things evolve around these issues, which is what has happened in the developing relationship between China and India.

So, to take any specific thing in isolation and say, "Well, that means a very questionable, unacceptable act", and give it disproportionate attention I think does not help on either side. And this is how we have learned on both sides to deal with each other. So, I think the caveat is that you cannot give an impression that it is something you do not accept, you cannot agree with, you will acquiesce in, and therefore, tomorrow be told you never raise any questions about this. But at the same time to get alarmed and begin to raise the ante I think is neither called for nor something that we do. Not just this, many issues arise from time to time. I think we are able to resolve them or able to bypass them so that the main thrust of our relationship with China continues to grow. It is an important relationship I think in this region and in the world. I think it is mutually beneficial for both sides to allow this relationship to grow and to become wholesome. China is in transition as far as its leadership is concerned. We have had good signals from the emerging new leadership, and we want to build on those signals rather than to detract or to dilute the positive impact of those signals. So, that is our position. There are issues that get resolved in due course. Nothing that today necessarily will stall what we believe is a truly beneficial relationship.

Interviewer: There seems to be an escalation in the last few months. I guess particularly in terms of confrontation between the Chinese and Philippines

and the Vietnam in South China Sea and of course with Japan. It seems that there is a sense of growing pressure from China to actually get its way. ... (Inaudible)...

External Affairs Minister: That is one way of describing it but I think as the world evolves a lot of things are changing in the world. There is a growing demand for reform in the United Nations for instance of the Security Council. We are at the forefront of that demand for reform, and also claim to be beneficiaries of that possible reform. There are regional realignments taking place, there are regional adjustments taking place, regional assertions taking place. Many more barriers of the past are breaking down with greater communication levels, people moving to and fro a lot more.

At the same time the hotspots in the world that we know are worrisome for everyone. And some of them can be not too far away from India. But again even there we do believe that there are some positive signals of movement in the right direction, and some imponderables that obviously all stakeholders have to come together and find solutions to. And I think that is the attitude that people have taken towards some issues that concern, many immediate stakeholders but also a larger section of world community about navigation, freedom of navigation and the law of the sea. I think in that context no communications have broken down. That is the important thing. Communications have not broken down. There are of course positions that China has taken that others have not necessarily agreed with. China has also suggested a way in which it could be resolved bilaterally. Others think it may be better to resolve it multilaterally, etc. But I think let us wait and see how things move forward.

Interviewer: Are you able to give any details about how US Government have responded to the Chinese move? There are some reports that India is now stamping its own map on Chinese visas. Is that true?

External Affairs Minister: Whatever China does, I would not put it as necessarily something that is endorsed directly from the top. There are different levels that decisions can be taken that may not be necessarily against the Chinese interest but may at the same time not necessarily have been a well thought out strategic dipstick about getting a sense of how people would react. I think that is probably true about India as well that not everything goes right to the top. Important issues will go right to the top. If they are pronounced policy issues, then they would be considered right at the top and in the manner and through the methodology that we adopt.

But so long as you are broadly consistent with the ideological positions or stated principles of your governance, I think strategically or tactically doing

something at a particular time would necessarily be endorsed all the way to the top, I do not think, is the way governments work. But at the end of the day, yes some decisions would be taken and those decisions may need to go right to the top. Whether you are reviewing something that has happened, you are diluting it, delaying it, beginning to negotiate on it, beginning to communicate on it, that may go to the top. So, I do not think we should rush into any judgment on this.

As far as the US is concerned, they have their own evolving policies. Over the years they have come up with different perceptions and different manner of engagement with China. We study it and we take it on board and see where it can be integrated with positions that we take. But we like to have an independent position with every country including with China. It may or may not necessarily at any given time match perceptions of any other country. We do believe that we have a great deal of substance of a direct relationship with China and we would like to keep it that way.

Interviewer: Japan is one country that sort of felt the impact of following China over these issues with its exports to China of his cars and electronics having fallen pretty sharply because of Chinese unwillingness to buy them. Is there a sense that India feels that China is using its economic muscle in its foreign policy and that is something that India is concerned about because they cannot match it?

External Affairs Minister: Do not we all use our economic muscle? What is economic muscle for if not to be used to greater advantage of your people so long as it is not illegitimate, so long it does not violate principles of international law? And so long as, in terms of a general perception of the comity of nations, it is reasonable and enlightened self interest, I think nobody can necessarily complain about it. Therefore, we cannot ask any country to set its economic muscle or its economic persuasive powers apart.

But if you are in the same market place and you are competing for space, then of course there will be an actual competition. India encourages competition. We have very profound competition policy. We have a Competition Commission. We encourage competition. We believe competition is good for human kind. Therefore, we will not make exceptions for competition. We will have to prepare ourselves if there is competition. We will perhaps better if there is competition. But competition obviously must be fair competition. That is what we urge in all multilateral fora and what is in fact WTO about. China is a member of WTO. We encouraged that decision to be taken because China should not have remained in isolation when the world countries were putting together a regime that is to be for the benefit of everyone. Therefore, if there is something to be discussed and something to be worked on, there are these

international fora available. Interviewer: You mentioned earlier in response to the first question that you have had some good signals from the new leadership. Are you able to give us some detail on that? There is a sense I guess that two large countries, growing economies, have certain inevitable antagonism that would develop between the two countries and managing that is obviously your job. But you are saying that you received some signals from the new leadership.

External Affairs Minister: What happens is when there are changes taking place in a country you reach out to them and they reach out to you. You signal to your neighbours, you signal to your partners and signal to the rest of the world that you intend to go in a particular direction. And that is done through bilaterals, messages that are conveyed at the highest level through bilaterals, also important events within your own country where policy pronouncements are made, where statements are made which are supposed to cross borders and go to the rest of the world. Now of course we are living in a communication village. So, anything that you say anywhere is communicated immediately. I think the meetings that took place in the East Asia Summit and ASEAN, I think those are meetings at which very clear signals of positive role ahead for India and China were given.

Interviewer: ... (Inaudible) ...

External Affairs Minister: I do not have information about specifics. But you talk of chemistry and you speak of basic signals. And I think the sense of those basic signals and the chemistry have been good.

Interviewer: Moving on to a separate issue which is the nuclear liability law here, we know that is a concern to a lot of American companies particularly who are looking to invest here. I think you have had discussions earlier this month with visiting State Department officials on this. Is there anything that the Americans can look forward to?

External Affairs Minister: As you know, we are completely committed. This was a landmark decision taken by the US Government and we believe a landmark success of the two Governments being able to come together on something that previous generations would ever imagine could be possible. Now, as far as we are concerned, the legislation is in place. We have put the structures in place. We have also made efforts to ensure that the nuclear industry in the US has comfort on the basis of what we have done. And we have had exchanges that we have tried to communicate. There are some related issues on which US and India have to work together and we are working together. I think that when you take a landmark decision of this nature, there are a lot of follow-up steps that you need to take. One of the follow-up steps that we need to take is to ensure that we carry conviction with US industry. I

think we have done a fair amount of work there. If there are any more caveats or questions that remain, we will address them as we go along.

Interviewer: Could you put a date on when you think you would see the first American company?

External Affairs Minister: I am sure I could but not off hand. It is obviously a big step, the first investment that will come will be a very big step. And, therefore, I would not venture to suggest a date. But I hope that it happens soon. Every Government looks at milestones and accomplishments that you can show within the period, the tenure that you are given to perform. Obviously as we look ahead at 2014, that will be the end of our tenure, we would want to be able to say, "Look substantial progress has been made as we had hoped would be made", and report back to the country that this is a success story.

Interviewer: But could that involve a watering down of the liability law or would it mean something like a waiver for US companies which are ...(Inaudible)...

External Affairs Minister: I am not sure that on that there is any major issue. What is important is, what should be understood is, what we have intended to do. But sometimes people interpret restrictively and sometimes people interpret in a liberal manner. And that is the reason why we have engaged technocrats and lawyers from the US firms. We have had direct communication with them and we have explained through our experts. We have explained that there is no cause for concern. But this is an ongoing dialogue. As and when something further needs to be done, of course it will be addressed. But I think that there is no reason to doubt or worry about engagement. I think we have got a very beneficial and a very attractive structure in place. I would urge industries from the US to make use of it. After all the purpose of doing all this was that we would be able to take the benefit of what US industry has to offer, and the US industry would be able to expand to areas in which they have not operated.

Interviewer: Vladimir Putin is coming to Delhi next month. Is there a commitment from India to sign the extra two reactors at Kudankulam? External Affairs Minister: Let us see. These are all matters that is part of the process. Whenever there is a big visit like this, you try to meet the deadlines on that big visit for the wish list that both countries have. Sometimes it is possible, sometimes it is not possible. But the people concerned would certainly work towards the wish list that both countries have.

Interviewer: On a separate energy issue which is Iran, I think the sanctions waiver that India got from the US expires at the end of this year, actually in January. Is there work being done on an extension to that? Have you got signals from the US that that will be extended?

External Affairs Minister: I think that the signals that we had, and I believe signals that others have had were largely that the US would take up these issues seriously once the elections were over. And I can understand that they are preoccupied putting in new Administration in place, new Secretary of State and so on. Therefore to expect a very quick and an advanced signal at this point of time would perhaps be unfair. But of course we are conscious of time running out. But we also have reasonable confidence that whatever US may be looking for is perhaps available in terms of how things have evolved. Our main of course concern is full compliance and commitment to the sanctions that have been imposed by the United Nations. I think India cannot be faltered in the remotest extent as far as that is concerned. Whether we measure up to the United States' law and the principles that they apply for waivers etc., will have to be seen in terms of the facts as they have emerged. For instance, if there is a measure of your purchases of fuel from Iran going up or going down, I would think that they would be very clearly indicated as having gone down substantially. And that is despite the fact that India's energy bills are going up, India's demand for energy is going up, and our total import of energy is going up. So, I think that will be for the US to examine. But objectively I think that there should be no reason for them not to be able to move forward.

Interviewer: One last question about the Maldives. I know you have been asked this question several times. What are the options you have for arbitration?

External Affairs Minister: Let us very clearly distinguish the legal and commercial decisions they claim they have taken. And that is a legal commercial decision that will have to be countered by the commercial entity, GMR as far as India is concerned because of course there is a joint venture with Malaysia. They will have to handle it legally. It is already in arbitral tribunal in Singapore. I believe they have some orders from court that are still valid, and they will have to see what the implications are for the steps that have been taken by the Maldivian Government. In principle we support them. Our moral support is with them on this because they are an Indian entity largely. And we are proud of India's investment, the biggest FDI investment in Maldives. I think as a message for investment in friendly countries, we would want that message not to be diluted or reversed by this action.

The other aspect of this is political. We do not want this matter to become a political issue between India and Maldives and to reflect upon what we believe is a very wholesome relationship and a relationship that we cherish and value. We have indicated this to the Government. They have repeatedly said that this should not be confused with any hostility on a bilateral plane. We take that at face value but we would want adequate substantiation of implications for our citizens who are there engaged in this project as well as elsewhere. Their

safety and security is important. That this not be allowed to spill over and to spin into other dimensions of our relationship, is important. I think the Maldivian Government would certainly know what needs to be done and what needs to be done and what needs to be prevented. We have certainly had the right kind of assurances given to us, but frankly we would want to wait and see whether those assurances are substantiated. We have a duty, as any country would have, towards our citizens. We certainly have an expectation and hope that internal politics, or whatever be the pressures of internal politics, will not allow Maldives to put a question mark on relationship that, as I said, we cherish and value.

Interviewer: Going back to Iran, other countries in Asia like Japan and Korea are actually increasing their purchases of Iranian oil after the sanctions came in. ... (Inaudible)...

External Affairs Minister: I have not looked at what other countries are doing and how they will manage. We do know that we have an arrangement that allows us a certain amount of flexibility. That arrangement is under stress because Iran needs to import more permissible things from us. We hope that they would be able to buy some wheat from us, etc., because the arrangement that we have will not work unless that is a two way traffic of trade. But that is as far as we are concerned. What the others will do and what arrangement others will have, the impact of American sanctions as far as their banking arrangements are concerned and so on, is something for them to consider.

Interviewer: Thank you very much.

External Affairs Minister: Thank you.



051. External Affairs Minister's interview to Sky TV.**December 7, 2012.**

Interviewer (Mr. Alex Rossi, SkyTV): Minister, I know that you met our Foreign Secretary William Hague not so many weeks ago and you discussed the issue of British aid to India. Now that is obviously being scaled down. Are you concerned about that? What is your reaction to that?

External Affairs Minister (Shri Salman Khurshid): Not at all. I think that this is a natural process of growing up, the Indian economy getting stronger, our profile worldwide beginning to change. I think we have moved, as I said to him, and he of course agreed, from the era of aid to the era of trade. So, we have to really concentrate now on economic relations. That is not to say, as some people were sort of concerned, we do not need to reach out to certain segments of our society that require assistance. But those are things that can be done through development programmes that we can cooperate. But the traditional concept of aid I think deserves to be eased out, faded out. Therefore, there is no issue there at all.

Interviewer: Was it right that Britain was giving aid for so long - I am thinking really over the last ten years ago I know that the former Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee described the aid as a peanuts, and India in many ways a very wealthy country - was it right that Britain was giving aid for so long, obviously a bit too long?

External Affairs Minister: That is frankly for Britain to consider ...

Interviewer: What do you think?

External Affairs Minister: Going by some reactions that we heard and saw at this time, I think perhaps it was right that it was sort of allowed to linger on for a while because people do not understand new things that happen. People do not take to them very quickly. There are a lot of questions being asked - is this a message to India that we are not happy or pleased, is it a drift away from India, etc. I think people have to get accustomed to changing profiles and changing relationships. In that sense, perhaps it was not wrong to let it linger on for a while. But as I said, in this evolving nature of economic relations in the world now and how our relations have matured, I think the need for aid is not as important and significant as looking at areas of economic cooperation.

Interviewer: You mentioned trade, not aid. Obviously there are very close links historically between the United Kingdom and India. How do you see the relationship changing?

External Affairs Minister: I think we both have to work on it. I think there is a

natural advantage that our relationship has - language, institutions, history. Obviously on both sides we have looked at new relationships and we need to. European Union for instance is a very important factor now for the UK. As far as we are concerned, our Look East Policy, our engagement with Africa; and in a sense our traditional reliance on markets in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union obviously has disappeared. So, Rupee trade is gone. So, you have to look at a lot of new things. A lot of young Indians are looking at the United States of America for instance. A lot of Indian students are now going to American universities. During my visit to Oxford recently as indeed my conversation with the Foreign Secretary, I thought that it was important that we revive the strength of our relationship, the traditional strength of our relationship by adjusting and accommodating the change that has taken place in the world. There are issues about visas, there are issues about greater collaboration through private industry, and there are issues about work permits. On both sides, it is not just one way. Perhaps the pressure is much greater on the UK. I think these are things that we can work out satisfactorily. I think the fundamentals of our relationships are very strong. What we need to do is the new generations have to discover that we have strong fundamentals and that they should take advantage of them.

Interviewer: Do you see Britain - you mentioned lots of other places, United States you mentioned Africa as well – just as another country, or do you see it as one that India has, because of the historical ties, a special relationship with? I am kind of framing the question in the context of the disappointment that there was in Britain suddenly in the political and military establishment when India awarded its defence contracts to French fighter jets rather than Euro fighter which obviously has a big interest in terms of its manufacture?

External Affairs Minister: I think that is sort of overstating the case. Yes, we have a very strong link with Britain. Of course, remember that the Harrier jets are from the UK and our Navy is heavily dependent on Harrier jets. So, I think that these are things that will come and we have to take them in our stride. We do have a relationship with the Europe, and that is not at the cost of our relationship with the US or North America and certainly not at the cost of our traditional relationship with the UK. But there is a relationship with other countries, bilateral as well as through your Union. And I think you just need to find the right balance. It is a question really of how much effort both sides will make because they believe that their relationship has a particular value that needs to be enhanced and needs to be reiterated.

Interviewer: So, what would be the message to British politicians coming to India? We just have Boris Johnson here and David Cameron, the Prime Minister, is planning to come next year. The message to them is, do not come with just expectation, you need to come and work.

External Affairs Minister: Let us work together. You understand the game of cricket. If you do not make runs in the first innings, there is always the second innings to follow.

Interviewer: Moving on to the relationship India has with Pakistan, how do you see that moving on in light of the Mumbai terror attacks? The surviving attacker has been hanged. Do you see that as still a very major problem to getting things on to a more stable footing?

External Affairs Minister: I think there are two dimensions of this relationship. I think that that is something which is obvious to both sides. One is that we have both agreed that issues that impede the growth of our friendly relations must not hold our friendly relations hostage, that we must continue and find ways in which we continue to work together on a host of avenues, confidence-building measures as we call them, and resolve those issues which we can resolve and which ought to be resolved. There are issues that are difficult and have traditionally been very difficult issues. We agree that we would bypass those issues. Amongst those very difficult issues is what happened in Mumbai. That is not something that you can bypass. That is something on which we are accountable to our people, responsible to our people. And we believe also it is important that you draw a line and say, this must not happen again. That will be possible if there is accountability. We have tried to impose accountability on our side when we had in our control people who were involved in that attack. And we expect the same thing to happen on the Pakistani side. I think something is happening but not enough and not quick enough. I think that is the message that we have gently and sometimes firmly conveyed to them, but again not making it conditional upon looking forward. We will look forward but how far and how quickly will obviously depend on the delivery that we have been promised or certainly delivery that has been indicated will come.

Interviewer: Are you talking about the delivery of certain individuals, the alleged masterminds behind the attack, people like the founder of Lashkar-e-Tayyiba, Hafiz Saeed?

External Affairs Minister: Yes, some of that, some of everything that is available with them so that we can complete ...

Interviewer: Those people are still free, and they are still holding political rallies, and they are still arguably inciting Pakistani nationalism at the very least.

External Affairs Minister: That is a worry. That is a concern. We cannot be seen as sort of callous about this issue or unconcerned and carry on with business as usual. I think both sides need to factor this in. We are still looking forward; we are still willing to explore possibilities of our friendship and our

economic relations growing. But this does remain a little thorn in the side; and I think we need to take this thorn out.

Interviewer: Very briefly, can it move on without Hafiz Saeed being handed over?

External Affairs Minister: As I said, we do not speak the language of conditions but I think it is obvious that some level of accountability to reassure us is necessary, is important. And there is no point our moving forward as a Government, if we cannot carry conviction with our people. I think it is important that the people get convinced that we have not shut our eyes to that very harsh reality, and that our efforts have borne fruit, and that we are actually moving forward not only in mending our relations but also in ensuring that accountability.

Interviewer: One of your Ministers said over the last few weeks in the Indian Parliament that there were about 14 militant training camps along the border with India, which is obviously on the Pakistani side on the eastern front, and they are training militants to potentially carry out terrorist attacks in India. Firstly, that is presumably very worrying. But what are you doing about it?

External Affairs Minister: This is something that is going on for a long time. And there was a time when people would not even accept our assertion that there was such a thing happening across.

Interviewer: So, it is happening.

External Affairs Minister: I am not in a position to confirm the numbers but let me just say this to you that evidence has been submitted in the trial that has taken place of the perpetrators of Mumbai violence - and we know this through the media, and it would have got into the media not without the Pakistani authorities wanting it to get to the media - where admissions have been made that there are such training camps on the Pakistani side. Now, this is obviously a little better than the past. At least there are admissions coming forward. And I hope that if there is an admission of this reality, then there would be the next step of addressing this reality. Of course there are a lot of unanswered questions on the Pakistani side, not just for us but for the Americans who would have known that Osama Bin Laden would be in Pakistan and that is where he was found. There is no doubt about it, for instance. So, I think that we do know a lot of these are imponderables, these are difficult questions, we have not had satisfaction on them for a very long time, but there is movement forward. And that makes it hopeful that if there is movement forward and if we are moving in multiple directions but moving forward in all directions, we will finally get something that could be a certain level of satisfaction to us.

Interviewer: It sounds as though you are accusing the Pakistani state or at least some aspects of it of facilitating those camps or facilitating terrorists.

External Affairs Minister: We have not said that. We have heard them say that non-state actors are inflicting pain upon Pakistani society as well and this is true. We know of the bombings, we have seen what terrible tragedies have been caused by bombings in different parts of Pakistan, assassination attempts and how important leaders have been assassinated. So, obviously it is not something that is being done by the Pakistan Government to itself. They have problems. They have some very deep-seated issues within their society which is obviously lending itself to this kind of violence, and we sympathise with them. But there is not very much we can do. We cannot offer help to Pakistan to sort out their problems. So, they have to handle their own problems. But they have our understanding. We are willing to help and to understand what is happening there, but within the limits of our own tolerance and our own responsibility.

Interviewer: How big a role do you think the Pakistani security services are playing in the sterilization of those terrorist camps?

External Affairs Minister: It is a very complex governance structure. Obviously because they have moved from civilian to army rule, from army rule to civilian rule, I think to actually know the power structure within Pakistan is not easy. Of course there are experts who keep us posted about shifts of power, etc., that take place over a period. But I think it is very difficult to pinpoint exactly what happens when there is a power struggle within Pakistan between the judiciary and the executive, between the executive and Parliament, between Parliament and the army, etc. We have noted statements made periodically by their own leadership about undue interference of a particular part of government of the state in a manner which is unacceptable. So, we note those things. But frankly, to actually apportion blame, or apportion responsibility, or pinpoint who exactly is friendly and who is not, is difficult. But yes, obviously there is a peace constituency in Pakistan, and there are people who are hawks who think that there is some future in violence and some future in disagreement with India. We have been persuading them that the future lies in our being together, being friendly, cooperative. And certainly as far as India is concerned, it is in the best interest of India that Pakistan has a stable and a democratic government, that Pakistan is able to overcome violence within its own borders, and that the Pakistan will not in any way facilitate violence coming from within its borders to India.

Interviewer: You must be watching lots of countries in this region, what happens in Afghanistan with the drawdown of NATO forces gathering pace. What role do you see India play after 2014?

External Affairs Minister: It depends on what Afghanistan actually wants. I think that we have a very good relationship with President Karzai. He has

been to India several times. He was in India recently. He has been talking about emerging roadmap beyond 2014. But I think the road signals are still not very clear or have not yet been mounted. What the milestones will be, I think is becoming apparent. There we are willing to help. We are willing to help with their election process. They have sought experts from us at an appropriate stage. We have promised that we will do so. We have been helping them with various issues in terms of capacity building for their own people, for their own security forces, capacity building, management, management techniques, looking at development issues in a major way. We have just cleared grants for putting up small projects in all the Districts of Afghanistan. Our commitment on the Salma Dam is there for you to see, or various other projects including the building of their legislative assembly. We are fully committed to do as much development cooperation as they seek. We have just had the Mines Minister of Afghanistan come to India yesterday. They are looking at collaboration on a corridor beyond Bamiyan and for excavation as well as evacuation of mineral wealth in that area. We will look at all possibilities. But I think the roadmap beyond 2014 must emerge before we can make a commitment to what we can do on that roadmap.

Interviewer: One last question very quickly. India's policy on Iran has come under great deal of criticism in the West.

External Affairs Minister: Really! I would have thought that they would have patted us on the back for having played a balancing role given that, our understanding is, that there can be movement between the US and Iran on the issue which has been an intractable problem between them, given that there are signals that this might be possible and that they were waiting for the American Presidential election to be over - I am not saying it is going to be easy way out, but there are some hopeful signals that we see - and that for us to have been able to keep that balance between the expectations of the international community and our friendship with Iran at some cost to us - it was not that we did not have to sacrifice - I think it is something that we should be patted on the back for.

Interviewer: Does India care if Iran gets a nuclear bomb?

External Affairs Minister: I think it is very clear that our position on the nuclear bomb and Iran's nuclear programme is in consonance with the rest of the world. And we stood by our commitment to the rest of the world. But at the same time for peaceful exploration, for peaceful experimentation, and nuclear energy for peaceful purposes is something that the world is not going to deny Iran. And I think it is only now a matter of ensuring that Iran continues to have the freedom to work for peaceful purposes. But the concerns about the world community that they should not be producing enriched uranium for purposes

which will lead to weaponising their nuclear energy is something on which we have been very clear. We are a nuclear power ourselves. Historically, those who are nuclear powers in the world do understand that nuclear power is not a good thing. At least in terms of weapons, it is not a good thing. We all realize that. And it was Mr. Rajiv Gandhi who said, can we do something so that the world can rid itself of nuclear weapons? But the world did not hear him on this. We still hope that one day the world will and that we will get rid of nuclear weapons in the world. But while there are weapons, they should remain restricted to those who have them, and that there should not be proliferation of weapons is something that we have been very clear on.

Interviewer: Thank you very much, Minister, for your time.

External Affairs Minister: Thank you.



052. Address by the External Affairs Minister at the Annual Convention of the Indian Association of International Studies on “The Dawning of the Asian Century: Emerging Challenges before Theory and Practices of International Relations in India”.

New Delhi, December 10, 2012.

Good morning to you all.

It has been a full week and I expect that there will be a full week now. I must apologize right at the beginning to my distinguished colleagues here on the dais Prof. Mattoo, Dr. Yashpal Malhotraji, Special Secretary Pinak Chakravartyji, Nandita Behera and all the very distinguished colleagues that are present here this morning. The President of Ukraine will be received at Rashtrapati Bhavan at 10 o'clock and that is why I will make quite a brief appearance, and I hope a sensitive one, before I go on to do my duties.

I do believe that the very fact that you are here early morning is both symbolic and indeed a substantive measure of declaration and a dawning not only of the Asian century but indeed it is the dawning of the scholarship, special commitment of scholarship to international relations in our country that is taking place afresh. The thing about a dawn is that it comes every day. And for one to think you have a dawn today means that you have been in darkness all your life will not be correct. What you need to do with everyday and every generation and every epoch to dawn afresh with ideas, with light that you spread to the world and give to others, the heat and light that you generate is ultimately of use to someone else, not necessarily to yourself. But nevertheless you establish your case in the scheme of things in the universe, and that is what is essentially I believe is the purpose of scholarship in international relations.

I think that has been done remarkably well in recent times by the very fact that you had in this such a short period such a remarkable perspective given to you by Prof. Mattoo I think gives ourselves a very good beginning. It is true that I am said to be familiar with the working of the External Affairs Ministry having been here in the stewardship of giants from my party - people like Mr. Dinesh Singh and then of course I briefly worked with the present President of India when he was Foreign Minister. But in a decade and a half since I was last in Foreign Affairs things have changed so dramatically and not only is the geopolitics different, the geography itself is very different from those times. Multilateralism has taken over for us vigorously and then suddenly as we suggested multilateralism is beginning to find its own crisis points and question marks that are emerging on multilateralism.

Experiments of regional cooperation are now facing exceptional challenges.

You look at Europe for instance. The ambition of Europe in trying to unite itself first politically and then economically and then finally financially has led them now to a major, major crisis. And one begins to think is it good and better to break into smaller segments and smaller participants, or is it better to be cohesive and convergent to a larger whole. I think in a sense I have always thought that Europe has represented a mirror image of India, India that did what Europe is trying to do today but did that in 1915, 1947 and 1950. Yet today there are forces trying to pull India apart in a legitimate way when States and elected State Governments demand greater federal freedom as indeed you see the opposite happen in Europe where there is demand for greater cohesion of policies including budget making, monetary policies. Be that as it may, each society and each civilization must find its own solutions.

The important thing today for us is that we cannot but disagree that this century is to be the Asian century. When we said that in the previous century that the 21st century will be the Asian century, that was said with hope, aspiration, determination and confidence. But as we have moved into the 21st century, we have to ask ourselves is that really going to be true. Will we be the Asian century and in being the Asian century will India have its significant participation and deep determination of the path that we take in the 21st century. And I do believe that there are questions, there are questions that have to be answered. And in answering those questions we will conceive the idea of India in the 21st century.

Since we have the involvement of Public Diplomacy in this programme, I must add that I think it is the most important part of my idea of what the Foreign Affairs Ministry should be doing. There are traditional responsibilities of the Ministry of External Affairs, which is the outreach to the world, which is to conceive a world and to work towards a world that adds to India's profile and adds to India's comfort, and adds to opportunity for India's teeming millions. But significantly what we do in this Ministry across the globe must indeed be understood first of all by our own people.

Quite often when people ask me as to what I think of India's emergence once again at the high table of the world at G20 and demands across the globe of bringing on board for any important significant movement that is taking place either in the field of environment or in the field of economics or in the field of communications, in the field of security, India plays a significant role and must play a significant role. But I ask myself very silently, do we in India know this? Are we as a people in India prepared for the role the world wants to give to India, the aspirations the world has for us, the expectations the world has for us, are those understood in our own country?

I think of the play that I saw back many years ago in England which can be

made into a wonderful film as well - "No Sex Please, We're British". We have equivalent of that in India - "No foreign affairs please, we are Indians." We want to be so entrenched and so involved in domestic conflict resolution and domestic conflict creation that we have no time for international relations and the role that we can play in international relations. And we have had very important things that we have done in the world - in Africa, in West Asia, in Central Asia, in Europe, the eastern part of Europe, and indeed with the Southeast Asia. Why is it that? Is it left to the ruling elite, the people involve only at the higher levels? And are they higher echelons of governance who are concerned about our role in the world and not beyond some patriotic songs in the rest of the country? Therefore, I believe public diplomacy and indeed important events such as these conventions like yours are significant and important.

But if I was to be making a speech of an overt political kind, we would have had 15 cameras here, 15 television channels tracking what I was to say. But because something sensible is going to be done here there are two channels, which is very sad. Tell me of television programmes including programmes that say "The Nation Wants to Know", whether the nation has ever wanted to know what India is doing in the world. I think this is something to reflect upon very seriously and a great challenge

I think for public diplomacy that we need to excite the juices of an average Indian and tell the average Indian that there was for a time when his predecessors and ancestors or her predecessors and ancestors had played a role which was far more significant. And all you need to do is to see the pictures and film from the time when Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and visiting dignitaries to this country were received by average ordinary Indians by the aam admi of that time. So, the aam admi of 30 years ago and 40 years ago was far more interested in our international relations (IR) than the aam admi is today. So, that is something to do on the domestic end.

Indeed internationally I think that in many ways what we have been saying to the world at a time when the world would not listen to us on those issues. The world listened to us on a host of issues but did not listen to us on many issues. The world did not listen to us on terrorism. The world did not listen to us about how vicious and pernicious violence can be. And for years we kept screaming to the world, look this is not something that will destroy India's peace and comfort, this is something that will spill over into the rest of the world. And that is what we see today. When it became a monster, the world woke up to it. And now the monster will not go back. The genie will not go back into the bottle, and indeed the genie cannot easily be destroyed. Yet, this is not for us to dwell upon and say to the people that see we were right and you were wrong. It is

time for us to continue the same cooperative spirit in which we dealt with the world in the past. But the world is changing. Therefore, you expect different attitudes and different responses from us. And yet we are constrained by a strong, rooted, principled approach to international relations.

It is true that international relations are ultimately about your own welfare and it is about your own interest. But that same interest can be an enlightened self interest or it can be a narrow self interest. And I do believe that in spite of the changing balance between principles and pragmatism, India's approach of enlightened self interest survives. And not only does it survive, but I believe that what will emerge in your deliberations undoubtedly will be a reaffirmation of an enlightened self interest for India, something that was given to us, articulated for us for the first time by our first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru who in fact very categorically said that if these principles were organized in the mutual relations of all countries, then indeed there will hardly be any conflict and certainly no war.

Now of course today when we talk of no war, we speak of no war in conventional terms and also because the cost of war today has become forbidden for humanity. But we do know there are proxy wars; we do know there are conflicts that are not described as wars, and we do know that there is an immense questioning of the dominance of principles in terms of what pragmatic belief people can get away with quickly. And this is something that we will have to face as a challenge. I think that if we just look at the Asia that pans itself out in front of us today, the most critical conceptual idea for Asia I believe is in the Indian Ocean Rim area. This is the only emerging regional organization and growing regional organization that is linked with water. Every other regional organization is largely linked with land mass. This is the only regional organization that is linked with the seas. And in that sense, it is special because it is different. But it is also in a sense that gives India a point of a pivot which we have. We have Australia on our right, Southeast Asia, ASEAN countries and Australia again giving us a lead to the Pacific. We have the vast Indian Ocean that buttresses the pivot. If we get to the left, we have mineral rich countries of the GCC and also West Asia. And then above us we get China and Central Asia.

In a sense, if you look at the globe, this becomes a very critical centre and it is based on water. But it also has enormous historical linkages, it has historical pedigree of trade, how trade enhanced in the world and how trade grew in the world. It has interesting security issues. It has great potential for things that I want to happen in the future with Southeast Asia and with West Asia. And indeed it is a desperate place to reach for many countries that are a little bit further away than India. China for instance would give a right arm to be in the Indian Ocean as comfortably as India is placed in the Indian Ocean. Of course,

China has advantages elsewhere and India has advantages in the Indian Ocean. But I do believe that this is an important critical factor for what we will see as the emerging Asian century.

And from here, the pivot that India provides to this concept is also the stepping stone for Southeast Asia to go to Central Asia, for Australia to get to Central Asia, for Central Asia energy lines to come down to India and from India possibly go beyond the Ocean. As we look at Southeast Asia, I think the fusion of Look East Policy given to us when I was last in government, and then very very admirably emphasized by Prime Minister I.K. Gujral who we sadly lost in the recent days, I think that again is something that you will see emerge. And a reaffirmation of that will take place in another ten days when the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit takes place in India to emphasize the twenty years of our relationship and association with the ASEAN countries.

Within this larger Asian reality, our own region, the SAARC region, including all the way up to Afghanistan and then a little bit beyond Afghanistan into Iraq, closer home Pakistan, Bangladesh, Maldives and Bhutan, all these are emerging realities that we have to reflect upon. We have to reflect upon because India cannot take standalone and standstill policy of all countries around us. Things will change. China is aggressive. China is a partner for us. China is a neighbor for us. China is a dialogue partner as we move forward to find a resolution for issues that in the past have made us ... (Inaudible) ... path. And I do believe that we have come a long, long way in repairing a relationship and converting that relationship into a meaningful partnership.

But there is still a lot more to do. And in doing that, we will have to accept the new reality of China's presence in many areas that we consider an exclusive playground for India and its friends. The games, the rules of the games will change. China will come in and add to the richness of the participation, but will also then provide greater competition. There are strengths as far as economic and political issues are concerned, the strengths that China has vis-à-vis India, and there are strengths that India has vis-à-vis China. A combination of these strengths is what is called for.

And I believe the real creativity in India's foreign policy will come in being able to combine the strengths of China with the strengths of India without necessarily targeting the aspirations of anybody else in the world but to be able to provide a link between our strengths and provide greater cooperation and collaboration between these two great countries of Asia, to make that assertion come true that Asia's role in the 21st century will be a remarkable role and that indeed the 21st century will be the Asian century.

As I say this, I am conscious of the fact that the things that we need to do for Asia, for our partners in Asia will be to look at how we can enhance cultural

cooperation, how we can enhance capacity building for each other, how we can enhance more effective economic collaboration and cooperation, and indeed how we can work together to share the benefits of our collaboration and cooperation.

I believe this is going to be a very interesting conference. I wish I could spend more time with you, listen to you and be ...(Inaudible).... But unfortunately that will not be possible. I will hope that I will get a chance to read what you have produced and indeed to get a record of your deliberations here. My warmest congratulations in advance for success and my best wishes! I do hope that we see much more of this, and I do hope that the Indian media will gradually get attracted. And if they do not get attracted, create a little crisis ...(Inaudible)...

Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen.



053. Address by Foreign Secretary at the Second National Conference on International Relations at the India International Centre.

New Delhi, December 12, 2012.

I am honoured to address the Second National Conference on International Relations, and have a second opportunity to interact with specialists in the field.

The first time was an occasion to reflect on one of MEA's pioneering Public Diplomacy ventures - by which we gathered specialists on International Relations from around the country in Delhi. This time around I will speak on our mutually reinforcing roles in the evolution of foreign policy of India.

Though the subject of International Relations as we understand it today is a relatively new discipline, its philosophical underpinnings and applications, are as old as state craft itself. From Kautilya's Arthashastra - and the writings of ancient Greeks - down to the era of scholars who wrote on the emerging State systems, we have works which reflect the importance attached to the function of the State in relation to the international political environment.

The importance of study of International Relations cannot be over emphasised. The challenge for the subject, however, is to keep pace with the rapidity of change in the globalized, technology driven world of today, in which non-state actors have assumed in some domains as central a role as perhaps states themselves. And more seriously - we need to address the question of the different role of policy formulation and policy implementation. In the former there is place as Kissinger said both for the inspiration provided by political thinkers and leaders and for the bureaucracy which translates ideas into practical implementation frameworks. This divide remains today and affects us whether foreign policy is seen as the realm of the political and economic or whether you deal with new global challenges such as terrorism and radicalisation, piracy, food and energy securities, climate change, pandemics, cyber security. I would suggest the impact of these forces on inter state relations are an increasingly important area of study.

- This introduction allows me to make some further suggestions on areas of our common concern. Challenges also emanate from the fluidity of the global situation. Global macro economic imbalances, financial and sovereign debt crises, the place of the US in the post unipolar world, the rise of China and other emerging economies, the shift of power to the East and the "Arab Spring", have all had a profound impact on the geopolitical situation, and pose a challenge to us in assessing which way are we headed and what the future will look like.

- Let me delve into some specific challenges which have a bearing on us and which I believe we will need to look at together.
- The situation in Afghanistan post NATO/ISAF drawdown is of concern. India has been contributing to Afghanistan's nation building process. We are also engaged with Pakistan to evolve normal state-to-state relations. There have been some modest successes in our efforts with Pakistan in the form of moves towards trade normalisation and an easier visa regime. However, relations can only grow in an atmosphere free of terror and violence. The elimination of terror infrastructure in Afghanistan-Pakistan, therefore, is important for the region and the world at large. The challenge posed by the transition process in Afghanistan to security and stability in South Asia, remains a serious preoccupation. Continued support of the international community for Afghanistan remains vital. Furthermore the integration of Afghanistan into a South Asian cooperative framework would unlock new possibilities - both for SAARC and for cooperation between South and Central Asia. Attaining these goals will require a different approach from Pakistan.
- With China, India has consciously practised a policy of engagement that has seen the relationship evolve. Although there is the unresolved boundary question, which needs to be settled on mutually acceptable terms, India has not held the rest of the relationship hostage to this complex issue. India and China have collaborated usefully on a variety of multilateral issues. With China's growing comprehensive national strength, there is need for dialogue on architecture of cooperation in Asia: There is a perception of greater assertiveness on the part of China. Concerns over developments in the South and East China Seas have been extensively covered in writings. Considerable scholarship exists on China's rise, including in India. The subject nevertheless will attract scholars as China-US engagement evolves.
- Later in December this year we will celebrate two decades of our engagement with ASEAN with a Commemorative Summit. Two decades of India's Look East Policy have seen India's integration with South-East & East-Asia initially at economic, cultural and people-to-people levels, and subsequently at political and strategic levels. The ASEAN-India Agreement on Trade-in-Goods was a major step forward. India is looking forward to concluding the Agreement on Trade in Investment and Services and would work with ASEAN for a Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) the negotiations for which were launched at the recent East Asia Summit. India's participation in the East Asia Summit is a natural corollary of its growing multi-faceted engagement with ASEAN. India's participation in the ARF and ADMM+

process has added depth to this relationship. One interesting idea you could examine in the context of Asia is whether there is scope to move beyond to an Asian security architecture. As the Prime Minister said in Phnom Penh: Indian would like to see the emergence of an open, balanced, inclusive architecture that provides peace, security and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific Region.

- While renewing this relationship with South East Asia, a special focus on Myanmar is entirely warranted. We have sought to expand and deepen our relations with that country. It links us with South East Asia and provides opportunities for strengthening those links.
- Lastly, the Arab Spring has thrown up new challenges for the international community. For India, the region of the Gulf is critical. We have 6 million expatriate Indians working there who repatriate 35-40 billion US \$ annually. Over 60% of our energy imports are sourced from this region. The stability of the region is therefore critical for India. We are keeping a close watch on the developments in the WANA and Gulf regions.
- The regional challenges I refer to are central to us for reasons of geopolitics and economic realities. While looking at these regions together we cannot lose sight of the critical importance to India of Central Asia, Africa and Latin America. Nor can we take our eyes off the fundamentals that foreign policy is a tool in national transformation. And that our goal is to assist in that transformation through promotion of peace in or periphery, a global structure of political and economic cooperation, access to finance, technology and natural resources.

The study of International Relations, if I may say so, needs to be made more application oriented: (i) IR theories should be tested against real world happenings and developments; (ii) theoretical percepts should be continuously evolved and fine tuned to enable them to explain or predict developments against these specific requirements.

I would encourage greater interaction between think tanks and academic institutions of Asia. We in the Ministry of External Affairs plan to strengthen our engagement with think tanks and research bodies, to promote more research and scholarship in this important area.

Thank you



054. Inaugural address by External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid at the Energy Security Conference-2012.

New Delhi, December 13, 2012.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to apologize that I will be here for a short while because it's a parliament day and in fact today on which our ministry has to respond questions MPs put before us. This is also a day which I would request you to recall the tragedy of the attack on the Indian Parliament. We remember and recall the services of the martyred security personnel who lost their lives to protect the temple of Indian Democracy. At this very moment in fact there is a memorial service at parliament. But you would appreciate that we have given no less importance to energy security as we have to... the protection of Indian democracy. I will go back from here and pay tribute to our martyred security personnel. But do say a silent prayer for their families and their children.

With privilege to have with us here Mr. Adi Godrej, President of CII, Mr. Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General who have interacted with over the years with great benefit to me in terms of understanding of what's happening in the world of economy, my colleague, secretary of Economic Relations, Mr. Sudhir Vyas and very distinguished captains of the industry, particularly in the field of energy, ladies and gentlemen:

This is a gathering where I would imagine, as you have just been told by the president, all of you if not most of you, are familiar with the challenges that we face, the important strategic and economic importance of energy security, the opportunities that we have both in our country and the world and indeed the strategies and structured approaches that we have been working on over the years. Undoubtedly, no one can say that we haven't achieved anything. But at the same time it would be foolhardy to say that we are at a comfort level.

The demand for energy is growing at a terrific pace in the country and perhaps one might even say not fast enough because if you look at the per capita consumption of energy in our country we are still way behind the people that we share the high table of the world with. We do know that the standard of living goes up in this country as it must and that a large number of young people with great aspirations, more than 65% of our populations come into our market place and look for respectable and comfortable living standards for themselves even as they contribute to the world and the economy particularly our own country's economy.

The demand for energy will grow and we do know that the sources of the energy are if not drying up certainly being depleted at a very fast pace within

the country. We are heavily dependent and this you all know very well that we are already 80% of our overall consumption oil is imported and that 25% of our gas consumption is imported. Every new project now in many many important sectors including the power sector are now talking about import of gas and we are looking at various ways in which gas can be provided, how much exploration that we can do ourselves. But I think the estimates are that we would have to import 35% to 57%, the figures that I have been given of our coal by the year 2030-31 and then 90-94% of our oil will be imported and 20-57% of natural gas will have to be imported and that's if we continue to grow at 8-9%. We have no option as Mr. Chidambaram often says we have no option but to grow at 8-9% because the vast emerging numbers looking for employment in this country cannot possibly be taken care of unless we have a growth rate of 8-9%.

Having said that and I know that you will be looking at specific areas both of acquisition of energy sources and across the world of better integration with the international markets get a better strategizing with the international markets, working on the mix including increasing the mix which is only at 1% of nuclear energy in the country, working on the mix to suit both our requirements as well as the supply. As we look at all this and remain stressed by the increasing cost of energy in the world and indeed many of our problems we know in this country today is certainly you know if not every consumer, is largely due to the cost of the imported energy in this country. So that's going to remain a problem though of course, we do know that while sources get depleted not necessarily as a panic station stage but certainly as they get depleted we also know that in the next 10 years USA will be energy self sufficient relying heavily on shale gas and therefore, the demand that America has for energy from across the globe would be eased tremendously. But also I think the geo-political attitude of USA might undergo a change and if that happens we can prepare for both new challenges as well as prepare for new opportunities. That's something that we need to think about and when I see this I was asking Mr. Sudhir Vyas just know, I put this question to myself as to who should be at the cutting edge of global negotiations and strategizing in these spheres. People often do not know the extent of which integration there is between ministries such as external affairs and the energy ministry specifically or the field of climate change, the Ministry of Environment and in whichever other sector that we are dealing with to have a ministry specific to that sector. But the understanding of the overall situation in the world and the challenges that we will face is something that has to be added and that has to be provided by the Ministry of External Affairs. That's the reason presumably why you thought it would be important for us to be adequately represented here this morning. But while we work on a strategy and on a global strategy for energy security we obviously have to take a different posture and a different attitude from that of USA for that matter or China or the

Soviet Union took and now Russia takes which is that we have to deal with countries that are energy exporting countries in a manner entirely different from the manner in which other countries have dealt with them.

We neither have the option, the capacity I presume or for that matter an ideology that would persuade us to intervene in a manner which we have from the time of Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Nehru, who gave us the structure for our foreign policy. We have considered wholesome, we do not interfere in the international affairs or internal affairs of any country. If you do not interfere in the internal affairs of any country there are 2 dimensions to it-

1. that you may lose some friends and,
2. that you may have some friends.

We are not completely aligned with many other countries on Syria today for instance. We are not entirely aligned with some countries on Palestine for instance because India has always had its exclusive and I believe, a principled position that does not give same importance to pragmatic approaches that many other countries do where they look at their immediate interests rather than the principle that's involved. India has sacrificed its immediate interests and stood by principles most of the time and when we have sought our interests it has been an enlightened self interest rather than self interest per se. I think that's very important and if India itself i.e. our people themselves doesn't appreciate this policy of India then who else will?

We hardly like to get appreciation from those whose interests don't get served because of the position India takes. So I think this is a very critical and an important factor that we need to keep in mind at this juncture in our country and the growth and development of our democracy is what India's self interest, what is India's enlightened self interest and why as a matter of principle India will not go beyond the red line that it draws for itself? Given this constraint of working within principles we cannot just throw our hands up and say there's nothing we can do, we are a principled, aesthetic and altruistic country and therefore don't ask us for food, don't ask us for energy. That also has to be provided. Now if we have that responsibility as well and we have to ensure that fulfilling that responsibility is not just for our present day Indians but also to generations to come we have got to sort out a few things for ourselves. One thing that we need to sort out is how to best use our own energy and how to exploit our own energy? I must say very sadly we don't have today clarity on what it means to invite people to invest in energy exploration. We don't have the clarity for the simple

reason that this is converted into a political boxing match. We are happy to import gas at 14 dollars and not willing to give 7 dollars to someone who wants to explore within our own country. Now this is a major problem.

I think that we need to develop public opinion in this country which says take the decision that is best for the country and not a decision that serves a political party or a political movement and certainly not people who put up political retail shops in this country simply because the sound bites have replaced serious democratic discourse and debate. Therefore, your responsibilities don't end where the technical aspects, the scientific aspects and the financial aspects, broad global financial aspects of energy and your responsibilities go beyond that to carry conviction with the people of this country. The world is willing to take us seriously. We must be convinced that we have to take ourselves seriously. That is an extremely important dimension and aspect of energy security for ourselves. Of course, that means that we must explore how we can enhance, develop and fortify our relationship with energy suppliers. How we can look at modern technology so that we can work even faster in the field of alternative energy. We should wake up to certain realities. If there are coal people here I hope somebody has an answer. I cannot believe that for 25 years India hasn't found a solution to put out the fires in the coal fields in Jharkhand. I cannot believe that this can happen in our country.

When I was out of politics I hadn't entered politics, I thought there was an absurd thing happening. I have been politics for 20 years and I still think that it's an absurd thing that's happening and nobody talks about it. Nobody talks about dowsing the fires that are consuming lakhs and lakhs of coal every year. Because somebody says that there is a problem in shifting a small population that lives under those fires, somebody else is just not interested because they are dowsing political fires. They are just not interested in dowsing coal mine fires and then they say that we don't have the technology. How can I believe that we don't have the technology to save the coal that's burning there? Of course, while we don't seem to be serious about technology there we are looking certainly at new opportunities at the coal bed, methane, shale gas, increasing the share of renewable energy where my colleague Mr. Farooq Abhdulla has been doing some outstanding work. But I do believe that there is much more that we can do there. In the nuclear field once again there has to be clarity in public perceptions. It is something which is worrying, it is worrying for anyone and for somebody who hasn't experienced what a nuclear holocaust is or somebody who hasn't experienced what

happened in Chernobyl or who hasn't experienced what happened after the tsunami in Japan, is probably easy to say why don't we just have clean nuclear energy.

I think we have to be sensitive to the concerns of those who feel that this is dangerous. But it is no less dangerous than the pollution in the air which comes from coal. It is no more dangerous than the pollution which comes from fossil fuels. So we have concluded Nuclear Cooperation Agreements with number of countries, US, Russia, France, UK, Canada, Argentina, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Namibia, Republic of Korea and are in discussions with Japan. I can understand that Japan has slowed down its own interest in nuclear energy because of the experiences it has had. But having said all this I believe that just as much we need to work with our partners across the globe we need to work within the country not just at conferences like these, very very important conferences like these but also in some way using the very powerful Indian media to reach out in simple terms to the people of the country and explain to them why and what we are trying to do is important. Why decisions that appear to be decisions that should not be taken are indeed decisions that are absolutely imperative if we have to secure the future generations and provide them with the opportunity that they would deserve. We will be making some very good progress on linking our electricity grids and then indeed making them the second largest grid in the world and then linking it to Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. One thing SAARC needs to achieve is to provide connectivity as far as electricity grid is concerned. Within the country our very ambitious program of 15,000 kms of gas pipeline, increasing our handling capacity for LNG import from 13 million tons to 45 million tons during the 12th plan and also of course, the very ambitious Turkmenistan-Tapi pipeline project which we have targeted for 2017.

There are a lot of things to do and I am sure that you will look at every dimension and aspect. I look forward to the record of deliberations and the recommendations that you make and what you think that the Ministry of External Affairs should be doing, we look forward to working with CII as indeed with all of you and I hope that a little change in national sentiment that we are beginning to see over the last few weeks will take on a life of its own and will get more traction and more energy and that over the next one year some of our ambitions for our country will begin to look that they will be fulfilled. I am sure that your contribution there will be enormous.

Thank you.



055. Interview of External Affairs Minister with the *MINT*.**December 15, 2012.**

{Salman Khurshid took charge as external affairs minister of India after the cabinet reshuffle in October. His first challenge since taking the job has been a setback for India's economic engagement in the Maldives, traditionally seen as within India's sphere of influence. He spoke in an interview about the challenges facing Indian foreign policy and the forthcoming Association of South East Asian Nations-India commemorative summit in New Delhi on 20-21 December.} **Edited excerpts:**

You want industry to help you further India's strategic interests in countries such as Afghanistan or regions like Central Asia. But when it comes to situations like in the Maldives, the Indian government seems reluctant to back business. Isn't there a dichotomy here?

What can you do in a situation like in the Maldives? You are not going to send the troops in, that's important. We have to respect systems in countries where we want to take our investment. That is important and systems mean their established norms, values, the principles of law that they pursue. When we took a position on the Maldives, we made it very clear that the legal processes must be observed and respected. Ultimately, we bowed to a legal decision that was taken as part of an agreed arrangement in the contract itself between GMR and the Maldivian government. You can't change your position simply because the decision finally goes against you. As far as persuasion is concerned, every bit of persuasion that is possible and was called for, we employed as far as the Maldives is concerned.

Let me just make it very clear that at the end of the day, GMR has asked us to get a settlement, not help them stay in the Maldives. It maybe disappointing and its certainly disappointing that what we thought was a show-window example of what we could do for our neighbours and our friends in terms of investment didn't work out.

It's sad, we are disappointed, but we did pursue a consistent and principled position, and GMR, I understand, is happy in the circumstances to the extent they can be. What they want is that there was a provision for exit under certain circumstances and those circumstances should be observed. There was nothing to the nature of untoward conduct or something that could go beyond civilized behaviour and I think one should appreciate that.

Having said that, you do have to learn some lessons and I think even industry must understand that when they negotiate they must keep some things in mind. Political sensitivities are always factored in by business when they are

establishing themselves anywhere beyond the shores of India. Indeed, political sensitivities are taken into account in our country as well.

So I think that's a limited factor, that cannot be the dominant factor. We hope that will be seen as a legal issue. We hope that this will be a decision that will entirely be a commercial decision between the Maldivian government and GMR and that is the way it seems to have panned out finally. But I can't say that I am not disappointed. So if you are disappointed by something that has happened you, need to analyse it and you need to be sure that when you move forward and do something similar, that you are adequately prepared for any future venture of a similar nature.

Are you thinking of making changes to India's economic diplomacy?

Not at all, we just need to go further, but India is not going to carry the responsibility of doing business. That is for the industry to do. India will facilitate, India will give moral support, India will give such economic support as we can through lines of credit, for instance, by being there where the industry needs us to be. We can't do business for them and in doing business we must take some strategic decisions in which we can be of help but we can't be a substitute for their own decision making.

How does the Indian government look to support businesses and investments abroad, especially in emerging markets and those countries where there are differences in interpreting rules governing business?

As far as industry is concerned, business is going to Africa, business is going to Europe, business is going to America, so I think it's a wonderful thing that this is happening, Why shouldn't Indian business be multinational? If we are opening up to multinationals, why should we not become multinationals and go to the world. It must be a two-way traffic and I think it's a very good thing but yes, not at the cost of investment in India and not caused by, as you said, a dismal picture of investment in our own country. Not as a no-alternative measure, but as additionality and as an expression of strength of growing Indian economy.

What about an increasingly assertive China?

We have to understand that many of our neighbours have a relationship with China. You can't wish China away. China is also in the neighbourhood. They will have their relationship with China, just as we have our relationship with China, but I don't think that should be a cause of any concern. We need to note it because we need to match what we do in the region, what we do with our neighbours what we do with our traditional friends. We need to match that, it cannot be a static relationship. As the relationships in the region change and

grow and evolve, we must be there to ensure that we retain our place under the sun with our neighbours and we will be there sometimes collaborating with China, sometimes cooperating, sometimes in competition.

What about Pakistan? What are the next steps to take ties forward?

Next steps with Pakistan are-let's watch, we have their home minister coming here, our home minister is I think in a positive mood about what is possible. We will have a new visa regime in place when the home minister of Pakistan comes here. I think we have been lucky with some decisions on our side. I think (Pakistani microbiologist) professor (Mohammad Khalil) Chishti's decision by the Supreme Court has come very handy. We cannot take credit for it except to say that our legal system prevailed, but it has come in terms of time and opportunity it's come as a very handy gesture of goodwill towards Pakistan. (The ailing 82-year-old Chishti, accused in a murder case, has been allowed to visit Pakistan.)

We have also had reports of Pakistan now giving a little more thrust to trials that are taking place for making people accountable for what happened in 2008 in Mumbai. I think that is a good signal. But I don't think we should get too elated or excited too soon. Let's watch carefully and move forward step by step.

What do you see as India's main foreign policy challenges today?

I think our foreign policy challenge essentially is that we must live up to the expectations people have of us today. If people are seriously going to talk about us being a permanent member of the UN (United Nations) Security Council, then India must live up to the expectations. You just can't have expectations from the world and not reciprocate. I think that's the important thing. It means you have to be investing a lot more in foreign policy in terms of time, in terms of calibre, in terms of capacity, in terms of money.

If you want to be all over Africa, it cannot be done on a small budget. If you want soft diplomacy, it's not going to be done on a small budget. And in times when budgets are going to be tight, India will have to make a tough choice about ensuring that we don't have a major cutback on our financial commitment to the world. We have things to do in Afghanistan and Bhutan, and things to do in other parts of the world which will require money. These are development projects but they have a lasting value in terms of relationships we are creating and an investment as well.

Your first bilateral visit since taking over as external affairs minister in October is to Myanmar. Clearly, your emphasis is South Asia and on creating the peaceful periphery that Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has been emphasizing as important for India.

Absolutely. And because Myanmar is opening up-they have been in the sense shut in their own internal world-they are opening up in a magnificent way, and a lot of things are happening inside Myanmar. I think we need to be there both as part of the celebrations and part of the participation. And we see a lot of good visible signs and we would like to build on that.

But except for Myanmar and, say, Bangladesh and Bhutan, our foreign policy seems to be going awry in other parts of South Asia. Especially the Maldives and maybe even Sri Lanka.

It is not awry, circumstances have not necessarily fitted into our dreams, but if there is a tough call and there are difficult issues to be resolved, we will attend to them. We are not going to be overwhelmed by difficulties. We are not insistent about everything happening our way. We will go the extra mile.

So how are you going to solve these problems with neighbours?

The solution is to keep in constant engagement with an open mind, with patience. Be a good listener and say the right things at the right place.

Coming to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), India is hosting a commemorative summit to mark 20 years of our Look East policy. How do you assess our ties with ASEAN?

Overall, it's a very wholesome and a very promising picture. It's something one can only examine in terms of what more is achievable. The base is very good. The base brings a lot of promise I think for the greater integration of trade first in our region and then beyond the region into the Pacific. The important building block has to be SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation), then ASEAN and then go into the larger Pacific area.

That's one way the Indian Ocean and the Pacific would get linked together. I think we had extremely wholesome and promising growth in our relationship with the ASEAN countries. Our trade figures look good. Our investment figures are good. We have already seen incremental growth in trade which has gone up to \$80 billion and now we have targeted for \$100 billion by 2015. So I think that's a very, very encouraging picture. It's not only in the economic front-in people-to-people contact, in the cultural front and better understanding of each other's aspirations-I think together it looks very satisfactory.

What about the free trade agreement in services and investments? Will that be signed in Delhi next week?

We are in the last mile of that. As we talk, we are trying to put finishing touches to the agreement on services and investment. The agreement on goods is what I think has given us this fillip in trade. There are some marginal issues

that remain as far as the agreement on services and investment is concerned. The leaders have agreed that we need to push it and try and achieve it as soon as possible. There are meetings going on now. And we are very hopeful of an early conclusion. Some accommodation and some flexibility will have to be shown by all parties concerned. We can say with a certain amount of hope that that should happen.

There are some countries like the Philippines that have problems with opening up services because they are also strong in the business process outsourcing sector. How is India going to allay their concerns?

This is an experience that we all have, that we all have a little bit of concern or uncertainty over what may happen if things open up in an area where you have had some exclusive advantage. You feel that somebody else moving in would take away your advantage. I think that is only one way of looking at things. There are broader experiences that can show to anyone that this is not the way that it finally turns out. If you can collaborate and cooperate, you can actually get a force multiplier.

The people who are negotiating I think are the best people on both sides. We are hopeful, whatever it takes to persuade, inevitably it takes some accommodation on both sides. And as long as you go there with an open mind, willing to accommodate, I don't think this is an impossible thing. Overall, everyone knows this is good and important. If there are specific concerns like the Philippines has, we will address them.

At the recent Asean meeting in Cambodia, India expressed willingness to join the regional comprehensive economic partnership (RCEP). What about the trans-Pacific partnership (TPP) initiative? Is this a choice that India has made to join the RCEP over the TPP?

I don't think it's a choice. I think it was pretty clear at the East Asia Summit what we are launching and what we are moving forward on is the ASEAN region as a priority. Inevitably, that will become a stepping stone because they have an overlap with the Pacific initiative and we have a complete commitment to ASEAN, so we move forward to ASEAN, that is a step inevitably towards greater integration. But our focus is obviously ASEAN, so that is what we have launched as the first go. It is not this or that, all or nothing. It's a graded step-by-step forward movement ultimately integrating.

Coming back to ASEAN, last week when the national security adviser was in China, Chinese officials referred to intentions of some parties to undermine India-China bilateral ties without specifying who these parties were. One assumes the reference was to the South China Sea dispute. How does India balance ties with China and ASEAN?

We (India-China) have no differences over the South China Sea. There are issues that China has with countries in that region, and China has a perception of how those differences can be resolved-bilateral as against multilateral. We are not party to that dispute; we have a general position which is freedom of navigation. I don't think China will disagree with that. Freedom of navigation and adherence to the law of the sea-I don't think China will disagree with that. They have a sovereignty issue with their neighbours in that area and that they want to resolve in a particular way. We have expected that this will get resolved.

But there were reports that the Chinese have authorized the police in Hainan province to board ships and vessels seen to be violating their territorial waters? There was this instance of the INS Airawat being "buzzed" by a Chinese patrol ship.

The Chinese have said that, but that is not directly affecting us today. We have explained to the Chinese and told the Chinese that we are there in terms of the drilling that we are doing off the Vietnamese shore-(that) is something that goes back to 1995. It's not something that we are doing today and that is something that they are aware of. So there isn't a dispute so to speak, but yes, they have certain assertions of sovereignty. But that's between them and the countries involved. As far as we are concerned, our articulation that there should be freedom of navigation is an articulation that we have made categorically and it is not an articulation that China would not have taken on board or factored into.



056. Interview of External Affairs Minister to Reuters.**December 18, 2012.**

Interviewer (John Edward Chalmers): Sir, what are you hoping will come out of the India-ASEAN Summit which will take place later this week in Delhi?

External Affairs Minister (Shri Salman Khurshid): By its very nature it is a commemorative summit. Therefore, it is a summit that celebrates our relationship having reached this level at this stage. In that sense it is both symbolic and it is in a sense a milestone. It is a moment in which we celebrate, we look back to see what we have achieved, and also look forward to see what more needs to be done. It is a bonding moment. It is a moment when we come together not with very heavy agenda but the agenda that allows you to reflect and allows you to look forward. We do have the eminent citizens' support which actually lays out the path ahead. So, essentially it will be a moment in which you have a vision about and a roadmap for how we proceed forward.

Interviewer: Sir, perhaps somebody who was looking at this cynically might say with the light agenda it is a talking shop. Is there really any real substance to this?

External Affairs Minister: You are not going to achieve everything even if you wanted to in one day except that there should be the right chemistry, right feel to get the bonding. Of course, on the sidelines the work that continues, which is growing, will obviously be noted, will probably be provided greater impetus. For instance, our preferential trade agreement with ASEAN in investment is still to be finalized. We hope that it would be done by the time the year runs out or early next year. These are things on which you can on the sidelines continue to give a push that you need. So, the substantive achievements obviously do not come only at the summit. You can take stock of what you have achieved and certainly give an impetus to what you want to do in the time to come.

Interviewer: How far is the US strategy in Asia pushing India into a greater involvement in the eastern part of Asia?

External Affairs Minister: We have our own Look East Policy. I think we are probably into the third phase of our Look East Policy. We consider our own future in many ways linked to what is happening in East Asia. That is why we were right there at the beginning of the East Asia Summit. We have the full commitment to ASEAN. We see ASEAN as the building blocks of the world of tomorrow - SAARC, ASEAN, and beyond ASEAN, Asia Pacific. So, that is a continuum that would fit in well with our region of the world. What we need is far greater connectivity, economic connectivity what we have been working

on, physical connectivity which is road network in ASEAN followed by rail connectivity. Certainly while we are at it to ensure that we connect ourselves a lot better with the capitals of this region by air, I think there is still a lot that can be done. And we hope that over the next few months and years we will see considerable improvement.

Interviewer: As you know, there is a lot of tension in Southeast Asia over South China Sea with China's ambitions there. By joining hands very closely with the Southeast Asian nations, somehow India has been brought into this hostility and tension around that particular issue?

External Affairs Minister: I do not think that this is something that would reach levels of hostility or conflict. There are differences, obviously. China has a very clear perception about its sovereignty. It also has a very clear idea of how it wants to resolve these issues. But there are other countries that have a different point of view. I think that it is not something that cannot be resolved. It is certainly not something in which we are directly involved. We have said categorically, and this is a statement that we made early on, and we will continue to adhere to this understanding, that there should be compliance and respect for the law of the sea, that freedom of navigation on high seas is something that we must all adhere to. But the sovereignty issues can be settled between China and the countries that they have a concern about. Whether it is done bilaterally or it is done multilaterally, I think there is ample scope for dialogue to settle these issues.

Interviewer: How far it is that India's foreign policy is shaped by energy security? I think you obviously see that as something that is important. Would you see that now as a critical priority?

External Affairs Minister: I think more and more. There was a time after Independence when India saw itself as part of a larger aspiration, Asian-African aspiration, for freedom, for expression of the human soul. We participated, therefore, in Independence movements in Africa. Our leadership felt that India's own Independence was incomplete without India's friends in Africa and Asia being free as well. But the world has obviously moved on from there. We have become far more resource-oriented because development is obviously dependent heavily on resources.

India is energy-deficit country. Eighty per cent of our fuel is imported. Obviously to move to an alternative fuel source, to go into alternative energy, for instance solar energy, wind energy, is something that is very expensive. There are across the globe, and certainly in India as well, great questions being raised about use of nuclear energy. We do know that in our energy mix if nuclear energy does not play a role, then depleting water resources, depleting

coal, also environmental issues, immediate environmental issues, the environmental issues that are concerned with nuclear energy as well, all these things obviously make decision-making very difficult.

So, energy security is obviously very important for us. But so is the fact that we need to protect both ourselves and the rest of the world against the menace of terrorism. We were the first to have raised a voice against terrorism in the world. The world did not take us very seriously on that issue to begin with because there were obviously political complications. But we are very glad to report that today the world does take us seriously on this issue and that we are leading the battle against global terrorism. I think we have made enormous gains as far as that front is concerned, but enough still has not been done. We cannot say with absolute certainty that we are all secure against terrorism. There is a lot more still to be done. But these are two very major issues. Ultimately India's foreign policy has always been a principle-based foreign policy. You cannot in the real world not combine pragmatism with principles. But I think if you look at the range of foreign policy doctrines and foreign policy models that are used the world over, India stands in its own place as the country that follows principled foreign policy. And the mix that we give of self interest is an enlightened self interest mix. And I hope that this is what is actually appreciated about India.

Interviewer: You mentioned three major area of your foreign policy: energy security, counterterrorism and a principles-based foreign policy. I will be interested in hearing some of your ideas about, for example, how to better achieve India's energy security laws. That has in the past been more of a government-to-government approach. I think you have worked in Kazakhstan and some of those areas. Do you think there is space for more of that? Will India need to push for government-to-government agreements in places like Myanmar, etc.

External Affairs Minister: I think to an extent that is inevitable. We have a large public sector, a dominant public sector as far as the energy area is concerned. Therefore, whatever we do in the field of energy will have a lot to do with India's public sector. But we opened up to the private sector as well both within country as well as encourage private sector to engage abroad. We have a great private sector presence for instance in coal in Africa. We have private sector explorations in Central Asia, private sector reaching out to possibilities in Southeast Asia. And we will certainly encourage it. But we have an interesting mix of public and private sector. Obviously there is historical engagement that our public sector has done in various energy rich countries and that will continue. So, what we get is an ideal mix as possible. I think that

we hope to complement strengths between public sector and private sector. It works well for us and I hope that we will continue along that path for a while.

Interviewer: Are you looking to get progressively into gas blocks from Myanmar or something which India lost out to China in the past? There is now opportunity as you get closer to Myanmar to be able to take some involvement in the gas.

External Affairs Minister: You might say it. If you are going to do principled global politics, you will have to make some sacrifices. We do not regret that. As far as Myanmar is concerned, I have just been there, we have had very good meetings with senior dignitaries in Myanmar. They have shown tremendous interest in India engaging in the energy sector possibly importing gas from Myanmar to India through a pipeline. I think there are great possibilities, and we would like to work on that relationship.

We do not have any problems about China being present. I think that we have engaged China in a meaningful way as a neighbor. We do take into account the strengths that China has in the field of commerce and international relations, and we will want to work together, cooperate, collaborate, and where appropriate compete as well. Why not? Competition is something that is a part of the marketplace. I think so long as the competition is sensible and reasonable, it should be encouraged.

Interviewer: Just a couple of more questions. The United States is now proposing tighter sanctions on Iranian port facilities. This will affect India's trade with Afghanistan. How are you dealing with this issue?

External Affairs Minister: We are in touch with the United States on this. I think that fortunately the way things have panned out, we are well compliant with the expectations of the United States. Although our specific position is that we comply with UN sanctions, that we do not take into account sanctions of any other country, but if it converges and we are in a sense well within the parameters of the United States, I think it works well for us and it works well for them as well. They would probably look at it afresh in the months to come. We expect them to reexamine, and I hope that in the new effort of the Administration that comes now under President Obama, I hope the very dialogue level that it continues with Iran can also go forward. I hope that this is something that can get resolved and that it does not get further exacerbated or complicated because of intransigence on either side.

Interviewer: Just a quick follow-up on that. There is a new provision under US law which is coming in with effect from February. I am not sure how familiar you are with this which will effectively force banks to withhold payments from refiners like Indian refiners to the National Iranian Oil Corporation. So, no money will go back to Iran. How is India going to deal with that?

External Affairs Minister: We are factoring all this in. We have been in touch with the United States, as I said. We are looking at what their compulsions and what their positions are. We also obviously take into account that we need a lot more import of oil from across the world. But our import from Iran has been consistently going down. For various reasons it has been consistently going down. I think that this is something we will be able to manage. It is not something that will catch us by surprise.

Interviewer: Sir, do you see it continuing to fall next year?

External Affairs Minister: I think there has been a steady fall. We have also obviously been to buy it from somewhere else. For the present we do not have a problem. I think that a lot of things are in the pipeline. Who knows! There might just be a solution! And if there is not a solution, you will have to find some alternatives. But there are no ...(Inaudible)... I think on this. We are factoring in everything that is coming our way. For the present ...(Inaudible)... to say it is work in progress.

Interviewer: What involvement do you see for India in Afghanistan post 2014? Would you expect India to be training security forces on the ground in that country?

External Affairs Minister: We already have defence cooperation with them. We are not sure how much more we can add to that as of now. The reason is that whatever we do in Afghanistan, we would want that to be acceptable at a reasonable level to all other stakeholders in the region. There is no point trying to help Afghanistan, if that will create complications for them. We have had a very welcome and a very open-armed approach from Afghanistan including during the visits of President Karzai to India, and we are willing to help. Right now we are engaging them extensively in development projects giving them capacity building, institution building, helping them at every level, in each District with small projects that will help their communities to come together and to be more self contained and self confident. Beyond this what we can do by way of helping them on security is something that again is an ongoing dialogue with them. We are there already. But how far and how much would we be able to do will depend only on their invitation but will also depend largely on our assessment of how useful it will be to them and to Afghanistan in the whole.

Interviewer: Specifically, India is now training some security forces in Afghanistan.

External Affairs Minister: Right now the training is done here. They come for training to India. We supply them with some vehicles, police training and so on. But this is something as I said that can only grow provided it has a comfort level for all stakeholders. Obviously a lot of that will be communicated to us by the Afghan Government. We want to see how things pan out for them in the

next year. They are moving towards an election. We are going to help them with that election through our personnel from the Election Commission. They still have not given us any formal dates by which they want personnel to come there, engage and work out their election programmes, etc. But, as I said, we are friends to them and we are here. We will be willing to respond to any call. But we have advised them as well that it is best that we work together in a manner that is at a comfort level for everyone - for Americans, for other powers in the region, and even for Pakistan. We do not want to score points against anyone. We want to help Afghanistan in a meaningful way. That is something that we can work out mutually.

Interviewer: How worried are you about what is going to happen post 2014?

External Affairs Minister: They do not seem very worried. I see no reason if they are not worried why we should be worried. But we all have to be alert and we all have to be careful and take things as they come and be prepared for putting in extra work and extra energy.

Interviewer: One final question. India, as you describe it, is involved more than ever on the world stage. It is a very large country with very complex neighbours, extending its reach further and further, but has one of the world's smallest per capita diplomatic corps. Is that something that you are going to tackle?

External Affairs Minister: We have a plan. We have a plan for modernizing the Foreign Service adding some more expertise in those fields that are managed today of course by other Ministries in coordination with us, but to bring in more of those experts within the Foreign Service. We also have a forward-looking panel in the next ten years for a fairly impressive expansion of the Service. We are already into the first phase of that. Over the next ten years, we would have a much larger service than we have today.

Interviewer: Can you give us a sense of the numbers?

External Affairs Minister: I have numbers but it is going to be itself heavy and impressive.

Interviewer: Like double in ten years, triple?

External Affairs Minister: I would see it being doubled at least. But I think that is not one thing on which we will be short of effort. We are conscious that there is a very big challenge and we have enough resources. We would not be out of resources as far as dealing our international relations is concerned.

Interviewer: Thank you very much. I appreciate.

External Affairs Minister: Thank you.



**057. Interview of External Affairs Minister to the Indian Express.
December 18, 2012.**

What are your thoughts on Rehman Malik's visit?

I think he wanted to come and he came. The important thing is he has certainly taken it forward by talking about a timeline as far as the trial of the Mumbai accused in Pakistan is concerned. Too much time has passed and there, I think, his saying that at least the judgment in the present proceedings will be completed over the next two, three months is a welcome statement.

Malik tried to equate the 26/11 attacks with Samjhauta and even made a reference to Babri Masjid. Do you see any merit in the argument?

If I was there, I would say, so what? So what if Samjhauta happened, Babri Masjid happened; what has that got to do with Mumbai? Every time you ask somebody why they've done something wrong, they can't count everything that you've done wrong in your life. There's no relevance. None of these events are events that we are happy about. None of these events are events that are not in an appropriate manner being made accountable. What has that got to do with something for which the responsibility rests very clearly, as is being shown in their legal proceedings, on somebody who is on Pakistan soil?

What about his claim that only information, not evidence, has been given on the 26/11 masterminds?

It's obviously very disappointing. That's not fair because we have given more than enough evidence to begin the process. If he were to say that you can't conclude the process on this, that's another matter. But I think there is more than enough evidence to begin the process of making them accountable.

In the light of all this, what is our overall approach towards Pakistan?

We have agreed in strategic terms that we will continue to engage with Pakistan and work on those dimensions which are within our reach, without compromising on those that would require much longer dialogue.

How keen are you to make your first visit to Pakistan?

See, I am trying to, over the next couple of months, do all our neighbours. I don't want to make an exception of Pakistan. I am not striking it off the list of places I have to go to, but in terms of priority, it will all depend on how things shape up.

What is the status of the land boundary agreement with Bangladesh, which has to be brought before Parliament in the form of a constitutional amendment?

We have had discussions over the last week with some political parties. I am convinced that we have to do it and we will get it done, but this is a national thing and we want to do it together. I don't want to take credit for it for our party. This is India's national handshake with Bangladesh, which goes back to our initial commitment in 1971. It's in the overall national interest of India as it is indeed of Bangladesh. This convergence of two national interests is something we should not be losing time on, and I am trying to convince all our colleagues in Parliament that they shouldn't look for something that's not there. This is not a one-sided bargain. This is not being done to score quick political brownie points. If we are to have a long-term relationship with Bangladesh, then something like this has to be the springboard for opening up vast avenues without which our Look East policy will remain truncated and disadvantaged.

What will India's next steps be after the setback in Maldives?

We have not had a setback. I call it an event that doesn't necessarily give us happiness, but not a setback. It's part of life. If you will do commerce in the world, not every negotiation or agreement will give you the returns you go seeking, and this is not anything directly to do with the Government of India. This is a contract that an Indian company won for itself independently of any government influence. It won it in a free and fair bid contest supervised by the IFC. That an Indian company succeeded was a matter of satisfaction for us. That the Indian company for various reasons was unable to continue that contract, it's disappointing. I don't see it at the level of a setback. GMR seems pretty comfortable. All they are looking for is entitlement they get for the cancellation of the contract. I think the Maldives government has made it very clear that their entitlements will be fulfilled.

And what is the way forward to restoring the balance in India-Maldives relations?

You can look at theoretical issues. Have they used their sovereign power, or have they used their rights as a contracting party? This is for scholars to analyse. End result is we are not there, and that's disappointing. I think there are lessons there - in many democracies, particularly growing democracies, there are public perceptions that must be addressed adequately in commerce. In some areas, in which people see a lot of symbolism, perceptions matter more. It's like your national airlines. Similarly, it's possible a gateway to Maldives is seen differently from any other contract. Having said that, if this became necessary because there were political influences being used in a coalition situation, then it would be sad and we have expressed hope that this will come to an end. That this will not spill over to anything more which is directed against India's interest. I hope that it will be contained and be limited to being directed against a particular company because of local politics, and the government of Maldives will be

able to restrict it up to this point. They've scored a point with the opposition if that's what they wanted. It should not be allowed to influence their relationship with our country. There are still many other Indian companies invested in the Maldives.

Do you have any views on the first woman chief justice of Sri Lanka facing possible impeachment?

You know these are issues involving the judiciary of another country and are best taken note of, but not something on which we can express a view. Its implications as far as our relationship with Sri Lanka is concerned are virtually zero



058. Press Release on the visit of UN High Commissioner for Refugees to India.

New Delhi, December 19, 2012.

1. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr. Antonio Guterres, currently on a visit to India, held the 4th round of open-ended bilateral consultations in Delhi today. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Navtej Sarna, Additional Secretary (International Organizations), Ministry of External Affairs. This is the 4th round of such consultations between UNHCR and Government of India. The discussions focused on the current policies and activities of UNHCR in several regions of the world as well as on specific situations relating to south Asia. The Indian delegation shared GOI's policies and practice in dealing with such situations in accordance with its own guidelines and legal framework.

2. UN High Commissioner for Refugees also called on the External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid, Home Minister Shri S.K. Shinde, Foreign Secretary and the Home Secretary. During these meetings, the High Commissioner expressed his high appreciation for India's age-old tradition of tolerance and understanding which manifested itself in its current policy of protecting and assisting refugees. India's strict adherence to the principle of non-refoulement and voluntary repatriation also came in for positive comment by the High Commissioner. The High Commissioner also appreciated India's gesture in extending long-term visas for refugees in addition to providing other facilities during their stay in India. EAM recalled his recent visit to Myanmar and India's pledge of US\$ 1 million for the Rakhine State of Myanmar and India's cash assistance of US\$ 200,000 towards the relief and rehabilitation effort for displaced persons in August 2012. The discussions with Indian dignitaries also focused on the handling of refugee situations in various parts of the world. The need for UNHCR to continue to focus on its core mandate of refugee protection and not allow it to be diluted by other concerns was also underlined.

3. Shri Navtej Sarna, Additional Secretary (IO), also hosted a lunch in honour of the visiting dignitary.



059. Media Briefing of External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid after receiving the Indian seafarers from MV Iceberg-I at the Airport.

New Delhi, December 29, 2012.

External Affairs Minister (Shri Salman Khurshid): I will just make a very short statement.

These are our five countrymen who, as you know, were held hostage for over two years and ten months, almost three years. We have assiduously worked for a very long time, step-by-step, for their release. And we are very pleased to be able to say that their release has been through an operation that was very quietly and very successfully done. Obviously they now need to quickly get debriefed, and then they must go to their families as quickly as possible.

For the families this will be some cheer in a good year, in the new year. Some of them have to go as far as Kerala, some of them have to go as far as Uttar Pradesh (Balliya), Punjab. So, we would not want to delay them and keep them back any bit longer. We want to indicate through this our resolve and commitment to get the release of the other 37 hostages who are still held in various incidents, and we hope that all of them can be released also in the near future.

Along with these five of our countrymen, we have also been successful in getting their comrades from Pakistan released as well, who we carried to Oman where they were handed over to their Pakistani authorities who have made arrangements for them to be taken home as well. So, in that sense, in matters of such kind I think it is important that we cooperate and collaborate irrespective of our borders, and that is what we have done. I think this is for us a matter of some satisfaction that not only have we been able to successfully get the release of our own citizens but we have also been able to help in the release of citizens of our neighbouring country Pakistan.

As I said, our resolve and determination to get all Indian hostages who are still held - 37 of them - released, and we hope that we will be able to do it with the urgency that it calls for. The operations and the negotiations and the planning that goes into all this has to per se be very confidential. Since we are dealing with people on the other side who are not necessarily very friendly, we have to ensure that no chink in our armour, no weakness is exhibited at any stage. But a determination and commitment to doing whatever it takes to get our citizens released is the message that we hope will be carried once again with the release of these citizens of our country.

I welcome them back, and I say that we are proud of them. We know what they

must have undergone for such a long time. That they kept hope alive and that they have come back safely is for us a matter of great satisfaction.

Thank you very much.

Question: Sir, in a span three weeks, two times the Sri Lankan Navy have arrested the Tamil fishermen.

External Affairs Minister: And released.

Question: And released. Today some of them have returned to Mandapam refugee camp.

Recently, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office Mr. Narayanasamy stated that the Centre is ready to find an amicable solution to get both Sri Lankan and Tamil Nadu fishermen communities to talks. But the Tamil Nadu Government is not cooperating in this task.

External Affairs Minister: I do not want to comment on something which is an ongoing process. There is in process now a dialogue to find some kind of acceptable arrangement both for ensuring that such incidents do not happen and also that if they happen there should be a system by which they can quickly be responded to and resolved. I think we would like to wait till some constructive proposals come forward on which there is agreement on both sides. This is a matter that is getting our urgent attention and we hope that we will have a solution. But we need cooperation from our own citizens also. The constraints have to be understood, and the responsibilities we have, how serious and how onerous those responsibilities are, have to be appreciated by our own people as well.

Question: Sir, about the rape victim who has died ...

External Affairs Minister: There are official spokespersons already giving you information. I do not have any information except to say that you have already carried the news that a plane has been sent and the mortal remains will be brought back to India. You know how tragic this whole event has been and how much sadness, distress and pain it has caused to all of us, all of us. I appreciate the anguish of the young people who today are sitting in silent solidarity and for the cause. I appreciate that and I think we all do. Together we as a society and a nation have to find solutions. They are not only legal solutions, they have to be legal solutions, they have to be social solutions, they have to be institutional solutions, but together we have to find them. And I will request you the media for help in this. The help that you are giving us in furthering this cause, in resolving these issues and finding permanent, sustained solutions, I would urge you to help us in that as well.

Question: Sir, the body ...(Inaudible)... which is being brought...?

External Affairs Minister: I have no news. I have no information I have told you what I knew...the aircraft has gone from India and will return, presently I have no more details.

Namaskar. Thank you.

(Concluded)

NB: Text in italics is free translation from Hindi.



INDIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS - 2012

SECTION - II

CIVIL NUCLEAR ENERGY

060. Opening remarks by Foreign Secretary at media interaction after conclusion of the New Delhi Sherpa Meeting on National Security Summit.

New Delhi, January 17, 2012.

Thank you for attending this media interaction.

As you are aware, a meeting of the Sherpas for the 2nd Nuclear Security Summit was held in Vigyan Bhawan on 16-17 January and concluded its work just a few minutes ago. This meeting was attended by 49 participating countries and four international organizations. You are aware that 46 countries participated in the First Nuclear security summit that was held in Washington in April 2010. ROK as the host of the Second summit which will be held in Seoul in March 26-27, 2012 has invited three new participants - Denmark, Lithuania, and Azerbaijan. Of these, Denmark and Lithuania sent representatives to the New Delhi Sherpa Meeting. The four international Organizations are the UN, IAEA, Interpol and the European Union.

2. The main agenda of the Sherpa meeting, which was co-chaired by the next Chair ROK and the previous Chair the United States, was consideration of the draft communiqué that would be adopted by the Summit in Seoul. The draft communiqué is a substantive document that seeks to reaffirm the Washington communiqué and build on the momentum that has been generated since the last Summit. Since the draft is still under discussion, it would not be possible to share specific details. However, the discussion on the draft were productive and have reached an advance stage of consideration.

3. The main objective of the Nuclear Summit process has been to focus high-level global attention on the threat posed by nuclear terrorism and the measures required to address the global challenge of preventing terrorists and other non-state actors from gaining access to sensitive nuclear materials, technology and information. Security of nuclear materials is fundamentally a national responsibility but there is considerable scope for international cooperation to strengthen nuclear security objectives and standards. In this regard, there was considerable emphasis on the leading role of the IAEA in the international nuclear security framework and the need to strengthen multilateral instruments that address nuclear security such as the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. India is a party to all major international instruments in the field of nuclear security.

4. Among the topics being discussed for considered for inclusion in the Seoul Summit outcome Communiqué include measures to secure the

management of highly enriched uranium, measures to ensure radiological security, promoting transport security and combating illicit trafficking, security of sensitive information and increasing international cooperation and assistance. In this regard, you would recall that India had announced the setting up of the Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership. The Seoul Summit will also give consideration to strengthening the synergy between nuclear safety and nuclear security, an issue which has become topical after the Fukushima accident of March, 2011. We feel that this issue merits Summit level consideration to enhance public confidence that measures are being taken to ensure that nuclear energy, which is an essential energy source is used in a safe and secure manner.

5. India is committed to the success of the Nuclear Security Summit process. Our Prime Minister will be attending the Seoul Summit in March this year. The holding of the Sherpa meeting in New Delhi, the first of its kind that we have hosted, is a clear demonstration of our commitment to the Nuclear Security Summit process.

Thank You.



061. Extract relevant to Nuclear Security Summit in Seoul from the Media Briefing by Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai and Secretary (East) Sanjay Singh on Prime Minister's visit to Seoul to attend the Nuclear Security Summit and to South Korea for a bilateral visit to Republic of Korea.

New Delhi, March 21, 2012.

(For briefing on Visit to Republic of Korea for a bilateral visit please see Document No.355)

You will recall that the first Nuclear Security Summit was held in Washington on 13th April, 2010, with the participation of 47 countries and three international organizations. A total of 58 leaders are expected at the Seoul Summit as some new countries will be attending for the first time. The Summit deliberations and results will be reflected in the Seoul NSS Communiqué.

As you aware, the draft Communiqué was discussed at the Sherpa meeting which we hosted in New Delhi on 16th and 17th of January 2012. There will be another Sherpa meeting in Seoul on the 23rd of March, which I would be attending, to finalize the Communiqué for the Summit.

The Programme of the Summit would be broadly patterned on the lines of the Washington Summit with an opening dinner for the leaders on March 26. The thematic discussions during the dinner would be 'Review of progress made since the 2010 Washington Summit'. Thereafter, the thematic discussion during the morning and the afternoon sessions of 27th March would be on 'National Measures and International Cooperation to Enhance Nuclear Security, including future commitments.' There will then be a working lunch with thematic discussions on the 'Nuclear Security-Safety interface' which would be between 12.30 p.m. to 2.00 p.m. The Summit is expected to close at 4.30 p.m.

The main objective of the Nuclear Security Summit process has been high level attention on the global threat posed by nuclear terrorism and the measures that are required to prevent terrorists and other non-state actors from gaining access to sensitive nuclear materials and technologies. While nuclear security is a national responsibility there is scope for international cooperation. The IAEA has a central role in strengthening the international nuclear security framework.

The Seoul Summit is intended to take stock of progress in implementation of the Communiqué and Work Plan, which was arrived at during the Washington Summit, as well as agree on new measures that would be reflected in the Summit Communiqué. A number of countries are expected to speak on the steps taken to strengthen nuclear security after the Washington Summit in the form of national progress reports. These will be made public during the Summit.

India is committed to the success of the NSS process. PM's participation in the Seoul Summit as well as the First Summit in Washington is a demonstration of our high level commitment.

Thank you.

Official Spokesperson: As I suggested, please limit your initial set of questions to the Nuclear Security Summit and the Prime Minister's visit to Korea.

Question: Would Iran be discussed? What about the bilaterals with Pakistan and the US? Is there a possibility of having bilaterals with them?

Foreign Secretary: The focus of the NSS is essentially nuclear security and the measures to prevent terrorists from gaining access to sensitive nuclear material for malicious purposes. So, it is not the theme of the summit. But Individual national statements may cover other issues including of the nature which you have mentioned.

As of now there are no plans for a bilateral meeting between Prime Minister and President Obama and the Prime Minister of Pakistan. As of now this has not been scheduled.

Question: Is a Nuclear Cooperation Agreement between India and Korea likely to be formally announced during the Prime Minister's visit?

Secretary (East) (Shri Sanjay Singh): The two countries signed an agreement on peaceful uses of nuclear energy in July, 2011 during the visit of the hon. President of India.

Question: The Prime Minister at the First Summit had spoken about the Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership. What is the progress on this and where is it going to be located?

Foreign Secretary: The Global Centre is under active discussion. We have discussed it with a large number of countries who have agreed to actually participate in it and join us. It is expected to come up on the outskirts of Delhi. It is making progress. Discussions with a large number of countries have indicated strong interest in cooperating with us in this regard.

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Question: What measures will India propose at the Nuclear Security Summit to enhance the safety of nuclear materials and for a better audit? And what sort of concerns are going to be expressed by India?

Foreign Secretary: India is committed to the success of the NSS process, as I said, and we attach high importance to the measures which we take and the

others take both at the national level and through the international cooperation to address this issue of nuclear terrorism. But the specifics will actually be spelt out in the PM's address when he goes to the Summit. I think we will have to wait till he comes out with that.

Question: Will there be anything on negotiations to enter the NSG and all that? Are these issues likely to come up here?

Foreign Secretary: No, this is not the forum for that. What happens in these multilateral conferences is that one does meet counterparts from a number of other countries. So, one cannot rule out that in the pull-asides and informal discussions there would be further reference to this. But, no, this is not on the agenda. The last discussion with the NSG was held earlier this month when I went to Vienna when I met the NSG troika. That has already been done.

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Question: If I am not mistaken, the recommendations of the Communiqué of the First Nuclear Security Summit are not binding on nations. They are voluntary in nature in terms of implementation. In that context, how relevant do you think such meetings are?

Foreign Secretary: I think the idea is to get people to commit. In fact the intention of having what they called National Progress Statements is to indicate the actions which have actually been taken. The fact that more countries that participated in the First Summit actually wanted to come to this Summit and the wish to declare their intention to add to the international efforts to curb the dangers of terrorists being able to lay their hands on the nuclear materials, is a very positive indication. I believe that on this particular issue, on the need to protect nuclear materials and nuclear installations from the threat of terrorism, there is a widespread consensus. There may be differences on specific measures and specific steps, but I think nobody disagrees that we need to be doing things. The implementation is more or less in a particular year, but the implementation has actually been taking place. I think when you get the Progress Statements, there is a plan in fact to have all the Progress Statements put together as part of the document which will be an outcome, I think it will reflect a fair amount of progress globally.

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Question: Will Pakistan be discussed?

Foreign Secretary: In what context? They are a participant in the Nuclear Security Summit and they will be making their national statement also, I presume.

Question: What is the assessment of the clandestine proliferation networks

active in the region? When we talk about threat of nuclear terrorism, what is the assessment of scale of threat that exists in the region? We are talking about the proliferation networks emanating from the neighbourhood.

Foreign Secretary: This is a subject which is discussed at many levels both in the general form of nuclear security, as well as you might have seen even the IAEA has referred to it. So, there are a number of fora in which this particular issue can be addressed.



062. Statement by the Prime Minister prior to his departure for the Republic of Korea for an Official visit and to attend the Nuclear Security Summit.

New Delhi, March 23, 2012.

Please See Document No. 356.



062A. Nuclear Security Summit: National Progress Report

Seoul, March 27, 2012.

1) International Legal Instruments: India is party to all the 13 universal instruments accepted as benchmarks for a State's commitment to combat international terrorism. India is party to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and is amongst the few countries which have also ratified the 2005 amendment to the Convention. India looks forward to early entry into force of the 2005 Amendment. India is also Party to the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. India supports efforts for promoting the universality of these two Conventions.

2) International Atomic Energy Agency: India has consistently supported IAEA's central role in facilitating national efforts to strengthen nuclear security and in fostering effective international cooperation. India is a member of the IAEA Commission on Nuclear Safety Standards and the Advisory Group on Nuclear Security. India has been actively involved in the preparation of the Nuclear Security Series documents produced by the IAEA. India has actively contributed to IAEA's Action Plans on Nuclear Security, including third plan for 2010-2013. India as a partner to the IAEA-US Regional Radiological Security Partnership (RRSP) has been organizing international training courses in India under the aegis of the IAEA. India offered assistance through the IAEA for search and recovery of orphan radioactive sources in countries which were unable to effectively deal with them and had sought such assistance. India commends the Agency's efforts to develop a Nuclear Security Information Portal and its efforts in developing a comprehensive set of guidance documents under the Nuclear Security Series.

We support the fifth revision of the recommendations contained in INFCIRC/225. We look forward to sustainable Agency activities in the area of nuclear security training and education and appreciate the assistance provided by the Agency to educational institutions in the area of Nuclear Security. India is a participant in the IAEA's Illicit Trafficking Database (ITDB), which was established

in 1995 and disseminates information on confirmed reports about illicit trafficking and other unauthorized activities and events involving nuclear radioactive materials to the States. India has been supportive of the 2003 IAEA Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and voluntarily adopted its provisions. India has also conducted 9 regional training seminars on nuclear security in cooperation with the IAEA. Conclusion of Practical Arrangements between GCNEP and the IAEA would reinforce India's cooperation with the Agency.

3) UN and other mechanisms: Since 2002, India has piloted a resolution at the United Nations General Assembly on measures to prevent terrorists gaining access to Weapons of Mass Destruction. This resolution has been adopted by the General Assembly by consensus. India fully supports the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540, its extension resolution 1977, and the United Nations Global Counter Terrorism Strategy. India is also a party to Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism and has participated in its working groups on nuclear detection, nuclear forensics and response and mitigation. While nuclear security is being addressed at different forums, there is need to ensure that these efforts are mutually complementary and reinforce the related activities of the IAEA. We also cooperate with the Interpol's Radiological and Nuclear Terrorism Prevention Unit and the World Customs Organization. India participated in the High Level Meeting called by the UN Secretary General on Nuclear Safety and Security on 22 September 2011.

4) National legal framework: The Indian Atomic Energy Act 1962 provides the legal framework for securing nuclear materials and facilities. Amendments to this Act are under consideration to further strengthen the legal basis for nuclear security measures. In June 2005, India enacted the Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Act, 2005. Updating of the export control lists and related regulations are undertaken as a continuous ongoing process. India has adhered to NSG Guidelines and has expressed interest in full membership of the NSG and other international export control regimes. India is taking a number of measures to strengthen nuclear security. The Government has introduced a bill in Parliament for the establishment of an independent Nuclear Safety Regulatory Authority which will also enhance oversight of nuclear security and strengthen synergy between safety and security.

5) Reducing Nuclear Material: With regard to minimization of use of civilian HEU, the enriched uranium based fuel in the APSARA reactor was placed in a safeguarded facility in December 2010. APSARA will use indigenous fuel which is not high enriched uranium. However, there is a growing demand for large-scale production of isotopes for a range of applications- healthcare, industry, food and agriculture. India's three stage nuclear programme is based on a closed nuclear fuel cycle, the principle of 'reprocess-to-reuse' and ensuring control

over nuclear material at all stages. It is also important that technology is continually upgraded to develop nuclear systems that are intrinsically safe, secure and proliferation resistant. We have recently developed an Advanced Heavy Water Reactor based on Low Enriched Uranium and thorium with new safety and proliferation-resistant features.

6) International Cooperation: India has close cooperation with the IAEA's Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT). India has signed tripartite Agreements with IAEA and Sri Lanka and Namibia to donate our indigenously developed Cobalt teletherapy machine (Bhabhatron II) to these two countries as a step towards affordable treatment of Cancer. A similar machine was donated to Vietnam in 2008.

7) Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership (GCNEP): At the first Nuclear Security Summit, India announced that it would establish a Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership. We visualize this to be a state of the art facility based on international participation from the IAEA and other interested foreign partners. (Cooperation MOUs/Practical Arrangements have been concluded with some countries and the IAEA). To begin with, the Centre will consist of four Schools dealing with Advanced Nuclear Energy System Studies, Nuclear Security, Radiation Safety, and the application of Radioisotopes and Radiation Technology in the areas of healthcare, agriculture and food. The Centre will conduct research and development of design systems that are intrinsically safe, secure, proliferation resistant and sustainable, as we believe such technological solutions will strengthen nuclear security in the long run. The Centre will carry out research and development in radiation monitoring including development of detectors and nuclear emergency management. The Centre will also have state of the art training facilities for Indian and international participants and research by Indian and visiting international scientists. We are interested in development and conduct of courses in association with interested countries and the IAEA. An "off-campus" training course on Physical Protection was organized under GCNEP auspices in November 2011 for 25 participants, including 17 foreign nationals. Further courses planned for 2012 include: Prevention, Preparedness and Responses involving malicious acts with radioactive materials, Medical Management, Safeguard Practices etc.

8) Nuclear Security Summit Process: India supports implementation of the Washington Summit Communiqué and Work Plan. India contributed to the NSS process, including by hosting a meeting of the Sherpas in New Delhi 16-17 January 2012.



063. Statement by the Prime Minister at the Plenary of Nuclear Security Summit.

Seoul, March 27, 2012.

Your Excellency President Lee Myung-bak,

Distinguished Heads of Delegations,

I would like to join others in thanking President Lee Myung-bak for hosting this Summit and for the excellent arrangements made.

India fully shares global concerns on nuclear terrorism and clandestine proliferation, which continue to pose serious threats to international security. At the same time, given India's growing energy demands, we see nuclear energy as an essential component of our energy mix. Strengthening nuclear security, therefore, assists India's objective of promoting a safe and secure expansion of civil nuclear energy. We must continue to harness the numerous developmental benefits that nuclear science and technology offer, especially for developing countries.

We are in the process of expanding our nuclear energy generation to 62,000 MWs by 2032. We are taking forward our three stage nuclear programme based on a closed fuel cycle, with new safety features and proliferation-resistant technologies.

We are also determined that our expanded nuclear power programme will follow the highest standards of nuclear safety and security, whose synergy is essential to restore public faith in nuclear energy, especially after the tragic events at Fukushima.

We have undertaken comprehensive reviews of nuclear safety measures at our nuclear facilities. India has invited the Operational Safety Review Teams of the IAEA to assist in its own safety reviews and audit. Nuclear safety evaluations are being put in the public domain to enhance transparency and boost public confidence. We are also in the process of setting up a statutory, independent and autonomous Nuclear Safety Regulatory Authority. We are strengthening emergency preparedness and response to nuclear accidents.

Nuclear terrorism will remain a potent threat as long as there are terrorists seeking to gain access to nuclear material and technologies for malicious purposes. India is acutely conscious of this threat. Our resolution at the General Assembly on measures to deny terrorists access to weapons of mass destruction has been adopted by consensus since 2002.

We support the extension of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 and the work

of its Committee and we intend to host a 1540 Workshop during this year to strengthen its implementation.

India is party to the main international legal instruments on nuclear security - the Convention on Physical Protection and its 2005 amendment, as well as the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. We support the universalization of these instruments.

Nuclear security is primarily a national responsibility but there are benefits to be gained by supplementing responsible national actions through sustained and effective international cooperation.

The Washington Communiqué and Work Plan set in place new benchmarks on nuclear security and new frameworks for international cooperation. We welcome the fact that this Summit will expand the scope of such cooperation by greater focus on minimization of High Enriched Uranium, information and transport security, nuclear forensics, preventing illicit nuclear trafficking, assistance for updating national regulations and building capacity for nuclear security.

India has contributed actively to the Nuclear Security Summit process, including by hosting a Sherpa meeting in New Delhi in January this year.

We have made good progress in the establishment of the Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership, which I announced at the Washington Summit. The physical infrastructure for the Centre is being set up. We have commenced 'off-campus' courses. Such courses will be held more frequently in the future. We have signed documents for cooperation on the Global Centre with the United States of America, Russia, France and the IAEA.

India is expanding its technical assistance to developing countries, including by providing our indigenously developed Cobalt teletherapy machines – Bhabhatrons - for cancer treatment.

The IAEA has a central role in strengthening the international global nuclear security architecture. I am happy to announce that India will contribute 1 million US dollars to the IAEA's Nuclear Security Fund for the years 2012-13.

India will participate in the Agency's 2013 international coordinating conference of various nuclear security activities, including the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism and the Global Partnership.

The best guarantee for nuclear security is a world free from nuclear weapons. Our former Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, put forward an Action Plan for global nuclear disarmament in a time-bound framework almost 25 years ago. This remains the most comprehensive and elaborate proposal to achieve this objective.

Attaining the goal of a nuclear weapon-free world will require commitments embedded in an agreed multilateral framework involving all states possessing nuclear weapons. This should include measures to reduce nuclear dangers by reducing the salience of nuclear weapons in security doctrines and by increasing universal restraints on the first use of nuclear weapons.

We also support the early commencement of negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty in the Conference of Disarmament in Geneva.

India has never been a source of proliferation of sensitive technologies and we are determined to further strengthen our export control systems to keep them on par with the highest international standards. We have already adhered to the guidelines of the NSG and MTCR. As a like-minded country with the ability and willingness to promote global non-proliferation objectives, we believe that the next logical step is India's membership of the four export control regimes.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate India's commitment to strengthen and improve further the effectiveness of its nuclear safety and security systems and make a significant contribution to the enhancement of the global nuclear security architecture.

Thank you.



064. Seoul Nuclear Security Summit Communiqué.**Seoul, March 27, 2012.**

We, the leaders, gathered in Seoul on March 26-27, 2012, renew the political commitments generated from the 2010 Washington Nuclear Security Summit to work toward strengthening nuclear security, reducing the threat of nuclear terrorism, and preventing terrorists, criminals, or other unauthorized actors from acquiring nuclear materials. Nuclear terrorism continues to be one of the most challenging threats to international security. Defeating this threat requires strong national measures and international cooperation given its potential global political, economic, social, and psychological consequences.

We reaffirm our shared goals of nuclear disarmament, nuclear nonproliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Committed to seeking a safer world for all, we also all share the objective of nuclear security. We recognize that the Nuclear Security Summit is a valuable process at the highest political level, supporting our joint call to secure all vulnerable nuclear material in four years. In this regard, we welcome the substantive progress being made on the political commitments of Participating States since the Washington Summit.

We stress the fundamental responsibility of States, consistent with their respective national and international obligations, to maintain effective security of all nuclear material, which includes nuclear materials used in nuclear weapons, and nuclear facilities under their control, and to prevent non-state actors from acquiring such materials and from obtaining information or technology required to use them for malicious purposes. We likewise recognize the fundamental responsibility of States to maintain effective security of other radioactive materials.

We reaffirm that measures to strengthen nuclear security will not hamper the rights of States to develop and utilize nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

Noting the essential role of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in facilitating international cooperation and supporting the efforts of States to fulfill their nuclear security responsibilities, we further stress the importance of regional and international cooperation, and encourage States to promote cooperation with and outreach activities to international partners.

Noting the Fukushima accident of March 2011 and the nexus between nuclear security and nuclear safety, we consider that sustained efforts are required to address the issues of nuclear safety and nuclear security in a coherent manner that will help ensure the safe and secure peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

We will continue to use the Washington Communiqué and Work Plan as a basis for our future work in advancing our nuclear security objectives. At this Seoul Summit, we agree that we will make every possible effort to achieve further progress in the following important areas.

Global Nuclear Security Architecture

1. We recognize the importance of multilateral instruments that address nuclear security, such as the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM), as amended, and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT). We therefore encourage the universal adherence to these Conventions. We urge states in a position to do so to accelerate their domestic approval of the 2005 Amendment to the CPPNM, seeking to bring the Amendment into force by 2014. We acknowledge the important role of the United Nations (UN) in promoting nuclear security, support the UN Security Council Resolutions 1540 and 1977 in strengthening global nuclear security, and welcome the extension of its mandate. We will strive to use the IAEA Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and Nuclear Facilities (INFCIRC/225/Rev.5) document and related Nuclear Security Series documents, and reflect them into national practice.

2. We recognize the contributions since the 2010 Summit of international initiatives and processes such as the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) and Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction, within their respective mandates and memberships. We welcome the wider participation in the GICNT and the Global Partnership and value its extension beyond 2012. Noting the importance of strengthening coordination and complementarity among nuclear security activities, we welcome the proposal of the IAEA to organize an international conference in 2013. We welcome contributions from the industry, academia, institutes and civil society that promote nuclear security.

Role of the IAEA

3. We reaffirm the essential responsibility and central role of the IAEA in strengthening the international nuclear security framework, and recognize the value of the IAEA Nuclear Security Plan 2010-2013. We will work to ensure that the IAEA continues to have the appropriate structure, resources and expertise needed to support the implementation of nuclear security objectives. To this end, we encourage States in a position to do so and the nuclear industry to increase voluntary contributions to the IAEA's Nuclear Security Fund, as well as in-kind contributions. We also encourage continued IAEA activities to assist, upon request, national efforts to establish and enhance nuclear security infrastructure through its various support programs, and encourage States to make use of these IAEA resources.

Nuclear Materials

4. Recognizing that highly enriched uranium (HEU) and separated plutonium require special precautions, we reemphasize the importance of appropriately securing, accounting for and consolidating these materials. We also encourage States to consider the safe, secure and timely removal and disposition of nuclear materials from facilities no longer using them, as appropriate, and consistent with national security considerations and development objectives.

5. We recognize that the development, within the framework of the IAEA, of options for national policies on HEU management will advance nuclear security objectives. We encourage States to take measures to minimize the use of HEU, including through the conversion of reactors from highly enriched to low enriched uranium (LEU) fuel, where technically and economically feasible, taking into account the need for assured supplies of medical isotopes, and encourage States in a position to do so, by the end of 2013, to announce voluntary specific actions intended to minimize the use of HEU. We also encourage States to promote the use of LEU fuels and targets in commercial applications such as isotope production, and in this regard, welcome relevant international cooperation on high-density LEU fuel to support the conversion of research and test reactors.

Radioactive Sources

6. Taking into account that radioactive sources are widely used and can be vulnerable to malicious acts, we urge States to secure these materials, while bearing in mind their uses in industrial, medical, agricultural and research applications. To this end, we encourage States in a position to do so to continue to work towards the process of ratifying or acceding to the ICSANT; reflect into national practices relevant IAEA Nuclear Security Series documents, the IAEA Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and its supplementary document on the IAEA Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources; and establish national registers of high-activity radioactive sources where required. We also commit to work closely with the IAEA to encourage cooperation on advanced technologies and systems, share best practices on the management of radioactive sources, and provide technical assistance to States upon their request. In addition, we encourage continued national efforts and international cooperation to recover lost, missing or stolen sources and to maintain control over disused sources.

Nuclear Security and Safety

7. Acknowledging that safety measures and security measures have in common the aim of protecting human life and health and the environment, we affirm that nuclear security and nuclear safety measures should be designed, implemented and managed in nuclear facilities in a coherent and synergistic

manner. We also affirm the need to maintain effective emergency preparedness, response and mitigation capabilities in a manner that addresses both nuclear security and nuclear safety. In this regard, we welcome the efforts of the IAEA to organize meetings to provide relevant recommendations on the interface between nuclear security and nuclear safety so that neither security nor safety is compromised. We also welcome the convening of the High Level Meeting on Nuclear Safety and Security initiated by the UN Secretary-General, held in New York on 22 September 2011. Noting that the security of nuclear and other radioactive materials also includes spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste, we encourage States to consider establishing appropriate plans for the management of these materials.

Transportation Security

8. We will continue efforts to enhance the security of nuclear and other radioactive materials while in domestic and international transport, and encourage States to share best practices and cooperate in acquiring the necessary technologies to this end. Recognizing the importance of a national layered defense against the loss or theft of nuclear and other radioactive materials, we encourage the establishment of effective national nuclear material inventory management and domestic tracking mechanisms, where required, that enable States to take appropriate measures to recover lost and stolen materials.

Combating Illicit Trafficking

9. We underscore the need to develop national capabilities to prevent, detect, respond to and prosecute illicit nuclear trafficking. In this regard, we encourage action-oriented coordination among national capacities to combat illicit trafficking, consistent with national laws and regulations. We will work to enhance technical capabilities in the field of national inspection and detection of nuclear and other radioactive materials at the borders. Noting that several countries have passed export control laws to regulate nuclear transfers, we encourage further utilization of legal, intelligence and financial tools to effectively prosecute offenses, as appropriate and consistent with national laws. In addition, we encourage States to participate in the IAEA Illicit Trafficking Database program and to provide necessary information relating to nuclear and other radioactive materials outside of regulatory control. We will work to strengthen cooperation among States and encourage them to share information, consistent with national regulations, on individuals involved in trafficking offenses of nuclear and other radioactive materials, including through INTERPOL's Radiological and Nuclear Terrorism Prevention Unit and the World Customs Organization.

Nuclear Forensics

10. We recognize that nuclear forensics can be an effective tool in determining the origin of detected nuclear and other radioactive materials and in providing

evidence for the prosecution of acts of illicit trafficking and malicious uses. In this regard, we encourage States to work with one another, as well as with the IAEA, to develop and enhance nuclear forensics capabilities. In this regard, they may combine the skills of both traditional and nuclear forensics through the development of a common set of definitions and standards, undertake research and share information and best practices, as appropriate. We also underscore the importance of international cooperation both in technology and human resource development to advance nuclear forensics.

Nuclear Security Culture

11. Recognizing that investment in human capacity building is fundamental to promoting and sustaining a strong nuclear security culture, we encourage States to share best practices and build national capabilities, including through bilateral and multilateral cooperation. At the national level, we encourage all stakeholders, including the government, regulatory bodies, industry, academia, non-governmental organizations and the media, to fully commit to enhancing security culture and to maintain robust communication and coordination of activities. We also encourage States to promote human resource development through education and training. In this regard, we welcome the establishment of Centers of Excellence and other nuclear security training and support centers since the Washington Summit, and encourage the establishment of new centers. Furthermore, we welcome the effort by the IAEA to promote networking among such centers to share experience and lessons learned and to optimize available resources. We also note the holding of the Nuclear Industry Summit and the Nuclear Security Symposium on the eve of the Seoul Nuclear Security Summit.

Information Security

12. We recognize the importance of preventing non-state actors from obtaining information, technology or expertise required to acquire or use nuclear materials for malicious purposes, or to disrupt information technology based control systems at nuclear facilities. We therefore encourage States to: continue to develop and strengthen national and facility-level measures for the effective management of such information, including information on the procedures and protocols to protect nuclear materials and facilities; to support relevant capacity building projects; and to enhance cyber security measures concerning nuclear facilities, consistent with the IAEA General Conference Resolution on Nuclear Security(GC(55)/Res/10) and bearing in mind the International Telecommunication Union Resolution 174. We also encourage States to: promote a security culture that emphasizes the need to protect nuclear security related information; engage with scientific, industrial and academic communities in the pursuit of common solutions; and support the IAEA in producing and disseminating improved guidance on protecting information.

International Cooperation

13. We encourage all States to enhance their physical protection of and accounting system for nuclear materials, emergency preparedness and response capabilities and relevant legal and regulatory framework. In this context, we encourage the international community to increase international cooperation and to provide assistance, upon request, to countries in need on a bilateral, regional, and multilateral level, as appropriate. In particular, we welcome the intent by the IAEA to continue to lead efforts to assist States, upon request. We also reaffirm the need for various public diplomacy and outreach efforts to enhance public awareness of actions taken and capacities built to address threats to nuclear security, including the threat of nuclear terrorism.

We will continue to make voluntary and substantive efforts toward strengthening nuclear security and implementing political commitments made in this regard. We welcome the information on the progress made in the field of nuclear security since the Washington Summit provided by the participants at this Seoul Summit. The next Nuclear Security Summit will be held in [the Netherlands] in 2014.



065. Keynote Address by Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai at the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) National Export Control Seminar.

New Delhi, April 18, 2012.

Director General IDSA,

Excellencies and

Distinguished participants,

I am happy to speak at the National Export Control Seminar today, which is being organized jointly by the Ministry of External Affairs and the Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis. I would like to thank DG IDSA for the excellent arrangements his Institute has put in place and for bringing together a wide range of participants - government officials from all Departments dealing with export controls, representatives from industry, analysts and scholars from the research and academic communities as well as foreign experts who will be participating in today's deliberations. I would like to recognize the presence of members of the diplomatic corps, in particular representatives of countries currently chairing the various multilateral export control regimes.

Let me begin by addressing a simple but fundamental question. Why are export controls important for India?

We have for long recognized the challenge proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery poses for our national security and world order. The danger of terrorists gaining access to WMDs has added another facet to this grave threat. At the same time as a responsible member, India is committed to promoting and working with the international community in advancing the common objectives of global non-proliferation and international security.

Flowing from these considerations of national and international security and as a state possessing advanced and sensitive materials and technology, we are conscious of the need for responsible handling of these sensitive items from the point of production or manufacture, to their use internally or export abroad and eventual safe and secure disposition. India has no interest what so ever in aiding or abetting proliferation of WMDs, the misuse of dual use items or in non-state actors or terrorists gaining access to sensitive items. On the contrary we view a strong and effective national export control system as an essential link between our broader national security goals and our wider foreign policy objectives.

There is a second and equally compelling rationale for export controls. Just as export controls are vital for national security and global non-proliferation

objectives, they are also essential for the pursuit of growth and national development by harnessing the benefits of globalization. Export control standards are increasingly the norm for global trade in sensitive material, equipment and technology and thus necessary if we are to increase the quantum of high technology items in our external trade and commercial exchanges. As India's integration with global trade patterns and supply chains deepens, it would increasingly become an important hub of manufacturing and export of high technology items. Foreign investment including through offsets for governmental procurement will strengthen our global links. Our export control system would add to the reliability and credibility of Indian companies in the global market and thus increase their competitive edge. High technology companies would invest in India confident that apart from favorable commercial returns, access to a huge market and skilled workforce and protection of IPR, there would be no risk of unauthorized diversion or re-exports. That export controls are an added burden on industry is a mistaken and short sighted notion. At the same time, Government is conscious that there be no unreasonable restrictions on legitimate trade and commercial activities and export control procedures are clear and implementable without undue delays.

Let me describe briefly India's export control framework. India has a law based export system covering about 9 different legislations. I will mention only the most important: the Foreign Trade Development and Regulation Act or FTDR of 1992, the Atomic Energy Act of 1962, the Customs Act of 1962 and the Weapons of Mass destruction Act of 2005. Systematic dual use control lists in India were first notified in 1995 and were named as SMET - "Special Material, Equipment and Technology", published under our Foreign Trade Act. This list has subsequently been revised in 1999, 2005 and 2007 and is widely known as "SCOMET" – Special Chemicals, Organisms, Material, Equipment and Technology - List.

I would like to highlight a few points with respect to more recent developments. Our WMD Act of 2005 incorporated into national legislation key international standards in export controls, covering technology transfers, end-user or "catch-all" controls, brokering, transshipment and transit controls. In 2010, these changes were translated into our Foreign Trade Act through an amendment adopted by our Parliament which widened the ambit of dual-use controls. Second, the harmonization of SCOMET controls with the Nuclear Suppliers Group and Missile Technology Control Regime guidelines and annexes was notified in 2008. Our export controls are thus in line with the highest international standards and in some cases, in view of the generic coverage of controlled items or controls at the stage of manufacturing, they extend beyond the controls of the multilateral regimes. Third, our regulatory framework is updated regularly, for example following adoption of UN Security Council resolutions 1874 and 1929. Fourth,

we have increased engagement with various countries and our participation in international and regional export control seminars and conferences. . This engagement includes the four multilateral export control regimes, which I will return to a bit later in my speech.

In terms of implementation, an Inter-Ministerial Working Group coordinated by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade administers the SCOMET regulations. The regulations outline the procedure, process and factors relating to the licensing of controlled items. The licensing process is rigorous and involves assessment of export applications by various departments. Due restraint and responsibility in the transfer of sensitive systems and technologies is exercised based on a dynamic risk assessment system and changing proliferation trends.

It is true that any export control system is as good as its enforcement on the ground. Our national enforcement mechanisms cover prevention, detection and penalization of unauthorized exports. Customs and other enforcement agencies are active participants in these efforts. These activities are coordinated through an inter-agency Core Group which meets periodically to review these issues. As part of our regular review of implementation of export controls, we are looking at updating our control lists, strengthening national capacity through training for enforcement officials, commodity identification support and installation of detection equipment at ports and border checkpoints and other measures. The DGFT is in the process of introducing by June this year an online application system that would not only further ease the application process but also facilitate implementation.

We believe that industry is the first line of defence in terms of effective export controls. Industry outreach is an important area not only to enhance understanding about export controls among producers and exporters of controlled items but also share best practices in internal control systems for due diligence at the level of companies. This requires a continuous effort in various parts of the country, involving even small and medium enterprises. Industry leadership is important and the Ministry of External Affairs was pleased to support a Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) event last month on export controls. I am glad to note that the CII is working on a voluntary "Code of Conduct" on export controls, which can be a useful guide as companies work on strengthening their internal compliance systems. India is also open to cooperating with other countries in sharing of experiences and best practices in export controls.

With this brief survey of the national scene, let me return to the international aspects of export controls. India shares global non-proliferation objectives and supports strengthening the non-proliferation regime. Since 2002, we have been piloting a UN First Committee resolution on "Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring WMDs" which is traditionally adopted by consensus. We supported

the extension of the mandate of the 1540 Committee pursuant to UNSC resolution 1540. An eminent Indian expert worked as part of the Expert Group of the 1540 Committee from 2007-09. We have also announced our intention to host a UNSCR 1540 workshop to strengthen the implementation of the resolution. India has contributed to the success of the Nuclear Security Summit process. Our Prime Minister has participated in both the Summits held in Washington in April 2010 and in Seoul in March 2012. In January this year, I hosted a Sherpa meeting involving more than 50 countries in New Delhi to prepare for the Seoul Nuclear Security Summit. India has joined the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism and participates in all its activities. India has also participated in the preparatory process for negotiating an Arms Trade Treaty at the UN. India is in full compliance with its obligations as a State Party to the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention.

India's impeccable non-proliferation record has been widely recognized and was reflected in the milestone NSG decision of September 2008 on Civil Nuclear Cooperation with India. With respect to India's implementation of the Statement on Civil Nuclear cooperation, I would like to mention the following:

- India concluded the Safeguards Agreement with IAEA which entered into force in May 2009.
- An Additional Protocol was also approved by the Board of Governors in March 2009 and signed in May 2009. India is committed to its ratification as soon as necessary internal preparatory work is completed.
- With respect to implementation of the Separation Plan, we have already put 12 out of 14 reactors under IAEA Safeguards. Only two more reactors are required to be notified by 2014.
- India has signed civil nuclear cooperation agreements with France, US, Russia, Canada, Argentina, UK, Namibia, Mongolia, Kazakhstan and ROK. Negotiations are taking place with Japan on a bilateral Nuclear Cooperation Agreement. India and the United States signed an Agreement setting out Arrangements and Procedures for Reprocessing pursuant to their bilateral Nuclear Cooperation Agreement in July 2010.
- India has adhered to the NSG and MTCR guidelines and will maintain adherence. India has continued with its policy of refraining from transfer of enrichment and reprocessing technologies to states that do not possess them and supporting international efforts to limit their spread. We supported the establishment of an IAEA fuel bank resolution contained in Gov/2010/68 adopted by the IAEA Board in December 2010 and resolution GOV/2011/16 adopted by the Board of Governors in March 2011. India has the capabilities to be a supplier state.

- India has a longstanding commitment to complete, universal, non-discriminatory and verifiable elimination of nuclear weapons in a time bound manner- a vision that was set forth in the Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan. We remain committed to a voluntary and unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosive testing. We are also committed to work together for the commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a multilateral, universal, non-discriminatory and verifiable Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty.
- To sum up, India has consistent record of implementation of its voluntary commitments and has made progress since September 2008 in the implementation of the Civil Nuclear Initiative.

In November 2010, India expressed interest in taking forward this engagement with the international community to the next phase of seeking membership of the four export control regimes - NSG, MTCR, Australia Group and the Wassenaar Arrangement. We are aware that there are regime specificities. Each regime has its own membership criteria, control lists and methodology of work. But at the same time, there are underlying objectives and principles which are common to all the regimes to which India subscribes to fully as it has demonstrated responsible non-proliferation and export control practices and has shown the ability and willingness to contribute substantially to global non-proliferation objectives. In this sense, India is a 'like-minded' country that shares the same objectives and goals. Further, in a material sense given the size of India's industry and its projected growth, it is clear that India has the ability to produce, manufacture or supply a vast majority of items that are controlled by these regimes. As India's integration with the global supply chains moves forward, it would be in the interest of the four regimes that India's exports are subject to the same framework as other major supplier countries. Third, India has the ability to enforce a legally based domestic export control system which gives effect to the commitment to act in accordance with the respective guidelines of the regimes. Finally, India has developed considerable experience in the implementation of its export control system. We have witnessed instances of would be proliferators targeting India to source or route their supplies; our agencies have taken appropriate preventive action in such cases. We believe that India's participation in discussions relating to proliferation assessments, trends, licensing experiences, enforcement issues, etc. will be mutually beneficial.

We appreciate the support extended by a number of countries for the objective of India's full membership of the four export control regimes, in particular the United States, Russian Federation and France. While we wish to move forward in tandem on all the four regimes, our engagement with NSG is seen by observers as the most important. India cannot be a target of regime based restrictions.

The logical conclusion of partnership with India is its full membership of the four multilateral regimes.

India has engaged actively with all the four regimes through outreach meetings. This year, we have already completed outreach meetings with NSG in Vienna where I led the Indian delegation (March 1), and in Delhi with MTCR (30 January) and the Wassenaar Arrangement (21 March) and plan the next outreach meeting with the Australia Group in the coming weeks. From India's point of view, the main purpose and primary objective of India's enhanced and sustained engagement with these regimes is full membership. We will take forward this process of engagement and apply for membership when the necessary preparations have been completed and the ground has been prepared for India's full membership. We believe that India's membership of the four regimes will be mutually beneficial on grounds of common non-proliferation objectives, India's ability to contribute to the fulfillment of those objectives, global industry cooperation and linkages, transfers subject to the highest export control standards, sound commercial considerations and the contributions that the Indian industry can make with its expanding capabilities and highly qualified work force.

Let me conclude by quoting from Prime Ministers' statement at the Seoul Nuclear Security Summit last month. He said:

"India has never been a source of proliferation of sensitive technologies and we are determined to further strengthen our export control systems to keep them on par with the highest international standards. We have already adhered to the guidelines of the NSG and MTCR. As a like-minded country with the ability and willingness to promote global non-proliferation objectives, we believe that the next logical step is India's membership of the four export control regimes."

Seminars like this are most valuable in bringing together policy makers, administrators, experts and industry to assess various dimensions of export controls, as listed in the Programme. You have a full agenda for today's seminar and I wish you success in your deliberations.

Thank you.



066. Inaugural Address by External Affairs Minister S.. M. Krishna at the National Outreach Conference on Global Nuclear Disarmament

New Delhi, August 21, 2012.

Shri Shiv Shankar Menon, National Security Advisor,

Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, Chairman, Prime Minister's Informal Group on Global Nuclear Disarmament,

Shri Gopalkrishna Gandhi,

Shri Rajiv Bhatia, Director General, ICWA,

Ladies and Gentlemen, and Dear Students,

I would like to thank Shri Rajiv Bhatia, Director General of the Indian Council of World Affairs, for organizing this National Outreach Conference on Global Nuclear Disarmament to mark late Shri Rajiv Gandhi's birth anniversary. I would like to convey my appreciation to Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar and other members of the Informal Group which prepared a Report on the Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan in August last year. It is indeed an honour that the Hon'ble Vice President of India will be addressing this Conference later this afternoon.

Our first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru had a deep commitment to world peace, development and disarmament. He was aware that the power of the atom could advance human welfare but could also be used for destructive purposes. He was among the first world leaders to espouse the cause of nuclear disarmament and the cessation of all nuclear tests as early as 1954. During her tenure as Prime Minister Smt Indira Gandhi made untiring efforts to galvanize international opinion in favour of nuclear disarmament.

Ladies and Gentlemen, and Dear Students,

Shri Rajiv Gandhi strove during his lifetime to prepare India for the 21st century as a modern and technologically advanced country among the comity of nations in a nuclear weapon free and non-violent world order. Addressing the Third Special Session of the UN General Assembly on Disarmament in 1988, he proposed a visionary Action Plan which if implemented would have rid the world of all weapons of mass destruction by 2010.

While our quest for global nuclear disarmament has been an integral part of our independent foreign policy, it is a painful reality that achieving a nuclear weapon free world has remained a distant goal. Rampant proliferation in our extended neighbourhood and the persistence of nuclear weapons in the arsenals of other

nuclear weapon states, even after the end of the Cold War, compelled India to exercise its nuclear option after showing exemplary restraint for over three decades.

Ladies and Gentlemen, and Dear Students,

Nuclear weapons today are an integral part of our national security and will remain so, pending non-discriminatory and global nuclear disarmament. As a responsible nuclear power, we have a credible minimum deterrence policy and a posture of no-first use. We refuse to participate in an arms race, including a nuclear arms race.

We have maintained our voluntary and unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosive testing and are prepared to negotiate an FMCT in the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. We are committed to working with the international community to advance our common objectives of non-proliferation, including through strong export controls and membership of the multilateral export regimes.

As a nuclear weapon state, India's support for global, non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament has not diminished. As Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh said "Despite changes in Government and changes in political leadership, we have always tempered the exercise of our strategic autonomy with a sense of global responsibility and with a commitment to ideals of general and complete disarmament, including nuclear disarmament. The possession of nuclear weapons only increases our sense of responsibility and does not diminish it."

Ladies and Gentlemen, and Dear Students,

India has taken a number of measures including tabling a Working Paper on Nuclear Disarmament in the General Assembly in 2006. This Working Paper contains a number of proposals which retain the spirit and substance of the Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan to take us closer, in a step by step process, for achieving nuclear disarmament in a time-bound, universal, non-discriminatory, phased and verifiable manner. There is need for a universal commitment and an agreed multilateral framework that is global and non-discriminatory. There is need for a meaningful dialogue among all states possessing nuclear weapons to build the necessary trust and confidence and for reducing the salience of nuclear weapons in international affairs and security doctrines. We believe that progressive steps are needed for the de-legitimization of nuclear weapons before they are eliminated.

Pending the elimination of nuclear weapons, it is necessary to reduce nuclear risks especially of terrorists gaining access to sensitive materials and technology and even nuclear weapons. India has contributed actively to the Nuclear Security Summit Process launched by President Obama in 2010. Our resolution on this

subject in the UN General Assembly has received consensus support since it was tabled in 2002.

Global nuclear disarmament continues to be a priority in our interactions, be it at the UN Security Council, General Assembly or the Disarmament Commission, the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva or groupings such as the NAM. This subject is also discussed in bilateral dialogues with a number of countries across the spectrum- nuclear weapon states, non-nuclear weapon states, developed as well as developing states, states from afar as well as neighbours. India has a consistent position on nuclear disarmament and is heard with respect in world capitals.

Ladies and Gentlemen, and Dear Students,

The Report prepared by the Informal Group on the Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan, under the Chairmanship of Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar has made a number of recommendations most of which are consistent with existing government policies. The Report underlines that there is no contradiction between India as a nuclear weapon state and its support for global nuclear disarmament. In fact, our message carries greater weight in global forums.

As a national priority, nuclear disarmament must combine principle and pragmatism in our foreign interactions based on careful analysis of global trends. At the same time, we must build public understanding and support within the country. When Shri Aiyar ji met me in January this year, I said that the Ministry of External Affairs would be happy to extend support to an ICWA National Conference to be held in Delhi, to generate discussion and debate in the country and encourage awareness and research about global nuclear disarmament. I am pleased that such a Conference is being held to mark Shri Rajiv Gandhi's birth anniversary.

I am particularly gratified that students and scholars from a number of schools and universities are participating in the Conference and will have an opportunity to listen and debate key issues related to global nuclear disarmament. I would like to congratulate ICWA, the Chair and members of the Informal Group, various Ministries of the Government of India and of the Delhi Government as all participating schools and universities for their support and their commitment. I wish the Conference every success.

Thank you.



067. Address of Vice President at the National Outreach Conference on global Nuclear Disarmament”.

New Delhi, August 21, 2012.

“This is a timely initiative. It is doubly relevant because it is focused on the young people, on those who will shoulder in greater measure the consequences of action or inaction that can make or break dreams for a better, brighter, world of tomorrow.

All of you in this audience, and many more of our young citizens not present here, are familiar with the teachings of saints, philosophers and scientists about human nature. Each of the traits identified by them – that the human being is social, rational, moral - is valid; the difficulty is that they some time do not converge and thereby force us to choose.

These choices are made in space and time, in circumstances that vary, and in time spans that may or may not be adequate. It is also conditioned by a belief in some quarters that humans have a reservoir of aggressive energy.

These “givens” about human nature and human societies need to be questioned. A group of behavioural scientists who met in Seville in Spain in 1986 concluded that there is no scientific basis for the belief that humans are naturally aggressive and warlike. They and many others are of the view that external stimulation, rather than spontaneous internal impulses, leads to aggressive behaviour.

Despite this, the history of human societies does tell us that war is endemic; also that periods of perpetual peace have been few and far in between. Another unpalatable truth is that the inventive aspect of human genius has often excelled in improving the instruments of war-making, and by implication, of death and destruction.

This propensity touched its apogee in the twentieth century, described by an eminent strategic thinker as “mankind’s most bloody and hateful century” in which “cruelty was institutionalised to an unprecedented degree (and) lethality was organised on a mass production basis.”

The most potent instrument of death emerged in the form of atomic bombs, used on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945. Writing a few months later, in July 1946, Mahatma Gandhi said “the moral to be legitimately drawn from the supreme tragedy of the bomb is that it will not be destroyed by counter bombs”.

These words of Gandhiji became the foundational principle of India’s policy. As early as 1948 we called for the elimination of atomic weapons from national armaments and limiting the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes.

It was our late Prime Minister, Smt. Indira Gandhi, presiding over the Seventh Non-aligned Summit in 1983 in this very hall, who reminded the world that:

"The hood of the cobra is spread. Humankind watches in frozen fear, hoping against hope that it will not strike. Never before has the earth faced so much death and destruction."

She called for universal, time-bound nuclear disarmament, describing the Non-aligned Movement as "the biggest peace movement in the world."

In June 1988 Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi proposed an "Action Plan for Ushering in a Nuclear Weapon free and Non-Violent World Order". Its great virtue was that it was realistic, time-bound, and non-discriminatory. He was the first world statesman to lay before the international community a detailed and workable plan for the elimination of nuclear weapons. An amazing quarter century later, he continues to be the only Head of State or Government ever to have done so.

The global debate in the past three decades has been characterised by both sophistication and sophistry. Much lip service has been paid to the need for nuclear disarmament. Public protest movements in the United States and several European countries emerged but failed to make a lasting impact. In the meantime, the number of declared and undeclared nuclear weapon powers has increased with the threat of further proliferation looming large on the horizon.

In 1996, and on a reference from the UN General Assembly about the "Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons", the International Court of Justice at the Hague ruled by eight votes to seven that "it cannot conclude definitively whether the threat or use of nuclear weapons would be lawful or unlawful in an extreme circumstance of self-defence, in which the very survival of a State would be at stake". The Court also held, unanimously, that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament under strict and effective international control.

In its submission before the Court, India had contended that "the threat or use of nuclear weapons in any circumstance, whether as a means or method of warfare or otherwise, is illegal or unlawful under international law".

In October 2006 India presented a Working Paper in the UN focused on building confidence in the international community for universal, non-discriminatory and verifiable nuclear disarmament.

Some other developments are worthy of note. In January 2007 four eminent American "Cold War warriors" stated publicly that reliance on nuclear weapons for purposes of deterrence "is becoming increasingly hazardous and decreasingly effective". They suggested a set of specific measures that the United States should take to give shape to a vision of a world free of nuclear weapons.

In April 2009 in Prague US President Barak Obama outlined his vision of a world without nuclear weapons. Initiatives have also emanated from the UN Secretary

General and the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

It has now become abundantly clear that the debate has progressed; also that its thrust has to move from *whether* to *how*.

Given this background, I am glad the Indian Council of World Affairs has chosen to celebrate the 68th birth anniversary of Shri Rajiv Gandhi in this befitting manner.

Indeed, now that India has become a State with Nuclear Weapons, its credibility to raise the issue of Global Nuclear Disarmament is even higher. India has thus become the first and thus far only nuclear power to be in the forefront of unambiguously advocating a detailed, eminently practical and comprehensive roadmap to rid the world of the danger of instant annihilation.

The validity of the case for non-proliferation rests essentially on the Nuclear Weapon States demonstrating their commitment to the processes envisaged in Article VI of the NPT to cap, reduce and eventually eliminate their capacity to make war with nuclear weapons. While these countries have been zealous in pursuing and enforcing the goal of horizontal non-proliferation, they have been regrettably tardy in preventing and reversing vertical non-proliferation.

It was in this context that Prime Minister Manmohan Singh constituted a Group of experts, headed by Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, who had been associated with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's initiative in 1988, to examine ways in which the ideas contained in the Action Plan might best be pursued in contemporary times.

The Group, taking full note of the Working Paper circulated by the Indian delegation to the UN General Assembly in 2006, and subsequently to the Disarmament Conference in Geneva, has concluded that the several aspects of the diplomatic, political and military situation in the world are far more favourable today than they have been at any time since Hiroshima and Nagasaki to pursue India's traditional nuclear disarmament agenda with all deliberate speed. It has found that although full commitment to the Indian goal of universal, time-bound, phased and verifiable nuclear disarmament is still to be endorsed in its entirety, more governments than ever before, especially governments of Nuclear Weapon States, backed by an unprecedented upsurge of public opinion and a host of Non-Governmental Organizations and think-tanks in these countries, is prepared to work towards ending the omnipresent threat to the survival of humankind and our Planet Earth by ridding ourselves of weapons of mass destruction.

Ironically, at this juncture that is more favourable than the since the onset of the Cold war to working towards meaningful disarmament, the permanent Conference on Disarmament in Geneva is deadlocked over the question of a Fissile Materials Cut-Off Treaty. Therefore, the Report of the Group has recommended that:

- India might initiate a series of bilateral dialogues with strategic and other partners, moving progressively outwards from the core States, that is,

the United States and the Russian Federation, who between them hold about 90% of all nuclear weapon stockpiles, through a series of concentric circles of Nuclear Weapon States; then, States with Nuclear Weapons; to States with nuclear umbrellas; and Non-Nuclear Weapon States to advocating the cause of multilateral negotiations to secure an international convention on nuclear disarmament, even as earlier agreements have been secured to ban other weapons of mass destruction such as chemical weapons.

- As the time is not ripe for initiating multilateral negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament, India might initiate a series of mutually reinforcing bilateral dialogues aimed at eventually setting the stage for multilateral discussions in Geneva, leading from there, hopefully, to such a raising of the pitch of world opinion that the commencement of multilateral negotiations is facilitated.
- The importance be emphasised of harnessing the growing power of civil society, especially in the United States and other Nuclear Weapon States, in favour of sharp reductions in nuclear arsenals, leading, hopefully, to the eventual dismantlement of nuclear stockpiles and ending the manufacture of these dreadful weapons.

The Report is admittedly idealistic in its hopes and ambitions – but not impractical.

From this arises the need to build public opinion in favour of a major thrust by India in this direction. This Outreach Conference, which has brought together over 1500 students and faculty from over 30 institutions of higher education, is the first step in a long voyage that will take these and other experts to campuses and think tanks all around the country to raise awareness among the youth of our country of the very important issues of the survival of our species involved in questions of nuclear disarmament.

A word of caution here would be in order. The distinction between *nuclear weapons* and *nuclear energy for peaceful purposes* must never be lost. The former is destructive while the latter opens doors to innumerable benefits for the good of mankind. The latter, if utilised prudently, can be of immense benefit to humanity.

We cannot allow the present and succeeding generations to remain content with our having become a State with Nuclear Weapons, but recognize that notwithstanding this immense scientific, technological and strategic achievement, an India with nuclear weapons remains as vulnerable as a world with nuclear weapons to error, accident or deliberate decision plunging all of us – belligerent nations or innocent bystanders - into unimagined disaster.

The fact is, as the Report states – and I quote:

There is need for public education on nuclear disasters and incidents including a nuclear attack, and the need for a scientific Indian evaluation

of the long-term, indirect impact of a nuclear attack or war. There is an easy public acceptance of the need to keep nuclear weapons for India's protection, but almost no awareness in the public mind of the specific consequences of a nuclear conflict.

And the Report then concludes:

India must continue to pursue its vision of a non-nuclear world since a Nuclear-Weapons-Free world would be good for the Planet, good for the region and good for India.

It is this perception that provides the rationale for today's conclave involving so many young people. It is for you to imbibe the message, propagate it, enhance support for it and thereby lend a hand in the quest for a safer future. This objective goes beyond governmental policies and may even require some calibrated coaxing.

It is, after all, a matter of moral and practical necessity and leaves no room for wavering or tentativeness.

I thank the Indian Council for World Affairs for giving me the opportunity of sharing my thoughts with this audience. I wish them all success in their endeavour.



068. Joint Press Statement on India-Sri Lanka bilateral consultations on Civil Nuclear Cooperation.

New Delhi, October 12, 2012.

Please See Document No. 311



069. Opening Statement by Foreign Secretary at the 1540 Workshop on Building New Synergies on Nuclear Security.

New Delhi, November 30, 2012.

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me pleasure to extend a warm welcome to all participants to this "1540 Workshop on building New Synergies on Nuclear Security" being hosted by India in cooperation with the UNODA. I am glad that the UNSG's High Representative on Disarmament Her Excellency Angela Kane is participating in this Workshop.

We are pleased that all members of the UN Security Council, including the five incoming non-permanent members, the UNODA, a representative of the 1540 Committee and the IAEA as well as the three chairs of the Nuclear Security Summits are represented here today. India's initiative to host this Workshop was announced by India's Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh during the Nuclear Security Summit in Seoul, in March this year. It is intended to bring together important stakeholders for a brain-storming session for building synergies that would contribute to the overall objectives of nuclear security. This Workshop is an important event in the calendar of activities during this month when India is holding the Presidency of the UNSC.

This Workshop is in keeping with India's support of international efforts aimed at addressing the challenges posed by nuclear terrorism to international peace and security. As a victim of terrorism for over three decades, we are fully cognizant of the catastrophic dangers that transfers of WMDs to non-state and terrorists could entail.

The international community must join hands in eliminating the risks relating to sensitive materials and technologies falling into hands of terrorists and non-state actors. The focus on non-state actors should in no way diminish state accountability in combating terrorism, dismantling its support infrastructure or its linkages with WMD. India has highlighted the need for early conclusion of negotiations on the Draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism at the UN.

India has supported the adoption of UNSC 1977 extending the mandate of the 1540 Committee until 2012. Full implementation of UNSCR 1540 would contribute significantly to international efforts to deny non-state actors the ability to carry out acts of nuclear terrorism or gaining nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. The UN Security Council has

continued to be engaged on nuclear security including through a Presidential Statement issued in April this year.

UNSC resolution 1540 is in line with our own General Assembly resolution “Measures to prevent terrorists from gaining access to WMD”, adopted by consensus every year since it was first introduced in 2002. This year it was co-sponsored by 67 countries in the First Committee, including several countries participating in this Workshop.

India has enacted a number of effective laws and regulations and has put in place institutionalized administrative mechanisms to prohibit WMD access to terrorists and non state actors.

India is committed to maintaining effective national export controls consistent with the highest international standards and is prepared to make its contribution as a full member of the respective multilateral export control regimes.

India filed its report on UNSCR 1540 in November 2004 and has submitted periodic updates. An Indian Expert participated in the work of the 1540 Committee between 2007 and 2009. India has participated in 1540-related activities such as a Workshop on UNSCR 1540 implementation held jointly by US and Sri Lanka in Colombo in June 2009.

It was my privilege to represent India at the High Level Meeting called by the UNSG on Countering Nuclear Terrorism with a specific focus on strengthening the Legal Framework held in New York on 28 September 2012. The objectives of this High Level Meeting were in accordance with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the IAEA’s Nuclear Security Plan.

We support the broadest possible adherence by states to the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its 2005 Amendment.

We welcomed the initiative of President Obama to host the first Nuclear Security Summit in Washington in April 2010 which in many respects set new benchmarks for international cooperation on nuclear security.

The NSS process, through the second Summit in Seoul in March this year as well as the Sherpa meetings held regularly, including the one in New Delhi in January this year have helped in building pragmatic and purposeful frameworks and in fostering international cooperation.

We support the fundamental and central role of the IAEA in strengthening the international nuclear security framework. The Agency must be given the necessary authority, resources and manpower to implement the goals and priorities enumerated by the DG in his Report on Nuclear Security 2012. The

Agency can also play a central role in ensuring coordination of international activities in the field of nuclear security.

India supports the initiative of the Director General of the IAEA to hold a Meeting on Nuclear Security in July next year and intends to participate at the Ministerial level. India has contributed one million dollars for the Agency's Nuclear Security Fund. We are making progress in the establishment of the Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership which will have international training in the field of nuclear security as one of its main activities.

India is also a participant in various activities of the Global Initiative to Combating Nuclear Terrorism since joining it in 2008. The GCINT has been doing useful work in the fields of nuclear detection, nuclear forensics and response and mitigation.

The Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction has extended its mandate to 2021 and is active in a number of areas of relevance to nuclear security, including providing equipment, expertise and training.

The primary responsibility for ensuring nuclear security rests at the national level, but national responsibility must be accompanied by responsible behavior by States. We should respect national legal frameworks and national practices and processes but at the same time foster an enabling international cooperative framework.

The expressed need of states for assistance and capacity building should be promptly and effectively met. Assistance and cooperation for States requesting such assistance is a key element of the implementation process. Such assistance programmes should be suited to specific national or regional requirements. The focus of this Workshop is on building new synergies on nuclear security. While there are a number of international initiatives, there is no single silver bullet that would address the full range of challenges or needs of states. There is need to respect the different memberships and mandates of various initiatives but yet energize efforts towards our common and shared goals.

Optimal use and spread of resources will require not only avoidance of duplication but also ensuring that limited funds are used for maximum benefit. A science and technology based approach to nuclear security should go hand in hand with human resource development, training and sharing of best practices. The 1540 Committee based on its eleventh Programme of Work approved in August this year could play a useful role in raising awareness, providing assistance and cooperation with relevant international organizations in the field of nuclear security.

Our objective is to build an international norm of nuclear security that is universally shared and effectively implemented at the national, regional and international levels. An inclusive outreach process ensuring the involvement and participation of all states will be essential for long term and sustained progress on nuclear security. This question in particular was discussed most recently at the Istanbul Sherpa meeting in relation to the future of the NSS after the Summit in 2014.

The programme for the Workshop has been designed so as to provide ample opportunity for interactive and focused discussions spread over three sessions. Though formal agreed conclusions are not an objective for this Workshop we hope that all participants will make the most of this informal but inclusive setting for a free and frank exchange of views. Later this evening it will be my pleasure to host a reception to which all of you are cordially invited.

Once again a warm welcome to Delhi, and to the Ministry of External Affairs.

Thank you.



INDIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS - 2012

SECTION - III

CLIMATE CHANGE

**070. Speech of Minister for Environment & Forests
Mrs. Jayanthi Natrajan**

FROM BALI TO DURBAN AND BEYOND

New Delhi, April 11, 2012

Dr R K Pachauri,

Ambassador Chandraasekhar Dasgupta, Distinguished Fellow of TERI

Mr J M Mauskar, Special Secretary, MoEF

Mr Rashmi

Mr Yadav

Distinguished invitees, experts, members of media, ladies and gentlemen

I am really thankful to TERI and the Climate Change Forum for having given me this opportunity to talk to you today morning on an issue that deserves, commands and actually does engage considerable attention, as it should in our country and all over the world. It has become a focal point of intense national and international debate and will command special attention in the public discourse in our country in the coming years.

TERI is perhaps one of the most symbolic places in the country where we can focus upon the fact that climate change will and does impact upon virtually every aspect of life in our country, something that is vitally important for one country both internationally and in our relationships with rest of the world and further world at large. The very fact that so many of our colleagues from media are here shows how much public involvement and interest exists in this issue and I am really anxious that the debate should extend to the furthest possible space in our country so that everybody has an idea of what our country is doing. To that extent I am very grateful to TERI for having given me this opportunity because I know I have not addressed the media after our country went to Durban with the mandate of the cabinet. I believe that we, India, played an extremely constructive role both for India and as the voice of the developing world which was well received, still talked about and which I believe we will take forward in all future engagements.

The topic chosen by the Forum "From Bali to Durban and Beyond" is both topical and challenging.

I had made a statement in the Parliament on this subject immediately after my return from Durban. I am delighted that this Forum now gives me the space to express my views on the subject outside the Parliament.

I consider it critical that the public in our country understands clearly the issues underlying the decisions taken at Durban and is conscious of its implications and the possible approaches. To help this process, we have recently put out a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) in relation to Durban and Climate Change on the website of our Ministry. I recommend that you visit this website and read the material. Full clarity and a public debate on these issues are necessary in order to build a momentum for a sustainable and safer future for the coming generations both in India and across the globe. I welcome all inputs because we would like to understand what everybody is thinking on this. I firmly believe that our role is pivotal in what the world can do.

Durban was distinguished for various reasons. The intense and long-drawn negotiations in Durban ended with two major sets of outcomes. I would like to place, in the first stream of outcomes, the decisions relating to the Bali Road Map and the Cancun Agreements. The second stream relates to the new process initiated under the Durban Platform.

As for the first stream, we were able to operationalise many of the Bali and Cancun decisions. Amongst these, the most important were those relating to the Green Climate Fund, the Technology Mechanism and the Adaptation Framework. These were key decisions, particularly from developing countries point of view. These decisions address, not fully but in some measure, the long pending issues of finance, technology and adaptation agreed in the Bali Action Plan. We reinforced it, we created a structure, there are issues of undercapitalization, however we have to understand that the structure was created and Green Climate Fund was operationalized inspite of a global economic recession.

As part of the Durban package, we also put into place guidelines for transparency arrangements that were originally not a part of the Bali action Plan. These had been added to our Agenda in Cancun following the Copenhagen Accord in which our partners from developed countries had insisted on such confidence building measures in exchange for their promise to make emission reduction pledges and provide required finance to developing countries.

But, the most important gain from Durban and probably the least talked about in this stream was the establishment of the second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol. It was only because of the stand taken by BASIC and like minded countries that this decision, which had been delayed for almost 4 years, could see the light of the day. The decision is still not fully operational; the emission limits under the second commitment period of KP will be finalized only in Doha. But, the gains from this decision on KP will be visible later when we begin negotiating on the Durban Platform. I know that Canada dropped out, however, this should not take away from the fact that second commitment period was established.

The decisions on the Durban Platform constitute the second important set of outcomes in Durban. At Durban, we began a process for negotiating on post 2020 arrangements. India emerged as a key player in these negotiations. This was evident from the last minute huddle formed by the CoP President to decide upon these arrangements. It would have been perhaps easy for us to let the talks break. But, this would have been disastrous for the Durban Conference and the planet at large. However, being a responsible member of the global community, India chose to play a positive and constructive role. It was also important to keep in mind the BASIC mandate as well.

As part of our commitment to the multilateral process, we agreed in Durban to launching a process whose objective is to develop a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all parties. Under the Convention is the most vital part. The process has to be completed by 2015 with an aim to adopt the protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force from 2020. Under the Convention means CBDR and equity being very important.

India has a vital stake in the future arrangements as we are not only a major growing economy but also a society deeply vulnerable to climate change. We are committed to environmental sustainability. At the same time, we are conscious of the overriding priorities of poverty eradication which is a crucial objective of social and economic sustainability. It is critical for us to keep growing to give a chance to millions of poor lives in our country to come out of poverty. We need to ensure that our people get a fair share of global atmospheric resources, which allows them necessary space to grow and access to food, water and energy. Future arrangements therefore need to be equitable and not just fair and ambitious.

The decision on Durban Platform is part of the mutual assurances that we have exchanged with our developed country partners on enhanced and ambitious actions. The significance of this decision lies in the fact that we have ensured that the arrangements are established under the Convention. Being under the Convention implies that the arrangements are not only applicable to all parties as they must, they should also be anchored in the principles of the Convention. This is indeed a significant gain. Since we have to apply the principles of equity and CBDR in evolving these arrangements, the responsibilities/obligations in a post 2020 arrangement will clearly need to be built on the principle of equity and CBDR. Irrespective of the legal form of the final arrangements, the developing country targets under such arrangements cannot be binding, I repeat cannot be binding, until the principle of differentiation based on equity is defined and the conditions implicit in such definition of equity are met. The principle of equity will need to be elaborated through negotiations.

It is for this reason that I pleaded so strongly for equity in the Durban Conference. We managed to ensure that our three issues - equity, trade and technology related IPRs remain on the table. Equity is back on the table in form of a decision to hold a workshop. But, we will need to do substantive work on this issue. The results of the workshop should feed into the negotiations and we should press for a decision on a work-plan for equity.

With a view to move in this direction, my Ministry has organized a discussion on equity and climate change. This will take place tomorrow and the day after here in New Delhi. We have invited the BASIC countries as also a few other like minded countries from different regions of the world to deliberate on the importance of equity and the possible approaches.

Equity does not imply mere parallelism in the actions of countries in future. It is deeper than that and is linked to the potential for growth and sustainable development. At Durban we have agreed that, till 2020, the developing country targets under these arrangements will be determined on the basis of voluntary choice and with a guarantee that there will be no punitive consequences of shortfall in these domestic targets even if they are inscribed in an international document. There will be mutually agreed arrangements for verification (international consultation and analysis) of the domestic goals but the objective of such arrangements will be only to increase transparency and build confidence in mutual actions.

The post 2020 arrangements must therefore include not only binding emission reduction commitments for developed countries but also assurance that there will be no unilateral measures taken by any country in the name of climate change. Besides, the post 2020 arrangements must include commitments of developed countries in quantified and specific terms to provide financing and technology support to developing countries. Further, the arrangements should provide for a facilitative regime that ensures access to IPRs and transfer of climate friendly technologies. The arrangements may take the shape of a protocol or legal instrument, provided, always provided that above conditions are met.

Ultimately, everything rests on our ability to advance sustainable development agenda within the country even as we are willing to promote international cooperation. Without an international consensus on equity, unilateral trade measures and technology related IPRs, substantial movement under the Durban Platform will not be possible. These should be a part of an ambitious agenda if we are serious about international cooperation on climate change.

In the recent past, I have come across some references to green growth and sustainable development goals as ideas representative of equitable and sustainable growth. Some ideas relating to sustainable consumption or even

sustainable prosperity have appeared as the likely solution to the questions of sustainable development. The Rio+ 20 process is being seen as an opportunity to integrate these objectives into the sustainable development paradigm. I would like to stress here that the SDGs should not be seen as uni-dimensional objective. They must be anchored in the paradigm of equity and CBDR and should be designed in a framework that respects the differentiated responsibility and capabilities of the participating nations.

The issue of an appropriate legal form for the future arrangements by 2020 was a matter of intense debate at Durban. Some parties led, in particular, by the EU pressed for a form of agreement that should be legally binding on all Parties. We have always believed that legal form should follow the substance. A legally binding agreement, by itself, is no guarantee for increased ambition or its implementation.

Some Kyoto Protocol Parties like Canada have recently made unilateral announcements to renounce their legal obligations under the Kyoto Protocol. This is a clear pointer to the fact that a legal form is useful only as long as the party is willing to abide by it. Moreover, we are also of the view that India cannot agree to a legally binding agreement for emissions reduction at this stage of our development. Our emissions are bound to grow as we have to ensure our social and economic development and fulfill the imperative of poverty eradication.

What would be the shape of an outcome with legal force? The contours of this notion will become clear in course of negotiations. Such an outcome may include some aspirational CoP decisions, some binding CoP decisions, and setting up of new institutions and bodies. It may even include new protocols or other legal instruments as necessary to implement the decisions covering various issues with various degrees of binding-ness as per domestic or international provisions of law under the Convention.

There have been some comments on the role of SIDS and LDCs in the negotiations and their stand. I want to say this that we understand the perspective of LDCs and SIDS as much or more than anybody else in same position. Even as we try to take everyone along, we need to be firmly rooted in our national perspective on these matters. We need to build coalitions that advance the global agenda and at the same time do not compromise on the domestic priorities of sustainable development and poverty eradication.

In the coming months, we have several tasks before us. We have to spell out our views on the possible structure of the post 2020 arrangements and also our views on equity. We have given initial indications of our approach in our recent submissions to the UNFCCC in the month of February. We will elaborate it further in the future submissions.

I would like to thank you for the attention and the opportunity given to me once again. I am confident that your discussions here will give us an insight into the emerging challenges and result in a fruitful and engaging conversation.

Thank you.



071. Workshop on Equity and Climate Change**New Delhi, April 12, 2012****Chair's Summary**

A workshop on Equity and Climate Change was hosted by India in New Delhi on April 12, 2012. The workshop was inaugurated by Mrs. Jayanthi Natarajan, Minister for Environment and Forests of India and was attended by senior negotiators/representatives of Argentina, Brazil, China, Egypt, Gambia, Mauritius, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Swaziland and Thailand. Mr. Martin Khor, Director, South Centre and Ms. Meena Raman from Third World Network also attended.

2. In the context of the decision of AWG-LCA in Durban to organize a workshop on 'Equitable Access to Sustainable Development' in Bonn in May 2012 and the launch of a new process under Durban Platform, the workshop was aimed as a brainstorming opportunity to discuss the continued importance of equity and its appropriate articulation in the context of the global response to climate change and how to address this important issue as part of the forthcoming negotiations under the Durban Platform.
3. The workshop was divided into three sessions namely: 'Equity: Context, Interpretation and Approaches', 'Equitable Access to Sustainable Development – a Dimension of Equity' and 'Equity and Durban Platform'.
4. Recalling that the Convention under Article 3.1 enjoins parties to protect the climate system 'on the basis of Equity', participants in the workshop were unanimous and emphatic in their view that Equity is central to the Climate Change negotiations. Participants stressed that the Bonn workshop should enhance parties' understanding of Equity and its operationalization, and should not be an end in itself. They felt that discussions on timeframe for peaking and global goal should be guided by contextual considerations relating to implementation of actions and commitments of parties under the Convention and the needs of social and economic development and poverty eradication of developing countries. They also stressed that the outcome of the workshop should feed into the negotiations and also inform the deliberations under the Durban Platform, particularly the manner in which Equity, a key Convention principle, must be articulated in all elements of Durban Platform as also the arrangements to be devised under it. Participants also agreed that there should be more such workshops/consultations on the issue, including one during the upcoming session in Bangkok later this year.

5. Participants stressed that Durban Platform is unequivocally 'under the Convention', which implies that all the principles and provisions of the Convention would apply to the process and outcome of the Durban Platform in totality. It was strongly felt that Durban Platform should not seek to re-define or re-interpret the principles and provisions of the Convention. It was emphasized that consensus around Equity as a principle is critical for Durban Platform negotiations and a discussion on the various elements of Durban Platform must be preceded by an agreement on the principles on which it would be based upon. Many participants suggested that DP should have a workplan on Equity to address these issues.
6. Participants agreed on the need to discuss and coordinate further on the issue with other countries including at the upcoming Bonn session.



072. Media Briefing on Prime Minister's visit to Mexico for the G-20 Summit and for the Rio 20 + Summit.

New Delhi, June 15, 2012.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Syed Akbaruddin): Good afternoon friends and I welcome you to this media interaction. Thank you for being here with us this afternoon. We will focus today on the Prime Minister's visit to Mexico and to Brazil. Let me run through a few details before I ask the Hon. Minister of Environment and Forests to take over.

As you know, this is the Seventh G20 Summit that is being hosted in Mexico on 18th and 19th June, 2012. This is being hosted in Los Cabos. In addition to the G20 members and Spain, which is a permanent invitee to the G20 Summits, Mexico has also invited Benin as African Union Chair, Cambodia as the current ASEAN Chairman, Chile, Sri Lanka, and Ethiopia to attend the Summit.

The Mexican Presidency has emphasized on five priorities for their Presidency. Let me try and list them out for you.

1. Economic stabilization and structural reforms as foundations for growth and employment.
2. Strengthening the financial system and fostering financial inclusion to promote economic growth.
3. Improving international financial architecture in an interconnected world.
4. Enhancing food security, addressing commodity price volatility
5. Promoting sustainable development, green growth and the fight against climate change.

Since the discussions on the two tracks that the G20 generally undertakes have already commenced today - these are the Sherpa Track and the Finance Track - all those who are participating on our behalf in the G20 discussions are already in Los Cabos. The Deputy-Chairperson of Planning Commission Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia is the Sherpa from the Indian side. Shri R. Gopalan, Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs is handling the finance track. Hence, during the briefing today we will not be able to provide you with specific details on the substance of the discussions at the G20. However, I will share with you some details about other meetings that the Prime Minister intends to hold in Los Cabos.

As you know, apart from the G20 Summit there are usually bilateral meetings. My understanding is that the Prime Minister is likely to hold several such bilateral

meetings, and I will try and indicate to you those which have been firmed up. These are with Mr. Felipe Calderon, President of Mexico; Ms. Angela Merkel, Chancellor of Germany; Mr. Vladimir Putin, President of Russia; Mr. Francois Hollande, President of France. And in addition, the BRICS leaders are to meet in Los Cabos. Apart from these there are a couple meetings that are being scheduled. Once we have the details, we will announce them in terms of timing etc.

I would also like to tell you about some of the other members of the delegation of the Prime Minister who are accompanying him there apart from the two that I have mentioned. They are: Shri T.K.A Nair, Advisor to the Prime Minister; Shri Shivshankar Menon, National Security Advisor; Shri Pulok Chatterjee, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister; and Shri Ranjan Mathai, Foreign Secretary.

In addition, Prime Minister will also attend the UN Conference on Sustainable Development popularly known as the Rio+20 Summit. And we are fortunate today to have with us the Hon. Minister of State with Independent Charge for Environment and Forests, Shrimati Jayanthi Natarajan, who is our Principal Negotiator at the Rio+20. She is assisted by Dr. Tishya Chatterjee, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests.

The Hon. Minister has kindly agreed to brief all of you on the Rio+20. After that, as usual, she will be available for a short question and answer session to clarify any issues that you may have.

With this introduction, I will hand over to the Minister so that she can make her brief opening remarks, and following that we will have the usual question and answer session.

The Hon. Minister.

Minister of State of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (Shrimati Jayanthi Natarajan): Thank you and good afternoon.

We stand on the eve of leaving for the very momentous and historic Rio+20 Conference which all of you are undoubtedly aware of. It is a very momentous conference because we celebrate twenty years of implementation of the goals of the First Earth Summit which was held in 1992.

The first Rio Conference, if you all will remember, was very significant because it laid out for the first time twenty years ago the concept of sustainability of the development process. I want to emphasize here that sustainability at that time and today is essentially a development ideal. Over the years it has been refined to further highlight also environmental concerns.

The first Rio Conference itself took major steps. Three conventions were set up - the Climate Change Convention, the Biodiversity and the Desertification. Therefore, at the Rio+20 Conference, where Heads of Government and our own

Hon. Prime Minister will participate, will focus upon reviewing how the commitments made at the First Earth Summit and the three Conventions have been implemented.

There is a Zero Draft text which is under discussion, which has been negotiated for some time now. Without taking too much of your time, I will give you the highlights of that Zero Draft. It is called, "The Future We Want". It deals with several important ideas. The most important sections currently under discussion are those relating to our common vision, renewing political commitment, green economy, institutional framework for sustainable development, and framework for action and follow-up.

Two of the themes of all the themes that are there in the Rio Conference have generated particular interest. These are those relating to green economy and institutional framework. There is also an expectation that issue of sustainable development goals (SDGs) will be discussed as a deliverable of the Rio Conference under the framework of action and follow-up, that chapter.

These are not the only issues. A very important issue according to us is means of implementation. Most importantly, the principles on the basis of which actions have to be taken by countries and the manner in which the Rio principles are reaffirmed and implemented which will be key to whatever the outcome of Rio is.

I just want to tell you first about the concept of green growth. It is usually understood as a reference to low carbon growth or a climate resilient economy. This according to the Indian position, as mandated by Cabinet, is a very restrictive interpretation of green growth and of green economy. We are very particular that green growth should not be seen as a normative concept. We would like a discussion on green economy to focus on evolving and adopting policies that promote environmentally friendly economic growth while respecting national circumstances, and most importantly preserving national policy space for action.

The concept of green economy cannot aim to replace or supplant internationally agreed concept of sustainable development. And very importantly there should be a balance between the three pillars of economic growth, social equity and environmental protection. So, the Indian position focuses mainly upon a balance of the three pillars, namely, economic growth, social equity and environment protection.

And the particular thrust of our negotiating ideal would be to thrust upon the question of equity and the question of common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR) which have already been articulated in the original Rio principles.

We are also very particular that Rio+20 outcomes should not result in any trade restrictive measures or protectionist policies in the name of green growth, and that sustainable development and poverty eradication are overriding priorities

for the international community. Therefore, green growth must be seen as one of the means of achieving these overriding priorities.

We want the key message to emerge from the Rio Conference as follows. The Conference should commit itself to sustainable development. It should reaffirm commitment to the Rio principles and common but differentiated responsibilities which is essential to preserve global partnership on sustainable development. We want to reaffirm the right to food, to safe drinking water, sanitation, health and education, and respect human rights based approaches. We feel that existing commitments of developed countries need to be implemented and the declaration should be followed up with action. We also feel that there is a need for new, additional, predictable and public finance from developed countries.

If the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have to be applied universally, there must be agreement on common but differentiated responsibilities. And Sustainable Development Goals, I would like to emphasize very strongly, have to be voluntary, aspirational, non-binding, and there should be no insistence on any thematic growth.

Finally, I just want to mention five quick steps which India has taken. It is not that we do not believe in green growth. We have taken important steps in the direction of green growth or low carbon development. We have agreed to reduce emissions intensity of our GDP by 20 to 25 per cent by 2020 in comparison with 2005. As part of the National Action Plan on Climate Change, a target of 20,000 MW of solar energy generation is being actively pursued under the National Solar Mission.

National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency covers 478 industrial units in six sectors mandated to achieve specific benchmarks in terms of energy efficiency. National Mission on Sustainable Habitat includes plans to achieve energy efficiency in buildings, transport and urban planning. And the Twelfth Five-Year plan, which is now under preparation, will contain a separate chapter on climate change. And the strategy for lower carbon inclusive growth is expected to be integrated under the plan.

Thank you.

Official Spokesperson: The floor is now open for questions.

Question: Jayanthiji, what kind of preparations have been done within BRICS countries in the lead up to the Rio+20 Summit, particularly on the nonbinding clauses regarding SDGs?

Minister of State of the Ministry of Environment and Forests: Very important steps. Not just BRICS, G77 plus China, we see our vision as being anchored in a shared vision of all developing countries. In the year-long or even longer negotiations, in the run-up, continuous meetings between all the countries of G77 and China and various other formations as well, friendly countries, BASIC,

BRICS, all the countries separately but basically anchored in G77 plus China, so that the voice of developing countries is heard loud and clear and the principles of equity and CBDR are clearly enunciated and put forward just like we did in Durban. So, the negotiations have emphasized this very clearly, have also shown our unity and we intend to take that forward.

Question: Are you saying India and China ... *(Inaudible)*...

Minister of State of the Ministry of Environment and Forests: I am saying G77 plus China. We are anchored in a position with G77 and China, and we hope to take that forward.

Question: Madam, Prime Minister is going at a time when there is a lot of domestic pressure on because of recent political developments on who the President is going to be. Is there tension? Is this trip going to be tense because of domestic situation?

Minister of State for Environment and Forests: Absolutely not. This is a political democracy. The Congress is a party which is more than a century old. The Prime Minister has been the Prime Minister of this country, this is well into his second term. We honour and go forward with our international commitments. We have a robust Chairperson of the UPA. We have a party that functions, an alliance that functions. There is no tension.

Question: Just a follow-up to her question. Why did you all take so long to say that PM is not in the running?

Minister of State for Environment and Forests: But this is about Rio+20. Actually, I am here as a Minister. I would not be appropriate for me to ...

She anchored it in the trip.

Question: What is this you explained about G77 and China? What is the stand of BASIC countries? And what are the non-negotiables for India at Rio?

Minister of State for Environment and Forests: I would not assert that G77 plus China have total agreement on all issues. It is an ongoing process. It is developing even as I speak. Our negotiators are there. We are trying to anchor a position of G77 plus China. We are also talking to the BASIC countries. I think that we have made substantial progress. As far as India is concerned, the non-negotiables are: any compromise on the question of equity, and CBDR; and any attempt to make these SDGs in any way binding upon developing countries, binding rather than voluntary or aspirational.

As you know, Millennium Development Goals were announced unilaterally and developing countries took it. We believe that sustainable development goals should be voluntary and aspirational, and most importantly supported by means of implementation (MOI) which includes, as you know, finance, no restrictive trade barriers and so on.

Question: Madam, you said your goal would be that the outcome of the Rio Summit does not lead to unfair restrictive trade practices in the name of green economy.

Minister of State for Environment and Forests: That is correct.

Question: Have you coordinated your strategy with the BRICS countries and other countries?

Minister of State for Environment and Forests: As I said, we have actually been negotiating as a group along with G77 plus China, not just BRICS, both BRICS, BASIC, several formations, including a larger formation of G77 plus China.

Question: For the past several rounds of negotiations, same stand has been taken by the developing countries and the US and other countries. There has been no movement forward. What prospects do you see?

Minister of State of the Ministry of Environment and Forests: I think there is movement forward. I think we have to continue to meet. I believe I am extremely optimistic that we will be able to take our vision forward. I do not accept any formulation that there is no movement forward. I believe that twenty years down the road we will be able to assert very strongly that the Rio principles must be reaffirmed.

Question: Can you list some of the things where you see a movement forward?

Minister of State of the Ministry of Environment and Forests: The very fact that developing countries (*inaudible*)....., the original Rio principles stressed upon means of implementation, upon fast-track funding, 30 billion. For example in climate change we have set up Green Climate Fund. So, we are very hopeful that the finance will be forthcoming from developed countries.

Question: ... (*Inaudible*) ...

Minister of State for Environment and Forests: It hasn't. But we keep talking about it. And we are very hopeful that at this forum we will be able to emphasize that unfair trade restrictions, unilateral trade restrictions will not be acceptable. So, we will continue to talk because the issues are very important. I think the most important step forward is the fact that we have highlighted that sustainable development consists of a balance between three pillars. Poverty eradication is the most important thing, and equity and CBDR are as important as anything else as far as developing countries are concerned.

Question: Madam Minister, this 20 to 25 per cent reduction in carbon emissions by 2020 we are offering to do that, but it should be voluntary or aspirational. You do not want any imposition or any particular binding. Number two, is India

expecting any portion of the funds that developed countries are expected to put together to cope with the carbon question? And are the developing countries going to take a united stand on Europe's decision to impose carbon tax on flights?

Minister of State of the Ministry of Environment and Forests: With regard to your first question, this is something that Prime Minister announced. And we have said very proudly that this is a declaration that shows our commitment, our very serious commitment to the rationalization of climate change and our commitment to sustainable development as well as the environment. This is a voluntary goal that we have set for ourselves. And we have gone, I think, a great way forward because we have introduced legislation that mandates that energy efficiency should be achieved within a particular time. We have gone a great way forward. This in fact reinforces my submission that the goals should be voluntary, aspirational, and nonbinding, because we have done far more than any developed countries have done, because this was a unilateral announcement by our Prime Minister in addition to saying that we will never exceed the per capita emissions of any developed country which he made in Heiligendamm. So, this is something that we have done voluntarily.

As far as EU ETS is concerned, Ministry of Environment has taken strong objection at the UNFCCC to say that this is a restrictive, unilateral trade measure disguised as climate change action, and that EU should not impose it. I have written to the EU Commissioner Connie Hedegaard and we have had talks about it even at the EU Summit. We have taken strong objection to introducing the EU ETS tax - I think they deferred it by about a year right now but we will continue to - and to the maritime levy if it comes forward. We are hoping for new additional funding, What the developed countries are saying is that it can be private. They are showing the recession as a reason. And they say it should be private, you should leave people to raise it. But we are insisting, and we have argued at the negotiating table, we are continuing to argue that it should be additional, predictable and public finance, that governments make commitments, they should also provide for realization – 30 billion USD per year from 2013 to 2017, 100 billion USD per year from 2018 onwards. In fact, we have pointed out at negotiations that United Nations studies have shown that we need at least 1.9 trillion US dollars per year, that is developing countries need, towards sustainable development actions if we are to fulfill it; and therefore, developed countries must set clear paths to achieve internationally agreed Overseas Development Aid (ODA) the target of 0.7 per cent of their GNP to indicate their seriousness. They have made a commitment earlier. We want to reaffirm that that commitment is translated into action.

Question: ...*(Inaudible)*...

Minister of State for Environment and Forests: 1.7 to 1.8. (Inaudible)

Question: Madam, we know that financial aspect is going to play a very important part so far as implementation aspect is concerned as you have very clearly defined as to what all is needed and the commitments made by developed countries in the past. Considering the Eurozone crisis we all are aware that the developed countries are trying to pull back on so many fronts. Keeping that in mind, to what extent is G77 ready to go ahead? And whenever we see these kind of discussions - we have seen in Durban, we have seen in Cancun - so many things are sacrificed in the last moment, so many compromises are made at the last moment. From India's stand or stand of G77, if there is a roadblock on these aspects - we have said that we are going to stand by Brazil being a friendly nation to us - to what extent is India going to stay in that case because we have also heard that Brazil may dilute its stand too on the financial aspect?

Minister of State for Environment and Forests: I do not want to comment on Brazil's stand because Brazil is our host. As the Chair of the Rio Summit they may have a particular way of dealing with the issue. As far as the Indian stand is concerned, it is crystal clear. It is what I outlined earlier. This is what Prime Minister has desired. This is what Cabinet has cleared. I have my redlines and this will be the basis of our negotiation, and this will be basis of the negotiation even within G77, within BASIC, within BRICS and at the table. I have my redlines.

Question: Madam, can you share with us what will be the agenda or the stance at the G20 particularly in the context of within BRICS Brazil had said that it might cap its funding for the IMF if there is no reform in the IMF quota? Are we going to endorse Brazil's view? What will be our stance?

Official Spokesperson: I think you came a little later after I started the initial announcement. I mentioned, both our negotiators at the G20 are right now in Los Cabos and they are involved in the negotiations. So, at this stage we do not want to say anything which will prejudice the negotiations. However, those of you who are traveling with the Prime Minister will have occasion to interact with Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia as soon as you arrive there on the 17th. I am sure you can put this question to him and he will answer that. So, for the G20 all our negotiators are already there and they are the best persons to answer your question and we will leave it till then. If you are coming, you will have opportunity to ask that question there.

Question: Madam, since Earth Summit is happening when Eurozone crisis is getting rather complicated, don't you think that the crisis and its impact on developing countries will derail the whole process of commitment to green economy, the commitment that you said?

Minister of State for Environment and Forests: As I said very clearly in my

initial remarks, no carbon growth, green economy, all these are issues first have to deal with the issue of poverty as far as developing countries are concerned, have to deal first with equity, with poverty eradication, and we then take it forward from there. And I have listed out the measures that we have taken voluntarily for the green economy. As far as the developed countries are concerned, we do understand their compulsions in view of the Eurozone crisis. But the fact remains that as far as climate change is concerned, as far as sustainable development is concerned, they have gone ahead and they have made commitments even twenty years ago when the First Earth Summit was concerned. And I would like to remind all of you what our late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi said that poverty is the greatest polluter.

Question: This is about the G20. You mentioned the Prime Minister's meetings which have been scheduled. Has any meeting been sought by either side between the Prime Minister and the President of the US, and the Chinese Head of State?

Official Spokesperson: As regards the Chinese, there is a BRICS leaders meeting. So, President Hu Jintao will be present there and he will participate in that meeting in Los Cabos. There are no other meetings with the President of the United States as of now under consideration.

I may just add one last point. I had mentioned these meetings, these were for Los Cabos. Maybe I should share with you the meetings that the Prime Minister will have bilaterally in Rio. These are: with the Prime Minister of Nepal Mr. Baburam Bhattarai; with the President of Sri Lanka Mr. Mahinda Rajapakse; Mr. Yayi Boni, the President of the Republic of Benin, who is the Chair of the African Union. In addition, the Prime Minister will also meet former President of Brazil Mr. Lula. We are also working on two other meetings. That will perhaps be worked out during the course of next few days. At this stage we are still trying to schedule these meetings.

That is all that we have for you today. Thank you very much.



073. Statement by the Prime Minister prior to his departure for Mexico to attend the G-20 Summit and Brazil to attend the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20).

New Delhi, June 16, 2012.

I leave today to attend the G-20 Summit in Los Cabos, Mexico at the invitation of President Felipe Calderon. I will, thereafter, travel to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil to attend the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) at the invitation of President Dilma Rousseff.

G-20 Leaders will meet once again in the shadow of the economic crisis in the Eurozone and a faltering global economy. This situation in Europe is of particular concern as Europe accounts for a significant share of the global economy and is also India's major trade and investment partner. Continuing problems there will further dampen global markets and adversely impact our own economic growth. It is our hope that European leaders will take resolute action to resolve the financial problems facing them.

The other issue of immediate concern is the need to revive global growth. It is imperative that the G-20 countries work in coordination to implement policies that promote sustained growth. India has been pursuing this objective in its capacity as the Co-Chair of the Working Group on the "Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth". I will stress the need to ensure primacy of the development dimension in G-20 deliberations and the need to focus on investment in infrastructure as a means of stimulating global growth.

BRICS countries have been the new growth poles of the global economy. At the Fourth BRICS Summit in New Delhi in March this year, BRICS Leaders agreed to work with the international community to ensure international policy coordination to maintain macroeconomic stability conducive to the healthy recovery of the global economy. As current Chair of BRICS, India will host an informal meeting of BRICS Leaders prior to the commencement of the G-20 Summit to exchange views on the agenda of the Summit.

We have come a long way since the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992. Environmental concerns today occupy the centre-stage of global discourse. Yet, we are far from pursuing a truly sustainable path towards development. The UN Conference on Sustainable Development is an historic opportunity to give meaningful content to the paradigm of sustainable development. At its heart lies the imperative of moving away from a resource intensive development path while ensuring inclusive and balanced development for eradicating the grinding poverty that afflicts millions.

The Rio+20 Conference is likely to debate complex and contentious issues such as green economy and Sustainable Development Goals. I will emphasize

that we must not dilute the cardinal principles of Rio 1992, particularly the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities as well as equity, which have been at the core of global sustainable development efforts. We must acknowledge the continuing differences in levels of development across the world, and the need for provision of financial and technological support to the developing world if we are to work together as a global community to address our most pressing environmental challenges. India will work with like-minded countries to forge a consensus in this endeavour.

During my visit I look forward to separately meeting President Felipe Calderon, President Vladimir Putin, Chancellor Angela Merkel, President Francois Hollande, Prime Minister David Cameron, Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Premier Wen Jiabao, President Mahinda Rajapaksa, Prime Minister Jigmi Y. Thinley, Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai, President Boni Yayi and other leaders.



074. Opening Remarks by Minister of State for Environment and Forests at the Media Interaction in Rio de Janeiro.

Rio de Janeiro, June 20, 2012.

I am very pleased to be interacting with friends from the media, in this lovely city of Rio.

Right at the outset, I must thank our host Brazil for their excellent arrangements for the Conference and also warmly congratulate them for their leadership in ensuring a speedy conclusion of the Rio+20 outcome document. I commend the Brazilian Presidency for the transparent and inclusive way this process was handled and the fine balance they were able to achieve in the outcome document which is key for its acceptance by all delegations.

As far as India is concerned, the outcome document takes into consideration our interests and concerns and we are satisfied with the overall package. India was constructive at Rio and, in addition to our own proposals, which met with widespread support, our delegation played a crucial role in bridging differences and building consensus on many important issues.

One significant development has been the restoration of the centrality of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities in the environmental discourse. Equity and its manifestation, the principle of CBDR, are at the heart of international cooperation for sustainable development and we are glad that we have collectively agreed on this key issue, which is of great significance to developing countries, not least in the climate change context.

The outcome document also clearly recognizes poverty eradication as the greatest global challenge. In doing so, it places this squarely at the centre of the global development agenda.

The conference will also be remembered for kick-starting the process on Sustainable Development Goals. Since they are expected to become a part of the post-2015 global development agenda, SDGs will hopefully guide the international community towards inclusive sustainable development. We are happy that this process and its outcome will be guided by the Rio principles, respect national circumstances, priorities and capacities.

We are satisfied that no specific goals and targets have been agreed a priori and we look forward to engage constructively in the intergovernmental process to outline and develop goals that would be applicable to all countries, not just developed countries, integrate the three pillars sustainable development, respect CBDR and involve meaningful action by all parties and not constrain development.

We have also recognized Green Economy as one of the means to sustainable development and poverty eradication, and have firmly rejected unilateral measures and trade barriers under the guise of Green Economy.

While we remain disappointed with the weak political will in developed countries to provide enhanced means of implementation to developing countries, we are glad that we have agreed to set up two important mechanisms one for Technology Transfer and another for Finance. Both were Indian proposals, which received strong support from G77 countries, including from Africa, LDCs and small island states. We now keen to collectively ensure that these mechanisms are operationalized and deliver effectively for developing countries.

This evening I was invited to address a High-level round table, where I highlighted that it was ironical that we not only faced a global meltdown - but simultaneously staring at a total environmental meltdown. Thus we are here today to talk once again about the rights of Earth and her children not the rights of polluters, whoever they may be.

I mentioned that I represented 1.2 billion people and that our challenge was to create a robust economy and eradicate poverty while at the same time, ensure that our poor who are already deeply vulnerable to climate change disasters, are not further impacted.

Permit me to point out the difference between the environmentalism of the rich and the environmentalism of the poor. The rich countries grew, developed and polluted the world. Consequently, when the environment movements came, they had the money to clean up. Our nascent growth and economy start our growth trajectory with the problems of a polluted world.

Our fundamental challenge is to do more with less. Frugality and innovation will be our way to growth and our challenge will be to provide the gains of development to the vast majority of our people to make growth sustainable and affordable.

The efficiency revolution brought few results. The sufficiency revolution should begin. As Mahatma Gandhi said, we have enough to satisfy everyone's need but not everyone's greed.

When we talk of the Green Economy, India is committed to a Green World Economy but, I must hasten to add, a real green economy - not a Green Washed Greed Economy, as our environmentalist says.

We are committed to a green economy that does not commodity nature and one which protects local communities. Therefore, the market driven green economy - the old paradigm of trading in land, water and forests cannot continue in a business as usual scenario for this is a failed paradigm. Local communities have to be protected and involved. Local solutions have to be operationalised. Green Economy has to be bottoms up and democratised. Otherwise it will be no more than green-wash. Cost of Green Development cannot be unaffordable for the poor.

I also pointed out in the roundtable that India has already taken several steps to promote green growth in the context of sustainable development including plans for emissions intensity reduction by 20-25% by 2020 over 2005, for 20,000 MW of solar energy, Prime Minister's National Missions for enhanced energy efficiency, sustainable habitat etc.

Thank you.



075. Statement of the Prime Minister at the Plenary of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20 Summit).

Rio de Janeiro, June 21, 2012.

Mr. President

Excellencies,

Ladies & Gentlemen,

Let me begin by congratulating President Dilma Rousseff for hosting this conference and for her outstanding stewardship of the negotiations. We thank the people of Brazil for their warm hospitality and the excellent arrangements made for this conference. Brazil, like India, is a confluence of cultures and peoples. I feel honoured to be among you.

Mr. President,

We meet at a time of serious economic crisis and political ferment in the world. The Rio+20 Summit on Sustainable Development is timely because it focuses our minds on “the future we want” and how to realize it. Difficult though it may seem, we have to summon the imagination to balance the costs that we will incur in the present with the benefits that will accrue to future generations.

Economic Development, social inclusion and environmental sustainability are all equally critical as components of sustainable development. The task before us is to give practical shape and content to this architecture in a manner that allows each country to develop according to its own national priorities and circumstances.

For developing countries, inclusive growth and a rapid increase in per capita income levels are development imperatives. The 1992 Rio Summit correctly acknowledged that poverty eradication must remain the over-riding priority for developing countries. Those living at the subsistence level cannot bear the costs of adjustment and their livelihood considerations are important in determining how scarce natural resources such as land, water and forests are used. The severe deterioration of land and water resources is already affecting the well-being of millions of people living on the edges of subsistence, particularly women and children.

Sustainable development also mandates the efficient use of available natural resources. We have to be much more frugal in the way we use natural resources. A key area of focus is energy. We have to promote, universal access to energy, while, at the same time, promoting energy efficiency and a shift to cleaner energy sources by addressing various technological, financial and institutional

constraints. In India, we are implementing an ambitious National Solar Mission as a critical option for our energy security.

Moreover, current consumption patterns in the industrialized world are unsustainable. We need to find new pathways for sustainable living.

Environmental sustainability is the third leg of the sustainable development architecture. Economic activity invariably results in negative spinoffs, either by way of local pollution, or by way of global effects such as Greenhouse Gas emissions. We need to tackle both.

Local pollution can be regulated and such regulation may impose costs on various economic actors. To ensure equity, there may be a case for targeted assistance to small producers to meet part of these costs and this should be built into policy.

At the global level, our approach to the problem should be guided by equitable burden sharing. It is for this reason that the first Rio Summit enshrined the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. I am happy we have reaffirmed this principle as well as the principle of equity during this Summit

This does not, however, mean that countries should not take proactive actions to promote sustainable development. In India, our efforts over the last two decades have yielded positive results. Over the period 1994-2007, our emissions-GDP intensity, excluding agriculture, has declined nearly 25%. Looking ahead, we have set a target to further reduce the emissions intensity of GDP by 20-25% between 2005 and 2020.

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. The ongoing economic crisis has made matters worse.

One of the key challenges that demands urgent global action is the worrying depletion of bio-diversity across our planet. The Eleventh Conference of Parties on Convention on Biodiversity is being hosted by India in October this year at Hyderabad. We look forward to working with the global community to make it a success.

Mr. President,

The future we want should be a future in which there is ecological and economic space for sustainable growth for all.

Let us work together to attain the future that we all desire. With these words I once again thank you Mr. President.



076. Media Briefing by Foreign Secretary and India's Deputy Permanent Representative at the United Nations on Prime Minister's Bilaterals and Rio+20 Conference.

Rio de Janeiro, June 21, 2012.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Syed Akbaruddin): Good afternoon friends. Thank you very much for coming to this briefing. We have here with us Foreign Secretary who will brief us on Prime Minister's bilateral meetings. After that, if any of you would like any information on the ongoing Summit, we also have with us Mr. Manjeev Puri who is Deputy Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, who has been involved in the entire process for the last several months on the Rio+20 Conference.

With that I will now first ask Foreign Secretary to brief you about the bilaterals that Prime Minister had.

Foreign Secretary (Shri Ranjan Mathai): Prime Minister had bilateral meetings with Prime Minister of Nepal Mr. Baburam Bhattarai and with President of Sri Lanka Mahinda Rajapaksa. During the session yesterday he also briefly spoke to President Waheed of the Maldives.

There is a possibility we are going to have a pull-aside both with the President of Maldives and with Prime Minister Thinley of Bhutan during the session this afternoon. As soon as I get something on those I will find the time to speak about them but I thought I will just mention the two meetings which took place first with Nepal.

Prime Minister and Prime Minister Bhattarai recalled the good meetings they had held last year both during Prime Minister Bhattarai's visit to India and the meeting they had on the sidelines of the SAARC Summit which was in November in Addu. Prime Minister Bhattarai did mention that subsequently after those two very productive meetings there had been a preoccupation with domestic politics in Nepal. But he underlined that they continue to attach very great importance to taking forward the bilateral relationship with India.

Referring to the internal security in Nepal, Prime Minister Bhattarai noted that on what is called the peace process and integration there had been great progress and the issues had been more or less settled. But the drafting of the Constitution was not completed by the May 27 deadline, and hence they had no option, since the Supreme Court had said that the Constituent Assembly could not be extended, so the decision was to seek another election.

As far as our Prime Minister is concerned, he reiterated that India wants the success of democracy in Nepal. And he expressed the hope that all parties

would show the wisdom to work together so that acceptable arrangements are made to complete the Constitution-making process on time.

In terms of the bilateral relationship, PM said that as a friend of Nepal we are committed to support it in the development process and we would support Nepal in a manner which is sought by the Nepalese people, but we in India do have a vision of the working together.

The Prime Minister of Nepal referred to negotiations with Indian companies for hydropower projects. And our Prime Minister said he recognized that this is an area of particularly great importance in our relationship. But at the moment we are in the process of helping Nepal deal with some development challenges which include supply of power from India to Nepal. It was agreed that the Joint Commission which is chaired by the two Foreign Ministers should meet as soon as feasible and look at all areas including power, railways and other areas of our interaction.

The Prime Minister and Prime Minister Bhattarai also reviewed security matters and the working of our mechanisms to deal with security cooperation. Prime Minister Bhattarai recalled that he had invited PM to visit Nepal, and PM said that he would be very happy to visit at a mutually convenient time.

The two leaders also discussed the conference which is under way here, and had the sense that outcome was, as they could see it, favourable in terms of how both countries looked at it.

With President Mahinda Rajapaksa of Sri Lanka, PM started first with a one-on-one discussion and then in delegation-level meeting. They covered all bilateral relations. On security related issues, they noted that our dialogue would be taken forward on the 29th June when the National Security Advisor Mr. Menon would be visiting Colombo. There was a substantial discussion on our economic relations, and the Power Minister of Sri Lanka gave an update on Sampur Power Project which is one of the very big projects being undertaken in Sri Lanka as a joint venture between the Ceylon Power Board and the NTPC.

In terms of the overall relationship, both felt that the scope for progress was very great and we must now concentrate on dealing with those areas where we can make good progress.

The President also referred to the situation within Sri Lanka and mentioned the continuing discussions on the issue of devolution. But the large focus was on what is being done for the rehabilitation of Internally Displaced People. He quoted the figure of about 3,000 who now continue to remain in the camps compared to 300,000 when the war ended.

He also noted that the resettlement process was under way, and electrification

of the Northern Region, the Power Minister being present mentioned, was also making very good progress. They said that as much as 95 per cent electrification had been restored in Jaffna, and in the other areas in the Northern Province it was between 50 and 70 per cent.

Prime Minister once again underlined the great importance we attach in India to the ability of the Tamil people to lead a life of dignity and as equal citizens of that country. We expressed our intention to continue our assistance programmes. The housing project which India is undertaking will start actually disbursing funds to the beneficiaries for the houses in Sri Lanka by sometime next month because ... (*Inaudible*)... And we also reiterated our intention to continue all our bilateral assistance programmes in the economic field.

That is about it. If there are any specific queries on it I will answer them. Otherwise, Manjeev will talk about the Conference.

Question: Sir, one question. There is a very big possibility in Nepal to produce power through hydro technology. Experts say that more than 40,000 MW can be produced. So, there is a good talk between our Prime Minister and Nepalese Prime Minister regarding the power also. Is there any possibility of any deal to construct any joint venture project to produce power? We are here in Rio+20, we are talking about the Green Economy and the way we are focusing on nuclear energy, these sources are really easy and really solvable.

Foreign Secretary: I fully agree with you. They are a tremendous resource. The Prime Minister mentioned that some discussions have already started with the Indian companies which are involved in specific project proposals. You are aware that even a few years ago some of the Indian private sector companies had gone in, and some of the public sector units had also started negotiations. But because of the security situation and the uncertain political climate, no progress was made.

The Prime Minister said that he hoped - the fact that there now the Constitution-making process is at a very advanced stage - he did believe that the investment climate would improve. It was also noted that between India and Nepal, we have entered into both a Bilateral Investment Promotion Agreement and a Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement. These were done only end of last year, and they have been ratified. So, this would increase the confidence of potential investors. So, they expect to make some progress in this field and there was no specific project mentioned.

Question: There was a whole set of agreements between Bhattarai and the Prime Minister in the two meetings there, especially in Bhattarai's trip to Delhi. Bhattarai's Government is now in a severe danger of collapse given that the Madhesia Party and the Maoists have both split under their primary components.

Is there any concern or any reassurance that the agreements that we have done with Bhattarai and the promises we have made to him or both sides have made to each other will stand even after his Government falls?

Foreign Secretary: There was no specific reference to the agreements which we signed apart from, as I said, the Bilateral Investment Protection Agreement and the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement. Those are in place and they would be expected to continue. The point is that they at the moment are in a state where an election has been announced by the Prime Minister for November. Whether that election actually will be held on that date is still to be actually confirmed because the Supreme Court had actually made the conclusion of the Constituent Assembly on May 27, and an issue has been raised through a petition to the court that under the interim Constitution under which they were functioning, there is no provision for holding such an election. That the courts will decide on it. So, what I am trying to say is that there is a degree of political fluidity right now which I think we need to get through this period. But as far as all the bilateral mechanisms at the official level are concerned, those continue. As far as we are concerned, the agreements which have been signed are government-to-agreements, and those will be maintained.

Official Spokesperson: Since there are no further questions, I will ask Mr. Manjeev Puri to make his opening remarks, and then if there are any questions he will take them.

India's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations (Mr. Manjeev Singh Puri):M Akbar, thank you very much.

I think most members of the group here were briefed yesterday by the Hon. Minister of State for Environment on the salient features of the Outcome Document which is likely to be adopted tomorrow here. I am quite prepared to answer anything in addition, if you wish to know.

But I think it is also instructive to note if any of you have followed the statement of the President of Brazil when she inaugurated the Plenary yesterday where she pointed out that in this particular conference, it is extremely important to note that developing countries have been able to re-emphasise not only the Rio principles but bring to the fore that in the year 2012 poverty eradication continues to remain our overriding priority, and that we need to do all that we can to tackle this particular thing especially in the context of MDGs and the future development goals.

I think it is also very important to note that we have an agreement which is a good and balanced agreement, perhaps the best that was possible under the circumstances that the world faces today and which are fairly well-known to all of you.

I want to stop here now. If there is something very specific which the Hon. Minister may not have addressed yesterday, please go ahead. Thank you very much.

Question: The question really is as far as the earlier goals of funding being made available to developing countries for meeting certain goals. Now there is no funding. The earlier commitments have not been met. Therefore, on what basis are we concluding that there is a significant success because the reportage from the developed world is actually slamming this entire exercise?

India's Deputy PR to the UN: I think we need to be of course very cognizant that we are meeting at a time when there are serious economic challenges in the world, and certainly you are well aware and familiar with what the developed countries are going through. The Rio Conferences in the past too, what have they reaffirmed in 1992 is the set of principles and the mechanisms. In this particular conference we have agreed in terms of the draft outcome document to set up two mechanisms - one to deal with the area of financing and the other to deal with the area of technology. This is a significant breakthrough especially considering the circumstances. These are the mechanisms which will then look at ways and means by which we can reach either figures or ways and means of reaching those figures.

So, this is a document which obviously has a certain degree of balance, certain degree of being rooted in the realities of the world today. But it is a document which recognizes very clearly that the developing world could do much more provided it was assisted both in terms of technology and in terms of finance.

In terms of what you are hearing from the developed world, again I think you need to recognize this, and I can perhaps just tell you what Dr. Pachauri said to me just a few minutes back when I saw him in the corridor that look when they could afford it, they were not willing to do anything, now that they cannot afford it, what is it that we can really expect. This is Pachauri to me but do not quote it as it is to you.

Question: Why are we saying that the document reflects a lack of political will on the part of developed countries when the document says that developed countries will part with 0.7 per cent of GNP? It also says that South-South cooperation will be complement to North-South cooperation and not the substitute to it? And will SDGs have specific goals like MDGs?

India's Deputy PR to the UN: The lack of political will is perhaps best reflected in the question that your colleague here just asked. This is a document which is in the process of negotiations. In these particular negotiations to get these paragraphs of old commitments on 0.7 per cent itself took a great deal of doing. So, these are reiterations. To hold people to their old commitments itself was a

significant achievement on the part of the developing countries and the G77. In terms of political will, surely political will could have been shown by, as you have heard, promising funding or being much more broad on technology transfer. But best that could have been achieved at this stage was the setting up of mechanisms. The reasons are of course fairly obvious, rooted in the realities of today as you see it.

So, it is a balancing act. But I think from the perspective of developing countries it is a good balancing act because policy space for developing countries has been clearly recognized. Differentiated burden sharing and on the basis of equity has been clearly recognized, and the fact that mechanism for international cooperation have also been initiated. We need to now take this process further from here.

On SDGs, what has happened is the process has begun whereby the UN General Assembly will set up an Expert Committee, we will start discussing on how SDGs would look like. Just to recap, where the Millennium Development Goals, these were actually drafted by experts, the Secretary-General, and actually have never really been adopted, although they are accepted in common parlance and all of us are working towards them. For the Sustainable Development Goals, the idea really is that we would work in this for the post-2015 development agenda but in an inter-governmental setting. So, all of us, governments etc., would be deliberating within the framework of the United Nations General Assembly. How they pan out, how do they work out, difficult to say at the moment. The kind of broad areas are obviously food security, energy access. These are the kind of important critical areas for sustainable development for all.

Question: My question would be to you or to the Foreign Secretary. Could you give us a sense of Indian industry in this summit? They have been looking at various themes. So, industry being now very important and they are talking about poverty eradication and funding and other things. So, could you give us a sense of the participation of top industrialists and what are they committing, or what kind of delegation is here?

India's Deputy PR to the UN: At the opening time you may have heard Mr. Kris Gopalakrishnan spoke on behalf of global industry, and he has been around here. The Conference itself the way it works, is that major groups have an opportunity to speak and private sector is one of them. So, we have been very well represented in having an esteemed member and a very venerable member of the Indian industry speaking out here in terms of what the industry wants. Let me just remind you of what Mr. Gopalakrishnan said. He said that we are looking forward to contributing and working towards inclusive green growth. In terms of what Indian industry is otherwise doing here, the conference of course is primarily

inter-governmental with civil society and others participating including major groups. But I think Indian industry is rather active here in Brazil, rather active worldwide. And we see on our domestic side on various other aspects there has been a tremendous amount of positive response of the Indian industry as such towards sustainable development, towards environment protection, while working towards growth and inclusive growth in the country.

Question: What we are hearing here is just general kind of assurances and commitments. There are no concrete targets or something like that being set up. You yourself are saying that they are only reiterating the old commitments, they are again reassuring that they will be committed to all central points. What is the new theme being added in this conference?

India's Deputy PR to the UN: In this conference the principal gain for the developing countries is a reaffirmation of the Rio Principles, and the commitments which were already there. There has been a great of effort and a great deal of action to try and dilute the commitments, to try and perhaps walk away from them, or as your colleague here mentioned, try and substitute them by something else whether it is South-South cooperation or any other form of this kind. What has this conference done? This conference has reaffirmed the validity of the Rio Principles, the validity that the cooperation amongst South-South countries is one of partnership, partnership in which both are equals and they work towards national priorities of the others, distinct from the aged paradigm of North-South which retains its validity and its importance. And what this particular conference has done is, it held them to their promises. We need to work to get those promises implemented. You are absolutely right. Critical deficit has been a deficit of implementation. But that is a deficit which we will have to recognize. The fact that we have been able to hold them to those promises itself is a particularly successful outcome of this particular negotiation process, and the fact that we were able to keep them together.

Question: In many ways US and Germany actually they ...(Inaudible)... moneybags. Now in the absence of Mr. Obama and Chancellor Merkel through the Conference, how does India view it? A disappointment? Lack of responsibility? How does India view this particular thing?

India's Deputy PR to the UN: The facts are of course there for you to see. People give several reasons for it. The President of the United States is engaged in his elections, the Chancellor of Germany with the Eurozone crisis. I think in some senses what you are saying certainly does have a certain amount of validity. But let us remember, the United States is likely to be represented by the Secretary of State. The United States has been very active in the negotiations here. They have a high-level delegation here led by their Special Envoy in the State Department. And they have been extremely active in all elements of the

negotiations which have taken place here. Similarly Germany. Not only as part of the European Union at its negotiating team here, the Germans have been here in their own way at a very high level here. So, I think the way I would look at it is that for whatever reasons the leaders may not have been able to come but Germany and the United States have been very actively engaged in the process, and actively engaged in the negotiations, and actively present politically in this particular meeting out here.

Question: You spoke about technology as one of the mechanisms. But then how do you look at resolving the IPR issues? And you spoke about this kind of developing centres of excellence. Will the centres be run on the CG model?

India's Deputy PR to the UN: It is the India's position for a long time that we need to have a kind of fair use of the IPR regimes, and allowing the best use of the existing modalities of the IPR regimes under the WTO in the TRIPS. We have also been very strong on collaboration. And you are right, the CG model is something that we often allude to and try and have that brought into place. Our efforts here have basically been that the mechanism that we set up to work on technology are such that these models, the CG model as well as what we can do with IPRs gets brought into the fore and that we are able to discuss them in the context of sustainable development, not just in the very specific context where they have currently moved in the WTO. So, these are certainly areas that we will work on. These will be priority areas for our delegation as we work through the transfer of technology mechanisms which are due to be set up.

Official Spokesperson: Thank you very much. With that we come to the end of this interaction.



077. Communiqué issued at the end of the Rio + Summit.**Los Cabos (Mexico), June 20, 2012.**

1. We, the Leaders of the G20, convened in Los Cabos on 18-19 June 2012.
2. We are united in our resolve to promote growth and jobs.
3. Since we last met, the global recovery has continued to face a number of challenges. Financial market tensions are high. External, fiscal and financial imbalances are still prevalent, having a major impact on growth and employment prospects and confidence. Clearly, the global economy remains vulnerable, with a negative impact on the everyday lives of people all over the world, affecting jobs, trade, development, and the environment.
4. We will act together to strengthen recovery and address financial market tensions.
5. We will work collectively to strengthen demand and restore confidence with a view to support growth and foster financial stability in order to create high quality jobs and opportunities for all of our citizens. We have agreed today on a coordinated Los Cabos Growth and Jobs Action Plan to achieve those goals.
6. Euro Area members of the G20 will take all necessary policy measures to safeguard the integrity and stability of the area, improve the functioning of financial markets and break the feedback loop between sovereigns and banks. We look forward to the Euro Area working in partnership with the next Greek government to ensure they remain on the path to reform and sustainability within the Euro Area.
7. We are implementing our structural and regulatory reform agenda to enhance medium-term growth prospects and build more resilient financial systems. We remain committed to reduce imbalances by strengthening deficit countries' public finances with sound and sustainable policies that take into account evolving economic conditions and, in countries with large current account surpluses, by strengthening domestic demand and moving toward greater exchange rate flexibility.
8. Despite the challenges we all face domestically, we have agreed that multilateralism is of even greater importance in the current climate, and remains our best asset to resolve the global economy's difficulties.
9. Recognizing the impact of the continuing crisis on developing countries, particularly low income countries, we will intensify our efforts to create a more conducive environment for development, including supporting

infrastructure investment. Our policy actions will improve living conditions across the globe and protect the most vulnerable. In particular, by stabilizing global markets and promoting stronger growth, we will generate significant positive effects on development and poverty reduction across the globe.

Supporting economic stabilization and the global recovery

10. Strong, sustainable and balanced growth remains the top priority of the G20, as it leads to higher job creation and increases the welfare of people across the world. We are committed to adopting all necessary policy measures to strengthen demand, support global growth and restore confidence, address short and medium-term risks, enhance job creation and reduce unemployment, as reflected in the Los Cabos Growth and Jobs Action Plan (see Annex). We will implement all our commitments in a timely manner and rigorously monitor their implementation.
11. Against the background of renewed market tensions, Euro Area members of the G20 will take all necessary measures to safeguard the integrity and stability of the area, improve the functioning of financial markets and break the feedback loop between sovereigns and banks. We welcome the significant actions taken since the last summit by the Euro Area to support growth, ensure financial stability and promote fiscal responsibility as a contribution to the G20 framework for strong, sustainable and balanced growth. In this context, we welcome Spain's plan to recapitalize its banking system and the Eurogroup's announcement of support for Spain's financial restructuring authority. The adoption of the Fiscal Compact and its ongoing implementation, together with growth-enhancing policies and structural reform and financial stability measures, are important steps towards greater fiscal and economic integration that lead to sustainable borrowing costs. The imminent establishment of the European Stability Mechanism is a substantial strengthening of the European firewalls. We fully support the actions of the Euro Area in moving forward with the completion of the Economic and Monetary Union. Towards that end, we support the intention to consider concrete steps towards a more integrated financial architecture, encompassing banking supervision, resolution and recapitalization, and deposit insurance. Euro Area members will foster intra Euro Area adjustment through structural reforms to strengthen competitiveness in deficit countries and to promote demand and growth in surplus countries. The European Union members of the G20 are determined to move forward expeditiously on measures to support growth including through completing the European Single Market and making better use of European financial means, such as the European

Investment Bank (EIB), pilot project bonds, and structural and cohesion funds, for more targeted investment, employment, growth and competitiveness, while maintaining the firm commitment to implement fiscal consolidation to be assessed on a structural basis. We look forward to the Euro Area working in partnership with the next Greek government to ensure they remain on the path to reform and sustainability within the Euro Area.

12. All G20 members will take the necessary actions to strengthen global growth and restore confidence. Advanced economies will ensure that the pace of fiscal consolidation is appropriate to support the recovery, taking country-specific circumstances into account and, in line with the Toronto commitments, address concerns about medium term fiscal sustainability. Those advanced and emerging economies which have fiscal space will let the automatic fiscal stabilizers to operate taking into account national circumstances and current demand conditions. Should economic conditions deteriorate significantly further, those countries with sufficient fiscal space stand ready to coordinate and implement discretionary fiscal actions to support domestic demand, as appropriate. In many countries, higher investment in education, innovation and infrastructure can support the creation of jobs now while raising productivity and future growth prospects. Recognizing the need to pursue growth-oriented policies that support demand and recovery, the United States will calibrate the pace of its fiscal consolidation by ensuring that its public finances are placed on a sustainable long-run path so that a sharp fiscal contraction in 2013 is avoided.
13. Monetary policy will maintain price stability over the medium term while continuing to support the economic recovery. We will strengthen confidence in our banks, maintaining momentum on the financial sector reforms needed to safeguard our financial systems over the medium term while taking appropriate actions to protect credit channels and the integrity of the global payment and settlement systems. Healthy banks, with an ability to lend, are critical to the global recovery.
14. G20 members will remain vigilant of the evolution of oil prices and will stand ready to carry out additional actions as needed, including the commitment by producing countries to continue to ensure an appropriate level of supply consistent with demand. We welcome Saudi Arabia's readiness to mobilize, as necessary, existing spare capacity to ensure adequate supply. We will also remain vigilant of other commodity prices.
15. A number of emerging markets are now also experiencing a slowdown in growth. In response, these countries are appropriately directing monetary

and fiscal policies to support growth while ensuring stability and, in some cases, introducing new measures to boost their economies, in particular through strengthening domestic demand in a context of weaker external demand.

16. We welcome progress by countries with large current account surpluses to increase domestic demand and actions by countries with large current account deficits to increase national savings. Emerging surplus economies will carry out further actions to increase domestic consumption, including by removing price and tax distortions and strengthening social safety nets, while advanced surplus economies or those with relatively weak private demand will promote domestic demand, notably through the liberalization of service sectors and the promotion of investment, including through the removal of inefficiencies. Higher national savings in countries with current account deficits will contribute to a lasting reduction in global imbalances. We recognize the special circumstances of large commodity exporters with regard to current account surpluses. We reaffirm our commitment to move more rapidly toward market-determined exchange rate systems and exchange rate flexibility to reflect underlying fundamentals, avoid persistent exchange rate misalignments, and refrain from competitive devaluation of currencies. We also welcome the commitment by China to allow market forces to play a larger role in determining movements in the Renminbi (RMB), continue to reform its exchange rate regime, and to increase the transparency of its exchange rate policy.
17. All G20 members have put forward structural reform commitments to strengthen and sustain global demand, foster job creation, contribute to global rebalancing and increase growth potential. These include product market reforms to increase competition, measures to stabilize the housing sector, labor market reforms to boost competitiveness and employment, as well as steps to strengthen social safety nets in a way that is fiscally responsible, advance tax reform to raise productivity, increase investment in infrastructure, and promote inclusive green growth and sustainable development as appropriate to country circumstances. We ask Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors to consider ways in which the G20 can foster investment in infrastructure and ensure the availability of sufficient funding for infrastructure projects, including Multilateral Development Banks' (MDBs) financing and technical support.
18. In all policy areas, we commit to minimize the negative spillovers on other countries of policies implemented for domestic purposes. We reaffirm our shared interest in a strong and stable international financial system. While capital flows can be beneficial to recipient economies, we

reiterate that excess volatility of financial flows and disorderly movements in exchange rates have adverse implications for economic and financial stability.

19. Recognizing the importance of transparency and accountability in reinforcing credibility and confidence, we have agreed on the Los Cabos Accountability Assessment Framework that accompanies the Growth and Jobs Action Plan. This Framework establishes the procedures we will follow to report on progress in implementing our policy commitments. We welcome the first Accountability Report under this new framework. We task our Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors to present the second Accountability Report for the Leaders' Summit in St. Petersburg in 2013.

Employment and Social Protection

20. Quality employment is at the heart of our macroeconomic policies. Jobs with labor rights, social security coverage and decent income contribute to more stable growth, enhance social inclusion and reduce poverty. We therefore endorse the recommendations of our Labor and Employment Ministers to urgently combat unemployment through appropriate labor market measures and fostering the creation of decent work and quality jobs, particularly for youth and other vulnerable groups, who have been severely hit by the economic crisis. We reaffirm our commitment to youth to facilitate their access to quality jobs, which will boost their life prospects. We welcome the work of the G20 Task Force on Employment and extend its mandate for an additional year in the terms proposed by our Ministers. Consistent with the Los Cabos Growth and Jobs Action Plan, we consider that structural reforms, in full respect of the fundamental principles and rights at work, can play an important role in lifting economic growth to generate labor market opportunities, mobility and jobs. We also commit to intensify our efforts to strengthen cooperation in education, skills development and training policies, including internship and on-the-job training, which support a successful school-to-work transition.
21. Creating jobs and reducing unemployment, particularly among our youth and those most affected by the crisis, is central to all our countries. We welcome the report by the International Labour Organization (ILO), Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank on boosting jobs and living standards in G20 countries. We will continue to focus on measures to accelerate the pace of the recovery in jobs and the reduction in unemployment.

22. We recognize the importance of establishing nationally determined social protection floors. We will continue to foster inter-agency and international policy coherence, coordination, cooperation and knowledge sharing to assist low-income countries in capacity building for implementing nationally determined social protection floors. We ask international organizations to identify policy options with low-income countries on how to develop effective sustainable protection floors.
23. We commit to take concrete actions to overcome the barriers hindering women's full economic and social participation and to expand economic opportunities for women in G20 economies. We also express our firm commitment to advance gender equality in all areas, including skills training, wages and salaries, treatment in the workplace, and responsibilities in care-giving.
24. We ask our Labor Ministers to review progress made on this agenda and we welcome consultations with social partners. In this regard, we appreciate the contribution of the Business-20 (B20) and Labor-20 (L20) to the process of the G20 under the Mexican Presidency.
25. We recognize the role of travel and tourism as a vehicle for job creation, economic growth and development, and, while recognizing the sovereign right of States to control the entry of foreign nationals, we will work towards developing travel facilitation initiatives in support of job creation, quality work, poverty reduction and global growth.

Trade

26. We are firmly committed to open trade and investment, expanding markets and resisting protectionism in all its forms, which are necessary conditions for sustained global economic recovery, jobs and development. We underline the importance of an open, predictable, rules-based, transparent multilateral trading system and are committed to ensure the centrality of the World Trade Organization (WTO).
27. Recognizing the importance of investment for boosting economic growth, we commit to maintaining a supportive business environment for investors.
28. We are deeply concerned about rising instances of protectionism around the world. Following up our commitment made in Cannes, we reaffirm our standstill commitment until the end of 2014 with regard to measures affecting trade and investment, and our pledge to roll back any new protectionist measure that may have arisen, including new export restrictions and WTO-inconsistent measures to stimulate exports. We

also undertake to notify in a timely manner trade and investment restrictive measures. We uphold the inventory and monitoring work of the WTO, OECD and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on trade and investment measures and encourage them to reinforce and deepen the work in these areas, consistent with their respective mandates.

29. We value the discussion held by our Trade Ministers in Puerto Vallarta on the relevance of regional and global value chains to world trade, recognizing their role in fostering economic growth, employment and development and emphasizing the need to enhance the participation of developing countries in such value chains. We encourage a deepening of these discussions in the WTO, UNCTAD and OECD within their respective mandates, and we call on them to accelerate their work on analyzing the functioning of global value chains and their relationship with trade and investment flows, development and jobs, as well as on how to measure trade flows, to better understand how our actions affect our countries and others, and to report on progress under Russia's Presidency.
30. In line with the Cannes Communiqué, we stand by the Doha Development Agenda mandate and reaffirm our commitment to pursue fresh, credible approaches to furthering trade negotiations across the board. We will continue to work towards concluding the Doha Round negotiations, including outcomes in specific areas where progress is possible, such as trade facilitation, and other issues of concern for least developed countries. We urge progress in streamlining WTO accession procedures for the world's poorest countries.
31. We support strengthening the WTO through improving the way it conducts its regular business, and its dispute settlement system. We also direct our representatives to further discussions on challenges and opportunities for the multilateral trading system in a globalized economy.

Strengthening the international financial architecture

32. We recognize the importance of effective global and regional safety nets. We welcome the firm commitments to increase the resources available to the IMF. This is the result of a broad international cooperative effort that includes a significant number of countries. The commitments exceed \$450 billion and are in addition to the quota increase under the 2010 Reform. These resources will be available for the whole membership of the IMF, and not earmarked for any particular region. These resources, which qualify as reserve assets, would be channeled through bilateral loans and investments such as note purchase agreements to the IMF's

General Resources Account under the modalities which have been approved by the IMF Executive Board. This effort shows the G20 and the international community's commitment to take the steps needed to safeguard global financial stability and enhance the IMF's role in crisis prevention and resolution.

33. We reaffirm our commitment to implement in full the 2010 Quota and Governance Reform by the agreed date of the 2012 IMF/World Bank Annual Meetings. These reforms are crucial to enhancing the IMF's legitimacy, relevance and effectiveness, and will support efforts to further strengthen Fund surveillance and to ensure that the IMF is adequately resourced to play its systemic role. As part of these reforms, we are committed to completing the comprehensive review of the quota formula, to address deficiencies and weaknesses in the current quota formula, by January 2013 and to complete the next general review of quotas by January 2014. We agree that the formula should be simple and transparent, consistent with the multiple roles of quotas, result in calculated shares that are broadly acceptable to the membership, and be feasible to implement based on timely, high quality and widely available data. We reaffirm that the distribution of quotas based on the formula should better reflect the relative weights of IMF members in the world economy, which have changed substantially in view of strong GDP growth in dynamic emerging markets and developing countries. We reaffirm the importance of continuing to protect the voice and representation of the poorest members of the IMF. We ask our Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors to review progress on this issue when they meet in November.
34. We agreed that the current surveillance framework should be significantly enhanced, including through a better integration of bilateral and multilateral surveillance with a focus on global, domestic and financial stability, including spillovers from countries' policies. We welcome the work of the IMF to advance considerations for a proposed integrated surveillance decision and commit to support the decision process. We underscore the importance of rigorous surveillance on exchange rate policies and support a more ample coverage of surveillance activities, where relevant, including global liquidity, capital flows, capital account measures, reserve and fiscal, monetary and financial sector policies that could have an impact on external stability. We welcome the IMF's ongoing work to produce an external sector report, which would strengthen multilateral analysis and enhance the transparency of surveillance. We also recognize that political ownership and traction is critical to effective surveillance, and that the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC) has a role in facilitating the active involvement of all IMF members. We look

forward to substantial progress by the next IMF/World Bank Annual Meetings.

35. We welcome the interim progress report and look forward to the joint annual progress report to support the development of local currency bond markets to be prepared by the World Bank, Regional Development Banks, IMF, OECD and the Bank of International Settlements (BIS). The full report will be presented at the November meeting of G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors. This issue is of great importance to emerging markets and developing countries, recognizing that the liquidity, efficiency and operation of these markets are being challenged by the current global financial situation.

Reforming the financial sector and fostering financial inclusion

36. We welcome the progress report by the Financial Stability Board (FSB) on taking forward the G20 commitments for strengthening financial stability and the FSB's enhanced monitoring of implementation at the national level. We are committed to the timely, full and consistent implementation of agreed policies in order to support a stable and integrated global financial system and to prevent future crises.
37. We welcome the publication of the traffic lights scoreboard to track progress in the implementation of all our financial reform recommendations and pledge to take all necessary actions to make progress in the areas where difficulties in policy development or implementation have been identified.
38. In particular, we recognize the substantial progress to date in the priority reform areas identified by the FSB's Coordination Framework for Implementation Monitoring (CFIM): the Basel capital and liquidity framework; the framework for global systemically important financial institutions (G-SIFIs), resolution regimes, over-the-counter (OTC) derivatives reforms, shadow banking, and compensation practices. We commit to complete work in these important areas to achieve full implementation of reforms.
39. We reaffirm our commitment that all standardized OTC derivative contracts should be traded on exchanges or electronic trading platforms, where appropriate, and cleared through central counterparties by end-2012, OTC derivative contracts should be reported to trade repositories and non-centrally cleared contracts should be subject to higher capital requirements. We welcome the FSB progress report on implementation. Now that substantial progress has been achieved in the four safeguards for a resilient and efficient global framework for central clearing, jurisdictions

should rapidly finalize their decision-making and put in place the needed legislation and regulations to meet the G20 commitment for central clearing. We acknowledge the progress made to develop the key principles to promote internationally consistent minimum standards for the margining of non-centrally cleared derivatives and encourage international standard setters to finalize the proposed global margin standards by the end of this year, to match the implementation deadline for other OTC derivatives reforms and for the Basel capital framework.

40. We welcome progress in implementing Basel II, 2.5 and III and urge jurisdictions to fully implement the standards according to the agreed timelines. We welcome the Basel Committee's consultative proposals for a fundamental review of the market risk framework. We welcome the FSB's progress report on the implementation of the principles and standards for sound compensation practices, reaffirm our commitment to ensure that these are followed and ask the FSB to continue its ongoing monitoring.
41. We reiterate our commitment to make our national resolution regimes consistent with the FSB Key Attributes of Effective Resolution Regimes so that no bank or other financial institution is "too big to fail". To this end, we also support the ongoing elaboration of recovery and resolution plans and institution-specific cross-border cooperation agreements for all G-SIFIs. We reiterate our commitment to strengthen the intensity and effectiveness of the supervision of SIFIs and ask the FSB to report on further progress in this area to the November 2012 G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' meeting.
42. We welcome progress on developing a set of principles as a common framework for the identification of, and policy measures relating to, domestic systemically important banks (D-SIBs) and ask our Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors to review recommendations in these areas at their meeting in November. We support continuing work for the strengthening of the oversight and regulation of the shadow banking system, and look forward to our Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors reviewing recommendations in these areas at their meeting in November. We ask the FSB in consultation with the International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS) to complete their work on identification and policy measures for global systemically important insurers by April 2013. Towards reducing systemic risk, we look forward to the preparation by the FSB in consultation with International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) of methodologies to identify other systemically important non-bank financial entities by end-2012 and call on Committee on Payment and Settlement Systems (CPSS)

and IOSCO to continue their work on systemically important market infrastructures. We also ask the IAIS to continue its work to develop a common framework for the supervision of internationally active insurance groups by end-2013.

43. We call for accelerated progress by national authorities and standard setting bodies in ending the mechanistic reliance on credit ratings and encourage steps that would enhance transparency of and competition among credit rating agencies. We support continuing work to achieve convergence to a single set of high-quality accounting standards. We welcome IOSCO's report on the functioning of the credit default swap markets and ask IOSCO to report on next steps by the November 2012 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' meeting.
44. We endorse the FSB recommendations regarding the framework for development of a global legal entity identifier (LEI) system for parties to financial transactions, with a global governance framework representing the public interest. The LEI system will be launched by March 2013 and we ask the FSB to report on implementation progress by the November 2012 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' meeting. We encourage global adoption of the LEI to support authorities and market participants in identifying and managing financial risks.
45. We welcome the FSB study, prepared in coordination with the IMF and the World Bank, to identify potential unintended consequences of the agreed financial regulatory reforms for Emerging Markets and Developing Economies (EMDEs). We encourage continued monitoring analysis and reporting by the FSB and dialogue among the FSB, standard-setters, international financial institutions and national authorities of EMDEs, to address material unintended consequences as appropriate without prejudice to our commitment to implement the agreed reforms.
46. We endorse the recommendations and the revised FSB Charter for placing the FSB on an enduring organizational footing, with legal personality, strengthened governance, greater financial autonomy and enhanced capacity to coordinate the development and implementation of financial regulatory policies, while maintaining strong links with the BIS. We call for a full implementation of the recommendations by our next meeting and substantial progress by the November 2012 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' meeting. We call on the FSB to continue to keep under review the structure of its representation.
47. We welcome the ongoing work by the FSB on adherence to supervisory and regulatory information exchange and cooperation standards and look

forward to a further public statement on progress under the initiative ahead of the Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' meeting in November 2012.

48. In the tax area, we reiterate our commitment to strengthen transparency and comprehensive exchange of information. We commend the progress made as reported by the Global Forum and urge all countries to fully comply with the standard and implement the recommendations identified in the course of the reviews, in particular the 13 jurisdictions whose framework does not allow them to qualify to phase 2 at this stage. We expect the Global Forum to quickly start examining the effectiveness of information exchange practices and to report to us and our finance ministers. We welcome the OECD report on the practice of automatic information exchange, where we will continue to lead by example in implementing this practice. We call on countries to join this growing practice as appropriate and strongly encourage all jurisdictions to sign the Multilateral Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance. We also welcome the efforts to enhance interagency cooperation to tackle illicit flows including the outcomes of the Rome meeting of the Oslo Dialogue. We reiterate the need to prevent base erosion and profit shifting and we will follow with attention the ongoing work of the OECD in this area.
49. We support the renewal of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) mandate, thereby sustaining global efforts to combat money laundering and the financing of terrorism and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. G20 members also welcome the adoption of the revised FATF standards and look forward to their implementation. We welcome the progress made by FATF in identifying and monitoring high-risk jurisdictions with strategic Anti-Money Laundering/Counter-Terrorist Financing (AML/CFT) deficiencies, using AML/CFT tools in the fight against corruption, improving transparency of corporate vehicles and increasing cooperation against tax crimes, addressing the risks posed by tax havens, as well as in increasing the reach and the effectiveness of AML/CFT measures by also considering financial inclusion efforts. We look forward to the completion in 2013 of the update of the FATF assessment process for the next round of mutual evaluations.
50. We welcome the progress made by the Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPII) on implementing the five recommendations set out in its 2011 report and call on the GPII to continue working towards their full implementation. We endorse the G20 Basic Set of financial inclusion indicators developed by the GPII. Recognizing the key role that SMEs

play in economic development, and poverty reduction, we welcome the launch of the SME Finance Compact that will support developing innovative models and approaches to address the specific access to finance challenges and constraints faced by developing countries with regards to SME finance. We welcome the forthcoming GPFI conference on standard setting bodies and financial inclusion as a means of helping to create an enabling regulatory environment, and we call on the GPFI to report progress to our Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors in November. Finally, we support the ongoing effort to create a fourth GPFI subgroup that will focus on consumer protection and financial literacy issues.

51. We acknowledge the efforts of those G20 and non-G20 countries committed to national coordination platforms and strategies for financial inclusion under the “G20 Financial Inclusion Peer Learning Program” and encourage similar efforts to advance effective implementation of the G20 Principles for Innovative Financial Inclusion such as the commitments to concrete actions to promote financial inclusion made by developing and emerging countries under the Maya Declaration, recognizing the ongoing efforts and the support by the World Bank Group and the Alliance for Financial Inclusion, and other stakeholders including the United Nations (UN), and bilateral donors to foster financial inclusion.
52. On financial education, we endorse the OECD/International Network on Financial Education (INFE) High Level Principles on National Strategies for Financial Education, and call on the OECD/INFE and the World Bank in cooperation with the GPFI to deliver further tools to promote financial education, with a progress report to the next Summit. For advancing the financial consumer protection agenda, we take note of the discussion on the Statutes of the International Financial Consumer Protection Network (FinCoNet) and on the issues of formal structure and financial support to ensure the exchange of best practices. We also endorse the Action Plan presented by the G20/OECD Task Force on Financial Consumer Protection to develop effective approaches to support the implementation of the High Level Principles on Financial Consumer Protection, and look forward to an update report by the Leaders’ Summit in St. Petersburg in 2013.
53. We recognize the need for women and youth to gain access to financial services and financial education, ask the GPFI, the OECD/INFE, and the World Bank to identify barriers they may face and call for a progress report to be delivered by the next Summit.
54. We welcome the launch of the Mexico Financial Inclusion Challenge:

Innovative Solutions for Unlocking Access, a call for innovations that address barriers to financial inclusion through the creation of valuable, affordable, secure, and comprehensive financial services.

Enhancing food security and addressing commodity price volatility

55. The Action Plan on Food Price Volatility and Agriculture adopted by the Ministers of Agriculture in 2011 underlined that to feed a world population expected to exceed 9.3 billion by 2050, agricultural production will have to increase between 50 and 70 percent, and by almost 100 percent in developing countries. We recognize that increasing production and productivity on a sustainable basis while considering the diversity of agricultural conditions is one of the most important challenges that the world faces today. The crisis in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa also underscores that strengthening emergency and long-term responses to food insecurity remains a pressing challenge. We also note that chronic malnutrition is an enormous drain on a country's human resources, and we therefore support the Scaling Up Nutrition movement and encourage wider involvement of G20 members.
56. We welcome the considerable progress made in implementing the Action Plan and the food security pillar of the Seoul Multi-Year Action Plan on Development. We support the G20 Agriculture Vice-Ministers' Report annexed to this Declaration, on the progress made on previous commitments and key recommendations on sustainably increasing agricultural productivity, containing inputs from several international organizations coordinated by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the OECD, in addition to other recommendations from B20 and civil society.
57. To fight hunger, we commit to continue our efforts on our initiatives, including the Tropical Agriculture Platform, the Platform for Agricultural Risk Management, the GEO Global Agriculture Monitoring, research initiatives for wheat, rice and corn, the Rapid Response Forum, regional emergency food reserves, the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program and support for the Principles of Responsible Agriculture Investment. Recognizing the important contribution of greater transparency to reducing food price volatility, we welcome the progress made in the implementation of the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS). We recognize that a more stable, predictable, distortion-free, open and transparent trading system, including as regards agriculture, has a critical role to play to promote food security.
58. We reaffirm our commitment to remove export restrictions and

extraordinary taxes on food purchased for non-commercial humanitarian purposes by the World Food Programme (WFP). We encourage the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security.

59. We strongly welcome the launch of the “AgResults” Initiative, aimed at improving food security for the poor and vulnerable by encouraging private sector innovation of new agricultural products and systems constrained by market failures in agriculture. We look forward to the launch of the pilot projects focused on innovations in nutrient-fortified crops, post-harvest waste-reducing storage solutions and crop quality technologies in Sub-Saharan Africa. We commend those who have already committed or signaled their intention to commit funding to this initiative and encourage broader participation.
60. We recognize the need to adapt agriculture to climate change and we recognize the importance of improving the efficiency of water and soil use in a sustainable manner. To this end, we support the development of and a greater use of available technologies, well-known practices and techniques such as soil fertility enhancement, minimum tillage and agroforestry, and call upon international organizations to provide a report on science-based options to improve the efficiency of water use in agriculture including in ways particularly suitable for small farms.
61. We recognize the importance to the global economic recovery of maintaining stability in international commodity markets. We stress the importance of well-functioning and transparent physical and financial commodities’ markets and reduced excessive price volatility to achieve food security and strong growth that is both sustainable and inclusive. We recognize that excessive commodity price volatility has significant implications for all countries, increasing uncertainty for actors in the economy and potentially hampering stability of the budgets, and predictability of economic planning. We recognize that mitigating the negative effects of commodity price volatility on the most vulnerable is an important component of reducing poverty and boosting economic growth. We therefore endorse the conclusions of the G20 report on the macroeconomic impacts of excessive commodity price volatility on growth and its identification of policy options that countries could consider, taking account of national circumstances to mitigate any such effect. We also acknowledge and appreciate the participation and valuable inputs of the IMF, World Bank and UNCTAD. We ask our Finance Ministers to report in 2013 on progress on the G20’s contribution to facilitate better functioning

of these physical markets, taking note of possible areas of further work outlined in the report. We reaffirm our commitment to enhance transparency and avoid abuse in financial commodity markets, including OTC, with effective intervention powers for market regulators and authorities and an appropriate regulation and supervisory framework. In this regard we look forward to IOSCO's report on the implementation of its recommendations on commodity derivatives markets by November 2012.

62. We recognize that excessive price volatility in energy commodities is also an important source of economic instability. We remain committed to well-functioning and transparent energy markets. We will continue to work to improve the timeliness, completeness and reliability of JODI-Oil and look forward to a progress report next year. We will work on the JODI-Gas database on the same principles. We expect the International Energy Forum (IEF) report on improving the reliability of the JODI-Oil database and the report on transparency in international gas and coal markets submitted by the International Energy Agency (IEA), IEF, and Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to be discussed by our Finance Ministers in November. We also look forward to IOSCO's recommendations to improve the functioning and oversight of Price Reporting Agencies in November 2012, which will be produced in collaboration with other mandated organizations (IEF, IEA and OPEC), and task Finance Ministers to take concrete measures in this area as necessary.

Meeting the Challenges of Development

63. Eradicating poverty and achieving strong, inclusive, sustainable and balanced growth remain core objectives of the G20 development agenda. We reaffirm our commitment to work with developing countries, particularly low income countries, and to support them in implementing the nationally driven policies and priorities which are needed to fulfill internationally agreed development goals, particularly the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and beyond.
64. We welcome the initiative of the Development Working Group to build upon the work of previous G20 presidencies, and its focus on three priorities during the Mexican Presidency - food security, infrastructure and inclusive green growth. We commend the progress achieved against our commitments in the Seoul Multi-Year Action Plan, and support the 2012 Development Working Group progress report annexed to this Declaration. We invite the Development Working Group to explore putting in place a process for ensuring assessment and accountability for G20 development actions by the next Summit.

65. Investment in infrastructure is critical for sustained economic growth, poverty reduction, and job creation. We therefore welcome the strong progress made under the Multi-Year Action Plan, including in implementing the recommendations of the Multilateral Development Banks' (MDBs) Action Plan and the High Level Panel on Infrastructure.
66. While recognizing that public financing of infrastructure development projects in developing countries remains essential, we consider it should be complemented by private sector investment. We encourage MDBs to continue progress under the Action Plan, and welcome the report on addressing Misperception of Risk and Return in Low Income Countries. This contains important messages about properly perceiving the risks posed, as well as the opportunities offered, by long-term infrastructure investment in low income countries. Recognizing the challenge that rapid urbanization poses and the need to make cities more sustainable, we welcome the report on Best Practices for Urban Mass Transport Infrastructure Projects in Medium and Large Cities in Developing Countries, and support the follow-up actions as set out in the Development Working Group report.
67. We reaffirm our commitments to the global partnership for development, as set out in the MDGs, and welcome efforts to contribute to this end, including the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation to be launched with voluntary participation under the auspices of the broad consensus achieved at the 4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness held in Busan, Korea.
68. We recognize the value of Disaster Risk Management (DRM) tools and strategies to better prevent disasters, protect populations and assets, and financially manage their economic impacts. We appreciate World Bank and OECD combined efforts, with the UN's support, to provide inputs and broaden participation in the discussion on DRM. We welcome the World Bank's and Mexico's joint publication on country experiences in this area with the support of G20 members, and look forward to the OECD voluntary framework to facilitate implementation of DRM strategies, to be completed by November.

Promoting longer-term prosperity through inclusive green growth

69. The long-term development and prosperity of current and future generations requires us to look beyond the immediate economic crisis. We acknowledge the importance of finding ways in which economic growth, environmental protection and social inclusion can complement and reinforce each other. Inclusive green growth in the context of sustainable

development and poverty eradication can help achieve our development and economic goals, while protecting our environment, and improving social well-being on which our future depends. Inclusive green growth should not be used to introduce protectionist measures.

70. We commit to continue to help developing countries sustain and strengthen their development through appropriate measures, including those that encourage inclusive green growth. We will reaffirm our commitment to sustainable development at the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). We commit to maintaining a focus on inclusive green growth as part of our G20 agenda and in the light of agreements reached at Rio+20 and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
71. Climate change will continue to have a significant impact on the world economy, and costs will be higher to the extent we delay additional action. We reiterate our commitment to fight climate change and welcome the outcome of the 17th Conference of the Parties to the UN climate change conferences. We are committed to the full implementation of the outcomes of Cancun and Durban and will work with Qatar as the incoming Presidency towards achieving a successful and balanced outcome at COP-18. We emphasize the need to structurally transform economies towards a climate-friendly path over the medium term. We welcome the creation of the G20 study group on climate finance, in order to consider ways to effectively mobilize resources taking into account the objectives, provisions and principles of the UNFCCC in line with the Cancun Agreement and ask to provide a progress report to Finance Ministers in November. We support the operationalization of the Green Climate Fund.
72. The Development Working Group discussed a broad set of practical, voluntary measures and actions that have the potential to help countries define their paths towards sustainable development based on their own circumstances and priorities. We believe that developing countries should have access to institutions and mechanisms that can facilitate knowledge sharing, resource mobilization and building technical and institutional capacity to design and implement inclusive green growth strategies and policies. We welcome international efforts in launching the Green Growth Knowledge Platform and will continue exploring options to provide appropriate support to interested developing countries. We welcome the delivery of a non-prescriptive, voluntary toolkit of policy options for inclusive green growth and encourage efforts to promote its implementation. We encourage further exploration of effective mechanisms to mobilize public and private funds for inclusive green growth investment

in developing countries, including through the public-private Dialogue Platform on Inclusive Green Investments. We welcome the B20's Green Growth Action Alliance.

73. We highlight that green growth and sustainable development have strong potential to stimulate long term prosperity and well being. We welcome the report prepared by the OECD, the World Bank and the UN on incorporating green growth and sustainable development policies into structural reform agendas, tailored to specific country conditions and level of development. We also acknowledge the G20 efforts to voluntarily self-report on current actions taken to integrate green growth and sustainable development into structural reform agendas. We will self-report again in 2013, on a voluntary basis, and ask appropriate officials to report back on countries' efforts and progress on incorporating green growth policies in structural reform agendas and in relevant national plans to promote sustainable development.
74. We welcome the progress report on fossil fuel subsidies, and we reaffirm our commitment to rationalize and phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption over the medium term while providing targeted support for the poorest. We ask Finance Ministers to report back by the next Summit on progress made, and acknowledging the relevance of accountability and transparency, to explore options for a voluntary peer review process for G20 members by their next meeting. We also welcome a dialogue on fossil fuel subsidies with other groups already engaged in this work.
75. In Cannes we committed to promote low-carbon development strategies in order to optimize the potential for green growth and ensure sustainable development in our countries and beyond. We therefore welcome the report on clean energy and energy efficiency technologies and acknowledge the G20 countries' efforts to foster investment in these technologies through the sharing of national experiences regarding challenges for technology deployment.
76. We welcome the establishment of a Global Marine Environment Protection Best Practices Sharing Mechanism website, and look forward to its launch in accordance with the Cannes mandate.

Intensifying the fight against corruption

77. Corruption impedes economic growth, threatens the integrity of markets, undermines fair competition, distorts resource allocation, destroys public trust and undermines the rule of law. We call on all relevant stakeholders to play an active role in fighting corruption.

78. Closing the implementation and enforcement gap remains an important priority, and we continue to make significant progress towards the full implementation of the Seoul G20 Anti-Corruption Action Plan, and the commitments made in the Cannes Monitoring Report. We reiterate our commitment to the ratification and full implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), and to more active engagement with the OECD working group on bribery on a voluntary basis. We welcome continuing engagement from the B20 in the fight against corruption and, in accordance with the Terms of Reference of the review mechanism, will involve the private sector and civil society in the UNCAC review process on a voluntary basis. We endorse today the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group principles for denial of entry to our countries of corrupt officials, and those who corrupt them, and will continue to develop frameworks for cooperation. We also endorse the Working Group's principles for financial and asset disclosure systems for relevant officials to prevent, identify and appropriately manage conflicts of interest.
79. We commit to enforcing anti-corruption legislation, and we will pursue those who receive and solicit bribes as well as those who pay them in line with our countries' legislation. To help facilitate international cooperation among G20 and non-G20 governments in their investigation and prosecution of corruption, we will publish a guide on Mutual Legal Assistance from G20 countries, as well as information on tracing assets in G20 jurisdictions. We renew our commitment to deny safe haven to the proceeds of corruption and to the recovery and restitution of stolen assets.
80. We extend the mandate of the Anti-Corruption Working Group for two years to the end of 2014 and request the Working Group to prepare a comprehensive action plan, as well as a second Working Group Monitoring Report, both to be presented for consideration and adoption by Sherpas by the end of 2012.

Other paragraphs

81. In light of the interconnectedness of the world economy, the G20 has led to a new paradigm of multilateral co-operation that is necessary in order to tackle current and future challenges effectively. The informal and flexible character of the G20 enables it to facilitate international economic and financial cooperation, and address the challenges confronting the global economy. It is important that we continue to further improve the transparency and effectiveness of the G20, and ensure that it is able to respond to pressing needs. As a contribution to this, in line with the commitment made in Cannes, Sherpas have developed a set of evolving G20 working practices.

82. An informal meeting of G20 Ministers of Foreign Affairs was held in Los Cabos in February, which explored the ways in which G20 member countries could contribute more effectively to address key challenges in global governance.
83. Recognizing the far-reaching impact of G20 decisions, we welcome the extensive outreach efforts undertaken by the Mexican Presidency, including the meetings of Business-20, Labor-20, Youth-20, and Think-20. We will continue developing efforts with non-members, regional and international organizations, including the UN and other actors. In line with the Cannes mandate, in order to ensure our outreach remains consistent and effective, we welcome a set of principles in this area, developed by Sherpas.
84. We thank international organizations, including the UN, IMF, World Bank, WTO, FSB, ILO, FAO, and OECD, as well as civil society, for their input into the G20 process. Their reports and recommendations have provided valuable inputs to G20 discussions, in areas ranging from sustainable development to financial regulation.

Conclusion

85. We look forward to the rest of the work that will take place during Mexico's Presidency until November 30. On 1 December, 2012, Russia will start chairing the G20. We will convene in St. Petersburg, under the Chairmanship of Russia. We thank Mexico for hosting a successful Los Cabos Summit.



078. Media Briefing by the Prime Minister on G-20 and Rio+20 Conferences on his return journey to New Delhi onboard his special flight AI - 1.

June 23, 2012.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have been away from India to participate in the group of 20 meeting in Los Cabos and the last two days in Rio to participate in the current conference on Sustainable Development. My statements on both the occasions are already with you. I will be happy to answer any questions that you may want to ask.

Question: Sir, at G20 India indicated contribution of 10 billion US\$ to IMF kitty to sort out Euro crisis but surprisingly even this well intentioned move has been wrongly interpreted in the country. Would you like to say something?

PM: We are members of the International Monetary Fund and we would like the IMF to play an important role in resolving various difficulties that are on the horizon in the international economy and financial system. And if this Fund has to play its requisite role then it has been agreed at Los Cabos that the member countries of the Fund will contribute 450 billion Dollars to enable the IMF to come to the rescue of countries in need. As a responsible member of the international community, it was our bounden duty also to make our contribution. And let me say that before making this announcement I had a discussion among the BRICS leaders and all BRICS leaders have made similar contributions. So I don't think there is anything wrong in our contributing to the IMF. This contribution will be used only when needed and it will also continue to be part of India's reserves.

Question: Sir, during your address in Mexico you spent a long time talking about the sharp slowdown in the Indian economy, putting in place transparent and stable policies, correcting some of the inherent constraints and taking tough decisions including controlling subsidies. Do you think equations have changed enough in the run up to the Presidential polls to push forward some of these tough decisions quickly?

PM: We owe it to our country to take all the necessary decisions which would return the country to a high growth path. There are problems with regard to the fiscal management. We will tackle that problem effectively and credibly. There are problems with regard to management of the balance of payments deficit on the current account. Those problems also we will tackle. It will not be proper for me to talk about these things in detail, but, you have my assurance that I recognise that we have to work our way to restore the momentum of growth that India needs and which the people of India want the Government of India to work

for. Also, I think the events of the last couple of days convince me more than ever before that there are no international solutions to the problems of a country of India's size, of India's diversity. So it is obligatory on us, and here I would urge all political parties to work with the Government to restore the momentum of growth that this country is capable of and which this country needs.

Question: I have a question on black money. What was the sense during G20 on black money and has it become irrelevant or has there been any improvement?

PM: It is too early to say one way or the other. The problem is there but there are no magic solutions available. I think it is going to be a slow process.

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Question: In Rio, you have mentioned that countries that are technically advanced are not transferring technology and are not cooperating. Could you elaborate this point?

PM: International gatherings are an essay in persuasion. The poor countries need more money, more capital to sustain high growth rates for their economies. They also need increased flow of technologies on favourable terms to accelerate the process of their economic growth. Lot of lip sympathy has been paid and is being paid by the developed countries to the idea that we are living in an increasingly inter dependent world and that the developed countries have an obligation to help the developing countries. In practice, the overall situation on ground, as I have pointed out in my speech at the Rio Conference, is not very flattering. So as far as India is concerned, I have already mentioned we must plan our economy in such a manner that we cannot expect outside help on a scale which can see us through our difficulties. We have to raise our economy through our own good steps.



079. Press Release of the Ministry of Environment and Forests on the meeting of the ASEAN – India Environment Ministers' meeting.

New Delhi, September 8, 2012.

The Ministry of Environment & Forests hosted the ASEAN-India Environment Ministers' Meeting on September 7, 2012 at New Delhi. The Environment Ministers' Meeting was preceded by a meeting of senior officials of ASEAN member states and senior officials of Ministry of Environment & Forest and Ministry of External Affairs on September 6, 2012.

The ASEAN-India Environment Ministers' meeting was co-chaired by Mrs. Jayanthi Natarajan, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) Environment & Forests, India and H.E. Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi Bin Haji Osman, Hon'ble Minister of Development, Brunei Darussalam and attended by senior delegates from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and the ASEAN Secretariat.

Both sides discussed various aspects of biodiversity conservation. The meeting unanimously adopted the 'New Delhi ASEAN-India Ministerial Statement on Biodiversity' whereby both sides agreed to enhance awareness among all stakeholders, strive towards mainstreaming biodiversity concerns into development processes, and to strive towards enhancing priority in terms of resource allocation and mobilization for biodiversity conservation.

Both sides also agreed to work together for conservation and management of flagship species and enhancing conservation management & sustainable utilization of Coastal and Marine biodiversity. The statement further agrees to take preparatory national work as a sound and informed basis for ratifying the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing.

The meeting called upon The Eleventh Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to discuss issues relating to biodiversity & livelihoods regularly and recommend concrete actions, considering the critical linkages of biodiversity with livelihoods and poverty alleviation.

Both sides agreed to meet and exchange views on issues of common interest at appropriate ASEAN Environment Ministers' Meetings.



080. Remarks by the Prime Minister at the inauguration of the High Level Segment of the 11th Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Hyderabad, October 16, 2010.

"I am truly delighted to welcome each one of you to this historic city of Hyderabad. India is truly privileged to host for the first time the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. This is also the first such Conference since the launch of the United Nations Decade of Biodiversity last year.

The 11th Conference of Parties is being held at an important juncture. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Earth Summit at Rio de Janeiro, when the world came together to adopt many far-reaching documents, including two legally binding Conventions.

In recent years, it has become increasingly more difficult to find common ground on environmental issues. This is, indeed, unfortunate given that there is today a much higher global awareness of environmental risks and concerns. It is this consciousness that should provoke us to greater action even as we cope with the pressures of the current global economic downturn.

I am, however, glad that negotiations regarding biodiversity have achieved remarkable success. India has recently ratified the Nagoya Protocol and formalised our commitment to it. I would urge all the Parties to do likewise because concerted global action is imperative and cannot brook any further delay. Despite global efforts, the 2010 biodiversity target that we had set for ourselves under the Convention on Biological Diversity was not fully met. This situation needs to change. The critical issue really is how to mobilise the necessary financial, technical and human resources, particularly the incubation, sharing and transfer of technology.

In our country, protecting and promoting biodiversity has always been an integral part of our ethos and our civilization. This can be seen in the thousands of sacred groves that are found all over the country. Our traditional systems of agriculture and medicine depend on plant and animal biodiversity. Conserving the wild ancestors and relatives of the cultivars we use today is of paramount importance to us.

In recent years there has been concern that this public knowledge may become restricted in its use because of the application of the modern intellectual property system. India has tried a unique approach to protection of traditional knowledge by establishing a Traditional Knowledge Digital Library. This database has 34 million pages of information in five international languages in formats easily accessible by patent examiners. This Library promotes the objectives of the

Nagoya Protocol on the issue of protection of codified traditional knowledge systems such as the celebrated Ayurveda.

We decided to build this knowledge database because of the patent on the use of neem extract in Europe and another on the use of turmeric as a healing agent. Since then, because of this database, over 1000 cases of biopiracy have been identified and over 105 claims withdrawn or cancelled by patent offices.

We believe that the treasure trove of traditional knowledge should be used for the benefit of all humankind rather than for private profit. We will continue to work to strengthen our institutions to record this knowledge, to value its science and to provide benefits to its custodians. Multilateral agencies like the WIPO and some countries have approached us for assistance in setting up such libraries and our government will be happy to provide necessary assistance.

Indian farmers have always believed in the free use of seeds. The Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights' Act of India confers intellectual property to farmers through registration of seed varieties. In our Patent Act we have adopted disclosure requirements on the origin of inventions based on biodiversity. But I believe a lot more needs to be done. We need to build on this experience and build living germplasm laboratories in our fields.

We know that food security is a key challenge for the world, particularly in an increasingly climate vulnerable world. Biodiversity, found in our forests and our fields, could provide us keys to the solutions of the future. So we need to build a movement to conserve traditional varieties of crops.

Our approach to protecting and promoting biodiversity has been guided by the belief that all three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, namely, conservation, sustainable use and sharing of benefits from the utilization of genetic resources, should receive adequate and equal focus. This approach is the basis of India's Biological Diversity Act of 2002. The 2008 National Biodiversity Action Plan further identifies specific action points by various government agencies.

Despite the pressure on land in our densely populated country, India has more than 600 Protected Areas, covering approximately 5% of the total geographical area of the country, in a network of National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, and Conservation Reserves. We have special programmes for some high-profile endangered species like tigers and elephants. In 2010, the country level status assessment for tigers showed an increase in their number to an estimated 1706 from an estimated 1411 in the year 2006.

We recognise that we have to look beyond large animal species and take a more organic approach to conservation. We have, therefore, initiated work on

species recovery programmes on 16 identified endangered species including the snow leopard, hangul and lion. Such country level efforts at preservation should be complemented by enhanced international collaboration to check wildlife crime.

The challenge going forward is to develop new models of inclusive conservation. In India, we have legislated a Forest Rights Act that lends legal sanctity to the rights of forest dwellers, who are often the best friends of the biodiversity that resides in these magnificent forests.

We will have to adopt similarly innovative approaches to deal with the issue of protecting fishermen's livelihoods even as we negotiate a framework on sustainable use of marine biodiversity in the high seas.

There is a realisation that ecosystem services form a much higher percentage of the "GDP of the Poor" than of classical GDP calculations. Biodiversity based livelihood options form the basis of rural survival in many parts of the world. Living at the periphery of subsistence, the poor are the most at risk from biodiversity loss. They should not also be the ones to bear the cost of biodiversity conservation while the benefits are enjoyed by society at large.

India's initiatives acknowledge this correlation between biodiversity conservation and poverty eradication. Our efforts have focused on biodiversity conservation while protecting and promoting livelihoods, particularly in our rural areas. Participatory approaches that encourage and incentivize the involvement of local communities is a key element in our efforts towards conservation.

We have also found that many development schemes can be realigned to provide biodiversity-related benefits. This is vital to protect habitats, including our water bodies, which are beyond our protected areas. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme for example, with an annual outlay of US\$ 6 billion, aims to create legally mandated green jobs for every rural household in our country.

On the occasion of this conference, I am pleased to launch the Hyderabad Pledge and announce that our Government has decided to earmark a sum of US\$ 50 million during India's presidency of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to strengthen the institutional mechanism for biodiversity conservation in India. We will use these funds to enhance the technical and human capabilities of our national and state-level mechanisms to attain the Convention on Biological Diversity objectives. We have also earmarked funds to promote similar capacity building in developing countries.

Humankind should understand the importance of preserving biodiversity. The diversity of life forms on Earth is the culmination of millions of years of the

productive genius of nature. It is nature's insurance against extreme events that may disturb the delicate balance of this planet. We need to work together and act before a catastrophe is upon us. India stands committed to work with all parties to reach the happy compromise that will secure a future that provides ecological and economic space for each one of us and sustainable growth for all of us. I thank you."



081. Speech of Minister of Environment and Forests Smt. Jayanthi Natrajan at the opening Plenary of the High Level Segment of the Eleventh Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Hyderabad, October 16, 2012.

“It is a great privilege to welcome you all to the High Level Segment of the Eleventh Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. I congratulate you for the successful conclusion of the Sixth Meeting of Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. I am glad that the International Community is acknowledging the gravity of the issues pertaining to loss of Biological Diversity, and is willing to bring these concerns to the world center stage.

India has always taken a lead in global endeavors on various environmental issues. We played a very constructive role in achieving a successful outcome at the Durban Conference which delivered a breakthrough on the international community’s response to climate change and at the recently concluded Rio+20 Summit on Sustainable Development.

The past week has witnessed intense negotiations amongst Parties to arrive at concrete conclusions on critical issues in Biological Diversity conservation. I am hopeful that the deliberations in the High Level Segment during the next three days will facilitate consensus on important issues.

The four themes slated for discussion in the High Level Segment, namely Biodiversity for Livelihoods and Poverty Reduction; Implementation of the Strategic Plan of Biodiversity 2011-2020; Coastal and Marine Biodiversity and Implementation of Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing have been selected after much deliberation. These themes are most appropriate to address the key issues relating to biodiversity loss and strategies to find suitable solutions.

Friends, resource mobilization is the most important unfinished agenda that we have inherited from CoP-10 as we could not succeed in adopting targets for resource mobilization as a means to achieve the Aichi Targets. I urge the Parties to CBD to agree to some measures, commitments and targets on resource mobilization, even if on an interim basis so as to infuse confidence in Parties as also to generate momentum for implementation of the Aichi Targets. This is crucial because if we are not able to agree to any measures on resource mobilization at CoP-11, then four out of ten year period of Strategic Plan for the decade 2011-2020, would have gone, making it all the more difficult to achieve the targets by 2020. This would be our collective failure. We have failed once to achieve CBD’s 2010 biodiversity targets. Our future generations will not forgive

us if we fail again in 2020. I am sure that you all will show the statesmanship and leadership which will help the negotiations on resource mobilization to reach a successful conclusion.

More than half of the world's population lives in cities, and we are witnessing a fast pace of urbanization all across the world. Urbanization brings improvement in the quality of life of people. At the same time, it is associated with more intensive consumption patterns which invariably cause major impacts on biodiversity. It is estimated that half of India's population will also be living in cities by 2045. I am happy that a parallel Summit on 'Cities for Life' has been held on the margins of CoP-11, bringing together sub-national and local authorities. I am confident that this will go a long way in bringing biodiversity back into the Urban Agenda.

Role of Communication, Education, Public Awareness is most critical to achieve the strategic goals and Aichi Biodiversity targets. The outcome document from the Conference on "Biodiversity conservation and Education for Sustainable Development", held on the side line of the COP, has made very useful suggestions, that could greatly influence Communication, Education and Public Awareness plans.

I would specially mention of innovative communication through "Science Express: Biodiversity Special"- a mobile biodiversity exhibition train, which we have showcased as CoP brand ambassador, and is scheduled to run 18,000 Km in its first leg. It is creating unprecedented public awareness on biodiversity across the country, particularly, amongst children and youth, and has already been visited by over 1.5 million people.

In the end I would like to quote Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of our nation once again. He said, 'You must be the change you wish to see in the world.' Friends, we cannot lose time in arriving at consensus for conservation of Biological Diversity. We must strive to reach consensus now, when we all are sitting here on the negotiation tables.

I express my sincere thanks to the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Mr. N. Kiran Kumar Reddy and his Government for their tireless efforts and support in organizing this mega event. I hope that your stay here in Hyderabad has been comfortable and you have also had a chance to see this beautiful city. The road ahead is tough, but we all need to stand united to address the challenges that threaten our very existence. "



082. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests on the High Level Segment of CoP – 11 held in Hyderabad.

New Delhi, October 19, 2012.

“The High Level Segment (HLS) of the Eleventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CoP-11) convened between 16-18 October 2012 witnessed active and stimulating discussions on the four main themes of the HLS. Nearly, 120 Parties and others made statements including Ministers and Heads of Delegation of Parties, representatives of regional groups, International organizations and Multi stakeholder groups including non-governmental organizations, indigenous and local communities, women and youth have held active discussions revolving around four issues and related matters..

On the theme of status of biological diversity, it was recognized that biological loss led to livelihood loss resulting in persistence of poverty. Parties indicated the progress made in achieving Aichi targets through increase in the forests, coastal and marine protected areas. They also outlined the threats faced by various ecosystems..

On the theme of activities relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, participants noted the special programmes and projects initiated at national, sub-national and regional level and observed the need to document the wealth of traditional knowledge among indigenous and local communities. In - country initiatives for protection of biodiversity within a legal framework, development of community oriented programmes and activities for awareness and capacity building have been undertaken to educate stakeholders. There is a need to undertake precautionary approach while adopting biotechnological innovations..

On the theme of implementation of the strategic plan on biodiversity, the need to implement biodiversity activities at different levels of governance within a country and the need to ensure substantial financial resources from developed to developing countries, particularly Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States and mobilization of domestic resources were underlined. Countries indicated aligning their national plans with Aichi targets and the need to conserve biodiversity in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication. Gender equity was identified as a cross cutting issue in biodiversity related efforts. Parties viewed that valuation of ecosystem services is an important tool in mainstreaming the biodiversity conservation, priorities in the programmes and activities..

On the theme of status on the ratification of Nagoya Protocol on access to

genetic resources and benefit sharing, participants urged greater political commitment to expedite the process of ratification and the need for new and additional financial resources and technical support for capacity building initiatives, including innovative financing.

The four Panel discussions generated considerable interest. In the Panel on implementation of the Strategic Plan on biodiversity 2011-2020, mainstreaming of biodiversity into national policies, involvement of all stakeholders for planning and implementation and support for development of baseline data were emphasized. Substantial financial resources through conventional mechanisms were required.

In the Panel on biodiversity for livelihoods and poverty reduction, the need to integrate biodiversity with livelihood security conforming to the principles of inter and intra generational equity and justice, and right's based approach was underlined. Parties agreed to continue discussions related to 'Biodiversity and Livelihoods', and 'Biodiversity and Health' and recommend concrete actions, considering the critical linkages of biodiversity with livelihoods, health and poverty alleviation..

In the Panel on coastal and marine biodiversity, the major challenges of conservation such as over fishing, ocean acidification, sea bed mining etc were mentioned and need to regulate such activities was underlined. A differential approach was necessary to deal with artisanal and commercial fishing. There was a suggestion to establish an International Research Centre on Ocean and Marine Resources under the United Nations.

In the Panel on implementation of Nagoya Protocol and access to genetic resources and benefit sharing, participants underlined the on-going domestic preparatory process in their countries and the benefits such ratification would bring, including addressing the issue of bio-piracy.



083. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests on the UN Conference on Biodiversity.

New Delhi, October 22, 2012.

The world's governments have agreed to increase funding in support of actions to halt the rate of loss of biodiversity at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, which ended today.

Developed countries agreed to double funding to support efforts in developing states towards meeting the internationally-agreed Biodiversity Targets, and the main goals of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

The Saragasso Sea, the Tonga archipelago and key corals sites off the coast of Brazil are among a range of marine areas to receive special attention by governments as part of renewed efforts to sustainably manage the world's oceans agreed in Hyderabad. Many of the areas are beyond national jurisdictions and, as such, receive little or no protection at present.

Other key decisions taken at the 11th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 11) include new measures to factor biodiversity into environmental impact assessments linked to infrastructure and other development projects in marine and coastal areas.

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity said: "These results, coming in a period of economic crisis, demonstrate that the world is committed to implementing the CBD. We see that governments are moving forward in implementation and seeing biodiversity as an opportunity to be realized more than a problem to be solved."

"We now need to move forward in the next two years, under the able leadership of India, the COP 11 president, to consolidate this work and to advance further. I look forward to other pledges in support of the Hyderabad call for Biodiversity Champions that will allow us to realize our goals" he said.

Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan, Minister for Environment and Forests for India, and President of the COP said: "The present economic crisis should not deter us, but on the contrary encourage us to invest more towards amelioration of the natural capital for ensuring uninterrupted ecosystem services, on which all life on earth depends."

"The UN biodiversity conference in Hyderabad has taken forward the renewed momentum, forged two years ago in Nagoya," said United Nations Under-Secretary-General and UN Environment Programme Executive Director Achim Steiner.

"Countries have sent a clear signal and delivered additional commitments underlining the fact that biodiversity and ecosystems are a development priority and central to a transition to an inclusive Green Economy," added Mr. Steiner.

"Mobilizing the necessary financial resources from the public and private sector needed to ensure achievement of the 2020 targets remains a challenge - but here in India, many nations including developing economies have signalled their determination and sense of urgency to seize the opportunities by providing much needed additional support," said Mr. Steiner.

Agreements on Funding

Developed countries agreed at the conference to increase funding to support efforts in developing states towards meeting the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Using a baseline figure of the average annual national spending on biodiversity between 2006 and 2010, developed countries said they would double biodiversity-related international financial flows by 2015. The COP also set targets to increase the number of countries that have included biodiversity in their national development plans, and prepared national financial plans for biodiversity, by 2015.

All Parties agreed to substantially increase domestic expenditures for biodiversity protection over the same period. These targets, and progress towards them, will be reviewed in 2014.

For the first time, developing countries at COP 11, including India and several African states, pledged additional funds above and beyond their core funding towards the work of the CBD.

The conference also saw the launch of the Hyderabad Call for Biodiversity Champions. The programme will accept pledges from governments and organizations in support of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity. The government of India this week committed over US\$ 50 million as part of the programme.

The Global Environment Facility, the financial mechanism of the Convention, for the first time, was provided with an assessment of the financial resources required to meet the needs of developing countries for implementing the Convention.

Marine Biodiversity

The 193 Parties to the CBD agreed to classify a diverse list of marine areas, some renowned for containing 'hidden treasures' of the plant and animal world, as ecologically or biologically significant.

Earlier this week, UNEP launched its Protected Planet 2012 report which found that half of the world's richest biodiversity zones remain entirely unprotected - despite a 60 per cent increase in the number of protected areas since 1990.

To meet the Aichi Biodiversity Target of ensuring that 10 per cent of marine areas are protected by 2020, says the UNEP report, an additional 8 million square kilometres of marine and coastal areas would need to be recognized as protected - an area just over the size of Australia.

COP agreed to transmit the results of this classification work to the United Nations General Assembly so that they can be considered by relevant UN processes linked to the United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea, in particular the United Nations General Assembly Working Group which is considering the development of an international agreement for biodiversity conservation in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction.

Parties to the Convention also called for more research into the potential adverse effects of underwater noise from ships on marine and coastal biodiversity, and highlighted the growing concern on the adverse effects of marine litter. It also recognized the growing challenge of climate change impacts on coral reefs, which, Parties agreed, will require significant investment to overcome.

There was also a call to fisheries management bodies to play a stronger role in addressing the impacts of fisheries on biodiversity.

The series of agreements at COP 11 on oceans and coasts builds on the commitment of countries made at the United Nations Rio+20 summit in June to protect and restore marine ecosystems and to maintain their biodiversity.

National Biodiversity Plans

Much of the COP 11 negotiations revolved around practical and financial support for countries in implementing national biodiversity plans to meet the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and the 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

In reviewing global progress in implementing such measures, the COP reaffirmed the need for enhanced technical and scientific cooperation among countries, while underlining the potential for enhanced cooperation among developing countries. To support such efforts, a new National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans Forum (NBSAP Forum) was launched at COP11 by UNEP, CBD, The Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the UN Development Programme (UNDP). The online forum provides easy-to-access, targeted information such as best practices, guidelines and learning tools for countries.

UNEP's Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) Initiative also presented a series of practical guides for governments at COP 11 for integrating the economic, social and cultural value of ecosystems into national biodiversity plans.

COP 11 also agreed to a number of measures to engage the main economic sectors, such as business and development organizations, to integrate biodiversity objectives in their plans and programmes.

COP 11 developed new work in support of achieving Aichi Target 15 which calls for the restoration of 15% of degraded lands. This work was supported by a call, in the margins of the meeting, by the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and other bodies for concerted action in support of the decision.

A decision on climate change and biodiversity called for enhanced collaboration between the CBD and UN climate change initiatives including Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+).

Given that forests are home to more than half of all terrestrial species, initiatives such as REDD+, where developing countries can receive payments for carbon offsets for their standing forests, can potentially help achieve international biodiversity targets, as well as those concerned with cutting carbon emissions.

The decision covers technical advice on the conservation of forests, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

However the COP also noted discussions around the need for biodiversity safeguards relating to REDD+ and similar incentives. Actions such as afforestation in areas of high biodiversity value, or the conversion of natural forests to plantations, for example, may have adverse impacts on biodiversity.

The COP adopted recommendations for improving the sustainable use and management of species hunted for 'bushmeat' in tropical and sub-tropical regions, where large-scale hunting and trade of animals has led to 'empty forest syndrome', and is increasingly threatens food security, and the ecological stability of forests and other ecosystems. Together with FAO and other organizations, the CBD Secretariat will establish a global 'Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management' to support developing countries in the implementation of relevant CBD provisions.

COP 11 adopted a decision on protected areas that provides a framework for achieving Aichi target 11. It calls for integration of national action plans for Protected Areas into revised National Biodiversity Strategies and action Plans.

A parallel summit of Cities and Local Authorities was convened with the support of ICLEI. Participants adopted the Hyderabad Declaration on Subnational Governments, Cities and other Local Authorities for Biodiversity, which supports the work of cities to achieve the Global Strategy for Biodiversity and calls for greater coordination between levels of government.



INDIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS - 2012

SECTION - IV

MULTILATERAL COOPERATION

084. Joint Media Statement of the Third Meeting of ASEAN-India Tourism Ministers (3rd M - ATM + India).

Manado, Indonesia, 12 January, 2012.

1. The ASEAN and India Tourism Ministers held their Third Meeting (3rd MATM+ India) on 12 January 2012 in Manado, Indonesia, in conjunction with the ASEAN Tourism Forum 2012 (ATF 2012). The Meeting was jointly co-chaired by H.E. Dr. Mari Elka Pangestu, Minister of Tourism and Creative Economy of Indonesia, and H.E. Mr. Subodh Kant Sahai, Minister for Tourism, Government of India.
2. The Ministers welcomed the adoption of the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity (2010-2015) at the 8th ASEAN-India Summit in Ha Noi, Viet Nam. The Ministers were gratified with the support given by the Leaders in continuing tourism consultations between ASEAN and India to promote tourism cooperation, including in the area of joint marketing, crisis communications, tourism investment, and quality tourism activities.
3. The Ministers signed the Memorandum of Understanding between ASEAN and India on Strengthening Tourism Cooperation, which would serve as the key instrument for more action-oriented cooperation, encouraging both parties to cooperate in facilitating travel and tourist visits and further strengthen the close tourism partnership. The signing of the MOU marks the enhanced tourism collaboration between ASEAN and India through concrete activities. The Ministers tasked their senior officials to report the progress of implementation of the MOU regularly.
4. The Ministers also welcomed the entry into force of the ASEAN Multilateral Agreement on Full Liberalisation of Passenger Air Services (MAFLPAS). The Ministers encouraged their transport counterparts for an early conclusion of the ASEAN-India Air Transport Agreement, given its significance for enhancing connectivity that would increase number of travels and strengthen people-people contact between ASEAN and India.
5. The Ministers welcomed the forthcoming ASEAN-India Car Rally to be organised in 2012. This Rally would mark another meaningful step forward in ASEAN-India tourism cooperation and at the same time reflect the existence of land route connectivity that would facilitate tourism exchange between ASEAN and India.
6. The Ministers noted the progress made in the implementation of the work plan for the Development of ASEAN-India Buddhist Pilgrimage Tourism, including the production of promotional brochure, webpage and production of documentary

film on Buddhist Pilgrimage in ASEAN and India. The Ministers looked forward for more joint tourism promotion and product development activities between ASEAN and India in the future.

7. The Ministers welcomed the establishment of the ASEAN Promotional Chapter in India based in Mumbai that would act as tourism marketing and promotion arm of ASEAN National Tourism Organisations.

8. The Ministers were pleased to note that the number of tourist arrivals between ASEAN and India had shown steady growth, with the total number of tourist arrivals from India to ASEAN recorded more than 2,4 million arrivals and ASEAN to India more than 400thousand arrivals in 2010. List of Ministers The Meeting was attended by:

- (i) H.E. Pehin Dato Yahya, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Brunei Darussalam;
- (ii) H.E. Dr. Thong Khon, Minister of Tourism, Cambodia;
- (iii) H.E. Mr. Subodh Kant Sahai, Minister for Tourism, Government of India;
- (iv) H.E. Dr. Mari Elka Pangestu, Minister of Tourism and Creative Economy, Indonesia;
- (v) H.E. Prof. Dr. Bosengkham Vongdara, Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism, Lao PDR;
- (vi) H.E. Dato' Sri Dr. Ng Yen Yen, Minister of Tourism, Malaysia;
- (vii) H.E. Mr. Htay Aung, Vice Minister for Hotels and Tourism, Myanmar;
- (viii) H.E. Mr. Ramon R. Jimenez, Jr. Secretary of Tourism, Philippines;
- (ix) H.E. Mr. S. Iswaran, Second Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore;
- (x) H.E. Mr. Sombat Kuruphan, Vice Minister for Tourism and Sports, Thailand;
- (xi) H.E. Mr. Nguyen Van Tuan, Chairman of Viet Nam National Administration of Tourism; and
- (xii) Dr. Somsak Pipoppinyo, Director, Finance, Industry, and Infrastructure Directorate, representing H.E. Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, Secretary-General of ASEAN.



085. Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India and the Governments of the Member States of Association of Southeast Asian Nations on Strengthening Tourism Cooperation.

Manado (Indonesia), 12 January, 2012.

The Government of the Republic of **India** (hereinafter referred to as “India”) and the Governments of **Brunei Darussalam**, the Kingdom of **Cambodia**, the Republic of **Indonesia**, the **Lao** People’s Democratic Republic, **Malaysia**, the Republic of the Union of **Myanmar**, the Republic of the **Philippines**, the Republic of **Singapore**, the Kingdom of **Thailand**, and the Socialist Republic of **Vietnam**, as Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereinafter referred to as “ASEAN”) (hereinafter referred to singularly as “India” or “ASEAN” and collectively as “the Parties”);

RECOGNISING the progress of the India-ASEAN Dialogue Relations which has been evolving over the past years and developed into a multi-faceted and dynamic partnership contributing to regional peace, mutual understanding and closer economic interaction;

EMPHASISING the need to strengthen, deepen and broaden cooperation in tourism between the Parties;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the importance of the Parties as partners and major source markets for tourism;

RECALLING the India-ASEAN Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity Agreement signed by the Parties’ Leaders at the 3rd India-ASEAN Summit held on 30 November 2004 in Vientiane, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, that agreed to facilitate travel and tourism between the Parties by developing links between tourist centres to enhance synergies of tourism destinations and the India-ASEAN Plan of Action to implement the ASEAN - India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity Agreement for the period of 2010-2015 adopted at the 8th India-ASEAN Summit on 30 October 2010 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, that supported continued consultation between ASEAN and India to promote tourism cooperation; and

NOTING the ASEAN Tourism Agreement signed by the ASEAN Leaders at the Seventh ASEAN Summit held on 4 November 2002 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, that agreed to cooperate with other countries, groups of countries and international institutions in developing human resources for tourism; 474 asean india

Have Reached the Following Understanding:

ARTICLE I**Objectives**

The Parties will, subject to the provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding and the laws, rules, regulation and national policies from time to time in force in their respective countries, decide to:

- (1) cooperate in facilitating travel and tourist visits;
- (2) further strengthen the close tourism partnership;
- (3) enhance mutual assistance for human resource development for the tourism sector; and
- (4) take necessary steps for exploring avenues of cooperation and sharing of information.

ARTICLE II**Areas of Cooperation**

In fulfillment of the above objectives, as articulated in Article I, the respective Parties will, subject to the domestic laws, rules, regulations and national policies from time to time in force and governing the subject matter in their respective countries, endeavour to take necessary steps to encourage and promote cooperation in the following areas:

- (1) Share:
 - (a) best practices for the development of responsible and/or sustainable tourism as well as the development and structuring of joint tourism packages to increase tourism flow between the Parties; and
 - (b) resources and facilities in order to provide mutual assistance in tourism education and training for quality tourism development.
- (2) Support and encourage:
 - (a) the participation of tourism stakeholders in travel marts, tourism exhibitions and festivals with emphasis on the Parties' tourism destinations and products;
 - (b) joint tourism marketing and promotional activities, including the activities carried out by the ASEAN Promotional Chapter for Tourism in India and similar initiatives of India in ASEAN countries; and
 - (c) crisis communications to protect the reputation and credibility of progress & prosperity 475 the relevant tourism organisations and/or tourist destination, by proactively providing accurate and timely information to key stakeholders.

- (3) Promote and facilitate:
- (a) the undertaking of tourism-related projects or other related activities on mutually agreed terms;
 - (b) travel and tourism between the Parties through joint promotion and tour packages linking tourist destinations; and
 - (c) cooperation among the National Tourism Organisations (hereinafter referred to as “NTOs”) of ASEAN (hereinafter referred to as “ASEAN NTOs”) and the NTO of India (hereinafter referred to as “India NTO”) (hereinafter referred to collectively as “ASEAN+India NTOs”) and the tourism industry, particularly travel agencies and tour-operators, airlines, hotels and resorts.
- (4) Exchange information pertaining to statistics and development strategies, investment opportunities and economic data in tourism, travel and hospitality sectors relevant to each other;
- (5) Jointly organise seminars, workshops and face-to-face meetings, wherever possible, with a view to exploring and discussing new opportunities and avenues for the development and promotion of tourism; and
- (6) Any other area or activity aiming at tourism cooperation to be mutually agreed from time to time by the Parties.

ARTICLE III
Designated Authorities

The designated authorities responsible for the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of India will be the Ministry of Tourism, Government of the Republic of India and for ASEAN will be the ASEAN NTOs.

ARTICLE IV
Implementation

For the purposes of implementing this Memorandum of Understanding, the Parties agree that:

- (1) the areas of cooperation as specified in Article II will be conducted through joint projects and/or programmes as approved by the Parties and implemented by their respective agencies; 476 asean india
- (2) subject to Article VII, participation of the private sector will be encouraged in the development and implementation of the work programmes on the Parties’ cooperation in tourism; and
- (3) they may conclude, as appropriate, implementation agreements or arrangements in the areas of cooperation specified in Article II.

ARTICLE V**Institutional Arrangements**

- (1) The Meeting of ASEAN and India Tourism Ministers (hereinafter referred to "MATM + India") will be held annually or as mutually agreed to discuss the issues and developments of common interest and to set policy directions for cooperation in the tourism sector. The MATM + India will also consider, review and approve the policies and work programmes and/or plans as may be suggested by the Parties
- (2) The ASEAN + India NTOs will be the operating arm of MATM + India in the supervision, coordination, and review of programmes and policy directions set by the MATM + India. The ASEAN + India NTOs will meet at least once a year for this purpose.
- (3) The ASEAN + India NTOs will:
 - (a) develop, coordinate and implement work programmes and/or plans to enhance cooperation in tourism, including the approval of the projects, programmes and activities;
 - (b) provide a mechanism to promote participation from the private or business sector and non-governmental organisations; and
 - (c) establish necessary working groups with clear terms of reference and specific time frames to assist in the development and implementation of its policies and work programmes and/or plans. Experts from regional and international organisations in the tourism sector may also be invited for the purpose as agreed between the Parties.
- (4) The ASEAN Secretariat will also assist the ASEAN + India NTOs in:
 - (a) carrying out their functions including technical support in the supervision, coordination and review of cooperation projects, programmes and activities; and
 - (b) coordinating and monitoring all approved projects, programmes and activities under the work programmes and/or plans with the relevant coordinating bodies and concerned focal points and/or agencies. progress & prosperity 477

ARTICLE VI**Financial Arrangements**

The areas of cooperation under Article II of this Memorandum of Understanding will be funded by India-ASEAN Cooperation Fund and/or other funding sources, which will be mutually agreed upon by the Parties on a case-by-case basis subject to the availability of funds.

ARTICLE VII**Participation of Third Parties**

The Parties may agree to invite the participation of a third party or parties in the joint projects, programmes and/or activities being carried out under this Memorandum of Understanding. In carrying out such joint projects, programmes and/or activities, the Parties will ensure that the third party or parties will comply with the provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding.

ARTICLE VIII**Amendment**

- (1) ASEAN or India may request in writing an amendment of all or any part of this Memorandum of Understanding.
- (2) Any amendment agreed to by the Parties will be reduced into writing and will form part of this Memorandum of Understanding.
- (3) Such amendment will come into effect on such date as may be determined by the Parties.
- (4) Any amendment will not prejudice the rights and obligations arising from or based on this Memorandum of Understanding before and up to the date of such amendment.

ARTICLE IX**Settlement of Disputes**

Any difference or dispute between the Parties concerning the interpretation, implementation and/or application of any of the provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding will be settled amicably through mutual consultations and/or negotiations between the Parties through diplomatic channels, without reference to any third party or international tribunal.

ARTICLE X**Final Provisions**

- (1) This Memorandum of Understanding neither creates nor is intended to create any enforceable rights or impose any legal obligations on the Parties. 478 asean india
- (2) This Memorandum of Understanding is without prejudice to any tourism agreement concluded between any ASEAN Member State and India.
- (3) This Memorandum of Understanding will not affect any rights and obligations under any bilateral agreement concluded between any ASEAN Member State and India
- (4) This Memorandum of Understanding will come into effect on the date of signature and will remain in effect for a period of five (5) years. Thereafter,

this Memorandum of Understanding will be automatically extended for further periods of five (5) years.

- (5) Notwithstanding anything in this Article, either Party may terminate this Memorandum of Understanding by notifying the other Party of its intention to terminate this Memorandum of Understanding by giving a notice in writing through diplomatic channels, at least three (3) months prior to its intended date of termination.
- (6) The termination of this Memorandum of Understanding will not affect the implementation of ongoing projects, programmes and/or activities.
- (7) The Memorandum of Understanding will be deposited with the Secretary General and the Ministry of Tourism, India.

Done at Manado, Indonesia this Twelfth Day of January in the year Two Thousand and Twelve in two original copies, in the English language.

For the Government of Brunei Darussalam:

(PEHIN DATO YAHYA)

Minister of Industry and Primary Resources

For the Government of the Republic of India:

SUBODH KANT SAHAI

Minister of Tourism

Government of India

For the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia:

DR. THONG KHON

Minister of Tourism

For the Government of the Republic of Indonesia:

DR-MARI ELKA PANGESTU

Minister of Tourism and Creative Economy

For the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic:

PROF. DRTBOSENGKHAM VONGDARA

Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism

For the Government of Malaysia

DATO' SRIDR, NGYENYEN

Minister of Tourism

For the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar:

HTAYUNG

Vice Ministry of Hotels and Tourism

For the Government of the Republic of the Philippines:

RAMON R. JIMENEZ

JR. Secretary, Department of Tourism

For the Government of the Republic of Singapore:

S.ISWARAN

Second Minister for Trade and Industry

For the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand:

SOMBAT KURUPHAN

Vice Minister for Tourism and Sports

For the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam:

NGUYEN VAN TUAN

Chairman of Viet Nam National Administration of Tourism



086. Address by Secretary (East) Sanjay Singh at the Inaugural Session of Look East Economic Summit 2012.

Kolkata, 20 January, 2012.

I am delighted at the privilege to be amongst all of you today at the Look East Economic Summit 2012. This initiative of the Indian Chamber of Commerce which has grown over the years and now brings together an extremely distinguished gathering to focus on a very important aspect of India's foreign policy. The "Look East Policy" of India is multi-dimensional. Its basis is the civilisational linkages between India and East Asia; similarity of views and concerns of our countries; complementarity of capacities and of our individual economies and business environments. And its long-term objective is to strengthen synergies at the people-to-people and business-to-business levels. All this requires deliberative endeavour, clarity of objective, optimisation of resources and a constant and dynamic interface between the opinion makers, end-users and decision-makers in our countries. It requires an on-going dialogue of ideas, mindful of both the objectives and the very real requirements in our countries. The Ministry of External Affairs is, therefore, happy to be associated with the Seminar today.

2. An important backdrop to our discussions here in Kolkata is the growing belief that this century would be an Asian century. Our collective effort thus far, therefore, to forge closer engagement and deeper economic integration need to be assessed in this context. Another aspect of considerable importance today is the growth in capacities and capabilities that we see across the region for undertaking such a mutually beneficial partnership. India in the early 1990s had initiated a "Look East Policy" not merely as a dimension of its external economic policy but as recognition of the strategic shift of global focus to Asia and India's capacity to partner the processes in this part of the world. While the "Look East Policy" covers a wider area, today the focus of my address will be ASEAN and South East Asia.

3. Over the years, there has been a certain dynamism in bringing together the synergies between India and South East Asia in particular, in a mutually beneficial manner. This is reflected in our reiteration at the highest levels, including by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in his remarks at the 9th ASEAN India Summit held in Bali, Indonesia on November 19, 2011 that, India's partnership with ASEAN is one of the corner stones of our foreign policy and the foundation of India's "Look East Policy".

4. Since its specific formulation in 1991, and I say specific because elements of India's Look East Policy could be found in our foreign policy even before but merely acquired a more deliberate character and formulation in keeping with the

growing capacities of India and South East Asia at the time, India has been pursuing active constructive engagement with ASEAN, and South East Asia through its dialogue partnership with ASEAN and through fora such as ARF, the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical Cooperation (BIMSTEC), the Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC) and now the East Asia Summit. Bilateral relationships with countries in these groupings have also strengthened over the years through regular and steady exchange of high level visits. The functional aspects of ASEAN-India relations are driven by the ASEAN-India Plan of Action, the latest version covers years 2010-2015. In order to service its financial requirements, India has announced a contribution of US \$ 50 million to the ASEAN-India Cooperation Fund, an initial corpus of US \$ 1 million to ASEAN India Science and Technology Fund and US \$ 5 million for the ASEAN-India Green Fund. In the last few months, India has suggested a number of projects proposals for ASEAN-India collaboration to the ASEAN Secretariat which will utilize a substantial part of this amount. We are awaiting concurrence from ASEAN countries to these suggested activities.

5. 2012 is being celebrated as the Commemorative Year for ASEAN-India relations and the Leaders would be meeting for a Commemorative Summit in New Delhi in December 2012. This is to mark 20 years of Dialogue Partnership and 10 years of Summit Partnership. Events that ASEAN and India are planning together include Delhi Dialogue IV on February 13-14, 2012 on the theme "India and ASEAN: Partners for Peace, Progress and Stability". EAM would be inaugurating Delhi Dialogue IV which would have two sessions oriented to business and two towards security and political issues. An Eminent Persons Group to fashion a vision statement for India-ASEAN relations has also been formed. Heads of Space Agencies of ASEAN and India would meet at mutually convenient dates in the first half of this year. Given the increase in trade between ASEAN and India following the FTA on Trade in Goods, with total trade reaching US \$ 57.87 billion in 2011, realistically close to the target of US \$ 70 billion by 2012, efforts are now underway for the early conclusion of a commercially meaningful FTA in Services and Investment preferably by March 2012. The inaugural ASEAN-India Business Fair was held in New Delhi in March 2011 and the Commemorative Year will see the 2nd ASEAN-India Business Fair in December 2012, when the ASEAN-India Business Council and the ASEAN India Business Summit meetings will also be held. ICC Kolkata and FICCI would partner with the Government of India in its initiative to take a Sail Training Ship "Sudershini" on an expedition to ASEAN countries and organise "marker" events in the different ports of call. CII is assisting the Governments of India and ASEAN countries in organising an ASEAN-India Car Rally 2012 which will start in Indonesia and reach India in time for the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit in December 2012 in New Delhi. DIPP would also be organising Investment Round Tables in some ASEAN cities during the Car Rally.

6. The first meeting of ASEAN and Indian Agriculture Ministers took place in October 2011 in Jakarta. The second meeting is planned to be held in New Delhi in October 2012. An Agri Expo is to be organised back-to-back with this Ministerial Meeting. The 1st ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting on Environment is also planned to be held the same month. ASEAN-India Ministers of New and Renewable Energy are to meet in November 2012. We are also working towards organising the 1st Meeting of the ASEAN-India Ministers of Small and Medium Enterprises, given the significant potential to be explored between ASEAN and India in this field. All of these meetings would provide direction and an unprecedented fillip to building the business environment between ASEAN countries and India.

7. Special emphasis is being given this year to people-to-people linkages. As part of the Commemorative Year, ICCR is drawing up an intensive calendar of cultural activities. India would be continuing the over 600 scholarships extended to ASEAN nationals on a bilateral and multilateral basis under our ITEC programme. The Entrepreneurship Development Centres (EDCs) and Centres for English Language Training (CELTs) set up by India in CLMV countries have been appreciated. There is a request to set up additional centres. Prime Minister announced at the Bali Summit in November 2011 that given the enthusiastic participation by ASEAN students in the annual exchange programme, India would increase the number of students hosted from ASEAN countries from 100 to 250 per year. We are also looking to institutionalise the ASEAN-India Media Exchange Programme with India hosting two groups of 20 ASEAN journalists every year for the next 3 years and ASEAN countries hosting India journalists in return. The Foreign Service Institute of India conducts a special training course for 50 ASEAN diplomats annually. The last such month-long course was held in November-December 2011. India has also been participating as observer in the ASEAN Inter Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) General Assembly and at the last meeting in September 2011 in Phnom Penh, Indian Parliamentarians extended an invitation for an AIPA Delegation to visit India in 2012. Most recently, at the ASEAN-India Tourism Ministers Meeting in Manado on January 12, 2012, we have signed an MoU to strengthen tourism cooperation between our countries. We are also seeking active participation of ASEAN countries in the Nalanda University Project. Connectivity issues and the various projects proposed therein, such as the extension of the India-Myanmar-Thailand Highway to Laos and Cambodia and the Mekong India Economic Corridor are to be approached in an integrated manner. 8. I have enumerated our ongoing efforts at some length to share with you a sense of India's commitment to its Look East Policy and to the intensification of relations with ASEAN countries. We see ASEAN member countries as integral to our approach to meet our common concerns and objectives related to development, peace and stability in the wider region. Our approach is participative at the people-to-people and business levels, which is

more sustainable for rapid progress over the long term. I look forward to listening to the very distinguished Speakers at this Seminar and to using their experience in the region and their expertise as valuable inputs to the process that we are following in the Ministry of External Affairs to strengthen ties between India and ASEAN under our Look East Policy.

Thank you.



087. Media Briefing on Delhi Dialogue.**New Delhi, February 6, 2012.**

Official Spokesperson (Syed Akbaruddin):...next week we have an event planned here and that is the Delhi Dialogue. The year-long celebrations to commemorate 20 years of our relationship with ASEAN will be flagged off on 13th and 14th February at the Delhi Dialogue-IV with the theme "India and ASEAN : Partners for Peace, Progress and Stability".

This is the fourth in the series of such annual events. It is a Track 1.5 event and it has been an annual feature organized by the Ministry of External Affairs with a variety of partners since 2009. The partners for the next edition of the Delhi Dialogue are the ICWA, the FICCI, and they are also supported by SAEA Group Research and the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS), Singapore as well as the Economic Research Institute of ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Jakarta.

For those of you who are interested, this event would be divided into four thematic sessions which would address Economic Cooperation, Regional Security, Nontraditional Security Threats, and Networks of Knowledge and Science. We understand that several Foreign Ministers and other senior officials from ASEAN states are expected to participate.

* * * *

Thank you.

Official Spokesperson:I will now ask Ms Renu Pal Joint Secretary ASEAN to talk a little bit on the Delhi Dialogue and Indo-ASEAN relations.

JS (ASEAN): Let me very briefly take you through some of the additional details on Delhi Dialogue-IV. As JS (XP) said, it is a calendar event for the last three years, this is the fourth edition, to bring together expertise and opinions for a proactive engagement at the Track 1.5 level between India and ASEAN countries. This year's theme is "India and ASEAN: Partners for Peace, Progress and Stability". The discussions, as he said, have been divided into four thematic sessions. We have launched a new website for Delhi Dialogue which is delhialogue.org. An open page has been created on Facebook which is [facebook.com/delhialogue](https://www.facebook.com/delhialogue). You can access that even if you do not have a Facebook account and you would find most of the general information on these websites.

The External Affairs Minister had invited all his ten ASEAN counterparts to participate in the Inaugural Session. So far we have acceptances from the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Cambodia, His Excellency Mr. Hor Namhong; the Foreign Minister of Malaysia, His Excellency Dato' Sri Anifah

Aman; the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, His Excellency Dr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul; the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs from Singapore, His Excellency Mr. Masagos Zulkifli Bin Masagos Mohamad; the Deputy Foreign Minister of Myanmar, His Excellency Dr. Myo Myint; and the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam, Her Excellency Ms. Nguyen Phuong Nga, would be representing their Foreign Ministers.

The Deputy Secretary-General for Community and Corporate Affairs from ASEAN, His Excellency Mr. Bagas Hapsoro would be representing the Secretary-General who is unable to attend on account of a previous commitment. Foreign Ministers of Brunei, Laos, Indonesia and Philippines are unable to attend because of prior commitments. But all the ten ASEAN countries have sent delegations or participation in the form of speakers and panelists to DD-IV.

The External Affairs Minister would also be launching a book on this occasion which is being brought out by ICWA on two decades of India's Look East Policy. He would then be hosting a welcome dinner for select guests later that evening.

On February 14, the programme would be in the four thematic sessions, one after another sequentially. We hope that Sessions 1 and 4, which is on Towards Economic Integration – Prospects and Challenges, and Building Networks in Knowledge and Science, will further identify the trade complementarities, the investment opportunities, the potential for utilization of our human resources with a certain degree of synergy, and come up with ideas to strengthen the bridge of knowledge and scientific collaboration between ASEAN and India.

The encouraging collaboration that we have seen of capital and entrepreneurship between ASEAN and India in the last some years, which has brought up the trade levels to 57.87 billion dollars in the last year, needs to now resonate more intensively in the domains of science and technology, knowledge-sharing and human resource development.

Nontraditional security challenges and response strategies are issues that are finding expanding space on to the agenda of multilateral consultations and also Track 2 events. These issues are relevant at national, bilateral, regional and multilateral levels. So, we are looking forward to the discussions in the Session 2 on these subjects.

There is already ongoing collaboration between the ASEAN countries and India as also other countries in the East Asia region on many of these issues ranging from terrorism, piracy, money-laundering, climate change, humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, etc.

The security architecture in the Asia Pacific region and its evolution is another subject which is going to be deliberated, and the Third Session would focus on this aspect.

The former President of India Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam will be giving the Valedictory Address on the evening of February 14.

As I said before, you would see that the programme which is available on the website, brings out the participation of all the ten ASEAN countries. There are nine think tanks from the region and a significant set of business representatives as well amongst the panelists. Therefore, we feel that there is a definite progression in participation compared to DD-III which was in March last year. And we are hoping to see an interactive audience across the different sectors as well.

The proceedings would be telecast live. So, we hope that the discussions would be followed by numbers beyond those which are present at the Shahjahan Hall in Taj Palace, which is the venue for DD-IV. As in previous years, there would be a report which will be uploaded on the website. DD-IV will also be the flag off event for the India-ASEAN Commemorative Year. This year, the 2012 is commemorating the 20th anniversary of ASEAN-India dialogue partnership and the tenth anniversary of the ASEAN-India summit level partnership. The summit which Prime Minister at Bali had proposed the dates of December 20, 21. The theme for the summit is India and ASEAN – Partners in Progress and Prosperity.

There would be, therefore, after DD-IV, an intensive calendar we hope of activities including conferences, Ministerial level meetings, and cultural events, which will all culminate in the commemorative summit. The details of these will be shared with you as and how these are organized. You already know about some of them such as the ASEAN-India Car Rally 2012, and its marker events in November-December this year for which CII is the lead agency on the Indian side. And the ... (Inaudible)... Training Ship Sudarshani Expedition to all the ten ASEAN countries, it will be having different ports of call in all the ten ASEAN countries and also related marker events.

We are also, at the same time as the Delhi Dialogue, receiving a ten-member delegation of the ASEAN Committee of Permanent Representatives. They will be here for a week starting February 12. They would attend DD-IV and then travel on to Bengaluru as part of a process which is followed by the ASEAN to enhance their understanding of the institutional set up in the partner country, in this case India. The CBRs, as they are called, facilitate the ASEAN concurrence to the collaborative projects which India and ASEAN are considering out of the ASEAN-India Cooperation Fund.

In Delhi they would be meeting Secretary (East) who would also host them a lunch. They will call on Secretary (Environment) and some of the other Secretaries in key Ministries here. We are still firming up the programme. And they will also visit the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing at NOIDA.

At Bengaluru they would go to ISRO, IIM Bangalore, and possibly Infosys. In

addition to this, we are inviting a group of 20 ASEAN journalists at the time of DD-IV under the ASEAN-India Media Exchange Programme which we had mentioned to you a while ago. This is being institutionalized and we hope that this would be the first tranche under this programme. JS (XP) would be able to give you additional details a few days from now on this.

* * * *

Thank you.

Question: Madam, I have two questions. First is, I believe that the push from India within the ASEAN to have more, better, faster trade purposes to have like new kind of organisation within this structure. How far has that progressed? Secondly, will there be any talks on cooperation, especially in the naval security in the event that America cuts its naval presence in the Indian Ocean?

JS (ASEAN): On the first, I would point you to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry which is really the lead on those negotiations. But I would say that, as you are aware, we have the trade in goods agreement which has been finalized and operated between ASEAN and India. And in fact, this has set the stage for one of the largest FTAs in the region. We are still working on concluding the services and investment agreement. At the last meeting in August last year when the Economic Ministers had met, our Commerce and Industry Minister had asked them for a meaningful offer so as to conclude these negotiations early. So, I would point you to Commerce and Industry Ministry on that.

On the discussions, I would not want to preempt what this Track 1.5 event is going to discuss because that is exactly what its utility is. In fact, we are as much waiting to see how the different panelists take the discussions, where do they take the discussions. And what the partners, including us, have tried to do is just set the broad themes for these discussions. So, I will suggest why do not you attend the two political and security oriented sessions and then see for yourself where these discussions go.

Question: How is the changing situation in Myanmar ... (Inaudible)...

Official Spokesperson: We will limit ourselves to economic aspects of ASEAN. We could arrange a separate discussion on Myanmar. We are not focused on country-specific issues today. If you have a question on ASEAN in general, you can ask. We will have country-specific briefings separately.

Thank you very much.



088. Press Release on the Delhi Dialogue.**New Delhi, February 12, 2012.**

Delhi Dialogue is a track 1.5 event organized annually by the Ministry of External Affairs with select partners since 2009. The fourth edition, 'Delhi Dialogue-IV' will take place on February 13 and 14, 2012 at Taj Palace Hotel in New Delhi. The theme this year is "India and ASEAN: Partners for Peace, Progress and Stability". The Ministry of External Affairs will be organizing this in partnership with the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). Delhi Dialogue IV is also being supported by the SAEA Group Research (SAEA) and Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS), Singapore and Economic Research Institute of ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Jakarta.

2. Delhi Dialogue IV is being organized against the backdrop of an important milestone in the ASEAN-India relationship. 2012 marks 20 years of the ASEAN-India dialogue partnership and 10 years of Summit level partnership. Delhi Dialogue IV, therefore would also flag-off the year long ASEAN-India commemorative celebrations.

3. Political leaders, policy makers, senior officials, diplomats, business leaders, think tanks and academics from both sides would be participating in the discussions spread over two days. All the ten ASEAN countries have sent delegations or are participating in the form of speakers and panelists in DD-IV. Panelists also include speakers from various prominent think-tanks in the region, including Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore; the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace; Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies; Institute of Security and International Studies, Thailand; Institute of Foreign Affairs, Laos and Institute of Strategic and International Studies, Malaysia among others.

4. The Dialogue has been divided into four thematic sessions which include

- Towards Economic Integration : Prospects and Challenges;
- Non-Traditional Security Challenges and Response Strategies
- The Evolving Security Architecture in the Asia-Pacific
- Building Networks of Knowledge and Science

5. Delhi Dialogue IV would be inaugurated by the External Affairs Minister of India, H.E Shri S M Krishna. The Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Cambodia, His Excellency Mr. Hor Namhong; the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, H.E. Dr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul; the Deputy Minister of Foreign

Affairs of Malaysia, H.E. Senator A. Kohilan Pillay; the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs from Singapore, H.E. Mr. Masagos Zulkifli Bin Masagos Mohamad; the Deputy Foreign Minister of Myanmar, H.E. Dr. Myo Myint; and the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam, H.E. Ms. Nguyen Phuong Nga would address the inaugural session of Delhi Dialogue IV. Secretary General of ASEAN would be represented by the Deputy Secretary-General for Community and Corporate Affairs from ASEAN, His Excellency Mr. Bagas Hapsoro.

6. The former President of India Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam will be giving the Valedictory Address on the evening of February 14.



089. Keynote Address by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at Delhi Dialogue IV.

New Delhi, 13 February, 2012.

Your Excellency Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Cambodia Mr. Hor Namhong,

Your Excellency Foreign Minister of Thailand Dr. Surapong Tovichakchaikul,

Your Excellency Deputy Foreign Minister of Malaysia Senator A. Kohilan Pillai,

Your Excellency Deputy Foreign Minister of Myanmar Dr. Myo Myint,

Your Excellency Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Singapore Mr. Masagos Zulkifli

Your Excellency Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam Ms. Nguyen Phuong Nga,

Your Excellency Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN Mr. Bagas Hapsoro, Excellencies,

Distinguished Panelists & Guests,

Ladies & Gentlemen,

I am delighted to welcome you all to the inauguration of Delhi Dialogue IV at a moment when we are commemorating a significant milestone in the India-ASEAN Partnership. I extend a warm welcome to the ASEAN delegations who have honoured us with their presence. I also welcome the members of the ASEAN Committee of Permanent Representatives.

We are marking this year as the 20th anniversary of Dialogue partnership between ASEAN and India, and the 10th anniversary of our Summit level partnership. It also marks two decades of robust economic and commercial cooperation between India and ASEAN. It gives me great pleasure to flag-off this special ASEANIndia Commemorative Year with my ASEAN colleagues at the Delhi Dialogue IV.

The theme for this year's Delhi Dialogue, "India and ASEAN: Partners for Peace, Progress and Stability" aptly sums up the fundamentals of India's engagement with the ASEAN.

Our 'Look East Policy' has been a function of the interconnectedness that India has experienced over the centuries with ASEAN countries, our common

developmental and strategic interests, and the processes of transformation and integration in our region.

In the current global economic situation, it is in the common interest of India and ASEAN to work together to enhance the prospects for prosperity in our region. We need to secure our region as an area of growth, a region which is home to more than 1.7 billion people, around one-fourth of the global population.

India and ASEAN need to enhance connectivity through the realisation of routes such as the Mekong-India Economic Corridor, which would have a beneficial effect especially for the eastern part of our country. India has contributed to ASEAN integration and supports the efforts towards the creation of an ASEAN Community. In this digital age, the way forward points to virtual networks and econnectivity in addition to land, rail and air connectivity. ASEAN and India have the potential and the capacities to partner each other in such endeavours.

As we progress into the Asian Century, which is marked by a shift of the economic centre of gravity to this part of the world, we must also take cognizance of the global economic and politico-security environment. This requires us to build and strengthen mechanisms for communication and consultation between our governments, corporate sectors and our people. Our policies need to, simultaneously, safeguard our high rates of growth, enhance trade in goods and services, bring together our collective resources for mutual benefit, connect our spaces institutionally, increase investments for growth and enable our people to interact freely.

We already share common developmental and security perspectives. Nontraditional and trans-national security challenges like cross-border terrorism, money laundering, drug trafficking, energy security, food security, climate change, disaster relief and response, protecting sea lanes of communications, piracy, etc. are present day challenges with repercussions over national, regional and international security. They require our coordinated efforts and demand innovative approaches beyond what ASEAN and India are already doing together in various international and regional ASEAN led fora.

As we commemorate two decades of our partnership, we must take cognizance of the ground covered by ASEAN and India in a relatively short span of time and the very varied and rich agenda of cooperation which is being seen by many, even outside of our countries, as a stable anchor for the processes of integration and transformation in the Asia-Pacific region.

India and ASEAN have put in place one of the largest free trade agreements on goods. Efforts are underway for an early conclusion of a meaningful agreement on services and investments. We have also agreed to a structured private sector engagement in the five areas of pharmaceuticals, innovation and skills training,

information technology, manufacturing and infrastructure. All of these impact our capacities, our processes of development and growth, and our people. India's 486 asean india Ministry of Commerce & Industry is working towards the next set of meetings of the India-ASEAN Business Fair, Business Summit and Business Council.

We have given regularity to India-ASEAN Ministerial level meetings even as we seek to mark up firsts in sectors where our engagement has been bilateral rather than regional. Cooperation in the areas of environment, new and renewable energy, agriculture, micro, small and medium enterprises and space could easily sustain greater engagement between India and ASEAN.

The ASEAN-India Eminent Persons Group is in the process of finalizing an ASEAN-India Vision 2020 document. The ASEAN Secretariat is helping to give final shape to the implementation of the 82-point Plan of Action worth about 40 million US dollars till 2015. Education, training, capacity building and human resource development in various sectors remain in the forefront of our collective priorities. India's Department of Space has begun discussions with its counterparts in ASEAN on a five-year project for engendering cooperation in space sciences.

We are examining how to enhance cooperation in Entrepreneurship Development Centres, English Language Training Centres, and Vocational Training Centres in the CLMV countries. ASEAN and India signed last month a Memorandum of Understanding on strengthening tourism. India would be hosting 250 ASEAN students, up from the annual 100, this year.

The ASEAN-India Media Exchange Programme has been institutionalized by bringing over a group of 20 ASEAN journalists to Delhi Dialogue IV. We look forward to the next batch of 20 ASEAN journalists coming to India in December 2012 at the time of the special ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit. Forty Indian journalists would be hosted over 3 years by ASEAN Member States.

We need to give a fillip to greater physical connectivity between ASEAN and India by looking at the various proposals suggested by ASEAN, India and ERIA in an integrated manner. The ASEAN-India Commemorative Year, therefore, has a rather full calendar ahead.

I am also happy that we are embarking on the ASEAN-India Car Rally 2012 to mark the Commemorative Year. India is also sending a Sail Training Ship *Sudarshini* on an interactive expedition to all the ten ASEAN countries to trace traditional trade routes. These two events, together with their respective 'marker events' would no doubt reinforce connectivity between India and ASEAN.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am confident that your sessions tomorrow will result in quantifiable

recommendations for a qualitative up-gradation in the ASEAN-India strategic partnership. The live webcast of these sessions is giving you an audience wider than the confines of this hall.

Many of our countries have had leaders and thinkers, scientists and statesmen who had pursued a global vision. Inaugurating this session of Delhi Dialogue IV, I wish it would acquire relevance and participation beyond the collective borders of ASEAN and India. Delhi Dialogue has seen steady progression in the last three years. I wish the Dialogue all success this year.

Before I conclude, I would like to compliment the Indian Council of World Affairs, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies and the SAEA Research Group of Singapore, as well as the Economic Research Institute in Jakarta, for their partnership in organizing and supporting Delhi Dialogue IV. I would also like to express my deep appreciation to all of you here in the audience for your participation. I also hope that our guests will have a pleasant stay and carry back warm experiences of India.

Thank you.



090. Speech by Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai on India's Look East Policy at the 10th Meeting of the BCIM (Bangladesh, China, India, Myanmar) Cooperation Forum.

Kolkata, 18 February, 2012.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Friends.

It is a great pleasure to be with all of you this evening at the 10th meeting of the BCIM Process. It is appropriate that we meet in Kolkata, one of India's most pre-eminent cities on our eastern seaboard from where rulers, merchants, sailors and adventurers looked East from ancient times. Tonight, I intend to speak about the new contours of India's Look East Policy and this can best be done here in East India, where our policy initiatives have a direct and special relevance and significance.

India did not need to have a look East policy. Even before our Independence Pandit Nehru travelled to the East and connected our fate with that of the people of SE Asia. But there was a hiatus in the 1970s and 1980s when preoccupations with security (in the widest sense) focussed our attention on our immediate periphery. We embarked on a 'Look-East' policy in 1992. This foreign policy initiative had a domestic dimension based in the economic restructuring and reform program that we had commenced in July 1991 wherein we placed emphasis on reducing licensing, giving greater play to private initiative and entrepreneurship and in general making it easier to do business in India. One aspect of this economic course correction was the relative emphasis given to trade and foreign investment. As a result, economic diplomacy became an integral part of foreign policy formulation and implementation.

India has long standing civilizational bonds with countries in East and South East Asia. In spiritual and cultural values, by name and language, through dance and art, there is a historical tradition of contact between India and the East. It is against this larger backdrop that we have located our Look East Policy or LEP. The essential philosophy of our LEP, which is now well established, is that India must find its destiny by linking itself more and more with its Asian partners and the rest of the world. We believe that India's future and our own best economic interests are served by greater integration with Asia. This may seem unusual to those generations in our countries who grew up when India and the countries of East Asia were linked to different metropolitan centres in the West and later walked down different paths during the Cold War; but to those entering the age of employment and travel in our countries just now, this will be a rediscovery of their common Asian heritage. It is my belief that this shift that is taking place

and the kind of interaction that is emerging amongst Asian countries has deep historical and cultural roots and, therefore, can be a very powerful force for future peace and stability on our continent.

As I stated earlier, our interest in engaging with Asia has domestic roots. We are a vibrant democracy, quickly transforming ourselves with growth on an ascending trajectory. Despite some perturbations in our economic growth due to global factors, our economic development path is certain and full of potential and it is significant that we are in a part of the world still witnessing dynamic growth. Our policies relating to foreign trade, foreign direct investment, taxation, banking, finance and capital markets have evolved to make Indian industry more competitive globally. There is great confidence and optimism about the prospects for collaboration and constructive cooperation. What we seek as part of our LEP is to make our neighbors, partners in our development such that we can jointly seek and work on the opportunities that are coming our way due to the inexorable march of globalization.

It has been almost 20 years since India enunciated the Look East Policy (LEP). While this policy has yielded many benefits, including closer strategic contact between India and Asian countries, an impressive increase in the quantum of bilateral trade and increased people-to-people interaction, the success of the policy also needs to be viewed from the perspective of how far we have been able to interlink our eastern and north eastern regions to the rest of Asia, since this part of India provides a natural bridge between us and East Asia. Speaking in Kolkata from where Kunming is the same distance as New Delhi and Dhaka is barely a few minutes of flying, with Yangon just a little further away, our vision for the LEP acquires new meaning, depth and dimension.

India's Look East Policy also aims at providing eastern India a platform for economic growth and social progress. It is critical that political leadership be exercised to leverage the opportunities that are presenting themselves in this part of the country which will assist in accelerating growth with equity. I believe that West Bengal can play an important lead role in this endeavor and provide a model for others to follow.

Essentially, we are looking at a new paradigm of development whereby our foreign policy initiatives blend seamlessly into our national economic development. Given that we have, over 20 years of pursuing our Look East Policy, put in place certain diplomatic and political structures, there is need now to make these structures work for our East and North Eastern Regions. Diplomatic initiatives need to be converted into commercial opportunities and investment flows. For this purpose, I reaffirm that MEA will work in close cooperation with the Ministry for the Development of the North Eastern Region, the Planning Commission, all economic Ministries and the State Governments of the region.

I would like to put forth before you the way India has sought to integrate within Asia in general. To begin with, we focused very much on SAARC and ASEAN. SAARC has been successful in moving from the declaratory to the implementation phase. Initiatives within SAARC are beginning to touch the lives of our peoples, a good example of which is the South Asian University or even special immigration counters for SAARC nationals at our airports. We in India have been providing access to the Indian market, to our partners in South Asia, even if this has to be done in an asymmetric manner.

With ASEAN, beginning from a sectoral partner, our association evolved into a Full Dialogue Partnership and finally to that of a Summit Partner. We have close relations with all countries in the region and our economic and cultural ties are getting stronger by the day as travel, tourism and business reinforce regional interaction. The FTA in Goods with ASEAN is already having its impact in expanding our commercial exchanges. These will be further enhanced once our FTA in Services is finalized. Another aspect has been the rapid growth in investment between India and South East Asian and East Asian countries. We will continue to improve the investment environment in India including through better infrastructure.

The biggest benefit of India's 'Look-East' Policy has been that India has reengaged with its eastern neighbourhood closely and has gradually emerged as a significant player in the strategic dynamics of the region. Economically, India's trade with ASEAN has grown impressively from US\$ 2.3 billion in 1991-92 to US\$ 58 billion in 2010-11. Growth of trade between India and China has also been very rapid where all the set targets have been broken time and again. In 2011, India-China trade recorded a figure of US\$ 74 billion and we have set a new target of US \$ 100 billion by 2015. However, our rising trade deficit with China is indeed a worry. India's trade and investment ties with Japan, Australia and the Republic of Korea are also picking up fast with increasing momentum.

Our Strategic and Cooperative Partnership with China makes our engagement broad-based and multifaceted. Trade and investment are the great drivers of the new relationship. We are confident that the relationship will mature further and develop steadily. The leaders of both countries recognize that co-existence and cooperation is the best course of action, and sensitivity to mutual aspirations and concerns provides the underpinning for building confidence and trust. There is enough space and opportunity for both of us to grow and develop, and to bring benefit not only to us, but also for other partners in Asia.

With Bangladesh, the visit of PM Sheikh Hasina in 2010 crafted a new paradigm of our bilateral relations which was further consolidated by the landmark visit of PM Manmohan Singh to Bangladesh in 2011, after a gap of 12 years. Sizeable Indian investments have started to flow into Bangladesh and the pace is likely to pick up in the months and years ahead. Two-way trade has crossed five

billion dollars in 2010-11, and Bangladesh exports to India have grown by 68 per cent in the last one year. We acknowledge that there is still a large trade imbalance favouring India, which we are determined to address by providing better market access into India for Bangladeshi goods. We are also thinking of other imaginative measures to achieve this objective.

Myanmar too is an integral part of our Look East Policy. Recent years have not only witnessed robust bilateral cooperation but also a number of highlevel visits. Our relations with Myanmar encompass a number of important areas like security, trade and investment, energy, capacity-building, health and education, science and technology, as well as infrastructure development. Enhanced connectivity between our two countries is of mutual interest. India and Myanmar in 2010-11 had a bilateral trade of 1.28 billion dollars which is much below the potential. We have established a target of three billion dollars by 2015. Indian pharmaceutical companies have a sizeable presence in Myanmar, providing quality pharmaceutical products at very competitive prices. Myanmar is also emerging as an important partner in India's quest for energy security.

It is our perspective that in a globalized world, it is mutually gainful opportunity and not geography that defines and drives the processes of integration. India offers such opportunity here and now. That is why I firmly believe that an Asian economic community, that is open, transparent and inclusive, and provides a platform to create ever widening economic opportunities, is better for Asia and for the world, than a narrower or restrictive definition of Asian economic integration. In fact, recent studies have revealed a compelling case for a broader Asian economic community built in a phased manner. It has been demonstrated that economic integration could generate billions of dollars of additional output. The vision of Asian economic integration by coalescing the FTAs among member Asian countries into an Asian RTA is the pivotal step towards the integration of Asia into a common unit. It is precisely for this reason that our Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, envisaged the creation of a broader Asian Economic Community. This continues to be a longer term goal for us in India.

Therefore, India stands for greater cooperation and exchange between the countries of the region. Sub-regional constructs such as BCIM complement our Look East Policy and are, therefore, equally important and significant for us. Since this is the case we are ready to move forward at a faster pace in enhancing and promoting our interactions in the BCIM forum. I am confident that you will factor this into your deliberations here in Kolkata, and would like to assure you of our support.

I thank you all.



091. Joint Statement on the First East Asia Summit Education Ministers' Meeting (1st EAS EMM) "Strengthening Global Partnership for Education and Humanity".

Yogyakarta (Indonesia), 5 July, 2012.

1. The First East Asia Summit Education Ministers Meeting (1st EAS EMM) was convened on 5 July 2012 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. The Meeting was preceded by the 1st EAS Senior Officials Meeting on Education (1st EAS SOM?ED) held on 3 July and the 7th ASEAN Education Ministers Meeting (7th ASED) and 1st ASEAN Plus Three Education Ministers Meeting (1st APT EMM) held on 4 July 2012.
2. The Meeting was chaired by His Excellency Prof. Mohammad Nuh, Minister of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia, and was attended by the Education Ministers or their Representatives from ASEAN Member States, Australia, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, the Russian Federation and the United States of America, as well as the ASEAN Secretariat.
3. The Ministers warmly welcomed the establishment of EAS EMM to strengthen EAS efforts to advance its common endeavors in education.
4. The Ministers recalled the 2005 Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the East Asia Summit to establish the East Asia Summit as an open, inclusive, transparent and outward looking forum for dialogue on broad strategic, political and economic issues of common interest and concern with the aim of promoting peace, stability and economic prosperity in East Asia; to promote community building in the region that will be consistent with and reinforce the realisation of the ASEAN Community; and to strengthen global norms and universally recognised values with ASEAN as the driving force, working in partnership with the other participants of the East Asia Summit.
5. The Ministers also recalled the Leaders statements at the 2nd EAS in Cebu, Philippines in 2007, the 5th EAS in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, in 2010, and the 6th EAS in Bali, Indonesia in 2011, which underscored the importance of education, and agreed to enhance quality and adaptability of education through, inter alia, promotion of education exchange, networking and innovation and welcomed cooperation among EAS participating countries on education and training initiatives which contribute to advancing ASEAN's integration goals and improving the lives of its people.
6. Having regard to the Declaration of the East Asia Summit on the Principles for Mutually Beneficial Relations adopted at the 6th EAS in Bali, Indonesia in 2011, the Ministers agreed to focus education cooperation on the enhancement of mutually beneficial cooperation in the EAS and with other regional fora. The

Ministers further agreed, consistent with the Declaration of the 6th East Asia Summit on ASEAN Connectivity, on the need for education cooperation to promote greater engagement and cooperation in people-to-people connectivity initiatives, including those relating to education and life-long learning, human resource development, innovation and entrepreneurship, cultural exchanges, and tourism.

7. The Ministers recalled their commitment at the Informal EAS EMM of 2011 to prioritize education quality improvement in their future cooperation and reiterated the pivotal role of education, not only in promoting human resources development, but also as a means for bridging development gaps, enhancing regional competitiveness, achieving sustained economic development, and promoting friendship and mutual understanding among people in the region. The Ministers used the meeting as a forum to share views and experiences, as well as to discuss future education cooperation between EAS participating countries.

8. The Meeting welcomed the report by His Excellency Prof. Mohammad Nuh, Minister of National Education of the Republic of Indonesia on the implementation of the projects recommended by the Education Cooperation Task Force (ECTF) to foster closer education cooperation among the EAS participating countries.

9. The Ministers welcomed the success and achievements of the UNESCO conference hosted by Japan in November 2011 to adopt the revised UNESCO Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific. This conference followed the EAS education cooperation project led by Australia in 2011 to promote awareness and understanding of the revised UNESCO Convention. The conference viewed the revision and adoption of the revised convention as a major step towards improved qualifications recognition arrangements in the Asia-Pacific. The conference also called upon parties and donors to work together to strengthen national information centres in support of that Convention.

10. The Ministers welcomed with appreciation the progress of Australia's project to develop a Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Quality Assurance Framework (QAF) and noted that a TVET QAF has been developed in consultation with many EAS participating countries and was now moving to in-country workshops in five EAS countries to identify capacity building needs. The Ministers noted the great need for capacity building of TVET systems in EAS participating countries as well as continuing inter-country dialogue and information sharing on skills recognition systems and qualifications frameworks, to ensure the benefits of a regional framework were achieved. The Ministers noted that Australia would shortly commence its feasibility study on a regional facility for education quality assessment.

11. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of promoting and assuring high quality student exchange as well as university exchange in higher education among EAS participating countries. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed Japan's initiative to promote cooperation among EAS universities and appreciated the successful holding of the "International Symposium on Exchange among Universities with Quality Assurance in East Asia Region" hosted by Japan in September 2011.

12. The Ministers noted the progress in India's initiative to establish Nalanda University in collaboration with EAS participating countries. The Ministers further noted that the university will shortly commence academic activities in the Schools of Historical Studies and Ecology and Environment. The Ministers also welcomed gracious commitment and financial support made by the governments of Australia, China, Lao PDR and Thailand as well as other independent donors.

13. In order to provide direction and momentum to education cooperation and promote a more comprehensive cooperation based on the principle of unity in diversity the Ministers adopted the EAS Education Action Plan (2011-2015) developed by the 1st EAS SOM-ED and urged participating countries to support the education cooperation projects identified under the Action Plan or otherwise in support of strengthening education systems, building a community based on mutual understanding and supporting connectivity through the elimination of barriers to the mobility of students, academic and education providers within the EAS in order to expand educational benefits and opportunities.

14. The Ministers welcomed the commitment by several EAS participating countries to lead and to collaborate in the implementation of specific projects on a voluntary basis.

15. The Ministers welcomed additional commitments made by Australia and Korea to work together in relation to developing a network of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) providers in consultation with EAS participating countries.

16. The Ministers recognised the positive contribution made in promoting EAS Education Cooperation by Australia and Japan in relation to building capacity in quality assurance in higher education.

17. The Ministers acknowledged the importance of mechanisms to facilitate regional cooperation, and encouraged discussions and policy dialogues among officials, experts, education providers and industry. The Ministers also expressed their hope that the outcomes of this cooperation would not be limited to projects, but also at the senior policy-making level, for more effective use of sharing of knowledge, experience and best practices among the EAS participating countries.

18. Reaffirming their strong commitment to strengthen regional cooperation on education by convening the EAS Education Ministers Meeting (EMM) on a biennial basis, in conjunction with ASED and ASEAN Plus Three Education Ministers' Meetings, the Ministers agreed on the Terms of Reference of the EAS EMM which provide for effective coordination with relevant regional and international organizations including the ASEAN University Network and the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation.
19. The Ministers welcomed the advice of the Minister for Education and Sports of the Lao PDR that the 2nd EAS EMM will be held in July 2014.
20. The Ministers agreed to report the outcomes of the 1st EAS EMM to the 7th East Asia Summit which will be held in Cambodia, in November 2012.
21. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to Indonesia for the warm hospitality extended to the delegates and the excellent arrangements made in hosting the 1st EAS EMM. The Ministers also expressed their appreciation to the ASEAN Secretariat for its valuable contributions to the meeting.



092. Opening remarks by External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna at the open session of the 10th ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting.

Phnom Penh, 11 July, 2012.

Your Excellency Hor Namhong, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Cambodia,

Your Highness Prince Mohamad Bolkiah, Foreign Minister of Brunei Darussalam,

Your Excellency Dr. Marty Natalegawa, Foreign Minister of Indonesia,

Your Excellency Dato' Sri Anifah Aman, Foreign Minister of Malaysia,

Your Excellency Dr. Thongloun Sisoulith, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Lao PDR,

Your Excellency Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, Secretary General of ASEAN,

Distinguished Leaders of Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, It gives me immense pleasure to join you at this very important ASEAN-India Ministerial meeting in Phnom Penh. My deep gratitude to Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Cambodia and the Government of Cambodia for the very warm welcome and gracious hospitality extended to me and my delegation.

Excellencies,

This year marks two decades of ASEAN-India Dialogue Partnership. I take this opportunity to convey India's sincere appreciation to Cambodia for its constructive and supportive role, in its capacity as Country Coordinator for India over the last three years. This period witnessed notable intensification and deepening of cooperation in ASEAN-India partnership. Cambodia, in its capacity as current the ASEAN Chair, played a pivotal role this year to take our engagement with ASEAN to the next high level. I also recognize the valuable contribution of the previous ASEAN Chair Indonesia, and we look forward to working closely with Brunei Darussalam, the Country Coordinator for India for 2012-15.

India's relationship with ASEAN is a key cornerstone of our foreign policy and the foundation of our Look East Policy. We have attempted to anchor this within the larger context of Asia as an engine for global growth and prosperity. It is in this spirit that we have suggested project proposals to the ASEAN Secretariat covering multifaceted dimensions of our cooperation as envisaged under the Plan of Action for 2010-2015.

The people and Government of India look forward to the privilege of welcoming

the ASEAN Leaders and Ministers at the special ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit in New Delhi from 20 to 21 December this year. I am particularly pleased at the enormous support and enthusiasm in ASEAN capitals to join us in observing this important landmark. Excellencies, the Commemorative Summit will present a special opportunity to pronounce together a new era in the ASEAN-India partnership.

I am happy to note that the ASEAN-India Media Exchange Programme has been institutionalized. I sincerely thank Cambodia and Vietnam for hosting the first group of Indian journalists, who are present with us in this room today. We look forward to host ASEAN journalists during the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit.

I look forward to your gracious presence at the launch of the Logo and the social network domain sites for the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit later today. After this open session, I will share further details of the Special Commemorative Summit and related activities.

Thank you.



093. Statement by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the 10th ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting.

Phnom Penh, 11 July, 2012.

Excellencies,

I have heard with great interest your views on furthering ASEAN-India partnership. Your valuable inputs and suggestions will be duly reflected in our future programmes. We will continue to engage constructively with ASEAN member States to achieve the full potential of our partnership.

The civilizational strengths and historical linkages between India and ASEAN countries need to be extended to further to improve road, sea, rail, digital and people-to-people connectivity in present times. This is an imperative if we are to reinforce the economic foundations in our region for collective progress & prosperity.

Prime Minister of India announced two projects in Myanmar during his visit in May this year, which would help establish connectivity from Moreh in India to Mae Sot in Thailand. I understand ASEAN and Indian officials discussed the connectivity agenda further at the ASEAN Land Transport Working Group Meeting last week, which was aimed at establishing connectivity from India to Vietnam via Myanmar and Laos. Strengthening private sector participation and crosscountry PPP linkages would help further reinforce our collaboration on "connectivity".

The last one year has seen important progression in our partnership. India became the first Dialogue Partner to sign a MoU on Strengthening Tourism Cooperation with ASEAN countries in January this year.

Your participation added tremendous value to Delhi Dialogue-IV in New Delhi in February 2012. The Delhi Dialogue has now emerged as a regular calendar event for track 1.5 level interface between ASEAN and India, with the next edition to be held in February 2013.

The ASEAN Committee of Permanent Representatives had a useful visit to India in February 2012. I am happy to note that the first ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks meeting would be held in India on August 7, 2012. We would like to see such interface between our officials facilitate quick concurrence to the numerous proposals, which ASEAN and India are keen to implement.

The meeting of Heads of Space Agencies of India and ASEAN countries in Bengaluru in June this year made headway on the proposal for 'Establishment of a Tracking and Data Reception Station and a Data Processing Facility for ASEAN and the Training of ASEAN Personnel in Space Science & Technology'.

Our people-to-people interaction is on track. The work of ASEAN-India Artists was exhibited at the Civilizational Dialogue Conference held in Patna earlier this month. We would be inviting cultural troupes from all ASEAN countries to perform in different cities in November this year and, finally, to participate at a fusion cultural performance on the eve of the special ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit.

We are eagerly looking forward to the first visit of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly delegation later this month. I personally believe that this visit would go a long way in strengthening the interface between our legislatures.

India will be hosting next month the 1st Meeting of the ASEAN-India Environment Ministers and also the first ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting on New & Renewable Energy in November this year. In addition, the second ASEAN-India Business Fair would be held in Delhi from December 18-20, which will be back-to-back with the Commemorative Summit.

To reemphasize the close connectivity, ASEAN-India Car Rally would be flagged off from Yogyakarta in Indonesia in 24 November. We propose that Leaders of ASEAN and India to give a ceremonial flag down to the Car Rally in Delhi on December 20. Similarly, the sail training ship INS Sudarshini would undertake an expedition to ports in nine ASEAN countries. A number of business, cultural and people-to-people marker events have been planned. Some of my Ministerial colleagues and I would participate in these events and I would request, Excellencies, that ASEAN Ministers also lend the events their profile.

The story of economic growth in our partnership is meeting expectations despite the global economic downturn. Two-way trade between ASEAN and India in 2011-12 touched reached 80 billion US Dollars. We believe that the early conclusion of the ASEAN-India Services & Investment Agreements would give a strong fillip to our economic engagement. We welcome the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership initiative to accelerate regional economic integration.

We are awaiting the recommendations of the ASEAN-India Eminent Persons Group, which would be a valuable input for drafting the Vision Statement of the Special ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit. The ASEAN-India SOM meeting in May this year in Phnom Penh already started discussions on the elevation of the ASEAN-India partnership to a Strategic-level. I take back your views on ways to elevate the partnership.

Excellencies,

India remains committed to its partnership with ASEAN. We stand convinced of this partnership's unique utility to the goal of the ASEAN Community by 2015,

the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI), the Master Plan on ASEAN Plus Connectivity (MPAC), the Declaration for a Drug Free ASEAN by 2015 and to the collective capacity building in our region.

Thank you.



094. Closing remarks by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the 10th ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting.

Phnom Penh, 11 July, 2012.

Excellencies,

We are convinced about the growth potential between the two major economic entities within Asia: ASEAN and India. Our views for the future vision of the ASEAN-India partnership will be shared with you in the coming weeks.

The project proposals under finalization between ASEAN and India through the ASEAN Secretariat reflect the earnest desire of our two sides to deepen our engagement in diverse sectors. Geographic, institutional and people-to-people connectivity, e-linkages, capacity building across sectors, cooperation in frontier areas like space technology, agriculture, energy, environment and biodiversity are some of the areas that I would suggest for particular attention in the months ahead.

Some significant proposals from our side will include

- Setting up of the ASEAN-India Science & Technology Digital Library,
- ASEAN-India Virtual Institute for Intellectual Property,
- ASEAN-India Technology Information & Commercialization Portal,
- Project for collaboration on Bio-Diversity between the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity and the National Biodiversity Authority in India,
- Establishment of Tracking & Data Reception Station and a Data Processing Facility for ASEAN in Vietnam and
- Upgradation of the Biak II Telemetry Tracking & Command Station in Indonesia, and
- IT Centres in CLMV countries by Centre for Development of Advanced Computing based in India.

Inclusion of new sectors such as energy efficiency, food security and other areas mentioned during our deliberations would become the building blocks of our future vision.

Excellencies,

Before the end of July, we will share the logistical and other arrangements to host the Special ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit in New Delhi on December 20-21, 2012. As I said before, it would be our privilege to host the ASEAN Leaders and their delegations.

As I conclude, I would like to take this opportunity to invite you all to the launch of the ASEAN-India Commemorative Year Logo at the end of this meeting.

Thank you.



095. Launch of the logo for the Special ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit: Note on the ASEAN-India logo.

Phnom Penh, 11 July, 2012.

The design cluster, an improvised five-spoked wind turbine, represents energy, motion, progress, connectivity and dynamism. The spokes have been stylised to symbolise the radiation of energy in an outward direction, and to reflect the spiralling motion of growth; as well as the expanding canvas of ASEAN-India partnership.

The wind turbine also represents the cleanest and most sustainable form of energy available to mankind and thereby reflects the sustainable nature of our partnership. The spokes have also been adorned in the colours of the Indian and ASEAN flags. The tagline 'Progress and Prosperity' captures the theme of the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit, linking it directly with the aims and objectives of the summit.



096. Speech by the External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna at the plenary session of the Second East Asia Summit (EAS) Foreign Ministers Meeting.

Phnom Penh, 12 July, 2012.

Mr. Chairman

Distinguished Colleagues

I would like to convey my gratitude to the Chairman for the excellent arrangements and kind hospitality extended to us. We are pleased that Cambodia, a country with which India enjoys very warm and friendly ties, is hosting the East Asia Summit (EAS) Ministerial Meeting.

At our first meeting last year, we all reiterated our support for the fundamentals of the East Asia Summit process. The relevance of the five core priority areas identified by EAS for our collective economic growth and development has become even more urgent. It is encouraging that we have begun to put in place the elements of a cooperative architecture in our region.

Mr. Chairman,

The East Asia Summit process has a great potential to bring synergy of effort to ensure peace, stability and economic prosperity in the region. We believe that in this era of global connectivity and economic inter-dependence, this can be achieved only if Asia strengthens itself in terms of economic growth, capacities and capabilities, all of which will enable it to contribute better to the global system. We continue to see ASEAN as the driving force in these processes.

Mr. Chairman,

We have seen useful progress at the 1st EAS Education Ministers Meeting in Yogyakarta on July 3-5, 2012. India has taken on 3 of the 13 projects recommended by the EAS Educational Task Force. On Nalanda University, I would like to inform that the Nalanda Mentor Group and the Governing Board held regular meetings. The University's website and logo have been launched. The University Statutes have been published in the Gazette of India. The University has appointed a Steering Committee to oversee the Global Design Competition. We would invite companies from EAS member States to participate in this competition.

To further intensify collaboration in the priority area of disaster management & relief, India would be hosting an EAS Conference on Building Regional Responses to Disaster Management in New Delhi from 16 to 17 September this year. We hope to bring together National Disaster Management Authorities in EAS member countries for sharing of expertise and experience, as well as to build capacities.

The ongoing global economic crisis and the Eurozone crisis, in particular, continue to be worrisome. It is imperative for the Asian engines of growth to come together to offset this. There should also be greater interaction and cooperation between our financial authorities. We welcome the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership initiative and we look forward to our engagement with the ASEAN countries on this.

Mr. Chairman,

As we prepare for the 7th EAS, we should examine specific projects for improving infrastructure in the wider region, in line with the Declaration on ASEAN Connectivity adopted at the last Summit. India would welcome dialogue with like-minded countries on this important area of cooperation.

We have recently agreed, at Myanmar's request, to undertake repair of 71 bridges on the Tamu-Kalewa Friendship Road and also upgrade the Kalewa-Yargi road segment to highway standard, thereby contributing to the connectivity from Moreh in India to Mae Sot in Thailand. We are also in discussion with Lao PDR on surface connectivity. Economic Research Institute of ASEAN and East Asia could be mandated to examine the economic feasibility of a few specific projects.

Asia needs a sustainable developmental architecture. I would like to suggest that integral to this would be greater focus on food security and energy security, including the use of energy efficiency technologies. These are, again, areas where East Asia Summit members bring complementary capacities, which I hope will be explored further in the EAS Energy Ministers Meeting to be held in Phnom Penh in September 2012. We must adopt a collaborative approach which transcends individual limitations on capacity.

We support Australia's initiative for combating the emerging threat of drug resistant malaria and to improve cooperative approaches. There is an extreme urgency to this challenge beyond the greater Mekong region to all our countries.

The evolving asymmetric threats in the form of maritime terrorism, piracy and drug trafficking have made maritime security issues a strategic priority. We welcome the proposal for expansion of the ASEAN Maritime Forum. We are actively continuing our cooperation in the maritime area with ASEAN, ARF, ADMM+ members.

Excellencies, our collaborative agenda must reflect the East Asia Summit as not only the most comprehensive but also the most effective forum in the region, oriented to tangible outcomes, a futuristic vision and a dialogue process at a pace comfortable to all.

Thank you.



097. Intervention by the External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna on “Exchange of views on Regional and International Issues” at the 19th ARF Ministerial Meeting.

Phnom Penh, 12 July, 2012.

Mr. Chairman,

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to convey my gratitude to the Chairman for the excellent arrangements and kind hospitality extended to us. We are pleased that Cambodia, a country with which India enjoys very warm and friendly ties, is hosting the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Ministerial Meeting.

We meet at a time when the Asia-Pacific region continues to witness growing economic interdependence, cooperation and increased linkages which contribute towards our shared goals of peace, security and prosperity. However, we must work together to address various challenges that cause instability and insecurity. The ARF provides a venue for constructive dialogue on political and security cooperation in the region with the ASEAN continuing to play a central role in the process.

Terrorism remains a grave threat that must be addressed by all States through a comprehensive global approach and strengthened commitment to combat it in all its forms anywhere. The global regime against terrorism needs to be hinged on a holistic framework for which the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism at the United Nations requires early conclusion. We welcome the Statement that will be issued on Cooperation in Ensuring Cyber Security.

The international community should remain engaged in Afghanistan and extend support for a successful transition process. India is committed to assisting the people and Government of Afghanistan as they build a peaceful, pluralistic, democratic and prosperous Afghanistan.

We have committed assistance amounting to about 2 billion US Dollars to Afghanistan for projects identified in partnership with the Afghan government. We hosted a Delhi Investment Summit on Afghanistan on 28 June 2012 to attract foreign investment in the light of new opportunities opening up in various sectors in that country. Last week at the Tokyo Conference I reiterated once again India's commitment to building a secure and prosperous Afghanistan.

The situation in the Korean peninsula has been a matter of concern in the region and beyond. India voiced serious concern at the attempted launch of 13 April 2012, which violated UN Security Council Resolution 1874 as well as adversely impacting on peace and stability in the Korean peninsula.

We support efforts to bring about peace, stability, reconciliation and reunification

on the Korean Peninsula. We also support the goal of denuclearization of the Korean peninsula that has been endorsed by DPRK. We believe that the DPRK nuclear issue and establishing peace in the Korean Peninsula should be addressed through dialogue between the parties concerned.

Myanmar provides a land bridge for India to ASEAN and is a friendly neighbour. India has consistently emphasized the path of engagement with Myanmar to encourage the advancement of national reconciliation as well as socioeconomic development. The successful conduct of bye-elections in April 2012 represented a major milestone in the transition towards multi-party democracy.

Our Prime Minister visited Myanmar in May and we are committed to enhancing economic engagement and extending all possible assistance and support to the process of national reconciliation and further strengthening of democracy in Myanmar. We also look forward to Myanmar's planned Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2014.

In the present era of interdependence, the security and economic prosperity of nations is vitally linked to safety and security of sea lanes of communication. States should work together to address common threats to maritime security. The menace of piracy has been expanding its reach and it should be addressed firmly through cooperative action.

We have been following developments in respect to the South China Sea. As we had stated earlier, India supports freedom of navigation and access to resources in accordance with principles of international law. These principles should be respected by all. We have noted that the parties concerned are engaged in discussions to address the issue, and we hope that progress will be made with respect to implementation of Guidelines to the 2002 Declaration of Conduct on the South China Sea.

There has been a steady evolution of the regional security architecture centred on the ASEAN in terms of the East Asia Summit, ARF and ADMM Plus. We fully subscribe to the view that ASEAN should continue to be the driving force for these forums. There is scope for greater synergy and complementarity between different forums.

Last November, our Prime Minister stated at the East Asia Summit:

“The resurgence of Asia is dependent on the evolution of a cooperative architecture in which all countries are equal participants. We will work with all other countries towards this end.”

I would like to reassure that India would continue to participate in and contribute to the success of ARF activities.

Thank you.



098. Extract relevant to India from the Statement of the Chairman of the ASEAN Post - Ministerial Conferences (PMC) 10+1 Sessions.

Phnom Penh, 11 July, 2012.

1. The ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference (PMC) 10 + 1 Session with 10 ASEAN's Dialogue Partners, namely Australia, Canada, China, the European Union (EU), India, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America were held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 11 July 2012.

2. Overall, the relations, cooperation and partnership between ASEAN and each of the ASEAN Dialogue Partners have been substantial, strong and productive, advancing the mutual interests between ASEAN and all of the Dialogue Partners. While some Dialogue Partners have strengthened and deepened their cooperation and partnership with ASEAN, others have elevated their relations with ASEAN to a higher plane, with the goal of making positive contributions to ASEAN integration, and community building. At the same time, all of ASEAN's Dialogue Partners have underlined their commitment and strong support for ASEAN Centrality in all of the regional mechanisms and frameworks which ASEAN had initiated, such as the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation, the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the East Asia Summit (EAS), and the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) Plus, among others.

3. For each ASEAN meeting that had been convened with its Dialogue Partners, the deliberations centered on the topics of "Exchange of Views on Regional and International Issues" and "Review of Cooperation and Future Direction" with all of the Dialogue Partners. For the exchange of views on regional and international issues, the discussions with all ASEAN Dialogue Partners focused on the issues of the situation in the Korean Peninsula, the South China Sea, the progress of development in Myanmar, maritime security, transnational crimes, among others. With regard to the review of cooperation and future direction of relations between ASEAN and each of the Dialogue Partners, the meetings discussed the need to strengthen and expand cooperation, to translate the action plans into actual implementation, as well as to identify and carry out priority areas of cooperation, among others.

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32. The ASEAN PMC+1 Session with India was co-chaired by H.E. Mr. HOR Namhong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Kingdom of Cambodia, and H.E. S. M. Krishna, Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India.

33. The Meeting took note with satisfaction the good development highlighted

n the Progress Report on the implementation of the ASEAN-India Plan of Action to implement the ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity (2010-2015), and agreed on the need to speed up the effective and full implementation of the Plan of Action. The Meeting called for the early conclusion of the negotiations on ASEAN-India Trade in Services and Investment Agreements with greater understanding and flexibility among parties concerned.

34. The Meeting highlighted the importance of transportation networks between Southeast Asia and South Asia, and welcomed India's commitment to support the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity through both hard and soft infrastructure linkages. In this regard, the Meeting called for the early convening of the ASEAN-India Transport Ministers' Meeting to discuss the development of the India- Myanmar-Lao PDR-Vietnam-Cambodia Highway and the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway with the extension to Lao PDR and Cambodia. The Meeting also encouraged both sides to look into the possibility of taking concrete steps towards the development of Mekong-India Economic Corridor linking the east coast of India to the Southeast Asian region. The Meeting welcomed Cambodia's proposal to set up the ASEAN-India Joint Committee on Connectivity to coordinate and oversee all cooperative activities related to connectivity. The Meeting also underlined the need to interlink ASEAN-India regions through maritime connectivity under the umbrella of MPAC.

35. The Meeting welcomed the good progress in the drafting of the final report of the ASEAN-India Eminent Persons Group (EPG), to be submitted to the Leaders of ASEAN and India at the 10th ASEAN-India Summit in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, in November 2012. The Meeting also expressed confidence that the report would provide key practical recommendations to further strengthening and advancing ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations to a higher plane.

36. The Meeting looked forward to the convening of the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit in New Delhi, India, on 20-21 December 2012 to mark 20 years of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations. In this connection, the Meeting agreed to conduct a series of meaningful activities to promote awareness on ASEAN-India dialogue relations, including the ASEAN-India Car Rally and the Cultural Festival. The Meeting also agreed to have a Vision Statement to be adopted by the Leaders at the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit in New Delhi, to further enhance the good friendship and cooperation between the two sides.

37. The Meeting thanked Cambodia as the outgoing Country Coordinator for ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations and welcomed Brunei Darussalam as the incoming Country Coordinator.



99. Statement of the Chairman of the Second East Asia Summit (EAS) Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

Phnom Penh, 12 July, 2012.

1. The Second East Asia Summit (EAS) Foreign Ministers' Meeting was held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 12 July 2012. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. HOR Namhong, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia.
2. The Ministers acknowledged the development and growing importance of the EAS as an integral part of the evolving regional architecture. In this connection, the Ministers were pleased to note the strengthening of partnership and cooperation under the EAS framework, and stressed the need to further consolidating and enhancing the role of the EAS as a leaders-led forum for dialogue and cooperation on broad strategic, political and economic issues, including geopolitical issues of common interest and concern with the aim of promoting peace, stability and economic prosperity in East Asia. The Ministers underlined the necessity of joining efforts to strengthen the regional architecture, based on mutually-reinforcing mechanisms and the principles of international law and use of multilateral mechanisms in finding common solution to problems. The Ministers also stressed the need to utilize the current configuration as new impetus to strengthen the evolving regional architecture, by fostering closer collaboration among all EAS participating countries, with ASEAN as the driving force.
3. The Ministers reaffirmed their support to the central role of ASEAN in the EAS. They also stressed the important need for all participating countries of the EAS to adhere to the principles, objectives and modalities of the EAS as enshrined in the 2005 Kuala Lumpur Declaration on East Asia Summit, the 2010 Ha Noi Declaration in Commemoration of the 5th Anniversary of the EAS, and 2011 Declaration of the East Asia Summit on the Principles for Mutually Beneficial Relations (Bali Principles).
4. The Ministers reviewed the progress of cooperation in the framework of the EAS, in particular in the priority areas, namely, finance, environment and energy, education, global health issues and communicable diseases, disaster management, and ASEAN Connectivity and regional economic integration. They also exchanged views on the future direction of the EAS.
5. The Ministers were pleased with the implemented activities under the EAS cooperation on environment and energy. They took note with appreciation the outcomes of the 3rd High Level Seminar on Environmentally Sustainable Cities (HLS-ESC) in Siem Reap, Cambodia on 6-8 March 2012, and the East Asia Low Carbon Growth Partnership Dialogue in Tokyo on 15 April 2012. They looked forward to the 3rd EAS Seminar on Climate Change Adaptation Capacity

Building, the EAS Forum on New Energy which would be held in China, and the Second East Asia Low Carbon Growth Partnership Dialogue to be co-chaired by Cambodia and Japan in Tokyo in 2013. The Ministers noted Russia's proposal to set up an instrument to provide financial support to implement activities on Low Carbon Growth as well as its proposal on the EAS Task Force on Energy Cooperation to explore the possibility of creating a new legal framework of international energy cooperation.

6. The Ministers expressed strong commitment to further strengthen the human resource development in the region. They welcomed the convening of the First EAS Education Ministers' Meeting (EMM) in Yogyakarta, Indonesia on 5 July 2012, and the adoption of the EAS Education Action Plan.

7. The Ministers welcomed China's proposal to improve cooperation on higher education, especially in bilingual teaching to promote competitiveness of higher education in the East Asia region. They also noted with appreciation Russia's proposal to convene an EAS Rectors' Conference, as well as the US' proposal to conduct English Language Training courses for ASEAN Member States as well as the US-Brunei Darussalam Partnership for English Language Education in ASEAN as part of its commitment to support capacity building for the peoples of ASEAN.

8. The Ministers emphasized the importance of people-to-people exchanges, particularly among the youth and students with a view to fostering a sense of togetherness, mutual respect and understanding of each other's tradition and values. In this context, they commended the efforts and substantial contribution of Japan in implementing the Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS), and welcomed Japan's new youth exchange project named "Kizuna Project" which was a part of Japan's reconstruction plans, aiming at promoting global understanding of Japan revival efforts in response to the Great East Japan Earthquake. The Ministers extended their commitment to the steady implementation of this project.

9. The Ministers reaffirmed the important role of Nalanda University and took note of the progress made in the establishment of the University, including the proposal to conduct a Global Design Competition for the design of the University as soon as possible.

10. The Ministers welcomed China's proposal to convene a training course on public health for the EAS participating countries.

11. The Ministers discussed the threat of emerging drug resistant Malaria and agreed that improved cooperative approaches to address this major health threat are required. The Ministers took note of the recommendations to have a declaration on this agenda adopted at the 7th EAS in November 2012 in Phnom Penh.

12. The Ministers welcomed the progress toward the convening of the Second Meeting of EAS Finance Ministers to discuss EAS finance cooperation.

13. The Ministers expressed commitment to enhance both multilateral and bilateral cooperation in disaster prevention and disaster relief efforts as well as to strengthen the effective operationalization of the ASEAN Coordinating Center for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Management (AHA Centre). In this context, they welcomed Japan's decision to provide a new assistance for the establishment of disaster emergency logistic systems. They reaffirmed the statement by the Leaders at the Sixth EAS in November 2011 held in Bali, Indonesia encouraging all EAS participating countries to contribute to the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme 2010-2015.

14. The Ministers welcomed the convening of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) Working Group Meeting to discuss the implementation of the proposals mentioned in the "Indonesian-Australian Paper: A Practical Approach to Enhance Regional Cooperation on Disaster Rapid Response". The Ministers encouraged further implementation of the Paper based on AADMER Work Programme as well as the AHA Centre Strategic Plan.

15. In this connection, the Ministers welcomed the recent convening of the ACDM Working Group in Bangkok on 2 June 2012 to discuss the linkage between the AADMER Work Programme and the proposed EAS Work Plan on Disaster Management. They also took note of the three main focus areas of ASEAN cooperation in disaster management, namely, i) flood and drought prevention; ii) climate change; and, iii) rapid post-disaster recovery, and welcomed non-ASEAN EAS participating countries to continue working closely with ASEAN in these areas. In this regard, Thailand will host the Information Sharing Dialogue between the ACDM and EAS Participating Countries back-to-back with the 21st Meeting of the ACDM in January 2013. The Ministers noted with appreciation the US' initiative to promote implementation of Rapid Disaster Response agreements among EAS participating countries in the acceptance and deployment of international assistance in response to large scale disaster in the Asia-Pacific region.

16. The Ministers welcomed Japan's commitment to providing \$3 billion to developing countries over the next three years as well as hosting the "World Ministerial Conference on Disaster Reduction in Tohoku" in July 2012, in order to share experiences and lessons-learned from the large-scale natural disasters. They reaffirmed the importance to build "resilient society" based on human security and to mainstream disaster reduction in decision-making at all levels. They looked forward to the convening of the Third World Conference on Disaster Reduction, which Japan expressed its intention to host in 2015.

17. The Ministers also welcomed the initiative of India to host the EAS Conference 2012 on Building Regional Responses, and a conference on capacity building on Disaster Management and Relief to be held in September 2012. They also welcomed Russia's proposal to create a network that would connect national disaster relief centres of all EAS participating countries.

18. The Ministers stressed the importance of ASEAN Connectivity in promoting economic integration and looked forward to the effective implementation of the Declaration of the 6th EAS on ASEAN Connectivity adopted at the 6th EAS in Bali, Indonesia, in November 2011, in particular the development of a regional public-private partnership (PPP) development agenda, the active involvement of the public and private sectors in key priority projects under the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity, close cooperation in people-to-people connectivity. They reaffirmed their support for the enhancement of ASEAN Connectivity, and shared the importance of expanding Connectivity beyond ASEAN as well. In this context, the Ministers supported the implementation of the Master Plan as it will contribute to intra-regional efforts towards greater connectivity and integration. To this end, the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Connectivity (ACCC) with the support of the ASEAN Secretariat and ERIA will discuss and implement the above-mentioned initiatives, as well as consider working out the modalities of establishing a Working Group under the EAS rubric to look into the issue of financing ASEAN Connectivity.

19. The Ministers welcomed the regional efforts to enhance cooperation in promoting maritime cooperation in the region including on combating piracy and armed robbery against ship, search and rescue at sea, marine environment, maritime security, maritime connectivity, freedom of navigation, fisheries and other areas of cooperation. The Ministers looked forward to the convening of the Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (AMF) back-to-back with the next ASEAN Maritime Forum to be held on the second half of 2012, in the Philippines, with the view to addressing common challenges on maritime issues. The Ministers noted the proposed idea on studying modalities of fisheries resources management in other regions.

20. The Ministers underlined the importance of the maintenance of peace, security and stability on the Korean Peninsula and urged concerned parties not to conduct any further provocations and to comply with their respective obligations under the relevant UNSC Resolutions and their commitment under the 2005 Six-Party Talks Joint Statement. To this end, the Ministers further reiterated the call for all parties concerned to explore all possibilities to engage in a peaceful dialogue, including the resumption of the Six-Party Talks, which would lead to creating an atmosphere of trust and confidence that could contribute to the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

21. The Ministers reiterated their commitments to further coordinate efforts in combating terrorism and other non-traditional security threat and challenges in the Asia-Pacific region. They strongly supported the strengthening of global disarmament and non-proliferation regime, calling for further elaboration of strict verification mechanism for non-proliferation and disarmament obligations.

22. The Ministers exchanged views on the recent developments in the South China Sea. They emphasized the importance of the full and effective implementation of the DOC, and welcomed the follow-up activities following the adoption of the Guidelines for the Implementation of the DOC. They further reaffirmed the call for all concerned parties to the peaceful resolution of the disputes in accordance with the recognized principles of international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS.

23. The Ministers agreed that on-going processes of political transition in part of the Middle East and North Africa made its necessary for all parties concerned to work collectively in order to find way of addressing of crises in the region. This should be done within the legal framework and through peaceful only, without external interference, rejecting all kinds of violence from all sides, establishing a broad national dialogue with due respect for independent, territorial integrity and sovereignty of the country of the region.

24. The Ministers welcomed the progress made by officials from both ASEAN and ASEAN's FTAs Partners in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Working Groups on Goods, Services and Investments and looked forward to the launch of RCEP negotiations at the 21st ASEAN Summit.

25. The Ministers affirmed their support for the ASEAN's Paper on the Global Movement of Moderates that was adopted by the Leaders at the 20th ASEAN Summit in Phnom Penh in April 2012. The Ministers took note that Malaysia and the ASEAN Secretariat are working closely to involve an action plan based on the Concept Paper. The Ministers took note that the Global Movement of Moderates Foundation (GMMF) has been established as national focal point to spearhead activities at the national level for Malaysia. In this connection, the Ministers agreed to all participating countries of the EAS to begin the process of identifying their national focal points.

26. With regard to the future of the EAS, the Ministers agreed to continue to make the EAS meetings more conducive, constructive, visionary, and strategic with tangible outcomes. In this context, they also welcomed the intention of China to host a track 1.5 International Symposium on East Asia Summit and the Future of East Asia in China in 2012.

27. The Ministers reiterated that EAS cooperation should be directed to strengthen regional resilience and competitiveness, as well as to cope and

address adverse effects from challenges in the global fora, by utilizing the existing ASEAN mechanisms.

28. The Ministers were of the view that EAS cooperation and other existing mechanisms in the region, including the ARF and ADMM-Plus, could mutually reinforce one another and positively contribute to the evolving regional architecture.

29. The Ministers also discussed the preparations for the upcoming 7th EAS to be held in Phnom Penh in November 2012.

30. The Ministers looked forward to the 3rd EAS Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Brunei Darussalam in 2013.



100. Visit of the First ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) Delegation to India.

New Delhi, 1 August, 2012.

The ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) Delegation became the 1st international delegation yesterday to call on the Hon'ble President of India after his assumption of Office. The AIPA Delegation's first visit to India comes during ASEAN-India Commemorative Year. The visit from July 29-August 1, 2012 is at the invitation of the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha. The AIPA delegation is led by the President of AIPA & Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia H.E. Dr. Marzuki Alie. The delegation includes Dr. Subrahman Hidayat and Mr. Sidarto Darusubroto, Members of Parliament from Indonesia; Mr. Seng Han Thong, Member of Parliament from Singapore; Colonel Winai Sompong, Member of Parliament of Thailand and Dr. Ngo Duc Manh, Member of Parliament of Vietnam, besides Officials and media representatives.

2. On 31st July, the AIPA delegation held discussions with the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha; the Leader of the Opposition, Lok Sabha; and Minister of State in the External Affairs Ministry. The Speaker, Lok Sabha also hosted a Dinner in the honour of the AIPA Delegation, which was attended by the Members of the Indian Parliament. The AIPA delegation would be visiting Agra on August 1, 2012 before returning home.

4. Discussions during the various calls by the AIPA delegation took appreciative note of the ground covered by the ASEAN-India Dialogue Partnership over the last 20 years and the important role that it has in the continuing stability and development of the region and to global economic growth and prosperity. Both sides took note of the positive developments in the implementation of the ASEAN-India Plan of Action to implement the ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity 2010-2015 and the relevance of geographic, institutional and people-to-people connectivity to the future relationship. President of AIPA took note of the economic potential of ASEAN and India, which together constitute a market of over 1.8 billion people. He supported the early conclusion of the ASEAN-India FTA on Services & Investment. He also requested India's support to the South East Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone and for a Drug Free ASEAN by 2015. The AIPA delegation also conveyed that ASEAN countries were looking forward to the Commemorative Summit in New Delhi in December 2012. The AIPA delegation requested a more intensive relationship with Members of the Indian Parliament. President of AIPA & Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia conveyed an invitation for India to participate as Observer at the 33rd General Assembly of AIPA from September 16-22, 2012 in Lombok, Indonesia.



101. Inaugural Address by External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna at the First Round Table on ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks.

New Delhi, 7 August, 2012.

Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN Mr. Nyan Lynn,
Secretary Shri Sanjay Singh
Chairman RIS Ambassador Shyam Saran,
Distinguished Panelists and Speakers
Members of the Think-Tank Community,
Ladies & Gentlemen,

I am delighted to join you today for the First Round Table of the ASEAN-India Network of Think-Tanks, organized by Research and Information Systems for Developing Countries. I would like to commend Chairman RIS* and his team for taking up this significant initiative in this important year for ASEAN and India - a year in which we are commemorating 20 years of our partnership. It is also timely as India and ASEAN are seeking to break new ground in identifying the future roadmap and content of their partnership.

Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh conceptualized the Round Table of ASEAN-India Think Tanks in 2009 India-ASEAN Summit to bridge the information gap and also to provide policy inputs to the Governments of India and ASEAN countries on future areas of cooperation. We will follow your discussions over the next two days with great interest.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The ASEAN-India partnership is a natural one, founded on congruent ideas and a common vision of the region and the world, under-pinned by strong civilizational linkages through the millennia. We are convinced of the unique ability of our partnership to further progress and prosperity, peace and security in the region.

Our strengths lie in the fact that we together constitute a 1.8 billion people, a market with resource and demand, a region with complementary capacities and resources. These have contributed to the tremendous resilience that our economies have been able to show since the time of the downturn in the global economy in 2008.

ASEAN-India trade has already crossed the target of 70 billion US Dollars to reach nearly 80 billion US Dollars, showing a very significant growth rate of 37% in 2011-12.

* Research and Information System

The ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement in Trade in Goods has been a positive contributor in enhancing trade. We would now like to see early finalization of ASEAN-India FTA in Investments and Services. This would allow us to truly focus on our collective human resource development. It would also allow India and ASEAN to begin talks on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) initiative, to further accelerate regional economic integration.

ASEAN Secretariat is currently processing projects worth over 70 million US Dollars suggested by India under the ASEAN-India Plan of Action for the period 2010-15. These are across sectors to enhance people-to-people and institutional connectivity between ASEAN and India. The human resource in our countries, the demographic advantage, the potential in an expanding canvas for ASEAN-India relations are some of the drivers in these projects. This region's future lies in its youth, the building blocks for the future, constitute 40% and 50 % of the ASEAN and India populations respectively.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

India accords a very high priority to enhance physical connectivity with ASEAN. India began discussions with ASEAN at the Land Transport Working Group Meeting in early July. There are multiple ideas and possibilities, apart from India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway wherein we have just recently taken on additional commitments at the request of Myanmar. There are ideas about extension of the Trilateral Highway to Laos and Cambodia and also a new highway linking India-Myanmar-Laos-Vietnam-Cambodia.

The study by Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia on a Comprehensive Asia Development Plan and the Master Plan for ASEAN Connectivity Plus adopted at the 6th East Asia Summit are also of interest and practical relevance. I hope your discussions today will cover practical aspects of these ideas and also examine the feasibility of PPP and joint venture route into the programmes of the concerned Governments.

We have endorsed ASEAN centrality in the geopolitical and economic architecture of the region. We wish to further enhance cooperation with ASEAN countries in confronting non-traditional security challenges before us, - fight against international terrorism, drug trafficking, maritime issues, climate change, disaster management, food and energy security. These trans-national issues require new and innovative responses. I hope AINTT would deliberate on these issues and come up with practical recommendations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am confident that your deliberations would come up with tangible and implementable suggestions to aid decision-making, which would help governmental efforts to further strengthen India-ASEAN partnership.

I also wish to see that the future Round Table meetings are held with regular periodicity in ASEAN countries as well as in India, propelling issues and opportunities to the attention of the Governments. The deliberations in these Round Table meetings covering ASEAN and India, the two significant regions in Asia, will have greater salience as we now witness a gradual geopolitical shift in gravity to Asia.

I take this opportunity to welcome members of the ASEAN Secretariat, who are on a special orientation visit to India. I hope their interactions here will give them a better understanding of the thinking that India has brought to its Dialogue Partnership.

I commend RIS for this initiative and convey my appreciation to the members of the Think-Tank community in India and ASEAN for their active participation. I wish you success in your deliberations.

Thank you.



102. Joint Press Statement issued on the First ASEAN Economic Ministers Plus ASEAN FTA Partners Consultations.

Siam Reap, (Cambodia) 30 August, 2012.

ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) and their counterparts from ASEAN's FTA Partners today made an important first step towards establishing a new regional free trade area in the form of a Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). Ministers recognized the significance of RCEP in strengthening the region's economic architecture, and committed to making RCEP a modern, high quality agreement, which will underpin and promote future growth, development and integration in the participating countries.

2. Economic Ministers from ASEAN, Australia, China, India, Japan, Republic of Korea and New Zealand participated in the First AEM Plus FTA Partners Consultations, which were chaired by H.E. Dr. Cham Prasidh, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce of Cambodia.

3. The Ministers welcomed the first meeting among the Economic Ministers of ASEAN and its FTA Partners as a key step towards launching the RCEP negotiations, which could potentially transform the region into an integrated market comprising over 3 billion people with a combined GDP of about US\$ 17.23 trillion (based on 2010 figures).

4. The Ministers were pleased with the progress that is being made by Senior Economic Officials in paving the way for the launch of RCEP negotiations in November 2012. The Ministers also noted the progress made in the RCEP Working Group on Trade in Goods and instructed officials to commence parallel work in the areas of trade in services and investment at the Working Group level as soon as possible. On the basis of this preparatory work by officials, the Ministers agreed to submit recommendations to their governments on the launch of RCEP negotiations.

5. The Ministers agreed to recommend to the Leaders the Guiding Principles and Objectives for Negotiating the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership for their consideration and endorsement in November 2012. The Ministers expressed confidence that this good momentum in the preparatory stage of the RCEP process augurs well for RCEP's contribution to strengthening the region's economic architecture.

List of Ministers

1. Hon. Craig Emerson MP, Minister for Trade and Competitiveness, Australia
2. H.E. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam

3. H.E. Cham Prasidh, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Cambodia
4. H.E. Chen Deming, Minister of Commerce, China
5. H.E. Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Textile, India
6. Mr. Iman Pambagyo, Director-General of International Trade Cooperation, Ministry of Trade, Indonesia
7. H.E. Yukio Edano, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan
8. H.E. Bark Taeho, Minister for Trade, Republic of Korea
9. H.E. Nam Viyaketh, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR
10. H.E. Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia
11. H.E. U Tin Naing Thein, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar
12. Hon. Tim Groser, Minister of Trade, New Zealand
13. H.E. Gregory L. Domingo, Secretary of Trade and Industry, the Philippines
14. H.E. Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore
15. H.E. Boonsong Teriyapirom, Minister of Commerce, Thailand
16. H.E. Nguyen Cam Tu, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam
17. H.E. Surin Pitsuwan, Secretary-General of



103. Joint Press Statement issued on the EAS Economic Ministers' Meeting.

Siem Reap (Cambodia), 30 August, 2012.

Economic Ministers from of East Asia Summit (EAS) participating countries - the ten ASEAN Member States, Australia, China, India, Japan, Republic of Korea and New Zealand, the Russian Federation (Russia) and the United States of America (US) gathered in Siem Reap, Cambodia on 30 August 2012 for the First EAS Economic Ministers' Meeting. H.E. Dr. Cham Prasidh, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce of Cambodia chaired the meeting, which allowed the Ministers to exchange views on global and regional issues affecting the East Asian region as well as developments in areas of economic cooperation within the East Asia Summit (EAS) framework.

2. The Ministers welcomed participation of Russia and the United States in the EAS Economic Ministers' Meeting, which will strengthen EAS economic cooperation.

3. The Ministers noted that the 18 EAS participating countries accounted for around one-half of the world GDP. They were pleased to note that, in 2011, ASEAN's total trade with the other eight EAS countries grew by 20.7 per cent to US\$ 1027.1 billion. Exports from ASEAN to the other EAS countries rose by 23.3 per cent, from US\$ 439.5 billion in 2010 to US\$ 541.8 billion in 2011, while imports from the other EAS countries increased by 17.9 per cent to US\$ 485.3 in 2011. The other EAS countries accounted for 43 per cent of ASEAN's total trade in 2011.

4. The Ministers also noted that foreign direct investment (FDI) flows from the non-ASEAN EAS countries slightly declined by 6.7 per cent from US\$ 50.3 billion in 2010 to US\$ 46.9 billion in 2011, brought about mainly by the global and regional economic and financial uncertainties. Notwithstanding, FDI flows from the non-ASEAN EAS countries continued to account for more than one-half of total FDI flow to ASEAN.

5. The Ministers recalled the Leaders' consensus that the EAS plays a significant role in community building in the region and forms an integral part of the evolving regional architecture. They acknowledged the critical role that ASEAN plays as the driving force in the EAS, working with other participants. Ministers emphasized the important role which trade and economic cooperation plays in the development of the East Asian region.

Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA)

6. The Ministers welcomed the updates provided by the Economic Research

Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) and commended on its activities in a variety of fields that include SMEs, energy, environment, trade and investment, infrastructure development as well as assistance provided to ASEAN through the Mid-Term Review of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint, improving the AEC Scorecard and conducting a comprehensive mapping of ASEAN's free trade agreements.

7. The Ministers, recognising that there is still scope for ERIA to do work in some other important areas, encouraged ERIA to explore expanding its research activities to other emerging areas such as on future economic challenges to sustainable growth and prosperity in the region. The Ministers also underscored the importance of systematically aligning the work of ERIA with the policy objectives of the EAS. This could be achieved through practical arrangements for engagement between policymakers and ERIA's researchers, including consultation about research topics and regular feedback from policymakers on ERIA's research and analysis. The Ministers looked forward to ERIA's continued support and contribution and recognised the importance of further strengthening ERIA to effectively contribute to economic integration and community-building in ASEAN and the greater East Asian region through its research work and policy recommendations. The Ministers appreciated contributions from ASEAN Member States, India, Japan and New Zealand to ERIA.

Regional and global economic development

8. Reaffirming their support to ASEAN's efforts towards the ASEAN Economic Community in 2015, the Ministers also underlined the importance of deepening ASEAN's economic integration beyond 2015 with enhanced participation in global supply networks. In this context, the Ministers reaffirmed their support for the effective implementation of the Declaration of the 6th EAS on ASEAN Connectivity, and anticipated ERIA's further support to the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee as well as to the ASEAN Secretariat.

9. The Ministers exchanged views on the current developments affecting regional and global trade and economy. Given the global economic uncertainties and the importance of sustaining trade flows, Ministers encouraged continuing efforts to find different, fresh and credible approaches with a view to a successful multilateral conclusion of the Doha Round in accordance with its mandate. Ministers welcomed the July decision by the WTO General Council to streamline the processes under which least-developed countries can join the WTO. This was an important step for ensuring that least-developed countries can access the benefits of the multilateral trading system. It was also a timely reminder that multilateral trade negotiations can work. The Ministers reemphasized the importance of finding outcomes in areas where progress can be made, including trade facilitation and development-related issues, as part of efforts to advance

the Doha development agenda. The Ministers reiterated the value, centrality and primacy of the multilateral trading system as embodied by the WTO and agreed to exert greater efforts to operationalize the "Elements for Political Guidance" outcome document from the WTO 8th Ministerial Conference.

10. Ministers renewed the commitment to avoid protectionism and expressed their support for standstill on measures affecting trade and investment. To this end, they agreed to refrain from raising new barriers to investment or to trade in goods and services, imposing new export restrictions, or implementing WTO inconsistent measures in all areas, including those that stimulate exports, to rollback the trade-distorting or protectionist measures that may have arisen, and to exercise maximum restraint in implementing measures that may be considered to be consistent with WTO provisions but have a significant protectionist effect and promptly rectify such measures, where implemented.

11. The Ministers welcomed Russia's accession to the WTO as its 156th member underscoring the benefits of Russia's accession to the WTO to global trade as well as Russia's economic development. With Russia's accession to the WTO, more than 97 per cent of world trade will take place among WTO's members. The Ministers also reiterated their support to the early accession for the Lao PDR to the WTO in 2012.

12. The Ministers noted Russia's preparation for the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting to be held in Vladivostok in September 2012. The Ministers in particular noted the areas prioritized by Russia, as APEC Chair for 2012, which include: (i) trade and investment liberalization, and regional economic integration; (ii) strengthening food security; (iii) establishing reliable supply chains; and (iv) intensive cooperation to foster innovative growth. The Ministers agreed to work together to produce significant outcomes at the Vladivostok meetings, in particular to dedicate all available resources to fulfill Leaders' instructions to work to develop in 2012 an APEC list of environmental goods that will serve as the basis for Leaders' 2011 commitment to reduce tariffs on these products. The Ministers expressed their commitment to promote broader economic integration, and trade and investment liberalization and facilitation in the Asia-Pacific region and to continue to work closely in APEC to achieve these objectives.

13. The Ministers also exchanged their views about measures to be taken to achieve long-term economic growth in this unstable global economy. From the viewpoint of promoting sustainable development in the region, the Ministers reaffirmed their cooperation toward the 2nd Low Carbon Growth Partnership Dialogue, which will be co-chaired by Cambodia and Japan in Spring 2013. The Ministers also reaffirmed the necessity of cooperation in the area of human resource development and broader usage of low carbon technologies and products

14. In relation with all the agenda discussed at this meeting, the Ministers

shared the importance of inputs from private sectors and agreed to explore ways to gain further input from the business community in the future by fully utilizing the existing fora such as the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit.

List of Ministers

1. Hon. Craig Emerson MP, Minister for Trade and Competitiveness, Australia
2. H.E. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam
3. H.E. Cham Prasidh, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Cambodia
4. H.E. Chen Deming, Minister of Commerce, China 5. H.E. Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Textile, India
6. Mr. Iman Pambagyo, Director-General of International Trade Cooperation, Ministry of Trade, Indonesia
7. H.E. Yukio Edano, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan
8. H.E. Bark Taeho, Minister for Trade, Republic of Korea
9. H.E. Nam Viyaketh, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR
10. H.E. Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia
11. H.E. U Tin Naing Thein, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar
12. Hon. Tim Groser, Minister of Trade, New Zealand
13. H.E. Gregory L. Domingo, Secretary of Trade and Industry, the Philippines
14. H.E. Alexey Lihachev, Deputy Minister of Economic Development, Russian Federation
15. H.E. Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore
16. H.E. Boonsong Teriyapirom, Minister of Commerce, Thailand
17. H.E. Nguyen Cam Tu, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam
18. Ambassador Ron Kirk, United States Trade Representative
19. H.E. Surin Pitsuwan, Secretary-General of ASEAN



104. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Commerce on the India - ASEAN Pledge to conclude Services Agreement by December 2012.

New Delhi, 31 August , 2012.

At the 10th ASEAN-India Economic Ministers Consultations in Siem Reap, Cambodia today, Union Minister for Commerce, Industry & Textiles, Shri Anand Sharma, and the ASEAN Economic Ministers reviewed the impressive growth in total trade since the signing of the ASEAN - India Trade in Goods Agreement. Since 2011, bilateral trade has increased by 43% to reach USD 79.8 billion making India the 6th largest trading partner of ASEAN. The Ministers tasked the Senior Officials to start review of the implementation of ASEAN - India Trade in Goods Agreement including the possibility for a package of Product-Specific Rules of Origin to further facilitate trade between both the regions.

The Ministers agreed to intensify negotiations towards conclusion of the ASEAN-India Trade in Services and Investment Agreement. This would facilitate the beginning of ASEAN-India discussions on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) which would bring together a market of more than 50% of the world's population and 30% of the world's GDP. India would be hosting a meeting of the Working Group on Services and Investment in the second half of September 2012 so as to conclude negotiation before the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit in December in New Delhi.

The Ministers discussed their participation at the Second ASEAN-India Business Fair (AIBF) from December 18-20. Cambodia, as ASEAN Chair, confirmed its participation and assured that the ASEAN Member States look forward to a successful AIBF back to back with the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit.

The Ministers discussed preparations for the Commemorative Summit and related events such as the ASEAN-India Car Rally and the INS *Sudarshini* expedition to ASEAN countries. Shri Sharma invited his counterparts to the flag down ceremony of the Car Rally at Guwahati on December 17, 2012.

Shri Sharma also had bilateral meeting with his counterpart from Myanmar and discussed various means and ways to boost bilateral trade and economic cooperation. They also discussed expansion of items under border trades. Myanmar welcomed investments from India in the fields of agriculture, mining, oil and gas, infrastructure development, etc. The Ministers to take the discussions further during Shri Sharma's visit to Myanmar later this year.



105. Joint Press Statement on 10th ASEAN Economic Ministers - India Consultations.**Siem Reap (Cambodia), 31 August, 2012.**

1. The ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) and the Minister of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of India met at the 10th AEM-India Consultations on 31 August 2012 in Siem Reap, Cambodia. The Consultations were co-chaired by H.E. Cham Prasidh, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce of Cambodia and H.E. Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Textiles of India.
2. The Ministers were pleased to note that total trade between ASEAN and India grew by 43.0% in 2011 amounting to US\$74.9 billion. India stepped up a notch to be ASEAN's sixth largest trading partner in 2011.
3. The Ministers tasked the senior officials to start their review of the implementation of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement, including the possibility for a package of the Product-Specific Rules of Origin (PSRs) to further facilitate trade between both regions.
4. The Ministers exchanged views on the latest status of the negotiations on trade in services and investment. They reiterated their request to senior officials to step up their effort and flexibility and strive towards an announcement of the conclusion of negotiations at the 10th ASEAN-India Summit in November 2012 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia at the earliest.
5. The Ministers noted India's preparation for the 2nd India-ASEAN Business Fair scheduled on 18-20 December 2012 in New Delhi, back-to-back with the 20th ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit.

List of Ministers

1. Dato Lim Jock Hoi, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam
2. H.E. Cham Prasidh, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Cambodia
3. H.E. Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Textiles, India
4. Mr. Iman Pambagyo, Director-General of International Trade Cooperation, Ministry of Trade, Indonesia
5. H.E. Nam Viyaketh, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR
6. Datuk Dr. Rebecca Fatima Sta Maria, Secretary General, Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia
7. H.E. U Tin Naing Thein, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar

8. H.E. Gregory L. Domingo, Secretary of Trade and Industry, the Philippines
9. H.E. Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore
10. H.E. Boonsong Teriyapirom, Minister of Commerce, Thailand
11. H.E. Nguyen Cam Tu, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam
12. H.E. Surin Pitsuwan, Secretary-General of ASEAN



106. Extracts from the Media Briefing by the Official Spokesperson on the forthcoming Mekong Ganga Cooperation Meeting.

New Delhi, August 31, 2012.

Official Spokesperson: The... announcement that I have is about the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation Meetings. India will be hosting the Sixth Mekong-Ganga Cooperation Meetings on September 3 and 4 in New Delhi. The Senior Officials would meet on the 3rd September, and this will be followed by the Foreign Ministers' meeting on the 4th September.

As you are aware, the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation was launched on 10th November, 2000 in Vientiane. It sets up a vision for cooperation amongst India and the five Mekong countries - Cambodia, Lao Peoples Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Vietnam and Thailand. They had identified four priority areas for cooperation among these countries. The cooperation was focused on tourism, culture, education and human resources development, as well as transportation and communication.

This is the first time that the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation Meeting would be hosted by India in India. We have chaired the Fifth Ministerial Meetings on the sidelines of the ASEAN-India Meeting. This was in Manila I think in 2007.

The External Affairs Minister along with the visiting Ministers will review cooperation between these countries and will set out the future direction and pathways for this important mechanism for enhanced cooperation among these countries.

Question: ...(Inaudible)... since it was established. What has happened in between actually?

Official Spokesperson: I understand your point that it was established in 2000 - it is now twelve years - and you would like to understand what has been the progress. Briefly what we can mention to you is that the focus on some of these areas they have moved ahead, for example on connectivity. If you could recall, there are lots of projects which they are working on connectivity between India and Myanmar. These are not all the way through for all these countries but India and Myanmar. There is also a trilateral project which is between India-Myanmar and Thailand. There are a large number of ITEC scholarships which are being worked on between India and Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam.

You are also aware of Indian interest in Vietnam specifically, this is a favourite topic of all of you, so I will not go into further detail on that. But that said, the idea was to connect two civilizations which are along two major rivers of Asia.

You are right that since 2007 there has been a certain lull in the activities. The idea is to reinvigorate those activities. We will provide you with a more detailed briefing on that shortly.



107. Press Release on the Sixth Mekong - Ganga Cooperation Meetings.**New Delhi, September 1, 2012.**

India is hosting the 6th Mekong Ganga Cooperation Meetings on September 3-4, 2012 at New Delhi. Senior Officials would be meeting on September 3, 2012 and the Foreign Ministers would meet on September 4, 2012.

The Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) was launched on November 10, 2000 in Vientiane, Lao Peoples Democratic Republic setting out a vision for cooperation amongst India and the five Mekong region countries - Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Vietnam and Thailand. Five MGC Ministerial Meetings have been held so far, in Vientiane, Lao PDR on November 10, 2000; in Hanoi, Vietnam on July 28, 2001; Phnom Penh, Cambodia June 20, 2003; in Cebu, Philippines on January 12, 2007 and in Manila, Philippines on August 1, 2007. The 4 priority areas identified for cooperation so far have included tourism, culture, education/human resource development and transportation & communication.

This would be the first time that the MGC meeting would be hosted by India in New Delhi. Earlier, India had chaired the 5th MGC Ministerial Meeting on the sidelines of the ASEAN-India Meetings.

H.E. Mr. HOR Namhong, Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation, Kingdom of Cambodia; H.E. Dr. Thongloun Sisoulith, Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lao People's Democratic Republic; H.E. U Maung Myint, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of the Union of Myanmar; H.E. Mr. Jullapong Nonsrichai, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of Thailand; and H.E. Mr. Pham Quang Vinh, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Socialist Republic of Vietnam will participate in the 6th MGC Ministerial Meeting.

The External Affairs Minister of India together with the visiting MGC Ministers would review cooperation between the MGC countries and set out the future direction of this important mechanism for enhanced cooperation in the region.



108. Joint Ministerial Statement on the 6th Mekong Ganga Cooperation Meeting.

New Delhi, September 4, 2012.

The Sixth Mekong Ganga Cooperation Ministerial Meeting (6th MGC MM) was held in New Delhi, India on September 4, 2012. The Meeting was preceded by the Senior Officials Meeting on September 3, 2012.

2. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. S.M. Krishna, External Affairs Minister, Republic of India and was attended by H.E. Mr. Hor Namhong, Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation, Kingdom of Cambodia; H.E. Dr. Thongloun Sisoulith, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lao PDR; H.E. U Maung Myint, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Republic of the Union of Myanmar; H.E. Jullapong Nonsrichai, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of Thailand; and H.E. Mr. Pham Quang Vinh, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

3. The Ministers recalled the Vientiane Declaration, the Hanoi Programme of Action and the Phnom Penh Road Map, that define the vision, objectives and specific actions to be taken in the areas for focus under the MGC. The Ministers reviewed the decisions taken at the 5th MGC Meeting held on August 1, 2007 in Manila, the Philippines and noted the progress in the projects initiated thereof.

4. The Ministers reiterated the significance of the MGC for their countries and recalled its strong foundation in the cultural and commercial linkages amongst the member countries over many centuries.

5. The Ministers welcomed and adopted the Senior Officials' Report on their meeting held on September 3, 2012. The Ministers agreed with the SOM recommendation that there is considerable potential to expand the partnership into new areas of relevance to trade, investment, sustainable development and the well-being of the people of MGC countries.

6. The Ministers recognized the need for short gestation projects that could directly benefit local communities, with results that are immediate and visible. The Ministers felt that these would give fresh impetus to cooperation under MGC. In this context, the Ministers welcomed the announcement by India on the establishment of the India-CLMV Quick Impact Projects (QIP) Revolving Fund with an annual contribution of US\$ 1 million.

7. The Ministers appreciated the completion of construction of the MGC Traditional Asian Textiles Museum building at Siem Reap, Cambodia in December 2011. Cambodia provided the land and undertook the construction with financial contribution by India. The Ministers recognized that the 1st meeting of the Working Group on the MGC Textiles Museum project, held on May 4, 2012 in

Siem Reap, Cambodia had made a number of recommendations and tasked the Senior Officials to undertake appropriate follow up. The Ministers welcomed the initiative by India for setting up an Integrated Textile Centre with focus on Textile traditions of the MGC Countries as part of the Museum. The Ministers also agreed to utilize the space in the Museum for showcasing performing arts from the MGC countries, especially since they are intrinsically linked to the textile traditions in these countries.

8. The Ministers took note of the ongoing cooperation for the preservation of the world heritage sites in MGC countries. They welcomed the offer of Thailand to work with India in this important area and tasked Senior Officials to identify new initiatives in this regard. They welcomed Thailand's offer for MGC participation in the UNESCO supported training programmes for "Under Water Archeological Survey" project.

9. The Ministers noted the recent positive developments in India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway project and other ongoing cooperation under the India-ASEAN framework to realize India-ASEAN Connectivity. They welcomed, in particular, the Meeting of the Trilateral Highway Joint Task Force being hosted by India on September 10-11, 2012 in New Delhi. Keeping in view the significance of connectivity amongst the MGC countries, and its associated benefits, the Ministers agreed to expeditiously take forward matters related to the extension of the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway to Cambodia and Lao PDR, and to the new proposal for the development of an India-Myanmar-Lao PDR-Viet Nam-Cambodia highway.

10. The Ministers noted the threat of drug resistant malaria, which is emerging as a major public health issue in MGC countries, impacting disproportionately on the economically weaker sections. They agreed to recommend that MGC Health authorities consider the formation of a Working Group in this important sector to share information and cooperate in pandemics management.

11. The Ministers recognized the wealth of natural resources and expertise available in the MGC sub-region, and the complementarity amongst Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) in MGC countries in terms of product, technology, human resources and market. They agreed to explore the possibility of establishing a Working Group to review and monitor cooperation in the SME sector including the participation of the private sector wherever applicable and exchange of best practices.

12. The Ministers noted the richness of biodiversity in member countries and agreed that its loss would have adverse consequences for food security, health and other life sustaining resources. In the context of ongoing collaboration in different multilateral fora, the Ministers noted the need for coordination and enhanced cooperation in biodiversity related issues. They welcomed Thailand's

announcement of the World Teak Conference in March 2013 in Bangkok and also the offer for MGC participation in Eco-tourism and Community-based Tourism training courses organized by the Thailand International Development Cooperation Agency in 2013.

13. The Ministers acknowledged that rice is the most important crop in MGC countries. Despite significant progress, rice production continues to face many challenges. The Ministers tasked the Senior Officials to explore mutually beneficial cooperation in rice production techniques and downstream processing projects. They took note of the Concept Paper circulated by India for such cooperation.

14. The Ministers noted the establishment and progress of Entrepreneurship Development Centres (EDCs), Centre for English Language Training (CELTs), and Vocational Training Centres (VTCs) by India in CLMV countries. They accepted the recommendation of the SOM that this ongoing cooperation should be strengthened and expanded.

15. The Ministers appreciated India's annual scholarships to MGC countries under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme, which have been contributing consistently to capacity building and human resource development of MGC countries. They welcomed India's offer to organize special customized capacity building programmes on WTO related issues and trade and sustainability matters. The Ministers agreed on the need for effective and full utilization of scholarships with a view to increasing trade relations and economic cooperation amongst MGC countries.

16. The Ministers appreciated India's continued support in providing 50 scholarships through the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) to students from MGC countries and the extension of the scheme to 2016.

17. The Ministers reaffirmed the important role of Nalanda University and took note of the progress made by India in re-establishing the Nalanda University. To preserve the long history of intra-Asian interactions, the Ministers tasked the Senior Officials to explore the possibility of establishment of a Common Archival Resource Centre at Nalanda University to facilitate research on the Mekong Ganga deltaic region.

18. The Ministers welcomed the offer of Lao PDR to chair the next MGC meeting. They accepted the recommendation of the SOM that further meetings of the MGC would be chaired by MGC countries in alphabetical order.

19. The Ministers agreed to try to schedule the future MGC meetings on the sidelines of annual ASEAN-India Foreign Ministerial meetings.



109. Statement to the media by the External Affairs Minister at the Joint Media Interaction held after the Sixth Mekong-Ganga Cooperation Ministerial Meeting.

New Delhi, September 4, 2012.

Distinguished Leaders of Delegation from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam,

Friends from Media,

I have great pleasure in announcing the successful conclusion of the sixth Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) Ministerial Meeting in New Delhi today. I am joined here today by the Leaders of Delegation from the five countries of Mekong region, namely Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. The Senior Officials met yesterday and held detailed deliberations on MGC.

The Mekong-Ganga Cooperation initiative was launched in Vientiane, Lao PDR in 2000 by India and the five countries from Mekong region to build cooperation in the region defined by two great rivers, the Mekong and the Ganga. It is a forum unique in its civilizational foundation. It also a forum, which has tremendous potential to become a powerful catalyst for socio-economic development in the region.

It gives me great pleasure to announce that, at the 6th MGC Ministerial Meeting today, we have revitalized the forum by expanding our partnership to new areas of collaboration. In our view, the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation has important relevance to the growth and shared prosperity in Asia. We are confident that this new direction and energy infused into the forum today will help realize the great promise within the MGC. Our unanimous decision to henceforth meet on an annual basis is indicative of our recognition of the tremendous potential for future cooperation in this forum.

Friends from Media,

The text of the Joint Ministerial Statement is already with you.

In addition to the existing four areas of collaboration under the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation, namely culture, tourism, human resource development & education, and transport & communication, we have today identified various new areas for cooperation. These include health research relevant to the region and sharing of expertise on pandemic management.

The economies of India and the five countries in the Mekong region depend heavily on micro, small and medium enterprises. We have, therefore, discussed various ways of bringing together the complementarities that exist in micro, small and medium enterprises in our countries.

We have also focused on aspects related to food security and the responsibility to future generations in terms of protecting the rich bio-diversity of our region. Our Officials will establish more intensive channels of communication to be able to show progress in these areas before our next meeting.

We would be intensifying our collaboration for human resource development and education. Connectivity from Vietnam to India is a strategic priority for all of us and we have asked our Senior Officials to work towards specific projects.

We have tasked our Officials to accelerate action at national levels in setting up the Museum of Traditional Asian Textiles, which has been constructed by India in Siem Reap. We have suggested that the Museum develop a dynamic character by integrating a Textiles Centre and also showcasing performing arts, which are intrinsically linked to our textile traditions.

India has announced an annual commitment of USD 1 million for the India-Cambodia-Laos-Myanmar-Vietnam (CLMV) Quick Impact Projects Revolving Fund. This will be towards projects with short gestation and immediate benefit at a community level in the CLMV countries.

I am happy to inform that the Lao People's Democratic Republic has kindly agreed to Chair our next meeting. I wish Lao PDR all success in their efforts to take forward the MGC initiatives to the next high level.



110. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India on the meeting of the Environment Ministers of ASEAN and India.

New Delhi, 8 September, 2012.

The Ministry of Environment & Forests hosted the ASEAN-India Environment Ministers' Meeting on September 7, 2012 at New Delhi. The Environment Ministers' Meeting was preceded by a meeting of senior officials of ASEAN member states and senior officials of Ministry of Environment & Forest and Ministry of External Affairs on September 6, 2012.

The ASEAN-India Environment Ministers' meeting was co-chaired by Mrs. Jayanthi Natarajan, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) Environment & Forests, India and H.E. Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi Bin Haji Osman, Hon'ble Minister of Development, Brunei Darussalam and attended by senior delegates from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and the ASEAN Secretariat.

Both sides discussed various aspects of biodiversity conservation. The meeting unanimously adopted the 'New Delhi ASEAN-India Ministerial Statement on Biodiversity' whereby both sides agreed to enhance awareness among all stakeholders, strive towards mainstreaming biodiversity concerns into development processes, and to strive towards enhancing priority in terms of resource allocation and mobilization for biodiversity conservation.

Both sides also agreed to work together for conservation and management of flagship species and enhancing conservation management & sustainable utilization of Coastal and Marine biodiversity. The statement further agrees to take preparatory national work as a sound and informed basis for ratifying the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing.

The meeting called upon The Eleventh Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to discuss issues relating to biodiversity & livelihoods regularly and recommend concrete actions, considering the critical linkages of biodiversity with livelihoods and poverty alleviation.

Both sides agreed to meet and exchange views on issues of common interest at appropriate ASEAN Environment Ministers' Meetings.



- 111. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas of India on the offer by Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas R. P. N. Singh of India's expertise to ASEAN countries in laying Oil and Gas Pipelines and Power Transmission Lines while addressing the Meeting of the ASEAN Energy Ministers in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.**

New Delhi, 13 September, 2012.

Shri R P N Singh, Minister of State, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas underlined the need for energy security, energy conservation and closer integration of energy markets. While addressing the 30th ASEAN Energy Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM) at Cambodia, he emphasized on the close economic co-operation among the East Asian Countries as these together represent more than 50 percent of world's energy consumption. He showcased the investment opportunities that exist in Indian petroleum sector under NELP, petrochemical complexes in Dahej and Mangalore, LNG import and regasification terminals at Kochi and Ennore; and mapping and development of shale gas reserves. He also offered to share India's capabilities and experience in laying oil & gas pipelines and power transmission lines to ASEAN countries.

He highlighted achievement of the country in reducing vehicular pollution with introduction of BS III and BS IV fuels and increasing use of natural gas in the automobile sector. He added that with the ever expanding opportunities in the energy sector, India has emerged as an attractive investment destination. On the sidelines of the AMEM, he also held the bilateral meetings with the Energy Ministers of Malaysia, Brunei, Myanmar and Indonesia, in which the issues relating to enhancement of supply of crude and natural gas to India were discussed.



- 112. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Agriculture on the inauguration of the three-day event jointly organized by the Indian Council for Agriculture Research and the Confederation of Indian Industry and attended by the Ministers and Senior Officials of the ASEAN countries with a view to intensify Cooperation in Agriculture, Industries and Trade.**

New Delhi, 17 October, 2012.

Agriculture Minister Shri Sharad Pawar today inaugurated the ASEAN-India Agri Expo along with Ministers and representatives of the ASEAN member countries.

The Exposition has been organised concurrently with the Second ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry meeting to showcase technologies of the region to further promote and intensify cooperation between India and ASEAN nations in agriculture, forestry and allied sectors.

The three-day event jointly organised by the ICAR and the Confederation of Indian Industry is being attended by Ministers and senior officials of the ASEAN nations and India with a view to collaborate more effectively for greater utilization of resources in agriculture, industries and trade.

The Expo displays exhibits from different Indian institutes such as the test kit for detection of antibiotic residues in milk at dairy farm and new colour based test for anionic detergent in milk developed by the National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal. Exhibits from institutes of ASEAN countries are also on display at the Expo.

On October 18 Minister of State for Agriculture inaugurated the Symposium on “Indo-ASEAN Export Potential of Agriculture Products - Growth Potential and Way Forward”. The Following Press Release was issued by the Ministry of Agriculture on the occasion.

Minister of State for Agriculture, Shri Harish Rawat today inaugurated the Symposium on ‘Indo-ASEAN Export Potential of Agriculture Products- Growth Potential and Way Forward’ organized along with the ongoing 2nd ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture & Forestry (17-19th October 2012).

Elaborating upon the scope for cooperation between ASEAN nations and India, he said, “Several ASEAN member states enjoy excellent agro-climatic conditions suitable for production of the commodities that India imports in large quantity.

Similarly, India can be an important source for many of the commodities imported by ASEAN member states. I am, therefore, of the view that member countries can be benefited if we explore the complementarities and align our agricultural productions and trade policies to encourage greater bilateral trade in agro commodities”.

Ministers from ASEAN nations, Member, Planning Commission, Shri Abhijit Sen and DG ICAR, Dr. S. Ayyappan also addressed the symposium.



113. The Joint Press Statement of the Second ASEAN - India Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry.**New Delhi, 17 October 2012.**

The Second ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry, held on 17 October 2012 in New Delhi, India was Co-Chaired by H.E Mr. Vilayvanh Phomkhe, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of Lao PDR and H.E Mr. Sharad Pawar Minister of Agriculture of India.

2. The Ministers reaffirmed their support to enhance cooperation on food security through activities such as R&D, capacity building, and technical cooperation as guided by the ASEAN-India Leaders during their 9th ASEAN-India Summit, held on 19 November 2011 in Bali, Indonesia. The ASEAN-India Leaders welcomed the adoption of the ASEAN-India Medium Term Plan of Action (2011-2015) for enhanced and concrete cooperation in this field to address the issue of food security.

3. The Ministers noted the long term partnership between ASEAN and India has resulted in 23.4% increase in total trade from US\$ 55.3 billion in 2010 to US\$ 68.4 billion in 2011, making India as the sixth largest trading partners of ASEAN. The Ministers also noted that the trade in agriculture commodities account for 16.7% of the total trade in 2011 which account to US\$ 11.4 billion. The Ministers further noted that the foreign direct investment (FDI) from India to ASEAN has increased by 28.6% from US\$ 0.8 billion in 2009 to US\$ 2.8 billion in 2010.

4. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the progress made in the implementation of activities under the ASEAN Cooperation in Agriculture and Forestry. The publication of ASEAN-India Newsletter on Agriculture and Forestry, coupled with trainings on the areas of common interest, have provided interactive platform for sharing of information and creating awareness for mutual benefit of the agriculture development.

5. The Ministers expressed their concern over the small number of young farmers involvement in the agriculture sector development in the region. The Ministers agreed on the importance of promoting innovation and entrepreneurship among young farmers to achieve more sustainable agriculture development. The Ministers are pleased with the launching of ASEAN-India Farmers Exchange which will create greater awareness among the young and innovative farmers on the promising career in the agriculture sector. The Ministers noted the 1st Exchange Visit will be conducted in Malaysia in conjunction with the 2012 ASEAN Farmers Week and the Malaysian Agriculture, Horticulture and Agrotourism (MAHA) International in November 2012, while the 2nd visit will be conducted in India in December 2012.

6. The Ministers agreed that the ASEAN-India AgriExpo provide a venue for farmers and private sectors to keep abreast with the achievements and innovations in agriculture sector. The Ministers also agreed that the Expo will provide new opportunities and strengthen existing business networks to explore possible collaboration through investment venture.

7. The Ministers welcomed the ASEAN-India Roadmap on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation in Agriculture Sector generated by the Workshop on 23-25 August 2012 to address the impact of climate change in the agriculture sector. India and ASEAN are threatened by increased frequency of droughts, floods and heavy rainfall events with serious impact on the agriculture and farmers. Sharing knowledge and develop relevant coping technologies and risk management practices specific to the region will help ASEAN and India to enhance agriculture production and productivity for food security.

8. The Ministers expressed their concern on high increase in global food prices, the price volatility in food commodities and their impact on developing countries. The Ministers resolved to strengthen the cooperation, widen food production base and exchange of expertise among ASEAN Member Countries and India to enhance their resilience in food security planning. The Ministers also agreed to task the Senior Officials to develop collaborative projects to cover all aspects related to production enhancement programmes, maintenance and management of stocks, adequate availability of grains, access of food to vulnerable population and inducing transparency in markets.

9. Noting the importance of agriculture sector, the Ministers committed to enhance cooperation to ensure sustainable development of in agriculture and forestry sector through the implementation of Medium-Term Plan of Action for ASEAN-India Cooperation in Agriculture and Forestry (2011-2015). The Ministers also noted that the significant progress in the implementation of the on-going ASEAN-India Medium-Term Plan of Action which will form part of the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit which will be held on 20-21 December 2012, to celebrate ASEAN-India dialogue relations.

10. The Ministers agreed to convene the Third Meeting of ASEAN India Ministerial Meeting in Malaysia in September/ October 2013.

11. The Ministers expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government and People of India for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.

The Meeting was attended by:

H.E. Pehin Dato Yahya, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Brunei Darussalam

H.E. Mr. Kith Seng, Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Cambodia

H.E. Dr. Rusman Heriawan, Vice Minister of Agriculture, Indonesia H.E. Mr. Vilayvanh Phomkhe, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR

H.E. Dato' Mohd Hashim bin Abdullah, Secretary General, Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry, Malaysia

H.E Mr. Ba Hla Aye, Charge d'Affairs, Minister Counsellor, Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to India

H.E Ms. MA Agnes Cervantes, Consul General of the Embassy of Philippines to India

H.E. Ms. Tan Poh Hong, Chief Executive Officer, Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore

H.E. Mr. Theera Wongsamut, Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand
H.E. Mr. Diep Kinh Tan, Vice Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Viet Nam

H.E Mr. Sharad Pawar, Minister of Agriculture and Food Processing Industries, India

H.E. Mr. Lim Hong Hin, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Economic Community



114. Statement by the Chairman of the First ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting on Renewable Energy on the conclusion of the Consultations on Renewable Energy.

New Delhi, 7 November 2012.

Ministers of Renewable Energy from ASEAN countries and India met in New Delhi on November 7, 2012.

Having deliberated on various aspects of renewable energy including its potential for improving the lives of our peoples,

Recognising the need for energy for overall development and growth of society for attaining a better standard of living for our peoples,

Recognising that renewable energy could have the potential to improve access to energy to our population, including the economically weak sections of population, and those living in remote and inaccessible areas of our countries,

Aware that technology has an important role to play in the reduction of costs of deployment of renewable energy for improving the quality of life of peoples, and

Conscious of the need for cooperation in research and development in renewable energy to evolve practical models for successful deployment,

Exchanged views on ways to:

Enhance our joint efforts to pursue the goal of providing, reliable and affordable energy to our people which is fundamental to economic growth, realizing our development potential and improving living standards,

Explore the possibilities of sharing and strengthening our capabilities in the field of planning, design and construction, operation & maintenance of renewable energy based projects,

Examine opportunities to develop cooperation including institutional linkages in renewable energy through mutual exchange and sharing of information, knowledge and technology and through joint cooperation projects in research & development,

Consider supporting existing fora and institutions for facilitating such exchange of knowledge, information and technology, and

Find ways to augment energy security through optimal development of renewable energy resources of the region and share the available expertise for developing renewable energy resources and pool our strengths for capacity building in relevant areas of renewable energy.



115. Media Briefing by Secretary East Sanjay Singh on Prime Minister's Visit to Cambodia for East Asia Summit and India-ASEAN Summit.

New Delhi, November 14, 2012.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Syed Akbaruddin): Thank you very much for coming for this interaction, and I must apologize for the slight delay today. There have been some events which we will come to a little later and let you know about.

Let me introduce to you my colleagues on the podium. We have Mr. Sanjay Singh, Secretary (East), who will brief us about the Prime Minister's visit to Cambodia, the East Asia Summit as well as the India-ASEAN meeting there. Along with him is Ms. Renu Pall, Joint Secretary (ASEAN Multilateral). She will assist Secretary (East) on issues relating to Cambodia and Prime Minister's visit there.

I will now request Secretary (East) to make a brief presentation and then we will go through the questions relating to East Asia before we move to the next topic on the agenda.

Secretary (East) (Shri Sanjay Singh): Good afternoon everybody.

Prime Minister would be visiting Phnom Penh, Cambodia from 18th to 20th November to attend the Tenth ASEAN-India Summit, and the Seventh East Asia Summit. National Security Advisor, and Principal Secretary to PM would be accompanying the Prime Minister to Cambodia.

India's Dialogue Partnership with the ASEAN countries is one of the cornerstones of our foreign policy and the foundation of our Look East Policy. It is a partnership founded on civilizational ties, an identity of perspective and objectives, capacity building, and connectivity. We see this partnership as furthering economic growth and prosperity, peace and stability in the region.

From a Sectoral Dialogue Partnership in 1992 and full Dialogue Partnership in 1996, India's partnership with ASEAN was elevated to annual summits in 2002, and Cambodia hosted the first ASEAN-India Summit.

Prime Minister will meet his ASEAN counterparts in the afternoon of November 19th for the Tenth ASEAN-India Summit. The Leaders will take cognizance of the intensification of relations since their last meeting in Bali in November 2011. The Leaders will discuss the Commemorative Summit which has the theme 'ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace and Shared Prosperity' and which India will be hosting in New Delhi on December 20-21, 2012 to mark the 20th anniversary of this relationship and the 10th anniversary of ASEAN-India summit-level partnership. The Leaders will also receive the Report of the ASEAN-India Eminent Persons Group.

In the last one-year, ASEAN and India have had an intensive calendar of meetings and events. Delhi Dialogue-IV on the theme "India and ASEAN: Partners for Peace, Progress and Stability" was held from February 13 to 14, 2012. Meetings were initiated this year between the Heads of Space Agencies from ASEAN countries and India in June. Our Ministers for Environment met in July; the Ministers for Agriculture in October; and Ministers for Renewable Energy in November. We have scheduled meetings ahead for our Ministers for Telecommunications, Science and Technology, and Commerce and Industry. This is to give a full gamut of the functional cooperation that we have with ASEAN countries.

The ASEAN-India Business Fair and Business Council meetings would be held from December 18 to 20, 2012. We are also beginning consultations this month, on this very day, in Hanoi, on identifying opportunities for cooperation in the SME sector. The first visit of the ASEAN-India Parliamentary Assembly Delegation to India took place in end July. The first Round Table of the ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks was held in August. We have held a lot of events this year since this is the commemorative year and to launch a number of initiatives in our cooperative endeavours.

An ASEAN-India Expert Meeting on Climate Change took place in June; a Workshop on Adaptation and Mitigation Technologies in Agriculture in August; the launch of an ASEAN-India Newsletter on Agriculture and Forestry and an Agri Expo in October; a Workshop on Cooperation in Renewable Energy in November 2012. In addition, we have seen the institutionalization of the media exchange programme this year, with 20 ASEAN journalists visiting India in February 2012 and eight Indian journalists visiting Vietnam and Cambodia in July 2012. We expect 20 Senior Editors from ASEAN countries in December 2012.

The Committee of Permanent Representatives and a delegation from the ASEAN Secretariat visited India in February and August respectively. We would also be hosting 50 ASEAN diplomats from November 21 for a month, 30 ASEAN farmers and 250 ASEAN students in December this year.

ASEAN-India trade in 2011-12 was around \$ 79 billion, crossing the target of \$ 70 billion by 2012 set in 2009. We have a Free Trade Agreement in Goods, which was signed in 2009 which became fully operational in August 2011. Negotiations are underway on the FTA on Services and Investments.

This intensive sectoral cooperation between ASEAN and India had been identified under the Plan of Action for ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity for 2010-15. The activities and collaborative projects under this Plan of Action are being met out of the \$ 50 million committed by India to the ASEAN-India Cooperation Fund in 2009. Another \$ 5 million are available under the ASEAN-India Green Fund set up in 2007 to promote adaptation and

mitigation technologies in the area of climate change, and \$ 1 million is being used from the ASEAN-India Science and Technology Development Fund also set up in 2007.

In the political field, India has been participating in the ASEAN Regional Forum, the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus, and the Extended ASEAN Maritime Forum meetings, and our ongoing agenda includes cooperation to combat nontraditional threats such as anti-piracy cooperation, combating terrorism and drug trafficking.

India supports the Initiative for ASEAN Integration and has set up English Language Training Centres, Entrepreneurship Development Centres, and Vocational Training Centres in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam (CLMV countries). We allocate over 600 scholarships annually under ITEC for ASEAN countries. ICCR also extends fellowships to the CLMV countries.

Connectivity with ASEAN, in all its three dimensions - geographical, institutional and people-to-people - is a matter of priority. The Trilateral Highway under construction between India, Myanmar and Thailand would connect Moreh in India to Mae Sot in Thailand.

Two flagship events in this commemorative year are the ASEAN-India Car Rally 2012 which will be flagged off from Yogyakarta on November 26, an Expedition by INS Sudarshini, a sail training ship of the Indian Navy, which set sail for ASEAN countries on September 15, 2012 from Kochi on a six month long expedition.....

As far as the East Asia Summit (EAS) is concerned, it started in 2005 as a Leaders-led forum comprising of 10 ASEAN countries, plus Australia, China, India, Japan, ROK and New Zealand. The United States and Russian Federation joined at the Sixth EAS in Bali, Indonesia in November 2011, taking the membership of EAS to 18 countries.

In a relatively short period of time, the EAS has emerged as an important dialogue forum in the region. It is a Leaders-led forum for dialogue on broad strategic, geo-political and economic issues of common interests, with the aim of promoting peace, security, stability and economic prosperity.

India has participated in all the six Summits held so far. We support ASEAN as the driving force in the EAS process.

The 7th EAS is scheduled on November 20 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. EAS Leaders would hold discussions in Plenary and a Retreat. The five priority areas for regional cooperation within the framework of the EAS include energy, education, finance, natural disaster management, and global health and pandemics. The issues of connectivity and regional economic integration are also included in the EAS agenda as priority areas for the Sixth EAS. During the

Retreat session, the Leaders will exchange views on regional and international issues.

During his visit to Cambodia, PM will also pay his respects to His Majesty late Norodom Sihanouk. India attended the Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum meet in Manila on October 3 to 5, 2012. We support the efforts through the ARF, ADMM+, and EAS to evolve an East Asia architecture that is open, transparent and inclusive. At the Seventh EAS, Leaders are expected to consider adoption of the Phnom Penh Declaration on East Asia Summit Development Initiative. They would also consider a Declaration on Regional Response to Malaria Control and Addressing Resistance to Anti-malarial Medicines. They would witness the launch of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

PM will also provide an update to the establishment of the Nalanda University. We have recently set up a Steering Committee to oversee the Global Design Competition.

At the Sixth EAS, Prime Minister of India announced India's intention to host an EAS Workshop on disaster management and relief in the case of an occurrence of an earthquake. In fulfillment of this announcement India hosted the 'EASIndia Workshop : Building Regional Framework for Earthquake Risk Management' in New Delhi on November 8-9, 2012. In the six sessions spread over two days, participants discussed earthquake risk profiles of EAS member countries, lessons learnt from previous experiences, knowledge sharing on technologies and application of mitigation measures, multilateral coordination and support for recovery financing, capacity development challenges and post disaster longterm recovery and reconstruction.

At the First East Asia Summit Education Ministers' Meeting held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia on 5th July, 2012, India endorsed the EAS Education Plan of Action 2011-15. We conveyed a proposal to establish an EAS Regional Leadership Development Programme and expressed interest in linking our National Qualification Framework (NQF) to regional framework development linking NQF for the whole region. India will also take the lead in drafting a theme paper for the project on Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) Teacher and Student Mobility. Finance Minister participated in the Second Informal EAS Finance Ministers' Meeting in Tokyo on October 13, 2012. India has participated in the East Asia Summit Energy Ministers' Meetings, including the sixth held at Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on September 13, 2012.

Prime Minister will also hold bilateral meetings with some of his ASEAN and EAS counterparts.

I thank you.

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Question: Mr. Singh, you mentioned that negotiations are under way for the FTA on investment and services. By when do you think these negotiations are going to be complete and what is the status of the negotiations right now?

Question: If I may add, can you tell us something on the respective positions in the negotiations at the moment?

Secretary (East): Negotiations are being conducted by the Ministry of Commerce. They take the lead in this. I would not like to speculate on when they will be concluded and how long they would take.

Question: Sir, there is talk of a kind of a code of conduct being formulated in this upcoming summit for the way countries behave in the South China Sea. What is India's take on this and how far do you think this is actually going to take place?

Secretary (East): The code of conduct that you are referring to is being formulated by ASEAN countries the guidelines of which were announced in Bali last year. This is something that is done between China and the ASEAN countries. India is not involved in that.

Question: Since many international leaders would be there in Phnom Penh during EAS and ASEAN-India summits, have any bilateral meetings been firmed up? What are the possible meetings?

Secretary (East): Yes, of course there will be bilateral meetings, they are being firmed up. I do not have the full details and a fix on those meetings at the moment. We will keep the press informed on that.

Question: What are the possibilities of PM meeting Chinese President and the American President?

Secretary (East): The Chinese Prime Minister normally attends the East Asia Summit. We will have to see. As soon as these are fixed up, we will keep the press informed.

Question: Any indication from Washington?

Question: Is the Prime Minister likely to be meeting President Obama?

Secretary (East): We do not have a fix on that as yet. I said we will keep the press informed as soon as we know about it.

Question: Could you just give one or two concrete deliverables by EAS in the past seven years which may suggest that it is actually the Leaders-led forum, as you said, and not a talk shop?

Secretary (East): In international affairs, ideas which are generated at Leaders-led conclaves are then put into practice and made functional in the course of time.

Among these is connectivity. There are things about dealing with pandemics and diseases. So, you have an initiative on malaria which is very important to all the countries of the region. You have an initiative on dealing with non-traditional threats such as piracy, terrorism, narcotics trafficking, trafficking of drugs, etc. All these have created greater cooperation among the countries of East Asia. And this is helping the people of this region. There are steps that have been taken on environment, there are steps that have been taken on issues, the most important being that negotiations have begun on East Asia-wide economic space which would have lesser trade barriers.

Question: Mr. Singh, my question was actually with reference to this RCEP. Could you elaborate on that a little bit more as to the framework of it, how do you see it emerging, and on maritime security cooperation as well?

Secretary (East): On RCEP, basically ASEAN has five FTAs - with Japan, ROK, China, Australia and New Zealand have a combined FTA, and India. All these ASEAN+One FTAs are thought to be converted into an ASEAN+Six arrangement in which all of them would pool in and create a common economic space. Negotiations for this had begun under the rubric of Comprehensive Economic Programme for East Asia (CEPEA), and this has now been subsumed into RCEP discussions. So, that is what it is.

As far as maritime security goes, in Philippines the first extended maritime forum took place, I think it was early in September this year, and they discussed various areas of cooperation. As you know around fifty thousand ships travel through this region every year carrying trade, and it is very important to ensure their security. All these issues about ensuring security of the ships, ensuring security of marine passage, etc., are the areas that were discussed.

Question: You mentioned about the Nalanda University. I understand that there is no inter-governmental agreement yet on this university. What is the update on that? And I understand also that as per the Government of India Business Rules, the Ministry of External Affairs cannot run a university unless there is an inter-governmental agreement like in the case of South Asia University.

Secretary (East): I would not like to enter into an argument with you there. The fact is that the East Asia Summit in its press statement took on board the fact that the institution of international stature would be created in Nalanda, and the Ministry of External Affairs has been given the job for doing so, and helping and servicing this institution which is being led by a very eminent Governing Board and is making progress slowly but steadily.

Question: Mr. Singh, could you tell us how soon this road which connects India to ASEAN is going to be ready? When can one hope to drive from India to Hanoi or wherever?

Secretary (East): We have a car rally going on, which will start on 27th of November. It will start at Yogyakarta and go to Singapore through Malaysia, to Thailand, to Vietnam, to Laos, back into Thailand, and then through Myanmar into Moreh in Manipur, and then through Nagaland into Guwahati. So, it is there. The whole idea of the car rally is to show that there is connectivity.

Question: Coming back to the question about code of conduct on South China Sea, do we at least support having such a code of conduct there? I am asking this because most of our trade with the ASEAN countries, at least 55 per cent of it, is through that region.

Secretary (East): The code of conduct is something that ASEAN and China are discussing.



116. Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh prior to his departure for Cambodia to attend the 10th India - ASEAN Summit and the 7th East Asia Summit.

New Delhi, 18 November, 2012.

I am proceeding today on a visit to Cambodia for the 10th India-ASEAN Summit and the 7th East Asian Summit.

Our partnership with ASEAN is an important component of our "Look East" policy. This year marks the 20th anniversary of our dialogue partnership and 10th anniversary of Summit-level engagement with ASEAN. We are celebrating this milestone by hosting a special Commemorative Summit in New Delhi in December.

Over the past decade, our engagement with ASEAN has become strong, comprehensive and multi-faceted. The Summit in Phnom Penh will give us an opportunity to preview and prepare an ambitious agenda for the Summit next month to take the India-ASEAN relationship to a new level. In this context, my ASEAN colleagues and I will also have the opportunity to review in Phnom Penh the recommendations of the Eminent Persons Group of India and ASEAN.

East Asia Summit is the foremost forum for promoting peace, stability and prosperity in the Asia Pacific region. This year, we are preparing to launch the negotiations for a Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership among ASEAN and its FTA Partners, including India. This is a giant step towards creation of an economic community in the region. This forum also serves as a useful platform for enhancing cooperation in the region and discussing regional security issues.

On the margins of East Asia Summit, I will have the opportunity to meet other world leaders.



117. Opening Remarks by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at 10th India-ASEAN Summit.

Phnom Penh, 19 November, 2012.

Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Samdech HUN SEN,

Sultan of Brunei Darussalam,

His Majesty Haji Hassanal Bolkiah,

Excellencies,

It is a great pleasure and privilege for me to join you for the 10th India-ASEAN Summit. I thank Prime Minister HUN SEN and the people of Cambodia for their warm welcome and generous hospitality, and for the excellent arrangements for the Summit.

A visit to Cambodia never fails to remind that India's relations with South-east Asia rest on the foundations of historical links and ancient cultural ties. Today, they are invigorated by the recognition of our increasingly shared destinies. As we gather for our tenth summit in the country that hosted the first such Summit, let me reaffirm that India attaches the highest strategic priority to its relations with ASEAN.

Two decades ago, India embarked upon a journey of openness and global economic integration. As we looked towards the East, ASEAN was the natural partner for our engagement in the Asia Pacific region. I am glad to say that this remains the case today.

Excellencies, a future of peace, stability and prosperity in the Asia Pacific requires increased cooperation and integration in the region. ASEAN has shown the way in this regard. We support the objectives of an ASEAN Community by 2015, the Initiative for ASEAN Integration and the ASEAN Master Plan on Connectivity.

ASEAN's leadership in fostering cooperation and building better understanding in the larger Asia Pacific community is admirable. We believe that ASEAN centrality is essential in the evolving regional architecture for peace, stability, development and prosperity.

Excellencies, India's relationship with ASEAN members and with ASEAN institutionally continues to grow in all dimensions. Commerce and connectivity are vital areas of this relationship and we have made good progress in both.

The India-ASEAN Agreement on Trade in Goods has served us well. Our trade was nearly 80 billion US dollars in the Indian financial year ending March 2012,

exceeding our target of 70 billion US dollars. I would like to inform Your Excellencies that India is prepared to conclude the Agreement on Trade in Services and Investment Promotion before the Commemorative Summit in Delhi in December. This will be a strong signal of our deepening economic engagement, and will allow for rapid expansion in trade and investment flows in both directions.

Connectivity with ASEAN in all its dimensions - physical, institutional and people-to-people - continues to be a strategic priority for India. Two major Commemorative events this year - the India-ASEAN Car Rally and the ASEAN sailing expedition of the Indian Naval Ship Sudarshini - highlight the importance and the potential for connecting India and ASEAN by sea, surface and air links.

We have also held discussions with ASEAN in the Land Transport Working Group, the Maritime Transport Working Group and the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee. The Trilateral Highway Task Force met in New Delhi and resolved to establish connectivity from Moreh in India to Mae Sot in Thailand by 2016. These are welcome steps in implementing the vision of India-ASEAN connectivity. We await route alignments on the extension of the Trilateral Highway and the proposed new highway to Vietnam so that these can be examined in an integrated manner. I look forward to early completion of the feasibility studies.

I am also happy that our people are also connecting with each other. A large number of ASEAN students, Senior Editors, diplomats and farmers are visiting India in December 2012 and will join us at the ceremonial flag down of the Car Rally in New Delhi. India and ASEAN have signed a unique MoU on Strengthening Tourism Cooperation. Continuing liberalization of our visa regime for ASEAN countries is also inspired by the same desire to connect our people and expand mutually beneficial economic opportunities. I am especially pleased that, this year, delegates of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly have exchanged visits for the first time with an Indian Parliamentary delegation.

Excellencies, our cooperation is growing rapidly across an increasingly wide range of sectors and fields. The meetings between our Ministers of Environment, New & Renewable Energy, Tourism, Agriculture and Telecommunications during the year reflect this growing momentum. We have begun consultations on deepening our linkages in the important sector of medium and small scale industries, which are engines of employment and innovation in our countries.

The launch of an ASEAN-India Newsletter on Agriculture and Forestry is a very important initiative and I am also encouraged by the level of ASEAN participation in the Agri Expo. We look forward to a successful India-ASEAN Business Fair in Delhi in December. I attach special importance to our ongoing cooperative programmes in the knowledge and skills sector. The first meeting between the heads of space agencies of India and ASEAN in Bengaluru in June 2012 should

enhance cooperation in application of space assets and science for our mutual benefit. Finally, we are making tangible progress on the Plan of Action for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity for 2010-15.

Excellencies, India and ASEAN should not only work for shared prosperity and closer links between our peoples, but also to promote peace, security and stability in the region. We should therefore enhance our cooperation to address shared challenges. I am happy to note our growing engagement in areas such as defence, maritime security and counter-terrorism. We attach great importance to our consultation and cooperation in the East Asia Summit, ASEAN Regional Forum and ADMM+ forums. I am confident that, given our cultural affinity, physical proximity, shared values, convergent worldviews and similarities in our approaches to the region, our relationship will increasingly become more comprehensive and strategic in nature.

Excellencies, I would like to express my deep appreciation for the constructive and supportive role that Cambodia has played for the last three years as the Coordinator for India. I welcome Brunei, the current Coordinator for India, and assure them of our full support in taking our partnership to new heights.

Finally, I am grateful to all of you, Excellencies, for confirming your participation in the Commemorative Summit in New Delhi on 20-21 December, 2012. I look forward to receiving you for what will be an opportunity to celebrate the progress in India-ASEAN relations over the past decade and outline a vision for a future partnership for peace and prosperity, not only for our countries, but also for the wider region.

I thank you.



118. Response by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the 10th ASEAN-India Summit.

Phnom Penh, 19 November, 2012.

Excellencies,

I sincerely thank you for your support for India-ASEAN partnership and your commitment to further strengthen and broaden it. I am also grateful for your valuable thoughts and suggestions on the future direction of our relationship. I also look forward to meeting you bilaterally here and in Delhi.

I also thank the ASEAN-India Eminent Persons Group for its report on India-ASEAN Partnership. The Group's recommendations provide valuable guidance for our deepening partnership, not only for mutual benefit, but also for peace and stability, growth and prosperity in the wider Asia-Pacific region.

I have no doubt that the conclusion of the Agreement on Trade in Services and Investments, together with our existing Agreement on Trade in Goods, will be a springboard for rapid expansion in our economic relations. The promising initiatives for cooperation in diverse sectors will add additional depth and range to our cooperation. India's large markets and rapid growth offer enormous opportunities for investments. We are taking a series of steps to further improve investment environment and accelerate growth. We look forward to increased ASEAN investments into India. At the same time, India will offer its own resources, expertise and experience to support growth and development in ASEAN countries, where such needs exist. I am pleased that Indian private sector has increased its presence in the region. I would also like to stress the importance of creating an environment that makes it easier for our professionals, entrepreneurs, students and tourists to travel between India and ASEAN countries.

Improved connectivity between India and ASEAN will be vital for deepening our economic integration as well as our strategic partnership. India and ASEAN have a shared interest in maritime security, counter-terrorism, antipiracy and disaster management. We would like to see the emergence of an open, balanced, inclusive architecture that promotes peace, stability and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific Region.

This is a time of challenges in the region, but also of immense opportunities to shape its future. I am convinced that India and ASEAN can play an important and constructive role in building the regional architecture. Tomorrow, we will participate in the seventh East Asia Summit and launch the RCEP negotiations.

This 10th ASEAN India Summit in Phnom Penh is a significant milestone in our

partnership. There is great expectation for the future. I am confident that India and ASEAN countries will build a comprehensive strategic partnership. The Commemorative Summit provides us an occasion to define our vision for the future.

Excellencies, I look forward to receiving you in New Delhi for the Commemorative Summit. Once again, I would like to thank our Host Cambodia and Prime Minister Hun Sen for their very warm hospitality and for Cambodia's role in helping us to scale new heights in the ASEAN-India Dialogue Partnership.

Thank you.



119. Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Plenary Session of 7th East Asia Summit.

Phnom Penh, 20 November, 2012.

Your Excellency Samdech Hun Sen,
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia,
Excellencies,

I thank Prime Minister Hun Sen for his very warm hospitality and the excellent arrangements for the 7th East Asia Summit.

I would like to begin by complimenting ASEAN members, not only for their progress in creating an integrated ASEAN community, but for their leadership in launching wider regional initiatives such as the ARF, EAS and the ADMM+. For India, ASEAN has been the bridge to the East. It is also central to the evolution of a regional architecture and its different cooperative frameworks.

Excellencies,

India's security and prosperity are vitally linked to the Asia Pacific region. Our vision for this region is rooted in cooperation and integration. Forums such as the East Asia Summit can help create a large economic community in this region that will accelerate development and enhance prosperity, besides reinforcing mutual understanding and confidence in the region.

This Summit is witness to important events and changes taking place in the Asia Pacific region. Concerted effort and collective action on the part of the countries gathered in this room can strengthen mutual understanding and help us address shared challenges. For this, it would be necessary to develop a common set of principles, establish cooperative mechanisms and deepen regional economic integration. We, therefore, welcome the launch of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership negotiations today. We also support the Phnom Penh Declaration on East Asia Summit Development Initiative.

Connectivity is vital for increased commerce, contact and cooperation between our countries. We must quickly implement the EAS Declaration on ASEAN Connectivity, adopted at our last Summit. Early identification of specific projects and the evolution of innovative financing mechanisms for their implementation would also help move forward this important aspect of our cooperation.

Excellencies,

India has been happy to carry forward several EAS-related initiatives. Following the EAS Declaration on Malaria Control, we have proposed a programme on capacity building and vector control management systems to our ASEAN partners

earlier this year and look forward to cooperating with other EAS members. Earlier this month, we held the EAS-India Workshop on Building a Regional Framework for Earthquake Risk Management in New Delhi. This will augur well for our cooperation in responding to natural disasters. Finally, the Nalanda University project, in which your support has been invaluable, is gaining momentum and we expect the first two schools to commence teaching in the academic year 2014-15.

Excellencies,

though EAS is still new, we have built an impressive agenda for economic cooperation and for addressing some of our common challenges. We should try and bring to bear the same spirit in addressing our differences. I have no doubt that, together, we can create an open, balanced, inclusive and rule-based architecture in the region for our collective security, stability and prosperity.

Thank you.



120. Opening Statement by the Prime Minister at the Plenary Session of India-ASEAN Commemorative Summit.

New Delhi, December 20, 2012.

Your Majesty Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, Sultan of Brunei Darussalam,
Your Excellency Samdech Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia,
Heads of State & Government of ASEAN Member States,
Secretary General of ASEAN, Dr. Surin Pitsuwan,
Excellencies,

It is a great honour and privilege for me to welcome you and your delegations to India. This is the first time that leaders from all ten ASEAN countries are with us here in Delhi. It is a historic moment for us and our region. We are commemorating not only twenty years of Dialogue Partnership and ten years of annual summits between India and ASEAN; we are also celebrating something more enduring and precious.

India and South-east Asia have centuries-old links. People, ideas, trade, art and religions have long criss-crossed this region. A timeless thread of civilization runs through all our countries. While each one of us has a unique and rich heritage, there are abiding linkages of culture and custom, of art and religion and of civilization, all of which create a sense of unity in the diversity and pluralism in our region. In addition, given that together we constitute a community of 1.8 billion people, representing one-fourth of humanity, with a combined GDP of 3.8 trillion U.S. dollars, it is only natural that India should attach the highest priority to its relationship with ASEAN.

We see our partnership with ASEAN not merely as a reaffirmation of ties with neighbouring countries or as an instrument of economic development, but also as an integral part of our vision of a stable, secure and prosperous Asia and its surrounding Indian Ocean and Pacific regions.

The breadth and intensity of India's engagement with Southeast Asia is unmatched by any of our other regional relationships. We have institutionalized annual summits; many of our sectoral dialogues have been elevated into ministerial consultations; and nearly 25 mechanisms for dialogue and cooperation between us cover virtually every field of human endeavour.

This engagement has flourished particularly in the area of trade. India-ASEAN trade has grown over ten times in the ten years since we launched the annual summits. Following the implementation of our FTA in Goods, trade grew by

41% in Indian fiscal year of 2011-12. Two-way flows in investments have also grown rapidly to reach 43 billion U.S. dollars over the past decade. As ASEAN investments into India have multiplied, ASEAN countries too have emerged as major destinations for Indian companies. From energy resources to farm products, from materials to machinery, and from electronics to information technology, Indian and ASEAN companies are forging new partnerships of trade and investment.

It gives me great pleasure, therefore, to see that our Commemorative Summit today coincides with the conclusion of negotiations for the FTA in Services and Investments. This represents a valuable milestone in our relationship. I am confident it will boost our economic ties in much the same way the FTA in Goods has done.

Excellencies, the India-ASEAN engagement began with a strong economic emphasis, but it has also become increasingly strategic in its content. Our political dialogue has grown, our consultations in regional forums have intensified, and our defence and counter-terrorism cooperation have expanded. Naturally, this partnership is important because our histories are intertwined. Equally, I feel, our future is inter-linked and a stable, secure and prosperous Indo-Pacific region is crucial for our own progress and prosperity. There is, therefore, mutual benefit in these aspects of our engagement.

The path to regional peace and stability is greater coordination, cooperation and integration among our economies. ASEAN has shown the way for the entire region, building a regional mechanism of cooperation and consensus that has become a great force for peace and prosperity. It has also emerged as the principal architect and driver of economic and security structures and institutions that are emerging in the region. ASEAN centrality and leadership are essential elements for the success of these forums and India fully supports ASEAN as the lynchpin of these efforts. We also support the objective of an ASEAN Community by 2015 and will continue to be an active participant in the Initiative for ASEAN Integration and the ASEAN Master Plan on Connectivity.

Excellencies, in so far as the broad lines of cooperation in coming years are concerned, I feel we should intensify our political and security consultations, including in regional forums such as the East Asia Summit, the ASEAN Regional Forum and the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus. We should work together more purposefully for the evolution of an open, balanced, inclusive and transparent regional architecture. The growing role and responsibilities of ASEAN and India in global affairs also call for increased consultation on a broader range of international developments.

As maritime nations, India and ASEAN nations should intensify their engagement for maritime security and safety, for freedom of navigation and for peaceful

settlement of maritime disputes in accordance with international law. We should also foster regional cooperation to counter piracy and respond to natural disasters.

Naturally, our ability to work together in regional and global contexts will be stronger if we are able to deepen our own engagement and cooperation. In this context, connectivity – physical, institutional, people-to-people, digital and by sea and air – holds the key to closer partnership between India and ASEAN. Tomorrow's flagging down of the India-ASEAN Car Rally will not only celebrate a remarkable journey by brave men and women, but also symbolize how connectivity can link people, stimulate trade and generate prosperity across the region. We should, therefore, attach high priority to a quick implementation of the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway and its extension to Lao PDR and Cambodia. We should also launch the second track that would run from India through Myanmar, Lao PDR and Cambodia to Vietnam.

Similarly, the Indian Naval Ship INS Sudarshini, which is on a six-month expedition to nine ASEAN countries, not only draws attention to our maritime links, but to the economic potential of sea-based connectivity.

These infrastructure projects demand enormous finances. We should think of innovative ways of financing and executing these projects, which also draw upon the expertise and resources of the private sector.

Improved connectivity will lead to expanded commerce. I am optimistic that our trade will exceed 100 billion U.S. dollars by 2015 and we should aim for the milestone of 200 billion U.S. dollars ten years from now. We should also build on commendable initiatives like the annual India-ASEAN Business Fair and Conclave and energize our Business Council. Linkages between small and medium enterprises, which are central to our economies, should be promoted.

Many of us around this table share common challenges of energy and food security, rapid urbanization, climate change, the empowerment of people through education and skill development. We should use the opportunities available to work together in addressing these. I would like to state that, drawing on the experience of the India-ASEAN Plan of Action and the recommendations of the India-ASEAN Eminent Persons' Group, we will expand our support for innovative mechanisms like the ASEAN-India Fund, the ASEAN-India Green Fund and the ASEAN-India S&T Fund to take our cooperation forward in diverse fields.

Excellencies, this is a time of great flux and transition, with several unsettled questions and unresolved issues in our region. Our responsibility to work for peace has increased and become more urgent. Our shared values, convergent world views and similarities in approaches to the region should help us make the India-ASEAN relationship more comprehensive and elevate it to a Strategic Partnership for the next decade and beyond.

With these words, I once again wish to thank you, Excellencies, for joining me here in New Delhi. Your participation has already made this Summit memorable. I very much look forward to hearing your valuable views on the future of our relationship.

I would now like to invite my co-Chair, H.E. Mr. Hun Sen, the Prime Minister of Cambodia, to share his views on the future of India-ASEAN partnership.



121. Vision Statement issued at the conclusion of the ASEAN – India Commemorative Summit.

New Delhi, December 20, 2012.

WE, the Heads of State/Government of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Republic of India, gathered in New Delhi, India, on 20 December 2012, to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations under the theme of “ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace and Shared Prosperity”;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the civilisations of ASEAN and India have been enriched by cross cultural exchanges over several millennia, where knowledge and ideas, goods and spiritual traditions have moved seamlessly across borders, providing a strong foundation for cooperation in a globalised world;

SATISFIED with the rapid growth and progress of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations since its establishment as a sectoral dialogue partnership in 1992;

RECOGNISING the successful conclusion of the first Plan of Action for the period 2005-2010 and the implementation of the new Plan of Action for the period 2010-2015 to implement the ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity;

APPRECIATING India's role in ensuring regional peace and stability through India's accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) in 2003 and India's active contribution in the ASEAN+1, the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the East Asia Summit (EAS) and the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) Plus;

RECOGNISING ASEAN's centrality and its role as the driving force of both economic and security structures and institutions currently emerging in the region, which allow for a stable and peaceful regional environment that is essential to the pursuit of sustainable development;

INSPIRED by the progress made in realising the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement, consolidation of the annual ASEAN-India Business Fair and Conclave and reactivation of the ASEAN-India Business Council, which has enhanced trade linkages and economic cooperation between ASEAN and India, as well as contributed to the economic development of the region and a robust bilateral trade volume between ASEAN and India, which has surpassed the USD 70 billion mark as targeted for 2012;

WELCOMING India's consistent support for ASEAN integration, the ASEAN Community building process and ASEAN-India cooperation through contributions via ASEAN-India Fund (AIF), ASEAN-India Green Fund (AIGF), ASEAN-India

Science & Technology Development Fund (AISTDF) as also through direct financial assistance to various research and development initiatives;

COMMITTED to working closely together on common regional and international issues of mutual concern and supporting each other's role at the global level as well as working together to promote and strengthen inclusive and multi-track regional arrangements, including promoting the goal of open regionalism and enhancing the prospects for peace, stability and prosperity in Asia;

RECOGNISING the emergence of Delhi Dialogue as one of the premier ASEAN-centric Track 1.5 platforms for discussions on regional and international issues of mutual importance; and

CONSIDERING the work of the ASEAN-India Eminent Persons Group (AIEPG) and its Report with recommendations for forging an even closer partnership for peace, progress and shared prosperity;

HEREBY adopt the following:

1. We declare that the ASEAN-India Partnership stands elevated to a strategic partnership.
2. We will strive towards the full, effective and timely implementation of the ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations across the whole spectrum of political and security, economic, socio-cultural and development cooperation, through further strengthening of relevant institutional mechanisms and broadening of the network between government institutions, parliamentarians, business circles, scientists, think-tanks, media, youth and other stakeholders, for the building of a peaceful, harmonious, caring and sharing community in our regions. In this context, we will continue to support and encourage active participation of relevant stakeholders in the Delhi Dialogue.
3. We will continue to exert efforts and cooperate to effectively implement the Plan of Action to implement the ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity (2010-2015).
4. India will support and cooperate closely with ASEAN to realise the ASEAN Community in 2015, comprising three pillars, namely, the ASEAN Political Security Community, the ASEAN Economic Community and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community. To further strengthen this cooperation, we agree to establish an ASEAN-India Centre using existing capacities.

Political and Security Cooperation

5. We share the vision of a peaceful, prosperous and resurgent Asia, which contributes to and promotes global peace and security.
6. We are committed to enhancing mutual understanding and friendship

through close high-level contacts and exchanges and will continue to strengthen regular bilateral and multilateral dialogue and consultation at different levels on various regional and international issues of common interest.

7. We will make use of existing ASEAN-led regional processes, such as the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM) Plus to promote defence and military exchanges and cooperation, and the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) to foster constructive dialogue and consultation on political and security issues.

8. We are committed to fostering greater security cooperation and information sharing in the form of regular and high-level security dialogues to further address traditional and non-traditional security challenges, including transnational crimes, and strengthening the effective implementation of the ASEAN-India Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism.

9. We are committed to strengthening cooperation to ensure maritime security and freedom of navigation, and safety of sea lanes of communication for unfettered movement of trade in accordance with international law, including UNCLOS.

10. We agree to promote maritime cooperation, including through engagement in the ASEAN Maritime Forum (AMF) and its expanded format, to address common challenges on maritime issues, including sea piracy, search and rescue at sea, maritime environment, maritime security, maritime connectivity, freedom of navigation, fisheries, and other areas of cooperation.

Economic Cooperation

11. In the context of economic globalisation and regional integration, we are committed to our efforts in advancing economic cooperation and engaging the emerging regional economic architecture, including organising multi-sectoral strategic economic dialogues.

12. We are committed to reaching greater trade volume through our FTA and realising our trade and economic potential under our strategic partnership by expanding trade facilitation initiatives. We are, therefore, committed to achieving a target of USD 100 billion for ASEAN-India trade by 2015, and also expect tariff-free lines to increase beyond the existing level in subsequent years.

13. We are committed to realising the ASEAN-India Free Trade Area (FTA) with a combined market of almost 1.8 billion people and a combined GDP of USD 3.8 trillion. In this regard, we welcome the successful conclusion of the negotiation on ASEAN-India Trade in Services and Investment Agreements. The signing of these Agreements will facilitate further economic integration between ASEAN and India, and also contribute to the overall East Asian economic integration.

14. We are committed to promoting private sector engagement and encouraging business-to-business relations, including through establishing a necessary framework to strengthen private sector engagement and public-private partnership (PPP) linkages. Recognising the important role of Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) in the region, we are also committed to encouraging collaboration in the SME sector.

15. We recognise the need to ensure long-term food security and energy security in our region, and the use of appropriate technologies for this end, and in this regard, we welcome the efforts to strengthen cooperation in the agriculture sector, and cooperation among centres of energy in ASEAN and India.

16. We encourage further cooperation between ASEAN and India in support of sub-regional developments including within the frameworks of Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC), Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines-East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA), Cambodia-Laos-Viet Nam Development Triangle Area (CLV-DTA), Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT), Greater Mekong Sub-Region (GMS) and the ASEAN Mekong Basin Development Cooperation (AMBDC), and other areas.

Socio-Cultural and Development Cooperation

17. We will strengthen socio-cultural cooperation and promote greater people-to-people interaction through increasing exchanges in culture, education, youth, sports, creative industries, science and technology, information and communication technology and software, human resource development and scholarly exchanges. We will also enhance contacts between parliamentarians, media personnel, academics and Track II institutions such as the network of think tanks.

18. We encourage the study, documentation and dissemination of knowledge about the civilisational links between ASEAN and India.

19. We will intensify efforts to preserve, protect and restore symbols and structures representing civilisational bonds between ASEAN and India, including Angkor Wat in the Kingdom of Cambodia, Borobudur and Prambanan temples in the Republic of Indonesia, Wat Phu in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Bagan in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Sukhothai Historical Park in the Kingdom of Thailand, and My Son in the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

20. We are committed to working together to overcome challenges such as climate change, energy security, rapid urbanisation, natural disasters, food security, drug abuse, through both regional cooperation and participation in relevant global initiatives.

21. We are committed to enhancing cooperation in bridging the development gaps among ASEAN Member States, inter alia, through support for the effective implementation of the IAI Work Plan II (2009-2015) and the Phnom Penh Agenda for ASEAN Community Building, including enhancing capacity building, strengthening human resources development and encouraging involvement of private sector and academic institutions to contribute to the ASEAN integration and the realisation of the ASEAN Community by 2015.

22. We appreciate India's commitment to continue the special focus on the CLMV countries that represent a bridge between ASEAN and India by intensifying focus on human resource development and capacity building e-initiatives, particularly in the fields of information technology, science and technology, English language training, among others. We support India's call to synergise efforts under the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation from the USD 1 million annual India-CLMV Fund.

Connectivity

23. We are committed to enhancing ASEAN Connectivity through supporting the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity and the ASEAN ICT Master Plan 2015. In this regard, we encourage the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee to work closely with India's Inter-Ministerial Group on ASEAN Transport Connectivity to enhance air, sea and land connectivity within ASEAN and between ASEAN and India, through ASEAN-India connectivity projects. We are also determined to cooperate and make the best use of all available resources, including financial and technical assistance, investment and public-private partnership to achieve physical, institutional and people-to-people connectivity within ASEAN and with India.

24. We are committed to assisting in the completion of the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway and its extension to Lao PDR and Cambodia and the new highway project connecting India-Myanmar-Lao PDR-Viet Nam-Cambodia as well as developing the Mekong-India Economic Corridor (MIEC) connecting Southeast Asia to South Asia on the eastern part of India in order to add greater momentum to the growing trade and investment linkages between ASEAN and India.

Regional Architecture

25. We are committed to a stable and peaceful regional environment for the pursuit of sustainable development in the region. India reaffirms its continued support for ASEAN's centrality in the evolving regional architecture, including the EAS, ARF, ADMM Plus, and other regional processes.

26. We call for the formulation of specific initiatives to achieve the objectives

of this Vision Statement, which would be funded through the AIF, AIGF, and AISTDF.

Adopted in New Delhi, the Republic of India, on the Twentieth Day of December of the Year Two Thousand and Twelve.



122. Media Interaction of External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid on the conclusion of ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit.

New Delhi, December 21, 2012.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Syed Akbaruddin): Good afternoon friends and thank you very much for being there this afternoon. We have here with us the External Affairs Minister Mr. Salman Khurshid. I would request the External Affairs Minister to make his opening remarks. Following that the floor would be open for you to ask any questions that you would like to. I now request the External Affairs Minister to make his opening remarks.

External Affairs Minister (Shri Salman Khurshid): Thank you very much.

Friends from the media both from our country India and from ASEAN countries, I am very pleased to address you for a second time on the occasion of the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit. You recall that we discussed briefly yesterday the outcome of the Commemorative Summit. I placed before you, as indeed you witnessed all of it and covered it as well yesterday. We have now formally concluded, just a little while ago, all the events associated with the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit including farewell lunch that the Prime Minister held for all our distinguished guests.

The Prime Minister and the leaders of ASEAN countries in the morning - I think some of you were there - ceremonially flagged down the ASEAN-India car rally. That was witnessed by 220 ASEAN students, 13 ASEAN journalists, 27 ASEAN farmers perhaps for the first time, 30 ASEAN diplomats who are visiting India under various initiatives for promoting ASEAN-India people-to-people connectivity. I think those of you who would have seen it or were there would have felt the immediate sense of bonding and the wonderful chemistry that we saw this morning.

Last night the President of India had hosted a banquet in the honour of all the visiting dignitaries. It was preceded by a really wonderful fusion cultural performance by cultural troupes from all the ten ASEAN countries and India. It showcased the rich cultural traditions that overlap and can beautifully be interwoven. That is the delightful experience that we had last night.

As I mentioned to you yesterday, the vision statement which was issued at the conclusion of the Summit provides a roadmap for realizing the strategic partnership. We have raised ourselves to a strategic partnership between India and ASEAN.

Another important outcome of the Summit was the announcement by leaders that the Economic Ministers of India and ASEAN have concluded negotiations

on the ASEAN-India Trade in Services and Investment Agreement. Having signed the agreement on goods earlier, we were all anxiously waiting for the agreement on services and investment. This, as I said yesterday, would be signed shortly now that the formalities will be completed.

We are gratified that all the ASEAN leaders have appreciated India's continued support for community-building efforts and the initiative for ASEAN Integration Work Plan 2 towards narrowing development gaps and realizing truly an ASEAN community by 2015. Amongst the important steps that we hope to take now, we will continue to work towards ASEAN-India economic integration.

There will be, as you noticed yesterday, enormous emphasis on improving connectivity in all dimensions - the Prime Minister has repeatedly mentioned this – geographic, institutional, people-to-people including air, sea and digital connectivity in further strengthening our partnership.

There will be emphasis on the India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral highway - for which we have a target of 2016 - its extension to Lao PDR and Cambodia, the India-Myanmar-Laos-Vietnam-Cambodia highway, the Mekong-India Economic Corridor which proposes to connect Chennai port with Dawei deep sea port in Myanmar, and further connecting it to the production centres in the Mekong region. So, it is a web of connectivity and it is an ambitious web of connectivity that we are all working towards, complete agreement on the different dimensions and aspects and complete commitment as a major step towards integration.

To sustain this momentum is obviously quite a task. I have invited all the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN countries to the fifth edition of the Delhi Dialogue, Delhi Dialogue V, which will be held in New Delhi from 18th to 19th February, 2013. India's relationship with the ASEAN is not just about economic development. It is also about our vision of a stable, secure and prosperous Asia, as was repeatedly emphasized by the Hon. Prime Minister.

The advancement in terms of concluding negotiations on the FTA in Services and Investment, as I mentioned, and the elevation of relationship to the strategic level will allow us to fast track our ambitious commitment to the process of integration between ASEAN and India. I think that for all of you and for us this is in that sense living history, an important milestone towards a vision that began with our great leaders, our first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehruji, and subsequently translated into Look East Policy of Indian Government. And I hope that you all are equally part of it. So, congratulations.

I will take some questions.

Official Spokesperson: For the sake of order, you can ask first all the questions related to ASEAN. And then if you have any other questions, the Minister will be glad to take them.

Question: Sir, you were talking about the strategic dialogue. What level of strategic dialogue or partnership are you speaking of with so many countries associated with the ASEAN? Is this type of a strategic partnership possible with multilateral organizations like the ASEAN?

External Affairs Minister: Absolutely. We think it is entirely possible, which is not to say that when you engage in a multilateral strategic partnership you will do it at the cost of developing bilateral relations. The two-track process continues. Wherever there is potential, need and visionary necessity for building on bilateral relations, we will continue to do so, but with the hope that those will become building blocks also ultimately for greater multilateral engagement.

If ASEAN integrates, then you are dealing with not ten countries but you are dealing with one organization. That is the idea of partnership. Within the ASEAN region, in the process of integrating obviously they have different mechanisms and different groups and Committees that work towards integration. What we get is, when they speak with us in partnership mode they speak with one voice. What we hope to do is to provide resonance to that voice. So, the integration that is taking place within ASEAN can be fortified by our partnership. And the advantage that we can get by including ourselves in the larger sphere and contributing by becoming part of that larger area of engagement is what we would like to do.

Strategic partnership obviously has some elements that can be seen as important elements. The important elements relate to environmental issues, relate to connectivity, relate to ability to reach out in significant way when you are needed, to be able to reach out as in disaster management, on security dialogue issues. That is extremely important to understand each other and each other's aspirations and concerns in security dialogues are also very significant part of the strategic relationship. So, I think that there is no ambiguity, doubt or any confusion as far as the content of the strategic partnership is concerned.

Question: Any such examples existing?

External Affairs Minister: Do we have something similar elsewhere?

Question: Yes.

External Affairs Minister: Obviously, in the most concentrated way this is something that in principle we have in the SAARC region. But the difficulty in the SAARC region is that we do not have the same size of economies. If you do not have the same size of economies, your attitude and your mechanisms have to accommodate that. But it is different for dealing with the SAARC region. European Union for instance, we have a strategic dialogue with the European Union. Therefore, you could say that there are lot of overlaps and similarities. But the fact that we have such a relationship with the European Union means

that there may well be difference in what we do with the European Union and what we do in this region.

The cultural and historical connectivity here is much stronger. The reliance on each other in terms of investment and trade is much stronger. I think the car rally and the sail ship that has travelled in a sense have brought this out very explicitly as to what close connectivity we have. So, we have to take advantage of that close connectivity rather than build on a connectivity. We must take advantage and fortify it. Otherwise you build a connectivity and that building of that connectivity is a longer process than an existing connectivity that needs to be fortified. This is a very specific advantage we have in the ASEAN region. That is why our Look East Policy in that sense becomes a very important dimension of our foreign policy.

Question: Mr. Khurshid, Vietnam is the only country which has mentioned China by name and has expressed concerns about Chinese policies vis-à-vis South China Sea region. I would like to know whether during the bilateral meetings other ASEAN leaders have also raised similar concerns with regard to China. Also, could you give your reaction to Indian Naval Chief's remarks on South China Sea issue which have drawn a very sharp reaction from China?

External Affairs Minister: As far as the Indian Navy Chief is concerned, I would urge you to factor in the vocabulary, the style and the manner in which a person trained in the armed forces speaks. I think that you will be unfair to him if plain-speaking, which is what the armed forces are accustomed to doing, is taken on a level that creates ambiguity about how one approaches it in terms of bilateral relations. He is not responsible for bilateral relations. He is responsible for a specific job which he does well. He is an outstanding soldier. I think you must treat a soldier as a soldier; and you must treat a politician as a politician, and a diplomat as a diplomat. Do not confuse their roles.

As far as China is concerned, this or any other matter, we do not believe that there is for us vis-à-vis China any matter that comes anywhere near undermining what is an extremely beneficial, wholesome and a substantive relationship with China. And it has grown - if I cannot use the word by leaps and bounds - by steady steps towards the direction and a destination that we both share. We believe that good and wholesome relations between India and China are not only good for ourselves mutually but are also good for all of Asia and indeed for the rest of the world. A lot of people look upon us with great hope that India and China can collaborate, cooperate, and be strategic partners. This is an important dimension that we would urge you to keep in mind.

There will be from time to time issues that will arise on which it is possible that we have a difference of opinion, that we have a difference of emphasis. There

may be issues that arise between China and some other country on which we may have an opinion if we are asked for it. But we do not have to go looking for intervention or interference where it is not called for. I think every country in the region is capable of dealing with its problems with all of us as and when they arise. If it is a bilateral issue, it should be dealt with bilaterally. If it comes in a multilateral frame, then of course we will look at it multilaterally to the extent the rules of the game permit looking at it multilaterally.

This was today a partnership for peace and prosperity between ASEAN and India where we were not looking at bilateral issues of either the countries involved in the ASEAN region, or other countries in that region or in the vicinity. So, this is not a matter that was on the agenda. Of course it was raised by Vietnam. We noted it. And I think that is the best that we can do. We have already stated our commitment to international law of the sea; we have stated our commitment to freedom of navigation; and we have very categorically said that what we have off shore from Vietnam in terms of prospecting for oil is something that goes back to 1988 and not something that we are trying to barge into now. ONGC has been prospecting for oil. It is a commercial arrangement with Vietnam. Sovereignty issues between Vietnam and any other country, between China and any other country, could be settled bilaterally. This has been our position. I think we do not think that issues such as that should necessarily detract from the larger canvas and picture that we are concentrating on in a summit of this nature. And that is the attitude we have taken.

Question: Sir, in your bilateral with Malaysia, was the issue of cancellation of the contract with GMR in Maldives taken up? If so, have they sought any assurance on the GMR airport project in the Maldives?

External Affairs Minister: The matter was mentioned. I would not say that it was discussed in great detail. It was mentioned and we wanted an update on their impressions because the Foreign Minister had visited Maldives briefly for day. I think that his takeaway was more or less the understanding that we have. There are two separate issues and we would rather the two issues were not confused and were not converged. One issue is a pure assessment of the contract and legal steps taken on that contract, which has now gone to arbitration in Singapore. Obviously the arbitration will come to some definite conclusions including what are the entitlements of GMR after the contract was terminated.

For the present, the rulings of the Singapore court relating to termination of that contract itself are binding on all parties. That is what we have been saying all along that whatever decision needs to be taken must be compliant with and consistent with decisions of courts whose jurisdiction has been accepted by both parties. This is the feedback we had from GMR that they have accepted that, the legal consequences of the judgment in Singapore. But they have

obviously desired that there should be quick implementation of the subsequent consequences that arise from termination of the contract including compensation, damages, etc. We have no report that there is any negativity as far as that is concerned.

The other ground there was whether there were any political reasons for doing this. If there were and are any political reasons, we would like, and we suggested to Maldives that we would like them to be contained and not spill over into a very important, very valuable relationship that we have with Maldives. I think that point also has been taken. It was more or less a confirmation of this that we have got from the Malaysian side. The disappointment that we felt, I think we have a right to feel disappointed, was also felt by them. They have also been able to secure from Maldivian Government a letter in some form that indicates that quality of performance was not the ground at all for termination of the contract. I think this was necessary for Malaysia for its future prospects elsewhere. That was not something that we had asked for or called for. Therefore, we have not received any such letter.

Question: India has asserted repeatedly about the right of freedom of navigation in South China Sea. But China has ignored those statements and advised India not to engage in unilateral activities in South China Sea. Your reaction please!

External Affairs Minister: There is no unilateral activity in South China Sea. Our reiteration of the law of the sea is not something that has been directly questioned by China. As I said, the issue that China has raised bilaterally with some countries in the region is an issue about sovereignty. That would be sorted out presumably in appropriate dialogue between them. But obviously any dialogue of a bilateral nature between two countries takes into account the broad parameters that are laid down by international law and the backdrop of international law.

I have not come across any statement of China directly contradicting or repudiating anything we have said. They have reiterated their position and we have said our position, not once but several times. Whenever we have been called upon to articulate our position, we have articulated it. I do not think that this has caused any disquiet or any discomfort between us and China. We continue in a very meaningful, positive dialogue. That is at least my personal experience, and certainly the experience I can share with you that the Prime Minister has had in exchanges with their top leadership.

Question: Sir, could you please elaborate on the digital connectivity? What exactly is that?

External Affairs Minister: We do realize that there is a very active youth movement in different parts of the world but certainly in this case particularly in

ASEAN where communications are being in a sense taken over by young people and they are communicating directly through cyberspace. Therefore, whatever we can do to encourage a wholesome exchange inside the space on issues that pertain to quality of life and the aspirations of young people in ASEAN countries, we have encouraged it and we will certainly be happy to participate in it.

The other thing of course about digital connectivity is to ensure that there is obviously broadband connectivity amongst these countries. It is a lot easier today to provide digital connectivity. You can do it sitting in a room with powerful enough equipment than to provide physical connectivity which actually means building the roads, infrastructure, putting the railway line, putting in all that it takes to maintain the road and railway line. But, as I said to you, we are committed to doing all of them. One is not going to be a substitute of another. One will complement the other and all of them will be in place.

Question: Sir, having talked about China's influence over ASEAN and India's disconnect with the issues, I want to ask you about the China's influence on Nepal. There have been repetitive reports that India's goods and services are continuously being replaced by Chinese ones in Nepal. What is your take on this? And what is India doing in this regard?

External Affairs Minister: India has never insisted that there is any exclusive area of operation to the exclusion of any other country. In modern times with modern connectivity and the internet, it is very difficult to claim any association or affiliation or any friendship to be exclusive. We look at the content and substance of our own relationships with our friends. We are not concerned about anybody else seeking also their attention. I think we should have the confidence to know that both in historical terms, cultural terms and in economic terms, what we offer is not in any way inferior to what anybody else can offer. I see no reason why we should insist on offering second-class services and expect that somebody who offers better services should not be given attention.

As far as Nepal is concerned, or for that matter any other country is concerned, Indian goods will have to compete in quality, in productivity and in price because there is an open marketplace. These are not government-to-government contracts. Government can facilitate for business to grow. The relationships that we have with other countries become basically the canvas on which business can draw its own pictures. But we cannot dictate, and we cannot restrict, and we certainly cannot contain anybody else coming into the market, particularly when we believe in open market competition. I would certainly urge all our friends in business who see Nepal - both in terms of their past experiences and in terms of their future plans - as a promising economic partner, to look at the expectations and demands of the market and meet those expectations and demands. There is no reason why we should be pushed out of the market in terms of supplying

particularly when we know that a large number of Nepalese come to India, like to be in India, educate their people in India, and want to retain very strong connections with India. Why should people who have very strong connections with India not be interested in buying Indian goods and services?

Question: Sir, the two Italian marines who were accused of killing of the fishermen in Kerala were allowed by a court to go to their homeland for Christmas celebrations. But there is widespread criticism about the stand taken by the Central Government saying that it was a soft stand by the Centre in the court. How do you react to this?

External Affairs Minister: We took a responsible and objective stand when asked by court. We could not have taken any other stand. If a foreign government and a Foreign Minister of another country presents a documents, or presents a request, or presents guarantee to a court of our country, we can hardly say do not take it seriously. On the merits the court has to decide. We are no one to decide and nor should we be deciding. If we had to decide, the matter would not have gone to court. So, both in terms of jurisdiction, where the Supreme Court is still to pronounce, and also in terms of bail conditions where the High Court had imposed bail conditions, the variance in those bail conditions also has been done by the High Court. Of course we have been asked to respond on what according to us is the status of the guarantee given and the commitment made by another country. And we have done what under the understanding of international relations anyone would have done. If we had not done this, we would have been in violation of our commitments to international law.

Question: Sir, again a question relating to Nepal. As a friendly neighbor with huge leverage in Nepal, is India concerned with the perennial political stalemate in Nepal? If so, Sir, how do you observe the situation in Nepal? And do you see any kind of role India could play in Nepal in helping to end the stalemate, as India did in 2005 when forging the historic 12-Point Understanding between the political forces in Nepal?

External Affairs Minister: The President of Nepal is coming very soon. He is visiting India very soon on the invitation of the President of India. He is the Constitutional Head of State in Nepal. I think that from what I know he has been trying his best to get all the parties together, come back to the table, discuss. The only method that is now left to Nepal to move forward is to have, it seems, a consensual national government for which the contours and the structure has to be worked out by the political parties in Nepal.

We do hear what is happening there from time to time. Our Mission reports to us what kind of confabulations have taken place, discussions have taken place, if there has been movement, or there has been a stalemate. We also note that the

President has tried to push for a consensus by putting deadlines and there is now another deadline that has been made available.

But other than to morally support this movement for a consensual national government that can then organize fresh elections, there is not very much that we can do. Every time and every event has its own limitations and its own requirements. We have to respond to the requirements and limitations of the present event rather than go by a standard that was followed in some previous event in which our intervention to the extent possible may have been wholesome and successful. But not always can that be repeated.

I think right now people are engaged in very meaningful dialogue. We keep track of what is happening in the dialogue to the extent possible. But we would rather that the dialogue itself throw up the consensus that everybody knows - we know and Nepal knows and everybody else knows – that it is very important for future prosperity of our friendly neighbour.

Question: *Sir, The Malaysian King had said that he would welcome the English teachers here; Did you have any discussion on this question?*

External Affairs Minister: *Yes, there was discussion; this is not only from Malaysia, but we have received similar messages from others as well. We expect Indian institutions and technical training centres provide such training to them, in this country against the fellowships and slots provided by us, we also provide training in centres in those countries, we are establishing. They particularly asked training in English language and we are making such efforts in this sector. We provide such assistance wherever we get such requests. We are not the only one for giving training in English, there are other countries also who can give them cooperation in English teaching. Where ever we get such requests we are always ready to cooperate. When they chose to give us preference to us to learn the language in the manner we teach and it is their preference for that, we are ever ready to cooperate.*

Question: Sir, the Russian Ambassador has congratulated Narendra Modi on his electoral win. Earlier we have seen that the British envoy and some other European envoy had also visited him. How does the Centre view the end of the diplomatic isolation of Narendra Modi which forced the riots in 2002?

External Affairs Minister: We did not encourage any diplomatic isolation. We did not encourage a sovereign country to take a particular position on Mr. Modi. But they did take that position and we noted it. If they take another position, we will note that as well.

Mr. Modi is an elected Chief Minister of our country of the State of Gujarat and he would take his oath under the Constitution of India. Much as we may disagree

with some of his policies and indeed some of the attitudes that he exhibits, he has an elected office and he has and he would have taken oath once again under the Constitution. So, we will respect that, obviously we are required to respect that. To have political differences with him and to join a campaign against him on issues that are we believe of far-reaching nature, is completely different from his service as a Chief Minister of the State. I hope that he makes the same distinction himself.

Question: Sir, could you tell us about the agreements that would be reached during the Russian President's visit? Any agreements on nuclear reactors 3 and 4?

External Affairs Minister: As far as the agreement on Kudankulam 3 and 4 is concerned, we have an umbrella agreement with the Russian Federation. Now for specific units of Kudankulam that will be directly negotiated and signed by the organization that is responsible for the power plant. But that is not something that needs to be or would require to be done at the level of President Putin. There will be other agreements. We have a meeting of a Cabinet Committee this afternoon and I think that some of those will be finalized. It will not be possible for me to declare that at this stage. After their being finalized in the Cabinet Committee, we will then be able to disclose and then you would know as part of the programme as to what agreements he will sign. But there will be some agreements signed.

Question: Russian Ambassador Mr. Kadakin while addressing a press conference today was very critical of the treatment Systema met in this country. He said the matter is more political than judicial. What is your reaction to that?

External Affairs Minister: My reaction is that I could be critical as well but it would not help. We are bound by judgments of the court. Because of the difficulty that we felt understanding the law of the land, we went for an advisory opinion. In my understanding of the advisory opinion that has been being given, there were several questions to be answered. The court had said they will answer four questions. According to the judgment itself they answered five. But close reading of the judgment indicates that they answered only four questions. So, there are important, significant questions, particularly the fifth question i.e., what in crafting relief should the courts do when there are international obligations? This answer is not specifically made available in the Supreme Court judgment. When the Supreme Court opens, and this is brought to the notice of the Chief Justice and the Supreme Court, they might want to take a fresh look at this.

In the absence of Supreme Court giving us very clear guidance on this, there is not any executive that can be taken. At the best I would presently simply say that there is a concern felt and that concern may have been expressed in this manner. We are sensitive to that concern. We are trying to address that concern.

In one way or the other we are hopeful that that concern will get addressed. I cannot put a timeline on it. I hope that when the Prime Minister meets Mr. Putin if this topic comes up, we will have some adequate reply ready which would bring some comfort I believe.

Question: Is India looking to buy more fighter jets from Russia? Has President Putin expressed his concern that contracts for defence deals are now going more to the US and Europe?

External Affairs Minister: I think that a lot of stories get written at the time of such a visit. I can only say this to you that there are some ongoing, work-in-progress issues that will be taken forward during his visit. Some agreements that have been signed will be taken forward, and some agreements will be signed when he is here. As far as issues of concern are to be taken up, they are on the agenda and they will be taken up. And we will prepare to ensure that those are addressed. I think we have done a fair amount of work to address those issues. There is not an insurmountable issue; there is not a roadblock. We may not have a very wide road at places. The road may be a little narrow at places but the road is an open road. I think both sides are clear of its destination. We are moving in that direction. We have a good relationship with Russian Federation. We want to strengthen it further. We want to enhance it further. On the economic side, on the trade side we believe our potential needs to be explored to a greater extent. The areas in which we are cooperating are areas in which we can take the cooperation much further. Because we have an annual summit, and this is an annual summit, it will be a chance to look back over the year to see how further we have come, what more we need to do, and lay out the roadmap for the next year.

Question: The Russian Ambassador was actually questioning about sovereign guarantee that comes in with the bilateral investment protection on both sides. How does that stand?

External Affairs Minister: The sovereign guarantee issue, the bilateral investment treaties, are all issues on which are extremely concerned because there are two things. One is the consequences of having to pay enormous amounts that may come by way of international arbitrations. The other thing is that a guarantee or a treaty is something that you sign because you are committed to that position. Now the structure of our government and the structure of our state, and the separation of powers that exists in our state under the Constitution is something we cannot wish away. It may not be exactly the same for other countries and other Constitutions. Therefore, something that is done by courts in our country may be seen by them as being done by the state.

We see courts as being autonomous and independent part of the state. Therefore, what they do are some things for which we cannot directly take responsibility.

But at the end of the day this can only be decided through a separate adjudication. That is the reason why I emphasize that the fifth question out of the questions that we gave to the Supreme Court to give us an advisory opinion on, related directly to this very issue. If we had an opinion of the Supreme Court on this issue, we might be today in a happier position provided that the opinion went along the lines that we would like to see it go. Since that question was not answered, although the court felt that it would be able to answer, we await the court's attention further and we will bring it to the notice of the court as soon as the court reopens. Of course the difficulty is that from the Bench of five judges who gave us that opinion, two may have retired or at least one would have retired, one may be on the verge of retirement. So, how will the court in these circumstances handle that Presidential Reference, we will only know once the matter comes before the court again.

Thank you very much. Thank you for your cooperation and congratulations for a good event.

Official Spokesperson: With that we come to the end of this event. Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen.



123. Closing Remarks by Prime Minister at India-ASEAN Commemorative Summit 2012.

New Delhi, December 20, 2012.

Excellencies,

I sincerely thank each one of you for sharing your vision and views on the India-ASEAN partnership. Your thoughts accurately capture the themes of peace, progress and shared prosperity, which form the guiding principles of our partnership.

Our discussion today has demonstrated the unique strength of this partnership. I am heartened by the consensus in this room on the importance of this relationship to each one of us. We are united in our desire to improve connectivity, enhance commerce, promote cooperation among our institutions and deepen links between our people. We realize the strategic importance of this relationship in the regional and global contexts.

The Vision Statement lays out a comprehensive roadmap for political, security, economic, socio-cultural and development cooperation. It imposes on us the responsibility to work diligently and innovatively to fulfill the heightened expectations from this relationship

The vitality and durability of our partnership will depend not only on what the governments do with each other, but also on how we facilitate greater interaction between our people, students, scientists, academics, intellectuals, media, entrepreneurs, agriculturists and artists. That is why this commemorative summit is particularly special. We have with us not just leaders and diplomats from the ten ASEAN countries, but also students, experts, farmers and artists.

On this occasion, I would like to record my sincere appreciation for the excellent recommendations made by the ASEAN India Eminent Persons Group, many of which we have endorsed today in our Vision Statement. We will explore others as we continue on our journey.

I am very happy that we have decided today to elevate our relationship to a strategic partnership. This is a historic step, and together with the conclusion of the negotiations on FTA in Services and Investments, defines a qualitatively new paradigm of our partnership. It is a natural progression of the journey we embarked on together in 1992 and it will serve our relationship well in the next decade and beyond.

Excellencies, I thank you once again for accepting my invitation to this special Summit. I must, at this moment, also recall with appreciation the support that India has enjoyed from all Members of ASEAN, at all times.

I thank Prime Minister Hun Sen for Cambodia's role as ASEAN Chair in coordinating this Summit. I would also like to assure His Majesty Haji Hassanal Bolkiah that India will work with Brunei, our ASEAN Country Coordinator for the next three years, to give shape to the vision endorsed by all of us today. We will also work to make the 11th ASEAN-India Summit in Brunei Darussalam and related events a success.

Excellencies, I look forward to interacting with you in the series of celebrations over today and tomorrow to mark this milestone in the relations between India and ASEAN and I thank you very much once again for your participation in making this Commemorative Summit a great success.



124. Remarks by Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh at Flag Down of the ASEAN-India Car Rally.

New Delhi, December 21, 2012.

Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Your Excellency Samdech Hun Sen,

Sultan of Brunei Darussalam, Your Majesty Haji Hassanal Bolkiah,

Heads of State & Government of ASEAN Member States,

Secretary General of ASEAN, Dr. Surin Pitsuwan,

President of CII, Mr. Adi Godrej,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to begin by conveying, on behalf of more than a billion people, a very warm welcome to the ASEAN-India Car Rally participants. I congratulate them on successfully completing a remarkable journey of 8000 km through eight countries in 22 days. They deserve our cheers for this feat of endurance.

I would also like to welcome the 250 students from ASEAN countries who have joined us this morning. Their presence has added special warmth to this cold December morning in Delhi.

We are also joined by many other special guests today – the 50 ASEAN diplomats training at our Foreign Service Institute in Delhi; the 30 ASEAN farmers who have travelled here and who will host reciprocal visits from Indian farmers; and the 20 Senior Editors from the media in ASEAN countries. I welcome them all. Let me also add a special word of welcome for the performing artistes from the ASEAN countries, whose sparkling show last night enriched our celebrations and served to underscore our cultural links.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This event is imbued with symbolism and content that go beyond the mere adventure of the sport. It highlights that India and ASEAN, joined together on land and by water, with shared borders and shared cultures, are neighbours. It is a tribute to earlier generations of merchants, monks and adventurers, who traversed this route in a quest for fortune, knowledge and spirituality. In the last three weeks, the Car Rally has rekindled these ancient bonds of friendship between India and ASEAN. It has also served to highlight the natural strategic imperative for our relationship in contemporary times.

Through the rally participants, we have seen the magnificent achievements reflected in Angkor Wat in Cambodia, Borobudur in Indonesia, Wat Phu in Lao, Sukhothai in Thailand and many other sites. The rally has helped millions of people in our countries to get a better sense of our heritage and progress, our

cities and natural sites, our convergences and possible synergies, and our potential and challenges. The rally has, in the most vivid manner possible, reinforced the importance of strengthening connectivity in all its dimensions between India and ASEAN.

Ladies and Gentlemen, this rally symbolizes the vision of an ASEAN-India community where people, goods, services and ideas can travel freely between us. Whether it is by road from India to Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam and Thailand, or by air or sea to Indonesia, Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Singapore, our future will be driven by the bonds of connectivity we build in the coming years. These physical bonds will be strengthened by digital links, which will help our younger generations to network better. Together, this web of linkages will help unleash the vast economic potential of our region, accelerate development and deepen our strategic partnership.

For India, nowhere will this benefit be more pronounced than in our North-eastern states and I would encourage the establishment of institutions linked to the India-ASEAN relationship in the North-eastern states.

Even as we celebrate the Car Rally, there is another voyage of friendship taking place on the seas. The Indian Navy sail training ship INS Sudarshini, which is at present in Manila, is on a six month long expedition to nine ASEAN countries. It is yet another symbol, not only of our proximity, but also of our shared maritime interests.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

India-ASEAN relations are at an exciting stage. The past two decades have seen enormous progress in our relations in many areas. Yesterday, we framed a new paradigm for our relationship by elevating it to a strategic partnership and announcing the conclusion of negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement in Services and Investment. I am confident that this agreement could be as transformational as our agreement on Goods has been.

I wish to thank you all for joining us today for this ceremonial flag down of the India-ASEAN Car Rally. I would like to commend my colleagues in Government and the Confederation of Indian Industry for undertaking this remarkable initiative. I am deeply grateful to the Leaders of ASEAN for their active support and the facilitation provided by their Governments for making this Rally a success. While we flag down this Rally, we are also flagging off a new journey of closer cooperation and a deeper strategic partnership, not only for the benefit of our people, but also for peace, progress and prosperity in our region and the world. I have no doubt that a new era awaits us all.

I thank you.



125. LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL OF THE ASEAN-INDIA EMINENT PERSONS GROUP REPORT ON THE OCCASION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASEAN-INDIA DIALOGUE RELATIONS

1 November 2012

Dear Leaders of ASEAN Member States and India,

The ASEAN-India Eminent Persons Group (AIEPG) was established to review the ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations and explore ways to widen and deepen existing cooperation towards a long-term strategic partnership between ASEAN and India.

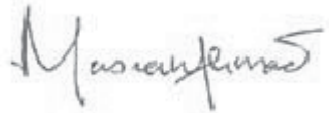
We, the Eminent Persons of the AIEPG, are honoured with the tasks and responsibility entrusted to us. The AIEPG met on four occasions, namely on 2-3 August 2011 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 20-21 October 2011 in New Delhi, India, on 9-10 March 2012 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and on 16-17 September 2012 in Kochi, India, to review the past and existing relations, and suggest various recommendations on the future areas of cooperation between ASEAN and India.

We envision the potential of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations in the areas of political and security cooperation, sustainable economic development, sociocultural development, and connectivity, in the midst of changing global political landscape and the growing importance of Asia in the world economy. We believe that the elevation of the existing relations to a strategic partnership presents vast opportunities for stronger cooperation in maintaining peace, security and prosperity in ASEAN and India, thus strengthening economic relations between them.

We would like to acknowledge the support of our assistants and the ASEAN Secretariat in developing this report.

We hereby submit this report for your consideration.

Please accept Your Majesty, Excellencies, the assurances of our highest consideration.



**H.E. Pengiran Datin Paduka
Masrainah Ahmad**
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM



H.E. Shyam Saran
REPUBLIC OF INDIA



H.E. Dr. KAO Kim Hourn
KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA



**Dr. (Mrs.) Isher Judge
Ahluwalia**
REPUBLIC OF INDIA



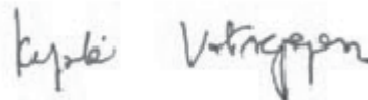
H.E. Donnilo Anwar
REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA



Mr. Subramaniam Ramadorai
REPUBLIC OF INDIA



**H.E. Dr. Khiane
Phansourivong**
LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC



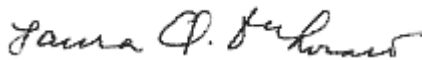
Dr. (Mrs.) Kapila Vatsyayan
REPUBLIC OF INDIA



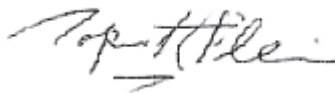
H.E. Dato' S. Thanarajasingam
MALAYSIA



H.E. Wynn Lwin
REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF
MYANMAR



H.E. Laura Q. Del Rosario
REPUBLIC OF THE
PHILIPPINES



H.E. Gopinath Pillai
REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE



H.E. Chitriya Pinthong
KINGDOM OF THAILAND



Dr. Sanjaya Baru
REPUBLIC OF INDIA



H.E. Do Ngoc Son
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF
VIETNAM

ASEAN-India Eminent Persons' Report to the Leaders

I. Introduction

1. The ASEAN Member States and India share a long and glorious history of friendly relations. They are both heirs to a cross-roads culture, situated as they are at the intersections of major land and sea routes. This enabled a dense and free flow of peoples, merchandise, cultures and ideas among them. Over the centuries, each country drew inspiration from the genius of the others and contributed to the cultural enrichment and advancement of our entire region. In contemporary times, they supported and sympathized with each other in their respective struggle for national independence and economic and social justice. This has reinforced the strong and abiding affinity they share since ancient times.

2. While peoples of ASEAN and India inhabit a shared geographical and cultural space, each country retains its distinctiveness and unique identity. It is this celebration of diversity, of plural yet related cultures, which underlies the ASEAN-India partnership. Our vision is to recreate, in a contemporary setting, the many linkages that have bound our countries together in the past and unleash a creative surge, which will impart even greater momentum to the Asian resurgence, of which we are a part.

3. At the 8th ASEAN-India Summit in Ha Noi in October 2010, the Leaders of ASEAN and India welcomed the establishment of an ASEAN-India Eminent Persons Group (AIEPG) to take stock of the 20 years of ASEAN-India cooperation and chart future direction of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations. The AIEPG report was scheduled to be submitted to the 10th ASEAN-India Summit in Phnom Penh in November 2012.

4. The AIEPG met four times: August 2011 in Phnom Penh, October 2011 in New Delhi, March 2012 in Kuala Lumpur and September 2012 in Kochi. There were also two Intersessional Assistants Meetings of the AIEPG in January 2012 in Vientiane and May 2012 in Da Nang to facilitate the preparations of the final report.

II. Review of Past and Current Relations

5. ASEAN-India dialogue relations have grown rapidly from a sectoral dialogue partnership in 1992 to a full dialogue partnership in December 1995. The relationship was further elevated with the convening of the ASEAN-India Summit in 2002 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Since then the ASEAN-India Summit has been held annually. This clearly signifies the importance of the dialogue partnership to ASEAN and India and the progress made in the cooperation.

6. Since India became a Dialogue Partner of ASEAN, the collaboration has transcended the realm of functional cooperation to cover political and security dimensions. India acceded to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) in 2003. India has also participated in a series of consultative meetings with ASEAN under the ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations, which include Summit, Ministerial meetings, Senior Officials meetings, and meetings at experts level, as well as through dialogue and cooperation frameworks initiated by ASEAN, such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the Post Ministerial Conference (PMC) 10+1, ASEAN Economic Ministers+1 Consultations, the East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus (ADMM Plus), Mekong-Ganga Cooperation and Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multisectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), which help contribute to enhancing regional dialogue and accelerating regional integration. After the entry into force of the ASEAN Charter, India has designated its current Ambassador to Indonesia as concurrently accredited to ASEAN to interact with the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN in the framework of the ASEAN-India Joint Cooperation Committee (AIJCC). Currently, there are 25 mechanisms coordinating the ASEAN-India cooperation in the areas of political-security cooperation, economic and socio-cultural cooperation.

7. As a reflection of the interest of ASEAN and India to intensify their engagement, the ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity, which sets out the roadmap for long-term ASEAN-India engagement, was signed at the 3rd ASEAN-India Summit on 30 November 2004 in Vientiane. A Plan of Action (2004-2010) was also developed to implement the Partnership. Subsequently, the new ASEAN-India Plan of Action for 2010-2015 was developed and adopted by the Leaders at the 8th ASEAN-India Summit in October 2010 in Ha Noi.

8. On the economic front, volume of trade and investment flows between ASEAN and India remained relatively low compared with other Dialogue Partners of ASEAN. Trade with India accounted for 2.9% of total ASEAN trade in 2011. The ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement which was signed on 13 August 2009 is expected to boost trade and investment between ASEAN and India. However, the tariff liberalisation under this Agreement covers only 80% of the

total tariff lines compared with ASEAN's other FTAs which have a much higher ambition with tariff liberalisation covering at least 90%. At the drafting time of this report, the Trade in Services and Investment Agreements negotiations are still ongoing.

9. There have been significant developments in the agriculture, forestry and tourism sectors. There are also opportunities to significantly increase people-to-people relations. However, the promising potential in areas such as regional infrastructure development, ASEAN-India connectivity projects, small and medium enterprise development and energy security remains to be explored.

10. India has made a significant contribution towards the enhancing of ASEAN-India cooperation through the ASEAN-India Fund, the ASEANIndia Green Fund and the ASEAN-India Science and Technology Development Fund. India has also been actively participating in the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan by implementing projects such as the Entrepreneurship Development Centres (EDC) and the Centres for the English Language Training (CELT) in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam.

III. Guiding Principles

11. ASEAN-India's future partnership should be based on the following guiding principles:

- ASEAN-India relations should be based on the principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations, the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia and other relevant regional instruments.
- ASEAN and India should continue to build upon existing ASEANIndia mechanisms and in line with mutually agreed processes and structures.
- India fully supports ASEAN's efforts in building an ASEAN Community. India welcomes the vital and expanding role of ASEAN at the global level particularly after the signing of Bali Declaration on ASEAN Community in a Global Community of Nations (Bali Concord III) and looks forward to collaborate with ASEAN.
- While sharing common goals of regional peace, progress and shared prosperity, ASEAN and India should contribute to the strengthening of relations with other countries and organisations, as well as contribute to the community building in East Asia.
- India will continue to support ASEAN as the driving force of both economic and security structures and institutions that are currently emerging in this region, based on the centrality of ASEAN. ASEAN and India welcome and mutually support their increasing role at the global level. In this regard,

ASEAN and India will collaborate in the solution of a number of regional and international issues of mutual concern.

- The two sides will work together to promote and strengthen inclusive and multi-track regional arrangements.

IV. Vision for the Future

12. ASEAN and India will build upon the achievements of the past and pursue enhanced cooperation within the framework of a new Vision for the Future based on a Strategic Partnership between ASEAN and India.

13. The ASEAN Member States and India welcome the growing role of Asia in the global economy and international affairs. This generates both significant opportunities for accelerated economic and social development of their countries as well as complex and difficult challenges which require their collaborative response. They are conscious of the fact that a new economic architecture is emerging in our region and new security arrangements are taking shape concurrently. It is in the common interest of ASEAN and India to work together to ensure that the evolving regional economic and security architectures will promote the goal of open regionalism and enhance the prospects for peace, stability and prosperity in Asia. As the global profile and impact of Asia over the international political and economic order increases, ASEAN Member States and India will also have to shoulder a greater responsibility for, and make their increased contribution to, the reshaping of this order. This, too, will become an important component of their expanding partnership.

14. The two sides are convinced that a strategic partnership can be sustained through establishing strong, multi-faceted and broad-ranging people-to-people relations, in particular, among the youth of our countries. A very significant increase in people and youth-centred activities is called for. These will include, inter-alia, cultural, sports, media, tourism, parliamentary and academic exchanges.

15. ASEAN and India declared that a stable and peaceful regional environment is essential for the pursuit of sustainable development in the region. To this end, ASEAN and India recognise that the centrality of ASEAN and the strengthening of ASEAN-led processes will continue to contribute to the creation of structures for dynamic cooperation for peace, security and development.

V. Recommendations

16. Over the past two decades, there has been a remarkable increase in ASEAN-India engagement and expanded cooperation across the board. As the two sides head towards the celebration of the 20th anniversary of their Dialogue

Partnership in 2012, there are new and significant opportunities for forging an even closer partnership for mutual benefit. To this end, it is desirable for ASEAN and India to consider for adoption the following recommendations for 2012-2022:

A. Political and Security Cooperation

17. Declare ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership in the Vision Statement to be adopted by the Heads of State/Heads of Government at the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit to be held in New Delhi in December 2012.

18. India to establish its separate diplomatic mission with an Ambassador accredited to ASEAN residing in Jakarta to facilitate further the enhanced dialogue partnership cooperation in all three pillars of ASEAN Community.

19. ASEAN Member States and India being maritime nations whose prosperity throughout history has been linked to sea-faring and sea borne trade, to work together to ensure maritime security and freedom of navigation to all littoral and user countries, in accordance with international law and on the basis of open, inclusive, transparent and balanced multilateral arrangements in the region. The agenda for maritime cooperation must include combating piracy, dealing with maritime emergencies, establishing a collaborative early warning system and providing prompt and effective disaster relief.

20. Promote regular and high-level security dialogue and strengthen the implementation of the ASEAN-India Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism signed in Bali, Indonesia, on 8 October 2003 in order to confront the common challenge of international terrorism and threats to their societies from extremist and exclusivist ideologies, which are hostile to the respect for diversity and our culture of tolerance. A much higher level of security cooperation and information sharing would be required to overcome these growing threats.

21. India to fully support ASEAN's strong commitment to realise a drug-free ASEAN 2015 and to pursue full cooperation with ASEAN in combating and eventually eliminating drug-trafficking. In this context, to convene regular bilateral consultations between ASEAN and India on drug related matters at the senior official level.

B. Economic Cooperation

22. Given the Asian resurgence and its relevance to the global economic recovery, it is incumbent upon our region to develop Asian perspectives on global issues. The ASEAN Member States and India will work towards shaping the new international financial and economic architecture in a proactive manner.

In this context, ASEAN and India should establish a multi-sectoral Strategic Economic Dialogue:

23. While ASEAN and India have concluded a Free Trade Agreement in Goods, negotiations are still ongoing in the areas of services and investment. These negotiations should aim to conclude at the earliest, bearing in mind the fact that the conclusion of such Agreements would serve to cement our existing ties and, subsequently, take our economic relations to a higher plane:

24. The volume of ASEAN-India trade in 2010 was US\$ 55.4 billion and this has grown to US\$ 74.9 billion in 2011, surpassing the target of US\$ 70 billion set for 2012. There are, however, prospects for reaching a much higher level of trade and investment under the proposed strategic partnership, by improved air, sea, land and digital connectivity between the two sides, expanding trade facilitation initiatives, including through collaboration in the SME sector, which is vital to the economies of ASEAN as well as India and by fostering business to business relations:

25. Declare a target of US\$ 200 billion for bilateral ASEAN-India trade by the year 2022 under the ASEAN-India Free Trade Area.

26. Harness and pool our resources together to ensure that there is constant supply of talent within the ASEAN-India region, in recognition that human resources and skills have become a key factor in modern economic and social development. Encourage governments to work towards providing such talents with the opportunity to move seamlessly between ASEAN and India in order to share their expertise and knowledge to the mutual betterment of our economic prospects.

27. Enhance private sector engagement and encourage business-tobusiness relations, including the reactivation of the ASEAN-India Business Council. Establish an ASEAN-India Business Portal to facilitate exchange of economic and trade information and promote easy interface between companies and business persons.

28. Facilitate a mutually beneficial business visa regime, including the grant of long-term, multiple entry business visas and stay permits for professionals and their families.

29. Establish an ASEAN-India Meeting of Ministers in charge of SMEs to promote cooperation in the SME sector, with a Joint Working Group (JWG) and Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) to prepare a detailed draft plan for the consideration of the Ministers.

30. Emphasise the importance of human resources development and, in this

context, propose an ASEAN-India Knowledge Initiative which would include institution-to-institution linkages between their universities and their respective centres of excellence in different fields.

31. Launch an ASEAN-India Skills Initiative and establish a virtual network of existing, upgraded and new human resource and training institutions in identified strategic sectors. An ASEAN-India Centre for Skill Development and Vocational Education could be set up in Guwahati, India, where there is already a presence of the Indian Institute of Technology. This initiative should draw upon the strengths of ASEAN Member States and India in different sectors, including in the areas where ASEAN Member States and India have a rich reservoir of time-tested traditional skills such as in textiles, metallurgy, building architecture and medicinal herbs and holistic healing practices.

32. Set up an ASEAN-India panel of experts to draw up a Food Security Plan for the region.

33. Set up an International Centre for Water Management Technologies in India to facilitate transfer of technologies by bringing together all stakeholders including governments and corporate sectors between India and ASEAN in the sector of water, likely to be on the national and international priorities for the region in the coming years. The Government of India should announce its location in due course.

C. Development Cooperation

34. ASEAN and Indian economies are in the midst of a structural transformation and confront many common challenges such as climate change, energy security, rapid urbanisation, natural disasters and food security. Cities will become the engines of growth in the coming decades and will impact on each of the cross-cutting challenges identified above. ASEAN and India will need to work together to overcome these challenges both through regional cooperation as well as through their active participation in global initiatives:

35. Enhance cooperation in bridging development gaps among ASEAN Member States, including through enhancing capacity building, strengthening human resource development and encouraging involvement of private sector and academic institutions, to contribute to the ASEAN integration and community building. In this context, ASEAN India Eminent Persons took note of the recently held 6th Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) Ministerial Meeting.

36. Enhance cooperation between the ASEAN Centre for Energy in Jakarta with the International Centre for Energy being set up by India in Bangalore, given that India and ASEAN confront a common challenge in ensuring energy security for their peoples. Such an initiative should draw together expertise

across sectors such as urban development, energy management, use of renewable energy sources, energy efficient building materials and architecture, in particular the adaptation of the rich traditional technologies that our countries possess, to meeting contemporary challenges in each of the above sectors. The International Centre could serve as a platform for sharing knowledge, experiences and best practices for urban public service delivery and governance patterns. This initiative would be announced at the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit in December 2012.

37. Strengthen cooperation in disaster management to create disasterresilient and safer communities, enhance cooperation in addressing global environmental issues, and strengthen cooperation in responding to climate change and addressing its impacts.

38. Set up an International Centre for Natural Disaster Management and Relief in India which would collaborate with the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance (AHA Centre) in providing prompt, coordinated and effective disaster relief.

D. Socio-Cultural Cooperation

39. Collaborate in promoting corporate social responsibility (CSR) to ensure that CSR is incorporated in the corporate agenda and contribute towards sustainable socio-economic development in ASEAN and India.

40. Establish a regular exchange of visits by Parliamentary delegations between the Indian Parliament and the ASEAN Inter Parliamentary Assembly.

41. Promote online interactions for the active participation of youth in India and in each of the ASEAN Member States that would generate deeper understanding and friendship.

42. Undertake greater exchange in the area of sports through strengthened India on Open Skies.

43. Announce an annual ASEAN-India Essay Competition open to school/university students, on the theme of ASEAN-India relations in different fields.

44. Further intensify cooperation in media exchange including the exchange of resident correspondents of major media organisations and a Senior Editors Exchange Programme, whereby Senior Editor may spend a mutually agreed period of time as Guest Editors in major media organisations in India and in ASEAN Member States respectively.

45. Further support and leverage the establishment of ASEAN Promotional Chapter of Tourism (APCT) in Mumbai, India to further strengthen the tourism cooperation between ASEAN and India.

46. Pursue a sustainable programme of interactions in culture, which would include experts from ASEAN and India working together on the shared legacy in fields such as archaeology, linguistics, libraries, textiles, fine arts, performing arts etc. A regular film festival with the participation of popular film artists should be institutionalised. ASEAN and India should also hold exhibitions illustrative of civilisational links in arts and culture.

47. Further support the revival of Nalanda University as an icon of Asian renaissance and promote its networking with centres of excellence in the regions.

48. Consider establishing an ASEAN-India Centre in India to promote trade, investment, tourism, and cultural exchanges.

49. Encourage networking of existing ASEAN and India Study Centres in ASEAN and India, as well as think tanks and research institutes to promote studies on various aspects of economic, social and political development in ASEAN Member States and India.

E. Connectivity

50. As Asia becomes the engine for the growth of the global economy, ASEAN and India must leverage their recommended strategic partnership through enhanced connectivity to reap the benefits from this development. India is one of the two Dialogue Partners that shares both maritime and land borders with ASEAN. Given this close proximity, there is much potential for ASEAN and India to promote connectivity. To this end, India supports the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC), which encompasses physical, institutional and people-to-people connectivity. Such connectivity must be expanded to bring South Asia and Southeast Asia closer together:

51. Conclude as soon as possible the pending agreement between ASEAN and India on Open Skies.

52. Establish regular exchanges between ASEAN and the recently established Indian Inter-Ministerial Group on ASEAN Connectivity to explore ways and means to support the MPAC as well as come up with new practical initiatives to further deepen regional integration between ASEAN and India. The emphasis can be placed on promoting and upgrading regional infrastructure and inter-connectivity between ASEAN and India, combined with enabling policy framework to facilitate and promote goods in transit, multi-modal transport and inter-state transport, which would benefit both sides and a wider free trade zone.

53. While ASEAN utilises the Infrastructure Fund to finance priority projects, consider bringing in the public private partnership to support the MPAC and ASEAN Connectivity Plus. The proposed new highway project connecting India-Myanmar-Lao PDR-Viet Nam-Cambodia and the extension of the India-Myanmar-

Thailand trilateral highway to Lao PDR and Cambodia as well as the development of Mekong-India Economic Corridor connecting Southeast Asia to South Asia on the eastern part of India through the Andaman Sea should receive high priority in order to add greater momentum to the growing trade and investment linkages between ASEAN and India.

54. Work together to promote the development of information and communication technology (ICT) in ASEAN Member States. In this connection, India supports ASEAN's efforts to realise the ASEAN ICT Master Plan 2015, drawing upon India's expertise in the sector and including through sharing of best practices in policy, regulations and technological development and capacity building programmes. ASEAN and India should establish an ASEAN-India broadband high speed optical fibre network to enhance virtual connectivity. This could become an ASEAN-India Broadband Corridor.

F. Regional Architecture

55. ASEAN and India reemphasised that a stable and peaceful regional environment is essential for the pursuit of sustainable development in the region. To this end, India continues to support the centrality of ASEAN in the evolving regional architecture and the strengthening of ASEAN-led processes, which has contributed to creating a dynamic environment of cooperation in various areas:

56. Deepen coordination and cooperation between ASEAN and India at the regional and multilateral levels, particularly:

- Work towards contributing to the realisation of the goals and objectives as set out in the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Vision Statement;
- Promote cooperation projects within the ARF;
- Continue to enhance the East Asia Summit as Leaders-led forum for dialogue on broad strategic, political and economic issues of common interest and concern with the aim of promoting peace, stability and economic prosperity in East Asia;
- Promote maritime cooperation through engagement in the future expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum to address common challenges on maritime issues, including sea piracy, search rescue at sea, maritime environment, maritime security, maritime connectivity, freedom of navigation, fisheries and other areas of cooperation; and
- Promote cooperation in the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus to ensure the maintenance of peace, security, stability and enhancing prosperity in the region.

G. Institutional Support and Implementation Mechanism

57. The Eminent Persons Group is convinced that these recommendations will contribute significantly to the elevation of ASEAN-India relations to a strategic partnership. The Group recommends that a mid-term review be conducted by senior officials of ASEAN and India in 2017 on the progress in the implementation of the recommendations:

58. To ensure successful implementation of the recommendations, the institutional support and framework are necessary to closely coordinate, facilitate, monitor, review, and allocate resources effectively:

59. Recognising the important role played by other stakeholders, ensure inclusiveness of non-governmental agencies, private sector, academic institutions, think tanks, youth organisations, media groups, social and cultural foundations of ASEAN and India to support the implementation of these recommendations.

60. Streamline (i) the use of existing funds, such as the ASEAN-India Fund (AIF), the ASEAN-India Green Fund (AIGF), and the ASEAN-India Science and Technology Development Fund (AISTDF) and (ii) cooperation mechanisms under ASEAN-India relations to support the implementation of ASEAN-India cooperative activities contained in these recommendations.

VI. Conclusion

61. Taking into account the past twenty years of cooperation and achievements between ASEAN and India as well as the fast changing regional and global environment and evolving regional architectures, the AIEPG has looked at ways to elevate the comprehensive partnership between ASEAN and India to a strategic level.

62. In order to achieve and strengthen the strategic partnership, it is recommended that ASEAN and India should endeavour to implement the proposed recommendations as outlined in this AIEPG Report and continue to work together with the shared values of peace, progress and prosperity.

ANNEXES

TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR) FOR THE ASEAN-INDIA EMINENT PERSONS GROUP

I. BACKGROUND

1. At the ASEAN PMC+1 Session with India on 22 July 2010 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, Foreign Ministers of ASEAN and India agreed to establish an Eminent Persons Group (EPG), as proposed by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia.

II. PURPOSE

2. The EPG will take stock of ASEAN-India relations over the past 19 years, explore ways to widen and deepen existing cooperation between ASEAN and India as well as recommend measures to further strengthen ASEAN-India relations in the future, taking into account existing documents signed/adopted by both sides, the ASEAN Charter, Roadmap for an ASEAN Community, the three Blueprints of the ASEAN Community and other relevant documents adopted prior to the finalisation of the EPG report.

III. SCOPE OF WORK

3. The functions of the EPG will be as follows:
 - 3.1 Assess ASEAN-India dialogue relations over the past 19 years;
 - 3.2 Identify the strengths and expertise of ASEAN and India, seek viable opportunities and recommend practical actions to deepen and broaden the ASEAN-India partnership with the view to enhance mutual trust, benefit and shared prosperity and to ensure that the ASEAN-India partnership remains one of the key pillars in the evolving regional architecture;
 - 3.3 Initiate tangible and mutually beneficial programmes/activities;
 - 3.4 Propose strategies for the effective implementation of the ASEAN-India Plan of Action to Implement the Comprehensive Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity (2010-2015); and
 - 3.5 Study the institutional framework of the ASEAN-India dialogue relations and recommend measures to enhance and streamline the process.

IV. COMPOSITION

4. Each ASEAN Member State will appoint one eminent person from the political, academic, socio-cultural, economic or business circles of their respective country to be members of the EPG and one assistant for

each EPG member. India will appoint 2 to 5 eminent persons from the political, academic, socio-cultural, economic or business circles of India to be members of the EPG and an assistant for each of them.

5. EPG members will participate in all relevant activities in their individual capacity and not as representatives of their countries.

V. SECRETARIAT OF THE EPG

6. The ASEAN Secretary-General is to assign one of his senior staff members to act as a resource person and one assistant to keep records of EPG meetings. The ASEAN Secretariat shall assist the Co-Chairs and EPG members to draft the final report.

VI. FREQUENCY AND VENUE

7. The EPG will meet at least four times, twice in ASEAN Member States and twice in India, prior to the 9th ASEAN-India Summit in 2011. Additional meetings could be convened, if and when necessary, as determined by the EPG.
8. The EPG may form ad-hoc working groups, as may be deemed necessary, in order to facilitate its work. The composition of the ad-hoc working groups shall be the assistants of EPG members.

VII. DECISIONS

9. Decisions will be based on consultation and consensus.

VIII. CHAIRMANSHIP

10. Meetings shall be co-chaired by the EPG member from the country coordinator of the ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations and one EPG member from India. The EPG should select the co-chairs at its first meeting.
11. The host country will provide secretarial services and administrative assistance for meetings such as the arrangement of facilities and documentation.

IX. TIMEFRAME

12. The EPG's final report recommending concrete measures to strengthen and advance the ASEAN-India partnership is to be submitted to the 9th ASEAN-India Summit in 2011.

X. AGENDA

13. The agenda of the meeting will be prepared by the co-chairs in consultation with all members of the EPG.

XI. FUNDING

14. Funding support for the participation of EPG members and their assistants as well as the two representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat shall come from the ASEAN-India Fund.

XII. AMENDMENT

15. This TOR may be amended by mutual written consent of ASEAN Member States and India. EPG members may also recommend amendments to the TOR through their respective countries.

XIII. FINAL PROVISION

16. This TOR shall commence when the endorsement of ASEAN and India has been obtained.

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE EMINENT PERSONS

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

H.E. Pengiran Datin Paduka Masrainah Ahmad



She was appointed as Ambassador (Special Duties) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam on 10 July 2012 upon completion of her term of service as Permanent Secretary from 4 November 2010 to 8 July 2012. Prior to this, she was the Deputy Permanent Secretary (ASEAN) from 8 May 2006. She began her career as an Education Officer in September 1980 and joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in July 1984.

She graduated with B.Sc. in Biological Sciences (Portsmouth Polytechnic - 1980), Post-Graduate Certificate in Education (University College, University of Wales - 1982) and M.A. in International Studies and Diplomacy (School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London - 1997). She received DPMB – the Most Honorable Order of the Crown of Brunei, Second Class (July 2002); SMB - the Most Honorable Order of Seri Paduka Mahkota Brunei, Third Class (July 1995); PJK the Meritorious Service Medal (1999).

CAMBODIA

H.E. Dr. KAO Kim Hourn



He is currently the Secretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia. His main responsibility includes ASEAN affairs and other assignments tasked by H.E. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, while serving as an advisor to the Prime Minister of Cambodia and a member of the Supreme National Economic Council of Cambodia (SNEC). Dr. Kao Kim Hourn completed his Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Hawaii

at Manoa, U.S.A, in 2001. He also received an Honorary Doctor of Public Service from Ohio University, U.S.A., in 2007.

Previously, Dr. Kao was a member of the High Level Task Force on Drafting the ASEAN Charter (2007), Executive Director of the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace (CICP) (1994-2004), Member of the International Council ASEAN-INDIA EMINENT PERSONS' ANNEX 2 : Biographies of the Eminent Persons of the Asia Society (2002-2003), and advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia (1996-1998). He received a

number of awards including the Royal Order of Monisaraphon (Officer) [2003], Royal Order of Monisaraphon (Commander) [2006] and Royal Order of Cambodia (Grand Officer) [2007].

INDONESIA

H.E. Donnilo Anwar



He was born in Painan, West Sumatra, Indonesia, on 20 February 1947. He was a career diplomat and had been serving the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for more than thirty years. He had been involved as Member or Head of Indonesian Delegation to various Meeting of Demarcation including Land and Maritime Borders with Australia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, and Viet Nam. He also attended other International Meetings such as Committee for the International Seabed Authority in

Jamaica, ASEM in Luxembourg, Asia Africa Legal Consultative Committee in Bali and New Delhi, and related ASEAN meetings. Other meetings he attended include the sessions of the International Court of Justice, United Nations General Assembly, and the 3rd Conference on the Law of the Sea.

Before being appointed as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Indonesia to India in 2003 to 2006, he was Director for Political, Security and Territorial Treaties.

LAO PDR

H.E. Soubanh Srithirath



He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Lao Coalition Government as Director of Cabinet from 1974-1975. He served as General Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1976- 1981. He had served as Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Lao PDR to the United Nations, New York from 1981- 1982. He had served as Deputy-Minister of Foreign Affairs, Responsible for International Organizations Affairs, and Western and Developing Countries and responsible for the Lao National

Commission on the border demarcation with Myanmar from 1982-1988.

He had served as Member of Supreme People's Assembly from 1989-1992. He had served as Minister to the Office of the President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic from 1998-2010. He had served as Minister to the Prime Minister's Office, in charge of Francophonie, Chairman of the Lao National Commission for Drug Control and Supervision from 2011-2012. He passed away on 17 July 2012.

H.E. Dr. Khiane Phansourivong

He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Lao PDR as a Research Officer, Institute of Foreign Affairs in 1995. He had worked at Bureau of Economic Cooperation, ASEAN Secretariat as Senior Officer from 1997-2001. From July 2001-April 2004, he served as Director of ASEAN Economic Cooperation Division, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He served as Deputy Director General of ASEAN Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs from April 2004-Nov 2005.

From November 2005-July 2007, he had worked at the ASEAN Secretariat as Coordinator for External Relations and from July 2007-January 2008 as Assistant Director, Bureau for External Relations and Coordination. From January 2008 until now, he holds the post of Director-General, ASEAN Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Lao PDR.

MALAYSIA**H.E. Dato' S. Thanarajasingam**

He has served over 36 years with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia. His last stint was as the Ambassador of Malaysia to France and Portugal from 2006 until 2010. Prior to that, he had served at Missions in Lagos, New York, New Delhi and Brasilia. He was the Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the United Nations, New York between the period of 1993-1997. In 1996, he served as Chief of Staff to the United Nations General Assembly President as well. At the local and

regional fronts, he had held various distinctive positions including, as the Deputy Secretary-General for Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 2004-2006.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts (B.A) degree from University of Malaya in 1973 and Master of Arts (M.A) degree from New York University, USA in 1985. In recognition of his contributions, he received many awards and the most recent one was in 2010, where he was awarded the Grand Officier dans l'Ordre National du Mérite, from the Government of France. He is a Member of the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission for a period of 2 years.

MYANMAR

H.E. Wynn Lwin



He served as the Myanmar Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Republic of India from 1991 to 1999. He joined the Myanmar Foreign Service in 1961 and served in various capacities at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Myanmar Missions in Germany, India, Bangladesh, Thailand and Russia Federation. He visited many countries as member of Myanmar Goodwill Delegations led by the Head of State and the Foreign Minister. He also involved in the border and boundary matters with neighbouring countries.

He attended the Afro-Asian Legal Consultative Committee Annual Meetings (1993-1997) and Eminent Persons Meeting on Human Development, Tokyo (2003). He also served as the coordinator/facilitator of Human Rights meetings held in Myanmar.

He was the Advisor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Home Affairs (1999-2004). He also served as the Executive Committee Member of the Myanmar Red Cross Society (1999-2004) and the Secretary of the Myanmar Human Rights Committee (1999-2005).

THE PHILIPPINES

H.E. Laura Q. Del Rosario



She is currently the Undersecretary in the Office for International Economic Relations of the Department of Foreign Affairs. Previously, she was the Director of the Foreign Service Institute in a concurrent capacity. Her work history in the Foreign Service includes serving as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary in New Delhi and Hanoi from November 2003 to April 2007 and April 2007 to October 2009, respectively.

She was bestowed with the Grand Mabini with a rank of Grand Cross (Dakilang Kamanong) in 2012 by the President of the Philippines for her work in promoting economic relations with India.

SINGAPORE

H.E. Gopinath Pillai



He holds several key public appointments. He has been Ambassador-at-Large since August 2008. He was Singapore's Non-Resident Ambassador to Iran between 1990 and 2008. He has also served as Singapore's High Commissioner to Pakistan. Ambassador Pillai is the Chairman of the Management Board of the Institute of South Asian Studies. He is a member of the Steering Committee of the Indian Heritage Centre project and Chairman of its Concept and Content Sub-committee. Ambassador Pillai

has varied business interests which include investments in education, logistics and information technology. He is the Founder Chairman of a port-related listed logistics company in India, Gateway Distriparks Ltd, and its subsidiary, Snowman Logistics Ltd. He is also a Director of AEC Education Plc, listed on AIM in London.

The Singapore government has awarded Ambassador Pillai the Public Service Star Award (BBM) in 1999 and BBM (Bar) in the 2009 National Day Awards. National University of Singapore Society made him a Distinguished Member in 2011. The Indian government has given him the Padma Shri award at the 2012 Republic Day.

THAILAND

H.E. Chitriya Pinthong



After completing the D.Phil. (Econ) at the University of York, U.K., she served in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand from 1980 to 2011 in various capacities, inter alia, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Economic Affairs, Deputy Director-General of the Department of ASEAN Affairs, Director-General of Thailand International Development Cooperation Agency (TICA) and Deputy Permanent Secretary and ASEAN SOM leader of Thailand. She served as Ambassador to the Kingdom of Norway in

2005-2007.

She remains involved in international affairs at Chulalongkorn University's Chula Global Network (CGN) and ASEAN Studies Centre and also as Vice President for International Affairs, Rangsit University.

VIET NAM

H.E. Do Ngoc Son



He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam in 1972. He served as Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and then Secretary (Foreign Affairs) to the Chairman of the Council of Ministers between 1983 and 1987. In 1992 he was appointed Director-General of the Department of Southeast Asia, South Asia and South Pacific and then Director-General of the ASEAN Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1994 to 1997. Ambassador Son was responsible for Viet Nam's preparations for ASEAN

Membership in 1995. He had served in the Vietnamese diplomatic missions in Indonesia, the Philippines, and as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Viet Nam to Thailand (1997-2002) and Spain (2006-2009). Between 2002 and 2006, he was Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs. In 2009 Ambassador Son was appointed as the first Vietnamese Representative to the ASEAN Inter-Governmental Commission on Human Rights.

Ambassador Son holds a bachelor degree from La Escuela de Letras y Lenguas Modernas en la Universidad de La Habana, Cuba.

INDIA

H.E. Shyam Saran



Shyam Saran, 65, is a former Foreign Secretary of India and has also served as the Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Nuclear Affairs and Climate Change. He is currently Chairman of the Research and Information System for Developing Countries and a Senior Fellow at the Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi. He is also a member of the National Security Advisory Board under the National Security Council. Saran was awarded the Padma Bhushan, the third highest national award, in January 2011 for his

contributions to Civil Service. He writes and speaks regularly on foreign policy, climate change, energy security and national and international security related issues.

Since joining the Indian Foreign Service in 1970, he has served in several capitals of the world including Beijing, Tokyo and Geneva. He has been India's Ambassador to Myanmar, Indonesia and Nepal and High Commissioner to Mauritius. In the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi, Shyam Saran headed the Economic Division and the Multilateral Economic Division and also headed

the East Asia Division which handles relations with China and Japan. As a Joint Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office in 1991/92, he advised the Prime Minister on foreign policy, nuclear and defence related issues. After a career spanning 34 years in the Indian Foreign Service, Saran was appointed India's Foreign Secretary in 2004 and held that position till his retirement from service in September 2006. Post-retirement, he was appointed Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Indo-US civil nuclear issues and later as Special Envoy and Chief Negotiator on Climate Change.

Dr. Isher Judge Ahluwalia



Isher Judge Ahluwalia is Chairperson, Board of Governors, the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER)). She was awarded Padma Bhushan by the President of India in the year 2009 for her services in the field of education and literature. Dr. Ahluwalia was Chairperson of the High Powered Expert Committee on Urban Infrastructure and Services during 2008-2011. She is Member, National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council and is on the Boards of a number of premier research

institutes in India. Dr. Ahluwalia is a Member of the Eminent Persons Group on India-ASEAN set up by the respective governments. She is Vice Chairperson, Global Development Network, New Delhi and Member, Board of Trustees of the International Water Management Institute, Sri Lanka. She was Chairperson, Board of Trustees of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Washington D.C. from 2003 to 2006. Dr. Ahluwalia was a Member of the Eminent Persons Group (EPG) of the Asian Development Bank, which submitted its report, "Towards a New Asian Development Bank in a New Asia" in May 2008.

She received her B.A. from Presidency College, Calcutta University, M.A. from the Delhi School of Economics, and Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), all in economics. Dr Ahluwalia's research has focused on industrial development, macro-economic reforms, and issues in social sector development in India. She is author/co-author/editor of several books including India's Economic Reforms and Development: Essays for Manmohan Singh (OUP), which she had co-edited with Prof. I.M.D Little in 1998 and which has just been published in an updated second edition by OUP as an Oxford India Perennial.

Mr. Subramaniam Ramadorai



In February 2011, he stepped into public service when the Indian Government appointed him as the Advisor to the Prime Minister in the National Skill Development Council, in the rank of a Cabinet Minister. The Council, which is headed by the Prime Minister, seeks to develop a strategy for Skill Development at the National level with a view to address the skill deficit. He continues as the Vice-Chairman of Tata Consultancy Services Ltd, a company that he has been associated with for the past 40 years. He is the

Chairman of other Tata companies - Tata Elxsi Ltd, Tata Technologies Ltd and CMC Ltd. He is also on the Boards of a number of non Tata companies and educational institutions - Hindustan Unilever Limited, Bombay Stock Exchange and the MIT Sloan School of Management (EMSAB).

In recognition of his commitment and dedication to the IT industry he was awarded the Padma Bhushan (India's third highest civilian honour) in January 2006. In April 2009, he was awarded the CBE (Commander of the Order of the British Empire) by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II for his contribution to the Indo-British economic relations.

Dr. Kapila Vatsyayan



She is internationally recognised for her outstanding work in the diverse fields of Culture and the Arts. As a distinguished advisor to the Government of India on matters educational and cultural for many decades, Dr. Kapila Vatsyayan spearheaded policy framework for programmes of art history, education, Sanskrit, Buddhist and Pali Studies. In this capacity she was also actively engaged in international cultural relations and in negotiating many cultural agreements, both bilateral and multilateral, with

several countries.

Formerly Founder-Director of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts; President, India International Centre; Member of the UNESCO Executive Board and a nominated member of the Upper House of Indian Parliament, Dr. Vatsyayan is recipient of the second highest national award Padma Vibhushan and several other awards, nationally and internationally, for her work in national integration and in promoting international understanding. Author of over 16 books and many research papers, she is presently Chairperson, IIC-Asia Project, which through its programmes of seminars and publications, has been trying to identify the diverse roots of communication between and amongst Asian countries for centuries.

Dr. Sanjaya Baru

Dr. Sanjaya Baru, Eminent Person from India, is currently Director for Geo-economics and Strategy at the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), London. He is also an Honorary Senior Fellow & Member Governing Board at the Centre of Policy Research in New Delhi. During 2004-08, he was Media Advisor/ Spokesman/ principal speech writer for the Prime Minister of India Shri Manmohan Singh. Dr. Baru was Editor of Business Standard from 2009-11; Visiting Professor, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy and Institute of South Asian Studies, Singapore (2008-09); Chief Editor, The Financial Express (2000-04); Editorial Page Editor, The Times of India (1994-98); Associate Editor, The Economic Times (1990-1994); Professor, Indian Council for Research in International Economic Relations (1999-2000); Departments of Economics, Jawaharlal Nehru University (1985-86) and University of Hyderabad (1979-1990). He has been a Member, National Security Advisory Board of India (1998-2001) and Member, ASEAN-India Eminent Persons Group (2011-12). He was a Visiting Fellow - School of Economic Studies, University of East Anglia, UK, and the East-West Centre, Hawaii; Consultant, Human Development Report Office, UNDP, New York (1998) and Asian Development Bank, Manila (2009, 2011). He is a Founder-Trustee of the Forum for National Security Studies, New Delhi; Member, Governing Board, Centre for Air Power Studies, New Delhi; and Member, Advisory Council, India International Centre, New Delhi.

Publications by Dr. Baru include Strategic Consequences of India's Economic Performance (Routledge, 2006), The Political Economy of Indian Sugar (Oxford University Press, 1990) and several essays in journals and newspapers in India and abroad. Dr. Baru obtained his PhD and Masters Degree in economics from the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

LIST OF EMINENT PERSONS' ASSISTANTS & RESOURCE PERSONS

Assistants to the Eminent Persons

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

Mr. Ak. Mohd. Amin I. Pg Hj. Sulaiman
Second Secretary

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Ms. Nurussa'adah Muharram

Department of Trade Development
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

INDONESIA

Mr. Sugeng Wahono

Deputy Director of South Asia and
Pacific Directorate of ASEAN
Dialogue Partners and Inter-Regional
Affairs

Directorate General of ASEAN
Cooperation

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

MALAYSIA

Ms. Norli Muadza Noor

Director

ASEAN-Malaysia National Secretariat
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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H.E. CHETH Naren

Director-General

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs and
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LAO PDR

Mr. Kongsada Detvongsone

Senior Officer

External Relations Division

ASEAN Department

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MYANMAR

Mr. San Oo Maung

ASEAN Affairs Department

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THE PHILIPPINES

Mr. Ralf Roldan

(effective September 2012)

Principal Assistant

External Relations Division

Department of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Julius Caesar A. Flores

(until August 2012)

Director

External Relations Division

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THAILAND

Mr. Soonthorn Chaiyindeepum

Minister

Royal Thai Embassy

New Delhi

INDIA

Ms. Renu Pall

Joint Secretary

ASEAN Multilateral Division

Ministry of External Affairs

Ms. Rachita Bhandari

Under Secretary

ASEAN Multilateral Division

Ministry of External Affairs

SINGAPORE

Mr. ANG Seow Wei

(effective January 2012)

Assistant Director

ASEAN Directorate

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. CAI Xihao *(until December 2011)*

Desk Officer

ASEAN Directorate

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

VIET NAM

Mr. Tran Duc Binh

Deputy Director-General

ASEAN-Viet Nam

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Resource Persons and Their Assistants

ASEAN SECRETARIAT

Resource Persons

H.E. Nyan Lynn (*effective July 2012*)
Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN
for ASEAN Political-Security Community Department

H.E. Pushpanathan Sundram (*until March 2012*)
Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN
for ASEAN Economic Community Department

Assistants to the Resource Persons

Ms. Wan Joon Lian
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Mr. Dicky K. Wallad
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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL OF THE ASEAN-INDIA EMINENT PERSONS GROUP'S PROGRESS REPORT TO THE 8TH ASEAN-INDIA SUMMIT . 19 NOVEMBER 2011, BALI, INDONESIA

19 November 2011

Excellencies the Leaders of ASEAN

Excellency the Prime Minister of India

The ASEAN-India Eminent Persons Group (AIEPG), established pursuant to the 8th ASEAN- India Summit in October 2010, has the main task to take stock of the ASEAN-India relations over the past 19 years and explore ways to widen and deepen the existing cooperation between ASEAN and India as well as recommend measures to further strengthen ASEAN-India relations in the future.

We, the Co-Chairs of the AIEPG, have the honour to submit the Progress Report for your information and reference.

Please accept, Your Excellencies, the assurances of our highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Kao Kim Hourn'.

Dr. Kao Kim Hourn

Secretary of State

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and
International Cooperation

Kingdom of Cambodia

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Shyam Saran'.

Amb. Shyam Saran

Former Foreign Secretary

Former Special Envoy of the Prime
Minister of India on Climate Change

**Progress Report of the ASEAN-India Eminent Persons Group
to the 9th ASEAN-India Summit on 19 November 2011 in Bali,
Indonesia**

1. At the 8th ASEAN-India Summit on 30 October 2010 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, the Leaders welcomed the establishment of an ASEAN-India Eminent Persons Group (AIEPG) to review the ASEAN-India relations and explore ways to widen and deepen existing cooperation towards a long-term strategic partnership between ASEAN and India.
2. The composition of membership of the AIEPG was completed in 2011 and the AIEPG has convened twice, namely on 2-3 August 2011 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia and on 20-21 October 2011 in New Delhi, India. The AIEPG is co-chaired by Cambodia as Country Coordinator of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations, on behalf of ASEAN, and India.
3. The AIEPG had open and fruitful discussions on stocktaking the past and existing relations as well as on the various areas of cooperation between ASEAN and India. The Eminent Persons noted with satisfaction that the ASEAN-India relations have achieved significant progress in the past 19 years since the formalisation of ASEAN-India dialogue relations in 1992 and had stronger foundation of cooperation since convening of the first ASEAN-India Summit in 2002 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
4. In the effort of charting the future direction of ASEAN-India Partnership, the AIEPG took into account the documents that have been adopted/signed under the ASEAN-India dialogue relations framework as well as key ASEAN documents, which included the ASEAN-India Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity (2010-2015); the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation between the Republic of India and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations; the ASEAN-India Aviation Cooperation Framework; the ASEAN-India Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism; and the Instrument of Accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia by India, the ASEAN Charter, Roadmap for an ASEAN Community, the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity and other relevant documents.
5. The AIEPG affirmed the importance of elevating the ASEAN-India partnership to a higher plane, namely from the current level which has been based on the ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity to a strategic partnership. In this regard, the AIEPG will explore and recommend bold, resourceful, practical ideas and doable actions to enhance the relationship, create opportunities and address challenges while taking

cognisant of the dynamic regional and global environment. The areas of cooperation will cover the three pillars of the ASEAN Community building covering the political and security, economic and socio-cultural pillars.

6. In accordance with its mandate, the AIEPG will prepare the final report to be submitted to the 10th ASEAN-India Summit to be held in Cambodia in 2012. In the meantime, the Co-Chairs of the AIEPG submit this progress report, as prepared by Cambodia and the ASEAN Secretariat, to the 9th ASEAN-India Summit in Bali, Indonesia on 19 November 2011 for its information.

7. The AIEPG is currently working on the final report to be submitted to the 10th ASEAN-India Summit, which will be visionary, concise, containing the recommendations that serve the elevation of the ASEAN-India relations to strategic partnership and enhancing the role of India to support the ASEAN Community Building, the implementation of Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity, and the attainment of ASEAN Community by 2015, avoiding redundancy with the existing Plan of Action.

8. The AIEPG has scheduled two more meetings to finalise the report which will be submitted to the Leaders of ASEAN and India at the 10th ASEAN-India Summit in Phnom Penh, Cambodia in November 2012.

ASEM

126. Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson on the ASEM Meeting.

New Delhi, November 1, 2012.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Syed Akbaruddin): Good afternoon friends and thank you very much for coming to this interaction today.....

The first (announcement) is about the visit of the External Affairs Minister to the ASEM Summit in Vientiane. The External Affairs Minister, Shri Salman Khurshid, will lead the Indian Delegation to the Ninth Summit of the Asia-Europe Meeting in Vientiane on 5th and 6th of November. In the course of his participation at the Summit he will be speaking on a couple of issues. In one of the sessions he will speak on 'Global Issues' and in another session he will speak on 'the future direction of the ASEM'.

The ASEM, as you know, is a dialogue forum of 46 member states and two international organizations that are the ASEAN Secretariat and the European Commission. It was set up in 1996. India joined the ASEM in 2007. It is our understanding that at present ASEM represents approximately 60 per cent of the world's population, 50 per cent of global GDP, and 60 per cent of world trade.

At the culmination of the Summit it is expected that the Vientiane Declaration on strengthening partnership for peace and development would be issued. There will also be a Chair statement on the 9th ASEM Summit. As is usual on such occasions, the External Affairs Minister will also have various bilateral meetings, and we are in the process of finalizing those.

I have another announcement to make and that is that the Prime Minister of Canada, His Excellency Mr. Stephen Harper will pay a state visit to India from the 4th to the 9th of November. He will be accompanied by his wife Ms. Laureen Harper. Mr. Harper will be visiting New Delhi, Agra, Chandigarh and Bengaluru. He is accompanied by three Ministers. During his official engagements in New Delhi, apart from meeting with the Prime Minister he will call on the President and the Vice-President. He will also have meetings with the President of the UPA and the Leader of the Opposition. Minister of State Shrimati Preneet Kaur will call on him.



127. Address by External Affairs Minister Slaman Khurshid at the 9th ASEM Summit Plenary Session V: Future Direction of ASEM.

Vientiane, November 6, 2012.

Mr. Chairman,

Excellencies,

We have deliberated over the last two days on a number of pressing issues that not only affect our two continents but also the entire world. Our discussions touched on diverse challenges and ways to address them on a range of issues including the changing politico-security and global economic environment, slower economic growth across Continents, the scourge of global terrorism, illicit narcotics drug trafficking, urgency to achieve sustainable development and inclusive growth, and the imperative of human resource development.

The one thing that seems to run consistently through our deliberations is that the future destinities of Europe and Asia are connected. We also believe that ASEM is today at a significant crossroads. We need to come together to address these issues.

ASEM, Excellencies, today needs to orient itself definitively in a direction that facilitates, accelerates and makes possible such cooperation. This, to my mind, is perhaps the most relevant issue on the agenda of ASEM, i.e. "The Future Direction of ASEM".

Since our participation in ASEM in 2007, we have valued the Forum as an unique inter-continental connect between Asia and Europe. It has brought together key partners in Asia and Europe to deliberate on global issues of concern and identify specific areas for cooperation with developmental implications, which could assist growth in our countries.

The USP of ASEM is that it is a dialogue forum with capacity to discuss all issues of concern. Its strength lies in the fact that within its membership it includes the capacity to find necessary resources of intellect, knowledge, innovation, technology, best practices and all instruments necessary to meet challenges.

We perhaps need to accelerate its evolution towards making ASEM the inter-Continental bridge that it was meant to be, bringing together the strengths and capacities across our countries to contribute to global growth and development, peace and stability. We have been supporting such an approach since Godollo in particular.

We need to strengthen ASEM in this direction in each of its three pillars of

cooperation i.e. political and security cooperation, economic cooperation and socio-cultural cooperation.

Over the last few years, there has been an intuitive movement towards identification and implementation of concrete cooperation in areas where Europe and Asia can assist each other. As we do so, we must certainly retain ASEM's informality and its main function as a dialogue forum, but at the same time, also profile concrete functional projects to enhance ASEM's relevance.

We see ASEM as having unique capacity to bring about greater focus on areas of relevance for developing countries and emerging markets. It can also make the global framework for economic governance more effective, given its varied participation consisting of emerging market economies, developed and developing countries. It is here that ASEM as a forum for dialogue and cooperation between Asia and Europe remains fundamentally relevant and can add substantive value.

There is considerable scope for cooperation and sharing of best practices, systems and technology between Europe and Asia. ASEM needs to develop as the bridge – a bridge for development, growth and the building of capacities; a bridge for bringing together expertise to tackle common challenges; a bridge of resources and ideas; a bridge founded on making connections between the people of EU and Asia.

I am confident that ASEM members would join and participate in the initiative proposed by China, Lao PDR, Poland and India to hold a Conference on the Future of ASEM next year. India stands ready to work with ASEM partners on this important agenda. I take this opportunity to invite the Foreign Ministers of ASEM to next meeting of ASEM FMM to be held in India from 14 to 15 November. We also look forward to your cooperation and partnership as we prepare to host the next ASEM Foreign Ministers Meeting.

Thank you.



128. Address by External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid at the 9th ASEM Summit - Plenary Session II: Global Issues.

Vientiane, November 6, 2012.

Mr. Chairman,

Excellencies,

At the outset, I would like to place on record our deep appreciation to the Government of Lao PDR, and in particular to Your Excellency the Prime Minister of Lao PDR for your warm welcome, excellent arrangements and generous hospitality extended to me and my delegation.

I bring the best of wishes of my Prime Minister for the success of ASEM 9 under the Chairmanship of Lao PDR.

India is privileged to be part of ASEM. We join other members in welcoming Bangladesh, Norway and Switzerland to ASEM. We look forward to host the 11th meeting of the ASEM Foreign Ministers in New Delhi on November 14-15, 2013.

ASEM is an unique forum which given its inter-Continental nature endows it with great capacity to promote peace and development, particularly since it brings together a collective resource of around 60% of world's population, 50% of global GDP and almost 60% of world trade.

The ASEM Finance Ministers at a meeting in October this year underlined the need for Asia and Europe to promote closer engagement in addressing the current global crisis as well as in creating stronger, more sustainable and balanced global growth. There is evidence that recovery and growth in the Eurozone could benefit from the growth in emerging economies of Asia.

According to the Asian Development Bank, Asia will account for 52 percent of global GDP by 2050. A mutually beneficial partnership is called for between Asia and Europe through increased trade and investment linkages. While Europe would get access to the markets of Asia, the developing countries of Asia can benefit from European investments, technology transfer, knowledge and innovation. It would be a win-win situation for employment generation and sustainable growth in both the Continents.

Non-traditional security threats such as terrorism, piracy, illegal drug and arms trafficking, threat of terrorists gaining access to Weapons of Mass Destruction continue to pose serious challenges to peace and security globally. We firmly believe that different multi-lateral processes, including various regional forums dealing with these issues, should consolidate international efforts to address these threats.

The scourge of terrorism, unleashed by terror groups with global reach, needs a comprehensive global approach. The global legal regime against terrorism needs to be hinged on a single comprehensive legal framework. India had, therefore, tabled the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) at the United Nations in 1996. As the Chair of the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee since January 2011, India has worked to revitalize the activities of the CTC and to conclude negotiations on the CCIT. India is also engaged in international efforts to combat terrorism, including through the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy 2006, the International Convention for the Suppression of Financing of Terrorism, and the Global Counter-terrorism Forum.

Maritime security is another important issue for the growing economies, particularly in Asia. We are concerned that despite international efforts, the threat of piracy continues to grow and has reached closer to our shores. In the face of growing threats of piracy and international terrorism, there is an urgency to increase functional cooperation and expand engagement among countries of the region.

India looks forward to a comprehensive and balanced outcome of the forthcoming COP-18 at Doha, Qatar in end November. A meaningful and effective 2nd commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol must be the single biggest measure of success at Doha.

Equally critical to the success of Doha is that we must have decisions on the outstanding issues of the Bali Action Plan and we must find a way to address issues that we are not able to conclude. Our continued efforts to address Climate Change must remain rooted in the basic principles of 'equity' and 'common but differentiated responsibility (CBDR) and respective capabilities'.

The issues of food and energy security will impact critically on the development stories of many nations, particularly in Asia. India supports a participatory model to look at cooperation on diversification of energy sources, stability of energy supplies, security of energy transportation and creation of new energy infrastructure and its protection.

India would recommend that energy cooperation between Europe and Asia include sharing of best energy practices and promoting greater dialogue between energy exporter and energy consumer countries. This dialogue should also facilitate the promotion of renewable energy, development of energy saving industries, energy efficiency and clean energy technologies.

We also need to explore newer models for financing of energy infrastructure. All these issues are a matter of priority for India, an energy deficit country where half the population does not have proper access to commercial energy. For us and for much of Asia, energy security is not merely "economic growth" but more

an issue of basic needs of sustainance and poverty eradication. We look forward to working with ASEM members to meet these concerns and challenges.

Thank you.



129. Statement of the External Affairs Minister to the media on his return from 9th ASEM Summit in Laos PDR.

New Delhi, November 08, 2012.

External Affairs Minister (Shri Salman Khurshid): Good morning.

I am pleased to be back here with you. I am sorry that we still have not had time to spend more detailed conversation time with you, but I am sure that that will come as we go along.

I have just come back last night from a very fruitful participation in ASEM-9 the most significant dialogue between Europe and Asia. India obviously plays a very significant role in that process because of our very good relationship with Europe, with the European Union, and indeed with the ASEAN countries.

We were received extremely warmly by the Government and the leadership of Lao PDR. The arrangements were absolutely outstanding. I think that there is something there to celebrate in terms of the larger number of countries that are now joining the movement and providing it with value addition.

We had bilaterals as well with eight countries including of course the bilateral with Lao PDR. On my way back I had a bilateral with the Foreign Minister of Thailand. We had the opportunity of course to speak with the Prime Minister of Thailand at the meeting itself, a very gracious person with very warm feelings about India and very fond memories of her visit to India.

All in all we believe that a tremendous forward movement has taken place. We are looking forward to next year's meeting of the Foreign Ministers of ASEM that will take place here in next winter and then further movement to Brussels which will be the 2014 meeting of ASEM, which will be the Tenth ASEM Meeting.

Meanwhile, while we were in Lao, we have had the good news from the United States of America of the election of President Barack Obama for a second term. As you are aware, the Prime Minister has already greeted the President of the United States. For the United States and India these are very important significant moments of reassertion and celebration of our respective democracies. The election of the President, fiercely contested as it was and reported widely in the media, has now reached a conclusion of reassertion of democratic choice. We look forward, as the Prime Minister has said, to deepening and widening our relationship with the United States of America. There are, in our relationship, very significant accomplishments that we have achieved over the last decade, and we would like that to move forward.

We have very good memories of President Barack Obama's visit to our country, particularly his address to Indian Parliament. We hope in that spirit the United

States and India will continue to move forward. There is a lot of work to be done in international cooperation, in the field of commerce, in the field of business, in the field of economics, and of course in the field of security. The common concerns that we have with the United States of America over security of cyberspace, security of all regions, is something in which we hope we look forward to a more meaningful dialogue as the President takes over his second term.

Thank you.

Question: Sir, there is also a leadership change which is happening in China. What are India's hopes and expectations of the new Chinese leadership?

External Affairs Minister: As you know, China has a very orderly and a very scientific system by which they have generational change, and this is a significant generational change taking place in China. We watch it closely. Of course as a friendly neighbour we look forward to a more meaningful and sustainable relationship with China under the new leadership. We wish them well, and we hope that the positive steps that we have taken together in the last few years will be taken further by the new leadership.

Question: Sir, you also had significant meetings with the Prime Ministers of Italy and of Denmark. With Denmark did you press for the extradition of Kim Peter Davy afresh?

External Affairs Minister: As far as Denmark is concerned, our effort was to explain to the honourable Prime Minister the concerns both of the Indian people and Indian Government, and the seriousness of the issue because it relates to India's security. And I am pleased report the President was very receptive to the information that I gave, and also said that techno-legal examination afresh is called for and will be done by them. I think that is a positive indication. Let us keep our fingers crossed and hope for the best.

Question: Sir, do we take it that the case is being reopened for extradition of Kim Peter Davy?

External Affairs Minister: I think the expression used by the other side is an expression that I will continue to use that they would examine afresh the techno-legal aspects of the matter. As far as we are concerned, the information that we had we have given, in the light of that I got that response. So, let us wait for further movement on that.

Question: Sir, was the issue of the Italian Marines raised with the Prime Minister of Italy? **External Affairs Minister:** The issue was certainly raised and discussed. And it was for me to bring to their notice, as I am sure that they are aware, that the matter is pending now including in the Supreme Court where the matter has

been heard and judgment is reserved. We reasserted and reaffirmed that India has an outstanding system of law, very transparent, and the rule of law prevails in our country, and all friendly countries should repose faith and would find that their faith is vindicated is the word we used. But, the free and fair system of adjudication in our country is something that we are committed to, and I believe is something that should be recognized and adhered to by all our friends. I think because the matter is sub judice, the matter has been heard in the Supreme Court, we should await the judgment of the Supreme Court before saying anything further.

Question: Sir, on UN Security Council's move to blacklist Haqqani Network.

External Affairs Minister: As you know, our concerns on security as far as operation of some groups that are involved in cross-order terrorism is very clear and clearly known to all our neighbours, as indeed to all our friendly countries that we speak to. This is something that is a logical step forward. And I hope that this has an effective impact not just on that group itself but on other groups as well.

Thank you very much.



BCIM (Bangladesh, China, India, Myanmar Forum)

130. Speech by Foreign Secretary on India's Look East Policy at the 10th Meeting of the BCIM (Bangladesh, China, India, Myanmar) Cooperation Forum.

Kolkata, February 18, 2012.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Friends.

It is a great pleasure to be with all of you this evening at the 10th meeting of the BCIM Process. It is appropriate that we meet in Kolkata, one of India's most pre-eminent cities on our eastern seaboard from where rulers, merchants, sailors and adventurers looked East from ancient times. Tonight, I intend to speak about the new contours of India's Look East Policy and this can best be done here in East India, where our policy initiatives have a direct and special relevance and significance.

India did not need to have a look East policy. Even before our Independence Pandit Nehru travelled to the East and connected our fate with that of the people of SE Asia. But there was a hiatus in the 1970s and 1980s when preoccupations with security (in the widest sense) focussed our attention on our immediate periphery. We embarked on a 'Look-East' policy in 1992. This foreign policy initiative had a domestic dimension based in the economic restructuring and reform program that we had commenced in July 1991 wherein we placed emphasis on reducing licensing, giving greater play to private initiative and entrepreneurship and in general making it easier to do business in India. One aspect of this economic course correction was the relative emphasis given to trade and foreign investment. As a result, economic diplomacy became an integral part of foreign policy formulation and implementation.

India has long standing civilizational bonds with countries in East and South East Asia. In spiritual and cultural values, by name and language, through dance and art, there is a historical tradition of contact between India and the East. It is against this larger backdrop that we have located our Look East Policy or LEP. The essential philosophy of our LEP, which is now well established, is that India must find its destiny by linking itself more and more with its Asian partners and the rest of the world. We believe that India's future and our own best economic interests are served by greater integration with Asia. This may seem unusual to those generations in our countries who grew up when India and the countries of East Asia were linked to different metropolitan centres in the West and later

walked down different paths during the Cold War; but to those entering the age of employment and travel in our countries just now, this will be a rediscovery of their common Asian heritage. It is my belief that this shift that is taking place and the kind of interaction that is emerging amongst Asian countries has deep historical and cultural roots and, therefore, can be a very powerful force for future peace and stability on our continent.

As I stated earlier, our interest in engaging with Asia has domestic roots. We are a vibrant democracy, quickly transforming ourselves with growth on an ascending trajectory. Despite some perturbations in our economic growth due to global factors, our economic development path is certain and full of potential and it is significant that we are in a part of the world still witnessing dynamic growth. Our policies relating to foreign trade, foreign direct investment, taxation, banking, finance and capital markets have evolved to make Indian industry more competitive globally. There is great confidence and optimism about the prospects for collaboration and constructive cooperation. What we seek as part of our LEP is to make our neighbors, partners in our development such that we can jointly seek and work on the opportunities that are coming our way due to the inexorable march of globalization.

It has been almost 20 years since India enunciated the Look East Policy (LEP). While this policy has yielded many benefits, including closer strategic contact between India and Asian countries, an impressive increase in the quantum of bilateral trade and increased people-to-people interaction, the success of the policy also needs to be viewed from the perspective of how far we have been able to interlink our eastern and north eastern regions to the rest of Asia, since this part of India provides a natural bridge between us and East Asia. Speaking in Kolkata from where Kunming is the same distance as New Delhi and Dhaka is barely a few minutes of flying, with Yangon just a little further away, our vision for the LEP acquires new meaning, depth and dimension.

India's Look East Policy also aims at providing eastern India a platform for economic growth and social progress. It is critical that political leadership be exercised to leverage the opportunities that are presenting themselves in this part of the country which will assist in accelerating growth with equity. I believe that West Bengal can play an important lead role in this endeavor and provide a model for others to follow.

Essentially, we are looking at a new paradigm of development whereby our foreign policy initiatives blend seamlessly into our national economic development. Given that we have, over 20 years of pursuing our Look East Policy, put in place certain diplomatic and political structures, there is need now to make these structures work for our East and North Eastern Regions. Diplomatic initiatives need to be converted into commercial opportunities and

investment flows. For this purpose, I reaffirm that MEA will work in close cooperation with the Ministry for the Development of the North Eastern Region, the Planning Commission, all economic Ministries and the State Governments of the region.

I would like to put forth before you the way India has sought to integrate within Asia in general. To begin with, we focused very much on SAARC and ASEAN. SAARC has been successful in moving from the declaratory to the implementation phase. Initiatives within SAARC are beginning to touch the lives of our peoples, a good example of which is the South Asian University or even special immigration counters for SAARC nationals at our airports. We in India have been providing access to the Indian market, to our partners in South Asia, even if this has to be done in an asymmetric manner.

With ASEAN, beginning from a sectoral partner, our association evolved into a Full Dialogue Partnership and finally to that of a Summit Partner. We have close relations with all countries in the region and our economic and cultural ties are getting stronger by the day as travel, tourism and business reinforce regional interaction. The FTA in Goods with ASEAN is already having its impact in expanding our commercial exchanges. These will be further enhanced once our FTA in Services is finalized. Another aspect has been the rapid growth in investment between India and South East Asian and East Asian countries. We will continue to improve the investment environment in India including through better infrastructure.

The biggest benefit of India's 'Look-East' Policy has been that India has re-engaged with its eastern neighbourhood closely and has gradually emerged as a significant player in the strategic dynamics of the region. Economically, India's trade with ASEAN has grown impressively from US\$ 2.3 billion in 1991-92 to US\$ 58 billion in 2010-11. Growth of trade between India and China has also been very rapid where all the set targets have been broken time and again. In 2011, India- China trade recorded a figure of US\$ 74 billion and we have set a new target of US \$ 100 billion by 2015. However, our rising trade deficit with China is indeed a worry. India's trade and investment ties with Japan, Australia and the Republic of Korea are also picking up fast with increasing momentum.

Our Strategic and Cooperative Partnership with China makes our engagement broad-based and multifaceted. Trade and investment are the great drivers of the new relationship. We are confident that the relationship will mature further and develop steadily. The leaders of both countries recognize that co-existence and cooperation is the best course of action, and sensitivity to mutual aspirations and concerns provides the underpinning for building confidence and trust. There is enough space and opportunity for both of us to grow and develop, and to bring benefit not only to us, but also for other partners in Asia.

With Bangladesh, the visit of PM Sheikh Hasina in 2010 crafted a new paradigm of our bilateral relations which was further consolidated by the landmark visit of PM Manmohan Singh to Bangladesh in 2011, after a gap of 12 years. Sizeable Indian investments have started to flow into Bangladesh and the pace is likely to pick up in the months and years ahead. Two-way trade has crossed five billion dollars in 2010-11, and Bangladesh exports to India have grown by 68 per cent in the last one year. We acknowledge that there is still a large trade imbalance favouring India, which we are determined to address by providing better market access into India for Bangladeshi goods. We are also thinking of other imaginative measures to achieve this objective.

Myanmar too is an integral part of our Look East Policy. Recent years have not only witnessed robust bilateral cooperation but also a number of high-level visits. Our relations with Myanmar encompass a number of important areas like security, trade and investment, energy, capacity-building, health and education, science and technology, as well as infrastructure development. Enhanced connectivity between our two countries is of mutual interest. India and Myanmar in 2010-11 had a bilateral trade of 1.28 billion dollars which is much below the potential. We have established a target of three billion dollars by 2015. Indian pharmaceutical companies have a sizeable presence in Myanmar, providing quality pharmaceutical products at very competitive prices. Myanmar is also emerging as an important partner in India's quest for energy security.

It is our perspective that in a globalized world, it is mutually gainful opportunity and not geography that defines and drives the processes of integration. India offers such opportunity here and now. That is why I firmly believe that an Asian economic community, that is open, transparent and inclusive, and provides a platform to create ever widening economic opportunities, is better for Asia and for the world, than a narrower or restrictive definition of Asian economic integration. In fact, recent studies have revealed a compelling case for a broader Asian economic community built in a phased manner. It has been demonstrated that economic integration could generate billions of dollars of additional output. The vision of Asian economic integration by coalescing the FTAs among member Asian countries into an Asian RTA is the pivotal step towards the integration of Asia into a common unit. It is precisely for this reason that our Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, envisaged the creation of a broader Asian Economic Community. This continues to be a longer term goal for us in India.

Therefore, India stands for greater cooperation and exchange between the countries of the region. Sub-regional constructs such as BCIM complement our Look East Policy and are, therefore, equally important and significant for us. Since this is the case we are ready to move forward at a faster pace in enhancing and promoting our interactions in the BCIM forum. I am confident that you will

factor this into your deliberations here in Kolkata, and would like to assure you of our support.

I thank you all.



BRICS

131. Press Release on the Fourth BRICS Academic Forum meeting.

New Delhi, March 5, 2012.

India's Sherpa to BRICS New Delhi Summit and Secretary, Economic Relations in the Ministry of External Affairs, Mr. Sudhir Vyas, today asked scholars and experts from BRICS nations to strive for building the world's default "go to" institutions and agendas to meet global challenges. "The way forward is not unhindered by challenges, but is simultaneously full of opportunities for enhancing our security, stability and growth," Mr. Vyas said while delivering the keynote address at the Fourth BRICS Academic Forum meeting, hosted by Observer Research Foundation in New Delhi.

2. Mr Vyas said though the BRICS nations have inherently different development and growth trajectories, they all stand at similar crossroads of policymaking. Delivering the Inaugural address, Mr Vyas emphasized that government (Indian) will not offer answers to the experts on crucial challenges but would rather seek creative ideas and propositions from the experts who are gathered to discuss the key areas of cooperation amongst BRIC countries.

3. Welcoming over 60 delegates from think tanks and research institutions attending the three-day meeting, Mr. Sunjoy Joshi, Director, Observer Research Foundation, said that "had it not been for some of the BRICS economies, the decline in global GDP would have been far harder. Therefore it was no coincidence that the first forum took place in the backdrop of the global economic crisis".

4. Mr. Joshi pointed out that when the BRICS was coined in 2001, it was neither a forum nor a community. "2008 changed not just Goldman Sachs, but also the world. It also changed the way in which BRICS viewed itself. And as we meet in New Delhi now, the idea of BRICS with South Africa joining in Sanya has not only gained traction. It has found a momentum that was hitherto unsuspected. It has come to signify the shift in global Power".

5. Mr Joshi said "the trauma of 2008 gave birth to a strong undercurrent, the search for a new narrative that could replace the Bretton Woods diktats of yesterday. No wonder the repeated stress upon the need for a new global financial architecture that would make the global economy less prone and more resilient to future crises a greater need for a more stable, predictable and diversified international monetary system".

6. "The intervening years actually beguiled and misled many world over by

showing signs of an early recovery. But again the crisis in the Eurozone under the shadow of which this summit takes place, has changed all that. This forum therefore is gathered around the three themes of Stability, Security and Growth. And without stability and security there could be no growth”.

7. The delegation leaders – Ms. Luciana Acioly Da Silva of Brazil, Mr. Vladimir Davydov of Russia, Mr. H.H.S Viswanathan of India, Mr. Huang Huaguang of China and Mr. Aziz Pahad of South Africa all agreed that the BRICS are now ready to assume a more important role in global governance and must engage more deeply on key areas.

8. The South African delegation leader acknowledged that the BRICS must focus on opportunities for contextual policymaking rather than following the West. The Chinese delegation leader said that the BRICS must find ways to manage the fall out of the failure in financial governance and responding to crises such as the recent global financial crisis in a coordinated manner. The Russian delegate leader said that the BRICS must strive to become more active in responding to political crises. The Brazilian delegation leader emphasized on the need to coordinate BRICS positions on the upcoming Rio+20 Summit on Sustainable Development and to allow greater exchange of ideas and innovations amongst the countries.

9. The BRICS Academic Forum will release their recommendations for the BRICS Summit Leaders on Tuesday evening, after two days of discussions and debates, suggesting ways to meet the global challenges.



132. Remarks by Secretary (Economic Relations) on forthcoming BRICS Summit

New Delhi, March 26, 2012.

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen.

The Fourth BRICS Summit will be held in New Delhi on 29 March 2012. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh will host President Dilma Rousseff of Brazil, President Dimitry Medvedev of Russia, President Hu Jintao of China and President Jacob Zuma of South Africa. With this, India assumes the Chairmanship of the group for the coming year.

The Delhi Summit, which is the Fourth in the series so far, is taking place under the broad rubric of 'BRICS Partnership for Global Stability, Security and Prosperity'. We attach the highest importance to this forum. The BRICS are brought together by their shared capacity and will to engage with each other as well as with the rest of the world in the global quest for meaningful, sustainable solutions to contemporary challenges of regional as well as global ramifications.

The original economic rationale put forward by Goldman Sachs in 2001 when they coined the term BRIC was the potential of these four countries to be drivers of global growth.

Indeed intra-BRICS trade is growing at an average of 28% annually and currently stands at about \$230 billion. Intra-BRICS investment flows drawing from the complementarities in their economies are increasing. Consumer expenditure in BRICS countries as percentage of GDP ranges from 35-61% and there is strong and growing middle class with rising levels of income. The BRICS countries today present an opportunity as new growth poles in a multi-polar world, as demonstrated during the global economic crisis when they played a vital role that helped the world economy emerge from the shadows of the crisis.

Institutionalized in September 2006, at the initiative of Russia, with a foreign ministerial meeting of the four countries in New York on the sidelines of the UNGA, the BRIC grouping took shape with the first Summit in Yekaterinburg (2009), followed by Brazilia (2010). At Sanya (2011), South Africa joined the group to form BRICS.

The BRICS agenda is not a fixed one. It is a positive, forward-looking agenda that tends to reflect the main issues and challenges before the world community at a given point of time. It draws from the perspective of five major countries and economies with the capacities to contribute substantively to the global discourse for peace, security, stability and development for all. It is a perspective that seeks practical solutions and ways forward for global growth through

cooperation and policy coordination. It seeks political dialogue towards a more democratic multi-polar order, in a world that is undergoing major and swift changes that highlight the need for corresponding transformations in global governance. It works on the principle of consensus.

At the first Summit in Yekaterinburg, and in Brasilia as well, the agenda focused mainly on the international financial and economic situation and reform of the international financial institutions – unsurprisingly, given the salience of the global economic slowdown in 2008 and 2009. The central role of the G-20 and the role that the BRICS could play in this apex body were considered and emphasized, along with reform of the global political and economic governance architecture that meets the interests and developmental needs of emerging market economies and developing countries, with special focus on the interests of the poorest, towards building a harmonious world of lasting peace and common prosperity. Sanya continued and elaborated on these themes, still of high relevance, but also introduced paragraphs on emerging political issues in North Africa, and a more elaborate plan of action for intra-BRICS cooperation.

The Fourth Summit is taking place at a time the world is grappling with the challenges of ensuring a sustained recovery from the global slowdown, complicated by developments in the Eurozone, and bringing global growth back on track. The Summit follows the Durban Conference on Climate Change last December, and precedes another important UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in June this year and the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Hyderabad in October as well, three conferences on interconnected themes, all hosted by BRICS members. On the political side, we are witnessing fast moving important developments in West Asia with far-reaching implications for the region and for the world.

The Leaders can thus be expected to have a rich and ambitious agenda before them when they meet in Delhi, and may focus their consideration on addressing these and other contemporary issues amongst the varied concerns and requirements for sustained, balanced development, food and energy security and inclusive growth that remain primary objectives for us to meet the poverty eradication objectives of much of the developing world.

In addition to regular meetings of Foreign Ministers and Finance Ministers, a number of cooperation forums and mechanisms have been developed for deepening intra-BRICS cooperation in identified relevant areas. Meetings of BRICS Trade and Economic Ministers, Agriculture Ministers, Health Ministers, Senior Officials on S&T, a Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues and other such meetings have been useful in this regard. These are areas where synergies of BRICS technological and human capacities serve the cause of our peoples and those of much of the developing world.

A BRICS Delhi Declaration capturing the essence of Leaders' deliberations and articulating BRICS shared positions of contemporary issues of mutual interest will be issued.

It is the BRICS practice to develop a mutually agreed Action Plan for BRICS consultation and cooperation in areas of common interest – including on the margins of multilateral conferences. The agreed agenda for these meetings over the course of our Chairmanship will be reflected in the Action Plan that will be annexed to the Declaration.

To give you a sense of the BRICS process and the diversity of its activities, I will quickly run you through a broad outline of Summit-related meetings in the run up to the Summit itself. Some have already taken place and some more will follow in coming days.

In chronological order, BRICS Statistical Authorities met in Delhi on 6-8 February to update the BRICS Statistical Publication for release at the Summit, BRICS Development Banks have held a technical expert level meeting in Kumarakom on 15-17 February to finalize texts of (i) Master Agreement for Extending Credit Facilities in Local Currencies, and (ii) BRICS Multilateral Letter of Credit Confirmation Facility Agreement, that will be signed at the Summit.

A number of BRICS Forums serve as academic think-tanks whose recommendations also feed into the Summit's deliberations. They include two track-II groups that have both met recently, viz. the BRICS Economic Research Group (ERG), coordinated this time by the National Institute of Public Finance & Policy (NIPFP) that brings together economic think-tanks as well as economic editors of BRICS countries on 27 February, and the BRICS Academic Forum, coordinated by ORF, that met on 5-6 March.

These meetings, for example the Academic Forum, have come up with a number of innovative suggestions, such as creating a virtual academic community for dissemination of information & ideas, working together to create an identifiable brand value of BRICS, cooperative action in bio-diversity issues in BRICS and so on. These are invaluable in creating an inclusive approach to managing common concerns. The ERG has analyzed the relevance that BRICS as a group in the context of current global economic situation.

The BRICS Contact Group on Trade and Economic Issues, which is coordinated by the Department of Commerce, met on 6-7 March 2012.

BRICS Trade Ministers will meet the day after tomorrow, on 28 March to discuss and consider intergovernmental cooperation in the furtherance of global and intra-BRICS trade. The Trade Ministers will also open the proceedings of the Business Forum, which is being jointly hosted by FICCI, CII and ASSOCHAM

the same day. The Forum's programme, in which business delegations and apex business bodies from the five countries will participate, involves a series of sessions on themes such as enhancing financial connectivity for increasing trade and investment among BRICS, role of BRICS countries in ensuring global food security, cooperation for energy security with focus on Green and Renewable Energy and role of ICT and Innovation in improving business among BRICS member countries.

The BRICS Financial Forum will also be held on 28 March. It brings together Export-Import and Development Banks of the five. It will primarily focus on intra-BRICS Interbank Cooperation Mechanism.

The Summit itself will take place on 29 March 2012.

The Leaders' programme in New Delhi will begin with a cultural event and banquet hosted by President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil for the BRICS Leaders on the eve of the Summit, on 28 March 2012.

On 29 March 2012, the Summit will start with a Restricted Session of consultations amongst the Leaders, followed by a Plenary Session which will be open to the media. After the Plenary Session, the Leaders are to witness the signing of two Agreements among the BRICS Development Banks that I referred to earlier, and then release The BRICS Report focusing on synergies and complementarities of our countries. BRICS Leaders had agreed at their second Summit in Brasilia, on PM's proposal, to research and produce a compendium of the economies of the BRICS countries and the synergies and complementarities amongst them that could be put to use. This report, which is the result of detailed research over two years by a multi-national group of economists and experts under the supervision of Dr. Kaushik Basu, Chief Economic Advisor to the Finance Minister, is now ready and would be released at the Summit.

This will be followed by Leaders' statements to the media. The Summit will conclude with a luncheon hosted by Prime Minister in honour of the other BRICS Leaders.

Prime Minister will also hold bilateral consultations with each of the visiting BRICS Leaders after the Summit.



133. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry on Pre-Summit Trade meeting of the Trade ministers of the BRICS.

New Delhi, March 27, 2012.

India is hosting the Fourth BRICS Summit in New Delhi 29 March 2012. On the preceding day, i.e. tomorrow the trade Ministers of the five BRICS nations are meeting for the Second Trade Ministers Meeting. The First BRICS Trade Ministers meeting was held in Sanya, China on 13 April 2011 on the sidelines of the 3rd BRICS Summit. Trade Ministers also met on the sidelines of the 8th WTO Ministerial Conference in Geneva in December 2011. Highlighting the context of the meeting, the Union Minister of Commerce Industry and Textiles Shri Anand Sharma said "While the new risks to global economy emanating from euro zone debt crisis and uncertainty in global energy markets will have their impact upon economic growth in the BRICS countries, I am confident BRICS countries will continue to register strong growth."

Elaborating on the growing momentum of BRICS cooperation Shri Sharma further stated "There is a large untapped growth potential of intra-BRICS trade and investments which we are presently focusing on for exploitation. BRICS Development Banks are in the advance stages of concluding Agreements on Extending Credit Facility in Local Currencies, and Multilateral Letter of Credit Confirmation Facility Agreement to facilitate further consolidation of trade and investment ties. Such intra-BRICS initiatives will not only contribute to enhanced intra-BRICS trade and investments but would also facilitate our economic growth in difficult economic times." (A copy of last Ministerial Declaration by the BRICS Trade Ministers in Sanya can be seen at <http://bricsindia.in/trade.html>)

Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues (CGETI) was established following BRICS Trade Ministers meeting in Sanya. The CGETI is entrusted with the task of proposing an institutional framework and concrete measures to expand economic cooperation both among BRICS countries and between BRICS countries and all developing countries, within a South-South perspective. The CGETI has met twice so far i.e. on 2 December 2011, in Beijing, China and on 6-7 March, 2012 in New Delhi.

A number of new areas for deepening intra BRICS cooperation are expected to be discussed at the meeting of the Ministers on 28 March. The recommendations of the Ministers would feed into the Summit being hosted by India on 29 March.

The five Trade Ministers are also expected to jointly inaugurate the Business Forum that is being organized jointly by the three major India Chambers of Commerce and Industry ASSOCHAM, CII and FICCI). Over 500 business leaders from the five countries are expected to attend this forum.

As per UNCTAD data the share of BRICS economies in the Global Trade has been increasing over the years. In 2010 it stood at 15 per cent up from 13.7 per cent the year before. In 2010-11 India had total trade worth USD 7519 million with Brazil. During the same period trade with Russia was USD 5179 million, with China USD 63095 million and with South Africa USD 11,125 million.

The last BRICS Summit was held in Sanya, China in April 2011. The theme of the Third Summit was "Broad Vision and Shared Prosperity". The Sanya Summit was the first after inclusion of South Africa in BRICS. A Framework Agreement on 'Financial Cooperation within the BRICS Interbank Cooperation Mechanism' was signed on 14 April in Sanya; the agreement envisages extending Line of credits in local currencies. An MoU was also signed at the Business Forum in Sanya establishing permanent business contact points; FICCI signed from India. A Plan of Action was endorsed at the Sanya Summit to strengthen cooperation among BRICS countries in areas of security, finance, business links, agriculture, health, culture, sports, science and technology and green economy.

The Delhi Summit is to build on these measures and also identify new areas for intensive cooperation. The theme of the BRICS summit is Partnership for Stability, Security and Growth.



134. Press Release of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry on the Joint Press Release of the Second BRICS Trade Ministers Meeting.

New Delhi, March 28, 2012.

Overview of Global Economic Developments and Impact on Trade and Investment

The BRICS Trade and Economic Ministers reviewed the global economic situation and noted with concern the continuing difficulty faced by many countries and underscored the need for greater policy coordination to ensure a stable and thriving global economy. In such a scenario, the Ministers emphasised the need to resist protectionist tendencies and to promote international trade as an engine of economic growth and development, while respecting the WTO consistent policy space available to developing countries to pursue their legitimate objectives of growth, development and stability. The Ministers noted that subsidies in agriculture by some developed countries continue to distort trade and undermine the food security and development prospects of developing countries particularly LDCs, and urge that such form of protectionism be shunned.

Current state of play of the Doha Round and the way forward

The Ministers of BRICS WTO members expressed deep concern at the current impasse in the Doha Development Round, and reiterated that they remain fully committed to an early conclusion of the negotiations based on the progress made in the Round since 2001. Towards this end, the Ministers expressed their willingness to explore outcomes in specific areas where progress is possible while preserving the centrality of development in the Doha mandate and within the overall framework of the single undertaking. It is of utmost importance that negotiations on any components of the Doha Round are consistent with the existing mandates. The Ministers did not support any plurilateral initiatives that go against the fundamental principles of transparency, inclusiveness and multilateralism. The Minister believed that such initiatives not only distract Members from striving for a collective outcome but also fail to address the development deficit inherited from previous negotiating rounds

The Ministers reiterated that they attach great importance to an open and rule-based multilateral trading system, and in this context, they underlined the central role of the WTO in safeguarding and strengthening the rules with specific reference to the concerns of developing countries and in particular LDCs.

The Ministers welcomed Russia's determination to participate in a constructive and active manner in the DDA negotiations once full membership is attained. A balanced DDA outcome will strengthen and further develop the multilateral trading system.

Cooperation in multilateral fora

The Ministers agreed to coordinate their positions at the WTO and in other multilateral fora such as the forthcoming meeting of the G20 Trade Ministers.

BRICS Ministers look forward to UNCTAD XIII next month in Doha. They reaffirmed the important role of UNCTAD in the area of trade, development and interrelated issues and believe that its mandate should be maintained and strengthened. At a time when the global economy is in crisis, the Doha trade round is at an impasse and multilateralism is under challenge, it is vital for UNCTAD to strengthen its role of policy dialogue, consensus building and capacity building for developing countries.

The way forward on BRICS

The Ministers took note of the discussions in the Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues (CGETI) on Russia's proposal for setting up BRICS Projects Platforms/ technology pool for joint projects development.

The Ministers directed their officials to explore ways and means for enhancing and furthering intra-BRICS cooperation especially in the areas of customs cooperation, exchange of experiences in trade facilitation, investment promotion SME cooperation and trade data collection and harmonisation, e-commerce cooperation and intellectual property rights cooperation.

Ministers also agreed that officials should work together to ensure that BRICS members enhance their trade, including of higher value added manufactured products, to support industrialisation and employment in their countries.



THE BRICS REPORT

by

**135. Ministries of Finance, Central Banks and Economic
Institutions of BRICS Nations**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) account for more than 40 per cent of the global population and a share in world GDP that has increased from 16 per cent in 2000 to around 25 per cent in 2010.

The 'BRICS Report', which is a study supported by the Ministries of Finance and the Central Banks of the BRICS countries, focuses on the growth prospects, synergies and complementarities between the five large emerging economies that despite their cultural and geographical diversity, are expected to play a major role as growth drivers of the world economy. The emphasis is on best practices, areas of co-operation and strengthening economic links so that the BRICS could collectively play a more central role in the 'new normal' of the post-crisis global economy.

This is also perhaps the most opportune time for forging closer links, given that the world economy is in a state of flux and a rebalancing is taking place towards the emerging economies. Their pivotal position in the global recovery has already catapulted the BRICS into a leadership role, which needs further cementing through greater interface among economies.

The Report, divided into five chapters, is in the nature of a forwardlooking document that seeks to reinforce and strengthen the position of BRICS in the global economy. Chapter 1 of the Report provides an overview of the BRICS and their governmental, financial and regulatory frameworks. Chapter 2 examines the impact of the global crisis, the resilience of the BRICS economies, their use of fiscal and monetary stimuli, the process of recovery and their contribution to global growth. Chapter 3 looks at the best practices in the BRICS and the lessons they hold for one another and the world economy. Chapter 4 deals with the challenges that the BRICS could face in moving to a higher growth path. Chapter 5 explores areas of co-operation among the BRICS including initiatives that could propel the BRICS and the world economy to a higher growth trajectory.



136. Statement by the Prime Minister at the Plenary Session of the Fourth BRICS Summit.

New Delhi, March 29, 2012.

Your Excellency President Dilma Rousseff,
Your Excellency President Dmitry Medvedev,
Your Excellency President Hu Jintao,
Your Excellency President Jacob Zuma,
Distinguished delegates,

Let me once again welcome all of you to New Delhi. India is privileged to host the fourth BRICS Summit and assume the Chairmanship of this group.

The global situation facing us today presents a mixed picture. On the one hand, emerging market economies are growing at a healthy pace and increasing their share in global trade and output.

On the other hand, many obstacles have to be overcome if we are to sustain rapid growth in the years ahead. We are all affected by the global economic slowdown, the volatility in food and energy prices, the challenge of reconciling growth with environmental objectives, the political uncertainty in West Asia and the rise of terrorism and extremism. Our responses to these challenges may be different, but there is much common interest that binds us all together.

I would like to share some thoughts on ten specific issues that I believe concern us all.

First, each of our countries has a unique demographic profile that presents its own challenges. In India, for example, we need to create 8 to 10 million of jobs every year over the next decade to absorb the expected growth in the labour force. We are working on ambitious programmes of skill upgradation and education and creation of an environment conducive to an expansion of productive job opportunities. We would like to learn from the experiences of other BRICS countries on how they are dealing with these problems.

Second, the conceptual analysis that produced the positive BRICS narrative was based on a model of catch-up growth in which supply side constraints were not adequately addressed. Today, it is clear that constraints such as the availability of energy and food for countries that account for more than 40% of the world population can impede the entire story. Water is another critical area of scarcity which needs much greater attention than it has received thus far. We have much to learn from each other in how to handle these difficult problems, and there is also room to cooperate internationally.

Third, we are united in our desire to promote sustained and balanced global economic growth. As members of the G-20, we must together ensure that appropriate solutions are found to help Europe help itself and to ensure policy coordination that can revive global growth.

We should also cooperate closely to breathe life into the Doha Round, looking for innovative solutions to overcome barriers that have stalled progress.

Fourth, as large and diverse economies, we should make a special effort to find ways to exploit intra-BRICS complementarities. We should promote greater interaction amongst our business communities. Issues such as easier business visas must be prioritized. As large trading countries, BRICS countries have a strong interest in removing barriers to trade and investment flows and avoiding protectionist measures.

Fifth, to revive global demand and growth, developing countries need access to capital, particularly for infrastructure development. We must address the important issue of expanding the capital base of the World Bank and other Multinational Development Banks to enable these institutions to perform their appropriate role in financing infrastructure development.

We have agreed to examine in greater detail a proposal to set up a BRICS-led South-South Development Bank, funded and managed by the BRICS and other developing countries.

Sixth, BRICS countries must also work together to address deficiencies in global governance. Institutions of global political and economic governance created more than six decades ago have not kept pace with the changing reality of the world. While some progress has been made in international financial institutions, there is lack of movement on the political side. BRICS should speak with one voice on important issues such as the reform of the UN Security Council.

Seventh, each of our countries is grappling with how to pursue 'green' growth without compromising on current needs. At the core of this complex issue is the use of fossil energy and the impact that it has on the environment.

We must reduce energy intensity of GDP by promoting energy efficiency and developing clean energy sources. This calls for greater investments in research and development, sharing of best practices, and encouraging transfer of technology. A dialogue between energy producers and consumers would also help in ensuring greater stability in energy markets.

Eighth, as our countries experience significant increases in per capita income, we will also face issues related to income inequality within our countries. Inevitably, we will handle the problem differently, but it may be useful for us to share experiences in this area.

Ninth, urbanization presents common challenges for all our countries. We should encourage sharing of experience in areas such as urban water supply and sanitation, waste management, storm water drainage, urban planning, urban transport and energy efficient buildings.

Finally, the continued prosperity of BRICS countries is linked closely also to the geopolitical environment.

In our restricted session, we discussed the ongoing turmoil in West Asia and agreed to work together for a peaceful resolution of the crisis. We must avoid political disruptions that create volatilities in global energy markets and affect trade flows.

All of us understand the threat that terrorism poses to our societies. We must therefore enhance cooperation against terrorism and other developing threats such as piracy, particularly emanating from Somalia.

We have also agreed on the need to restore stability in Afghanistan, and the importance of sustained international commitment to its future.

Excellencies, we have drawn up an ambitious Action Plan that will be adopted today along with the BRICS Delhi Declaration. I hope that we will be able to collaborate and cooperate with each other to shape global developments and bring tangible benefits to our peoples.

India reaffirms its full commitment to work with BRICS in this endeavour.

Thank you.



137. Media Statement of Prime Minister on the Fourth BRICS Summit.**New Delhi, March 29, 2012.**

Excellencies,

Distinguished Members of the Media Fraternity,

Ladies and gentlemen,

India is delighted to host the Fourth BRICS Summit in New Delhi and assume the Chairmanship of the group. I would like to convey my profound gratitude to my colleagues, the Presidents of Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa, for accepting my invitation to attend this Summit. I wish them and the members of their delegations a very pleasant stay in our country.

We have just concluded very enriching and fruitful discussions on issues related to global governance and sustainable development. We reviewed the global economic situation. We discussed ways to finance and promote sustainable development and address the challenges of energy and food security.

We had an in-depth discussion on the situation in West Asia. We agreed that a lasting solution to the problems in Syria and Iran can only be found through dialogue. We agreed that the international community should stay engaged in Afghanistan.

We have agreed on an intensive programme of consultation and coordination in areas of priority over the coming year. This is reflected in the Action Plan of the Delhi Declaration.

Going forward, we will examine the recommendations of the just released BRICS Report, which identifies focus areas for structured cooperation where synergies among the BRICS economies can be harnessed to our common advantage.

We are developing the institutional structures for building these relationships. The agreement signed today by development banks of BRICS countries will boost trade among us by offering credit in our local currencies.

A suggestion has been made to set up a BRICS Development Bank. We have directed our Finance Ministers to examine the proposal and report back at the next Summit.

We agreed to strengthen intra-BRICS trade and investment linkages. Our Trade Ministers met with the business communities at the Business Forum yesterday.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The world is passing through uncertain times. The rapid recovery of the BRICS economies from the financial crisis highlighted their role as growth drivers of the global economy. Our cooperation is intended to explore meaningful partnerships for common development, address global challenges together and contribute to furthering world peace, stability and security.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to further these common goals.

Thank you.



138. Agreements between BRICS Development Banks

Development banks of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) have today signed two Agreements - i) Master Agreement on Extending Credit Facility in Local Currency; and ii) BRICS Multilateral Letter of Credit Confirmation Facility Agreement in the presence of Heads of States/Governments of the BRICS countries. The five participating banks are Banco Nacional de Desenvolvimento Economico e Social - BNDES, Brazil; State Corporation Bank for Development and Foreign Economic Affairs - Vnesheconombank of Russia; Export-Import Bank of India; China Development Bank Corporation, and Development Bank of Southern Africa.

The Master Agreement on Extending Credit Facility in Local Currency is intended to reduce the demand for fully convertible currencies for transactions among BRICS nations, and thereby help reduce the transaction costs of intra-BRICS trade.

The Multilateral Letter of Credit Confirmation Facility Agreement envisages confirmation of L/Cs, upon receipt of a request from the Exporter or the Exporter's Bank or the Indemnifying Party or the Importer's Bank. This arrangement would help reduce trade transaction costs, besides promoting intra-BRICS trade.

These two Agreements are expected to enhance cooperation among the BRICS development banks and to significantly promote intra-BRICS trade.

New Delhi

March 29, 2012



139. Delhi Declaration on the Fourth BRICS Summit.**New Delhi, March 29, 2012.**

1. We, the leaders of the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Russian Federation, the Republic of India, the People's Republic of China and the Republic of South Africa, met in New Delhi, India, on 29 March 2012 at the Fourth BRICS Summit. Our discussions, under the overarching theme, "*BRICS Partnership for Global Stability, Security and Prosperity*", were conducted in an atmosphere of cordiality and warmth and inspired by a shared desire to further strengthen our partnership for common development and take our cooperation forward on the basis of openness, solidarity, mutual understanding and trust.
2. We met against the backdrop of developments and changes of contemporary global and regional importance - a faltering global recovery made more complex by the situation in the euro zone; concerns of sustainable development and climate change which take on greater relevance as we approach the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity being hosted in Brazil and India respectively later this year; the upcoming G20 Summit in Mexico and the recent 8th WTO Ministerial Conference in Geneva; and the developing political scenario in the Middle East and North Africa that we view with increasing concern. Our deliberations today reflected our consensus to remain engaged with the world community as we address these challenges to global well-being and stability in a responsible and constructive manner.
3. BRICS is a platform for dialogue and cooperation amongst countries that represent 43% of the world's population, for the promotion of peace, security and development in a multi-polar, inter-dependent and increasingly complex, globalizing world. Coming, as we do, from Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America, the transcontinental dimension of our interaction adds to its value and significance.
4. We envision a future marked by global peace, economic and social progress and enlightened scientific temper. We stand ready to work with others, developed and developing countries together, on the basis of universally recognized norms of international law and multilateral decision making, to deal with the challenges and the opportunities before the world today. Strengthened representation of emerging and developing countries in the institutions of global governance will enhance their effectiveness in achieving this objective.
5. We are concerned over the current global economic situation. While the BRICS recovered relatively quickly from the global crisis, growth prospects worldwide have again got dampened by market instability especially in the euro zone. The build-up of sovereign debt and concerns over medium to long-term

fiscal adjustment in advanced countries are creating an uncertain environment for global growth. Further, excessive liquidity from the aggressive policy actions taken by central banks to stabilize their domestic economies have been spilling over into emerging market economies, fostering excessive volatility in capital flows and commodity prices. The immediate priority at hand is to restore market confidence and get global growth back on track. We will work with the international community to ensure international policy coordination to maintain macroeconomic stability conducive to the healthy recovery of the global economy.

6. We believe that it is critical for advanced economies to adopt responsible macroeconomic and financial policies, avoid creating excessive global liquidity and undertake structural reforms to lift growth that create jobs. We draw attention to the risks of large and volatile cross-border capital flows being faced by the emerging economies. We call for further international financial regulatory oversight and reform, strengthening policy coordination and financial regulation and supervision cooperation, and promoting the sound development of global financial markets and banking systems.

7. In this context, we believe that the primary role of the G20 as premier forum for international economic cooperation at this juncture is to facilitate enhanced macroeconomic policy coordination, to enable global economic recovery and secure financial stability, including through an improved international monetary and financial architecture. We approach the next G20 Summit in Mexico with a commitment to work with the Presidency, all members and the international community to achieve positive results, consistent with national policy frameworks, to ensure strong, sustainable and balanced growth.

8. We recognize the importance of the global financial architecture in maintaining the stability and integrity of the global monetary and financial system. We therefore call for a more representative international financial architecture, with an increase in the voice and representation of developing countries and the establishment and improvement of a just international monetary system that can serve the interests of all countries and support the development of emerging and developing economies. Moreover, these economies having experienced broad-based growth are now significant contributors to global recovery.

9. We are however concerned at the slow pace of quota and governance reforms in the IMF. We see an urgent need to implement, as agreed, the 2010 Governance and Quota Reform before the 2012 IMF/World Bank Annual Meeting, as well as the comprehensive review of the quota formula to better reflect economic weights and enhance the voice and representation of emerging market and developing countries by January 2013, followed by the completion of the next general quota review by January 2014. This dynamic process of reform is necessary to ensure the legitimacy and effectiveness of the Fund. We stress

that the ongoing effort to increase the lending capacity of the IMF will only be successful if there is confidence that the entire membership of the institution is truly committed to implement the 2010 Reform faithfully. We will work with the international community to ensure that sufficient resources can be mobilized to the IMF in a timely manner as the Fund continues its transition to improve governance and legitimacy. We reiterate our support for measures to protect the voice and representation of the IMF's poorest members.

10. We call upon the IMF to make its surveillance framework more integrated and even-handed, noting that IMF proposals for a new integrated decision on surveillance would be considered before the IMF Spring Meeting.

11. In the current global economic environment, we recognise that there is a pressing need for enhancing the flow of development finance to emerging and developing countries. We therefore call upon the World Bank to give greater priority to mobilising resources and meeting the needs of development finance while reducing lending costs and adopting innovative lending tools.

12. We welcome the candidatures from developing world for the position of the President of the World Bank. We reiterate that the Heads of IMF and World Bank be selected through an open and merit-based process. Furthermore, the new World Bank leadership must commit to transform the Bank into a multilateral institution that truly reflects the vision of all its members, including the governance structure that reflects current economic and political reality. Moreover, the nature of the Bank must shift from an institution that essentially mediates North-South cooperation to an institution that promotes equal partnership with all countries as a way to deal with development issues and to overcome an outdated donor-recipient dichotomy.

13. We have considered the possibility of setting up a new Development Bank for mobilizing resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in BRICS and other emerging economies and developing countries, to supplement the existing efforts of multilateral and regional financial institutions for global growth and development. We direct our Finance Ministers to examine the feasibility and viability of such an initiative, set up a joint working group for further study, and report back to us by the next Summit.

14. Brazil, India, China and South Africa look forward to the Russian Presidency of G20 in 2013 and extend their cooperation.

15. Brazil, India, China and South Africa congratulate the Russian Federation on its accession to the WTO. This makes the WTO more representative and strengthens the rule-based multilateral trading system. We commit to working together to safeguard this system and urge other countries to resist all forms of trade protectionism and disguised restrictions on trade.

16. We will continue our efforts for the successful conclusion of the Doha Round, based on the progress made and in keeping with its mandate. Towards this end, we will explore outcomes in specific areas where progress is possible while preserving the centrality of development and within the overall framework of the single undertaking. We do not support plurilateral initiatives that go against the fundamental principles of transparency, inclusiveness and multilateralism. We believe that such initiatives not only distract members from striving for a collective outcome but also fail to address the development deficit inherited from previous negotiating rounds. Once the ratification process is completed, Russia intends to participate in an active and constructive manner for a balanced outcome of the Doha Round that will help strengthen and develop the multilateral trade system.

17. Considering UNCTAD to be the focal point in the UN system for the treatment of trade and development issues, we intend to invest in improving its traditional activities of consensus-building, technical cooperation and research on issues of economic development and trade. We reiterate our willingness to actively contribute to the achievement of a successful UNCTAD XIII, in April 2012.

18. We agree to build upon our synergies and to work together to intensify trade and investment flows among our countries to advance our respective industrial development and employment objectives. We welcome the outcomes of the second Meeting of BRICS Trade Ministers held in New Delhi on 28 March 2012. We support the regular consultations amongst our Trade Ministers and consider taking suitable measures to facilitate further consolidation of our trade and economic ties. We welcome the conclusion of the Master Agreement on Extending Credit Facility in Local Currency under BRICS Interbank Cooperation Mechanism and the Multilateral Letter of Credit Confirmation Facility Agreement between our EXIM/Development Banks. We believe that these Agreements will serve as useful enabling instruments for enhancing intra-BRICS trade in coming years.

19. We recognize the vital importance that stability, peace and security of the Middle East and North Africa holds for all of us, for the international community, and above all for the countries and their citizens themselves whose lives have been affected by the turbulence that has erupted in the region. We wish to see these countries living in peace and regain stability and prosperity as respected members of the global community.

20. We agree that the period of transformation taking place in the Middle East and North Africa should not be used as a pretext to delay resolution of lasting conflicts but rather it should serve as an incentive to settle them, in particular the Arab-Israeli conflict. Resolution of this and other long-standing regional issues

would generally improve the situation in the Middle East and North Africa. Thus we confirm our commitment to achieving comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of the universally recognized international legal framework including the relevant UN resolutions, the Madrid principles and the Arab Peace Initiative. We encourage the Quartet to intensify its efforts and call for greater involvement of the UN Security Council in search for a resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. We also underscore the importance of direct negotiations between the parties to reach final settlement. We call upon Palestinians and Israelis to take constructive measures, rebuild mutual trust and create the right conditions for restarting negotiations, while avoiding unilateral steps, in particular settlement activity in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

21. We express our deep concern at the current situation in Syria and call for an immediate end to all violence and violations of human rights in that country. Global interests would best be served by dealing with the crisis through peaceful means that encourage broad national dialogues that reflect the legitimate aspirations of all sections of Syrian society and respect Syrian independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty. Our objective is to facilitate a Syrian-led inclusive political process, and we welcome the joint efforts of the United Nations and the Arab League to this end. We encourage the Syrian government and all sections of Syrian society to demonstrate the political will to initiate such a process, which alone can create a new environment for peace. We welcome the appointment of Mr. Kofi Annan as the Joint Special Envoy on the Syrian crisis and the progress made so far, and support him in continuing to play a constructive role in bringing about the political resolution of the crisis.

22. The situation concerning Iran cannot be allowed to escalate into conflict, the disastrous consequences of which will be in no one's interest. Iran has a crucial role to play for the peaceful development and prosperity of a region of high political and economic relevance, and we look to it to play its part as a responsible member of the global community. We are concerned about the situation that is emerging around Iran's nuclear issue. We recognize Iran's right to peaceful uses of nuclear energy consistent with its international obligations, and support resolution of the issues involved through political and diplomatic means and dialogue between the parties concerned, including between the IAEA and Iran and in accordance with the provisions of the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions.

23. Afghanistan needs time, development assistance and cooperation, preferential access to world markets, foreign investment and a clear end-state strategy to attain lasting peace and stability. We support the global community's commitment to Afghanistan, enunciated at the Bonn International Conference in December 2011, to remain engaged over the transformation decade from

2015-2024. We affirm our commitment to support Afghanistan's emergence as a peaceful, stable and democratic state, free of terrorism and extremism, and underscore the need for more effective regional and international cooperation for the stabilisation of Afghanistan, including by combating terrorism.

24. We extend support to the efforts aimed at combating illicit traffic in opiates originating in Afghanistan within the framework of the Paris Pact.

25. We reiterate that there can be no justification, whatsoever, for any act of terrorism in any form or manifestation. We reaffirm our determination to strengthen cooperation in countering this menace and believe that the United Nations has a central role in coordinating international action against terrorism, within the framework of the UN Charter and in accordance with principles and norms of international law. We emphasize the need for an early finalization of the draft of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism in the UN General Assembly and its adoption by all Member States to provide a comprehensive legal framework to address this global scourge.

26. We express our strong commitment to multilateral diplomacy with the United Nations playing a central role in dealing with global challenges and threats. In this regard, we reaffirm the need for a comprehensive reform of the UN, including its Security Council, with a view to making it more effective, efficient and representative so that it can deal with today's global challenges more successfully. China and Russia reiterate the importance they attach to the status of Brazil, India and South Africa in international affairs and support their aspiration to play a greater role in the UN.

27. We recall our close coordination in the Security Council during the year 2011, and underscore our commitment to work together in the UN to continue our cooperation and strengthen multilateral approaches on issues pertaining to global peace and security in the years to come.

28. Accelerating growth and sustainable development, along with food, and energy security, are amongst the most important challenges facing the world today, and central to addressing economic development, eradicating poverty, combating hunger and malnutrition in many developing countries. Creating jobs needed to improve people's living standards worldwide is critical. Sustainable development is also a key element of our agenda for global recovery and investment for future growth. We owe this responsibility to our future generations.

29. We congratulate South Africa on the successful hosting of the 17th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the 7th Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP17/CMP7) in December 2011. We welcome the significant outcomes of the Conference and are ready to work with the

international community to implement its decisions in accordance with the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

30. We are fully committed to playing our part in the global fight against climate change and will contribute to the global effort in dealing with climate change issues through sustainable and inclusive growth and not by capping development. We emphasize that developed country Parties to the UNFCCC shall provide enhanced financial, technology and capacity building support for the preparation and implementation of nationally appropriate mitigation actions of developing countries.

31. We believe that the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) is a unique opportunity for the international community to renew its high-level political commitment to supporting the overarching sustainable development framework encompassing inclusive economic growth and development, social progress and environment protection in accordance with the principles and provisions of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

32. We consider that sustainable development should be the main paradigm in environmental issues, as well as for economic and social strategies. We acknowledge the relevance and focus of the main themes for the Conference namely, Green Economy in the context of Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication (GESDPE) as well as Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development (IFSD).

33. China, Russia, India and South Africa look forward to working with Brazil as the host of this important Conference in June, for a successful and practical outcome. Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa also pledge their support to working with India as it hosts the 11th meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in October 2012 and look forward to a positive outcome. We will continue our efforts for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, with special attention to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization, Biodiversity Strategic Plan 2011-2020 and the Resource Mobilization Strategy.

34. We affirm that the concept of a 'green economy', still to be defined at Rio+20, must be understood in the larger framework of sustainable development and poverty eradication and is a means to achieve these fundamental and overriding priorities, not an end in itself. National authorities must be given the flexibility and policy space to make their own choices out of a broad menu of

options and define their paths towards sustainable development based on the country's stage of development, national strategies, circumstances and priorities. We resist the introduction of trade and investment barriers in any form on the grounds of developing green economy.

35. The Millennium Development Goals remain a fundamental milestone in the development agenda. To enable developing countries to obtain maximal results in attaining their Millennium Development Goals by the agreed time-line of 2015, we must ensure that growth in these countries is not affected. Any slowdown would have serious consequences for the world economy. Attainment of the MDGs is fundamental to ensuring inclusive, equitable and sustainable global growth and would require continued focus on these goals even beyond 2015, entailing enhanced financing support.

36. We attach the highest importance to economic growth that supports development and stability in Africa, as many of these countries have not yet realised their full economic potential. We will take our cooperation forward to support their efforts to accelerate the diversification and modernisation of their economies. This will be through infrastructure development, knowledge exchange and support for increased access to technology, enhanced capacity building, and investment in human capital, including within the framework of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

37. We express our commitment to the alleviation of the humanitarian crisis that still affects millions of people in the Horn of Africa and support international efforts to this end.

38. Excessive volatility in commodity prices, particularly those for food and energy, poses additional risks for the recovery of the world economy. Improved regulation of the derivatives market for commodities is essential to avoid destabilizing impacts on food and energy supplies. We believe that increased energy production capacities and strengthened producer-consumer dialogue are important initiatives that would help in arresting such price volatility.

39. Energy based on fossil fuels will continue to dominate the energy mix for the foreseeable future. We will expand sourcing of clean and renewable energy, and use of energy efficient and alternative technologies, to meet the increasing demand of our economies and our people, and respond to climate concerns as well. In this context, we emphasise that international cooperation in the development of safe nuclear energy for peaceful purposes should proceed under conditions of strict observance of relevant safety standards and requirements concerning design, construction and operation of nuclear power plants. We stress IAEA's essential role in the joint efforts of the international community towards enhancing nuclear safety standards with a view to increasing public confidence

in nuclear energy as a clean, affordable, safe and secure source of energy, vital to meeting global energy demands.

40. We have taken note of the substantive efforts made in taking intra-BRICS cooperation forward in a number of sectors so far. We are convinced that there is a storehouse of knowledge, know-how, capacities and best practices available in our countries that we can share and on which we can build meaningful cooperation for the benefit of our peoples. We have endorsed an Action Plan for the coming year with this objective.

41. We appreciate the outcomes of the Second Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Agriculture and Agrarian Development at Chengdu, China in October 2011. We direct our Ministers to take this process forward with particular focus on the potential of cooperation amongst the BRICS to contribute effectively to global food security and nutrition through improved agriculture production and productivity, transparency in markets and reducing excessive volatility in commodity prices, thereby making a difference in the quality of lives of the people particularly in the developing world.

42. Most of BRICS countries face a number of similar public health challenges, including universal access to health services, access to health technologies, including medicines, increasing costs and the growing burden of both communicable and non-communicable diseases. We direct that the BRICS Health Ministers meetings, of which the first was held in Beijing in July 2011, should henceforth be institutionalized in order to address these common challenges in the most cost-effective, equitable and sustainable manner.

43. We have taken note of the meeting of S&T Senior Officials in Dalian, China in September 2011, and, in particular, the growing capacities for research and development and innovation in our countries. We encourage this process both in priority areas of food, pharma, health and energy as well as basic research in the emerging inter-disciplinary fields of nanotechnology, biotechnology, advanced materials science, etc. We encourage flow of knowledge amongst our research institutions through joint projects, workshops and exchanges of young scientists.

44. The challenges of rapid urbanization, faced by all developing societies including our own, are multi-dimensional in nature covering a diversity of inter-linked issues. We direct our respective authorities to coordinate efforts and learn from best practices and technologies available that can make a meaningful difference to our societies. We note with appreciation the first meeting of BRICS Friendship Cities held in Sanya in December 2011 and will take this process forward with an Urbanization and Urban Infrastructure Forum along with the Second BRICS Friendship Cities and Local Governments Cooperation Forum.

45. Given our growing needs for renewable energy resources as well as on energy efficient and environmentally friendly technologies, and our complementary strengths in these areas, we agree to exchange knowledge, know-how, technology and best practices in these areas.
46. It gives us pleasure to release the first ever BRICS Report, coordinated by India, with its special focus on the synergies and complementarities in our economies. We welcome the outcomes of the cooperation among the National Statistical Institutions of BRICS and take note that the updated edition of the BRICS Statistical Publication, released today, serves as a useful reference on BRICS countries.
47. We express our satisfaction at the convening of the III BRICS Business Forum and the II Financial Forum and acknowledge their role in stimulating trade relations among our countries. In this context, we welcome the setting up of BRICS Exchange Alliance, a joint initiative by related BRICS securities exchanges.
48. We encourage expanding the channels of communication, exchanges and people-to-people contact amongst the BRICS, including in the areas of youth, education, culture, tourism and sports.
49. Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa extend their warm appreciation and sincere gratitude to the Government and the people of India for hosting the Fourth BRICS Summit in New Delhi.
50. Brazil, Russia, India and China thank South Africa for its offer to host the Fifth BRICS Summit in 2013 and pledge their full support.

Delhi Action Plan

1. Meeting of BRICS Foreign Ministers on sidelines of UNGA.
2. Meetings of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors on sidelines of G20 meetings/other multilateral (WB/IMF) meetings.
3. Meeting of financial and fiscal authorities on the sidelines of WB/IMF meetings as well as stand-alone meetings, as required.
4. Meetings of BRICS Trade Ministers on the margins of multilateral events, or stand-alone meetings, as required.
5. The Third Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Agriculture, preceded by a preparatory meeting of experts on agro-products and food security issues and the second Meeting of Agriculture Expert Working Group.
6. Meeting of BRICS High Representatives responsible for national security.

7. The Second BRICS Senior Officials' Meeting on S&T.
8. The First meeting of the BRICS Urbanisation Forum and the second BRICS Friendship Cities and Local Governments Cooperation Forum in 2012 in India.
9. The Second Meeting of BRICS Health Ministers.
10. Mid-term meeting of Sous-Sherpas and Sherpas.
11. Mid-term meeting of CGETI (Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues).
12. The Third Meeting of BRICS Competition Authorities in 2013.
13. Meeting of experts on a new Development Bank.
14. Meeting of financial authorities to follow up on the findings of the BRICS Report.
15. Consultations amongst BRICS Permanent Missions in New York, Vienna and Geneva, as required.
16. Consultative meeting of BRICS Senior Officials on the margins of relevant environment and climate related international fora, as necessary.
17. New Areas of Cooperation to explore:
 - (i) Multilateral energy cooperation within BRICS framework.
 - (ii) A general academic evaluation and future long-term strategy for BRICS.
 - (iii) BRICS Youth Policy Dialogue.
 - (iv) Cooperation in Population related issues.



140. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Commerce on the BRICS Commerce Ministers' Statement on Mexico's initiative in holding a G-20 meeting at Puerto Vallarta (Mexico).

New Delhi, April 19, 2012.

BRICS Trade Minister's Statement: Puerto Vallarta, Mexico 19th April 2012
Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa welcome the initiative taken by Mexico in hosting the first G20 Trade Ministers' Meeting and expect it to achieve positive results, contributing to strengthening the multilateral trading system and ensuring strong, sustainable and balanced growth and development.

The BRICS countries take note of the increasing role of global value chains in trade. They note that many sectors, industries and even countries are not participating in global value chains as fully as some others. In order for global value chains to serve as instruments of growth and development, it would be important to develop a deeper understanding of their developmental impact and the conditions under which they can be used to achieve long term socio-economic gains. In addition, attention should be paid to not impose obstacles for the development and effective functioning of global value chains, for protectionist reasons. In this context, it would be useful to have a member-driven process, in the WTO, UNCTAD and other intergovernmental agencies, to examine this issue, including the identification of more accurate statistical methods to assess value addition.

The services sector plays an important role in economic growth and development. Nevertheless, experiences of many countries have shown that in order to benefit from liberalization of services and avoid unintended consequences of premature liberalization, opening services markets should be correctly sequenced, progressive and commensurate with a country's level of development, strength in particular sectors and regulatory capacity. All countries, particularly developing ones, should be able to benefit from balanced and equitable services liberalisation, by gaining additional market access opportunities in sectors and modes of supply where they have a competitive edge.

Trade Facilitation can have a dynamic effect on competitiveness and economic integration. However, the costs of implementing trade facilitation measures can be a significant challenge for many developing countries, which have to be met through adequate financial and technical assistance. Due attention has also to be paid simultaneously to the development of export-related infrastructure, especially in LDCs, to obtain a win-win result.

Trade finance has an important role in promoting trade through access to

affordable credit facilities. Trade cannot flourish without a stable international financial environment, on account of the interconnectedness of the financial markets. This calls for better and more effective regulation of financial markets and supervision of the banking system. Regulatory failures in financial markets can lead to financial crises and in turn adversely affect the availability of trade finance. Excessive liquidity in some countries impacts others as well.

Trade can create growth opportunities and trade reforms can reinforce an effective development strategy, but trade openness by itself is not sufficient to ensure growth, development and social inclusiveness. Other complementary policies are needed for this purpose such as sound macroeconomic management, efficient trade institutions, investments in human capital and infrastructure, adjustment support, and the rule of law. A level playing field, that addresses the current inequities in global trade, is also essential. In particular, trade rules and market opening should apply to all economic sectors, including agriculture, while incorporating special flexibilities and “policy space” for developing countries.

The net employment effects of increased trade may be positive if other country specific factors such as functioning of the labor and product markets, competitiveness of specific sectors and general macroeconomic framework, act in a favourable manner.

Bearing in mind the positive role that trade can play in boosting and sustaining global demand, fostering job creation and increasing the potential for growth and development, we emphasize the need to resist protectionism in all its forms and to promote international trade, while respecting the WTO consistent policy space available to developing countries to pursue their legitimate objectives of growth, development and stability. We encourage the WTO, UNCTAD and other international agencies to complement their on-going monitoring of trade and trade related measures with a deeper analysis of the impacts of these measures on trade flows.

We urge our fellow G20 Trade Ministers to strengthen coordination in promoting a concerted response to current economic uncertainties. “Win-win” trade policies will be central to global recovery. We, therefore, call upon our fellow G-20 Trade Ministers to identify ways to improve the multilateral trading system so that all economies may pursue a sustainable and “development-friendly” integration in global trade, including adjustment strategies for their industries and workforce, as well as the appropriate social and sectoral policies to respond to existing structural vulnerabilities. The conclusion of the Doha Development Round would be a significant step in this direction. The BRICS WTO members will continue their efforts for the successful conclusion of the Doha Round, based on the progress made and in keeping with its mandate, while upholding the principles of transparency, inclusiveness and multilateralism. We encourage all G20

economies to work constructively toward this end in pursuance of the collective decision taken at the 8th WTO Ministerial Conference.

In this context, we also look forward to a successful conclusion of the UNCTAD XIII in Doha which will provide a useful opportunity to highlight the central role of UNCTAD in the area of trade, development and interrelated issues. We reaffirm the need to strengthen UNCTAD's traditional activities of consensus building, policy dialogue, research, technical cooperation and capacity building, so that it can continue to contribute effectively to its development mandate.



141. Media Note on the informal meeting of BRICS leaders ahead of G20 Summit in Los Cabos.

La Cobos (Brazil), June 18, 2012.

BRICS Leaders held an informal meeting on 18 June 2012 ahead of the formal opening of the G-20 Summit in Los Cabos.

All the BRICS Leaders agreed that the Eurozone crisis threatened global financial and economic stability and that it was necessary to find cooperative solutions to resolve this crisis.

The Leaders also agreed to increase resources available with the International Monetary Fund. In this context, they agreed to enhance their own contributions to the IMF. This is with the understanding that these resources will be called upon only after existing resources, including the New Arrangements to Borrow, are substantially utilized. This would promote adequate burden sharing amongst IMF creditors. These new contributions are being made in anticipation that all the reforms agreed upon in 2010 will be fully implemented in a timely manner, including a comprehensive reform of voting power and reform of quota shares.

The Leaders discussed swap arrangements among national currencies as well as reserve pooling. They agreed to ask their Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors to work on this important issue, in a manner compatible with internal legal frameworks, and report back to the Leaders at the 2013 BRICS Summit.

The Leaders also emphasized the need for increasing the resource base of Multilateral Development Banks, so that increased resources could be provided for development, particularly for investments in infrastructure and in the social sectors in developing countries. They felt that the G20 should pay importance to the development aspect in its agenda of work.

The Leaders emphasized that given the current global situation and the need to bolster market confidence, it was important that the G-20 Summit issue a strong statement of intent in combating the international slowdown and the effects of the Eurozone crisis.

The Leaders agreed that this process of informal consultations on the sidelines of multilateral events was valuable and contributed to closer coordination on issues of mutual interest to BRICS economies.



CICA

142. Statement by Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology Sachin Pilot at 4th Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) Ministerial Meeting.

Astana , September 12, 2012.

Your Excellency Mr. Yerzhan Kazykhanov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan

Your Excellency Mr Ahmet Davutoglu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to convey my gratitude to our hosts, the Government of Kazakhstan for the excellent arrangements for this meeting and warm hospitality extended to us. I am honored to participate in this distinguished gathering as the representative of India.

India is proud to have been part of CICA since its inception in 1992. CICA has made incremental progress towards its core objective of developing a cooperative and pluralistic security order in Asia, based on mutual understanding, trust and sovereign equality. It has emerged as an important forum for dialogue, allowing member States to exchange views on a range of issues that affect security and stability in this region. CICA serves a useful purpose as a truly Asian forum for dialogue, covering as it does 24 countries of the region, with several more as observers. We must use this forum effectively to address common challenges and priorities.

CICA has devised a range of confidence building measures spanning politico-military issues, the fight against new challenges and threats, economic, environmental and human dimensions. While these are of equal importance and need to be applied on a gradual and voluntary basis, we should accord priority to CBMs that are of common interest, enjoy wide support and are practical and achievable. As these measures bear fruit, we will undoubtedly be better equipped to address the pressing challenges of the day such as international terrorism, drug trafficking, illegal immigration and climate change. These challenges are complex and it is incumbent on us to develop solutions collaboratively. While we do so, we must take care to proceed on the basis of consensus and at a pace comfortable to all.

As has been done for the agreed CBMs concerning economic, environmental,

human and new challenges and threats dimensions, we need to discuss modalities at the working level for CBMs in the military-political dimension also in the first instance. More work is needed before we can reach any common understanding on this matter.

We must also remember that CICA's approach must be rooted in Asian realities, given the uniqueness of the Asian landscape. We should focus on that which unites us all and set aside issues that divide. This approach has worked well in other regional initiatives and should remain the guiding principle for CICA as well.

Mr. Chairman,

Terrorism remains a grave threat that must be addressed by all States through a comprehensive global approach and strengthened commitment, to combat it anywhere and everywhere. Many of our CICA member States are victims of terrorism and we must join hands to counter this menace effectively. All acts of terrorism, in all its various forms and manifestations, must be roundly condemned. No goal or grievance whatsoever can ever justify terrorism. We have, in CICA, already adopted a Declaration on Eliminating Terrorism and Promoting Dialogue among Civilizations under which we agreed to cooperate in combating terrorism and its linkages with other security threats like organized crime, narcotics, arms and human trafficking. Although this Declaration was adopted in 2002, we must work together to eliminate this menace. We must apply ourselves to this challenge if we are to dismantle the infrastructure of terrorism, which has developed strong cross border linkages.

The international community should remain engaged in Afghanistan and extend support for the successful transition process. We are committed to assisting the people and government of Afghanistan as they build a peaceful, pluralistic, democratic and prosperous Afghanistan. We have so far committed assistance amounting to about US\$ 2 billion to Afghanistan for development assistance projects identified jointly with the Afghan government. \

We are particularly concerned at the situation in the West Asia and North Africa region, which can have serious ramifications for the region and beyond. India supports popular aspirations for a democratic and pluralistic order. At the same time, we emphasize that such transformations cannot be prompted by external intervention, which exacerbate the suffering of ordinary citizens. We urge all parties to recommit themselves to resolving all issues peacefully through an inclusive political process that can meet the legitimate aspirations of all citizens of the countries concerned.

Mr. Chairman,

India has participated actively in CICA deliberations and activities. We have

volunteered to coordinate CBMs in the area of energy security and transportation. We remain committed to the CICA process, believing as we do that CICA has an important part to play in promoting peace, security and development in Asia. We wish Turkey well as it takes on the CICA Chairmanship once more for another two year term and stand ready to extend all support in sustaining the tempo of progress at CICA during this time.

Thank you.



European Union

143. Statement by the External Affairs Minister at the joint media interaction with EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

Bengaluru, January 16, 2012.

Your Excellency, Baroness Catherine Ashton, the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy,

Distinguished Representatives of the Press

It is a pleasure to welcome Baroness Catherine Ashton and her delegation in this "Garden City" whose achievements in recent times in the fields of Information Technology and research and development have been considerable.

India and the European Union share common values of freedom, democracy and rule of law. It is in this spirit of cooperation and the convergence of interests that we became strategic partners in 2004. As strategic partners, India and the European Union hold annual Summits and Ministerial meetings as well as numerous official level interactions. These provide an opportunity to discuss bilateral issues and provide a robust framework for reviewing global challenges.

European Union is our largest trading partner and a significant source of investment and technology flows into India. We cooperate on a wide range of issues ranging from security, energy movement of people, culture, education and human rights.

Today, we have concluded useful and substantive discussions covering the entire spectrum of our relations. We exchanged views in a spirit of warmth and friendship. Our relationship and engagements in different areas have expanded over the years and will expand further as EU evolves.

India welcomes the enhanced role of the European Union on the world stage. Both India and the EU have important roles to play in the international arena. Keeping this in mind, we also exchanged views on various regional and global issues of common interest.

Our annual Summits are testimonies of the importance both sides attach to our relations. The successful visit of our Prime Minister to Brussels for the India-EU Summit in December 2010 has strengthened our strategic partnership which is a reflection of our shared commitment to democratic principles, respect for human freedom and the rule of law. During the past one year, we have intensified our dialogue on various aspects of our relations. We look forward to the visit of the leadership of the European Union to India for the next India-EU Summit, which is scheduled to be held shortly in New Delhi.

Through our discussions today, we have been able to take stock of what has been achieved in the last one year and prepared on a substantive basis to take our cooperation forward during the upcoming India-EU Summit meeting.

We have reiterated our commitments to intensify our cooperation in diverse fields including trade and investment, movement of peoples, energy, science and technology and counter-terrorism. The two sides also took this opportunity to review the progress made in the implementation of the Joint Action Plan, which remains the guiding force of our relations.

In the context of the continuing debt crisis in Europe, We are happy to note that European leaders have decided to take the required steps to contain the crisis and are confident that lasting remedies would be found and implemented. India believes that a revival of European economies and Europe's continued growth is in the interest of the international community including India. We sincerely wish EU success in the efforts for combating the crisis.

India and the EU are two of the world's largest peace loving democracies that share common values. India is therefore, committed to working with the European Union as a true and reliable partner to contribute to world peace, stability and prosperity.



144. Extracts relevant to the India – European Union Summit from the Media Briefing .

New Delhi, February 6, 2012.

Official Spokesperson: Shri Syed Akbaruddin)the 12th India-EU Summit will be held on the 10th February. At this meeting the EU will be represented by the President of the European Council Mr. Herman Van Rompuy, and the President of the European Commission, Mr. Jose Manuel Barroso. This is the first summit to be held in India following the implementation of the Lisbon Treaty. On the margins of the summit there will be an India-EU Business Summit.

The process of annual summits between India and the EU dates back to 2000 when the first such summit was held in Lisbon. The EU as a block of 27 countries is India's largest trading partner accounting for about 14 per cent of our foreign trade. It is also the biggest source of foreign direct investment accounting for about 21 per cent of foreign direct investment in India.

As you are aware, the broad-based trade and investment agreement is currently being negotiated. This holds the potential to increase trade and investment flows. The negotiations are currently critically poised and there is a shared desire to conclude them at an early date.

India and the European Union are partners sharing values of freedom, democracy, and rule of law; and have a strategic partnership established in 2004. During the past year there has been an intensification of dialogue on various aspects of our relations. We have had Foreign Office consultations and bilateral dialogues on human rights, science and technology, economy and security, apart from the meeting of the India-EU Energy Panel.

As you are aware, External Affairs Minister recently had met his counterpart Baroness Ashton in Bengaluru to prepare for the summit meeting which is to be held shortly.

Just to summarise, we have a vibrant and multifaceted relationship with the EU and the summit is expected to address all aspects of this strategic partnership from trade to security, energy to movement of people, cultural education and human rights.



145. Media Statement by Prime Minister during 12th India-EU Summit.

New Delhi, February 10, 2012.

Your Excellency President Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council,

Your Excellency Mr Jose Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission,

Distinguished delegates and members of the media.

I am delighted to welcome Their Excellencies Mr. Herman Van Rompuy and Mr Jose Manuel Barroso to the first India-European Union Summit in India after the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty.

We have just concluded extremely productive and wide-ranging discussions in a very cordial and friendly atmosphere.

India and the European Union are strategic partners in a fast changing and complex world. The success of Europe's political and economic integration is vital for global stability and prosperity. The European Union leaders informed me of the steps being taken by Europe to deal with the debt crisis in the Eurozone. I conveyed to them our best wishes for an early and sustained recovery. Given our rapidly growing links with Europe, this is in India's interest. Europe's recovery is also essential for ensuring the recovery of the global economy and bringing back market confidence.

Our trade with Europe has reached 107 billion US dollars in 2011. Both sides have made considerable progress in the negotiations on the Broad-Based Trade and Investment Agreement. There are complex issues involved, but we have both agreed to expedite discussions so that we can conclude an Agreement at the earliest. We seek solutions that are practical, mutually beneficial and acceptable to both sides.

I conveyed to the EU leadership the importance India attaches to EU's participation in our growth agenda including in infrastructure development, clean energy technologies, innovation, research and skill development. Greater investment flows in both directions is a win-win proposition for both sides.

The signing of a Joint Declaration on Research and Innovation Cooperation and the Memorandum of Understanding on Statistical Cooperation are forward looking documents which will further integrate our economies .

I raised the issue of greater people-to-people exchanges and easier travel

arrangements for tourism, businesspersons, professionals and other categories of travelers. We have agreed to continue our discussions on these matters.

India's relations with the European Union go well beyond economic and commercial issues. We share common values of democracy, respect for civil liberties and rule of law. We have healthy and frank exchanges on political and security issues of bilateral, regional and global importance.

The India-EU Joint Action Plan which was adopted in 2005 and reviewed in 2008 is the template of our cooperation, and covers the entire spectrum of our relations.

We held substantive discussions on other areas of our engagement covering energy cooperation, science and technology, culture, counter-terrorism, piracy and cyber-security.

We exchanged views on the situation in West Asia, with particular reference to Syria and Iran and developments in our neighbourhood in Afghanistan and Pakistan. We have a common interest in promoting stability in these areas.

We discussed global challenges such as climate change, the global economic crisis and global governance reforms. We would like to work with Europe at the forthcoming international conferences on Nuclear Security in Korea, the G-20 Summit in Mexico, the Rio+20 Conference in Brazil and Biological Diversity Conference in India.

Our discussions today reinforce my belief that our partnership with the European Union will continue to grow in the coming years. India looks forward to working with the European Union on all issues. This is a partnership that will assume greater global significance in the years to come.

I thank you.





145A. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION (EUROSTAT)

AND

THE CENTRAL STATISTICS OFFICE (CSO), THE MINISTRY OF

STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION,

GOVERNMENT OF

INDIA

ON STATISTICAL CO-OPERATION

The European Commission (Eurostat), as the Statistical Office of the European Union, hereinafter referred to as "Eurostat", which for the purpose of the signature of the present Memorandum of Understanding is represented by H.E. Mr. João Cravinho, Head of Delegation, Delegation of the European Union to India, of the one part, and The Central Statistics Office, hereinafter referred to as "CSO", an organization under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India, which for the purpose of the signature of the present Memorandum of Understanding is represented by Dr. T. C. A. Anant, Secretary (S&PI), MOSPI, Government of India, of the other part,

Hence forth jointly referred to as Sides,

Noting the importance of bilateral cooperation in the field of statistical methodology and research to generate reliable official statistics about economic and social conditions in respective countries and regions; taking into account the EU-India Joint Action Plan reviewed by the EU-India Summit at Marseille on 29 September 2008;

will cooperate as follows:

A) OBJECTIVES

Through this Memorandum of Understanding, CSO and EUROSTAT express their wish to develop and mutually benefit from their cooperation in the area of statistics.

The objectives of the cooperation are the following:-

- 1) To foster co-ordination and collaboration on the development of official statistics;
- 2) To create links and to increase exchanges between both sides' statistical services; and
- 3) To help support best practices;

B) WORKING PRINCIPLES

Cooperation will be based on respect and mutual understanding of the structures, mandates, institutional capacities, and policies of both Sides.

Cooperation intends to foster the efforts to develop and/or strengthen the following areas, inter alia:

- I. Exchange of statistical information through high level contacts, coordination meetings, ad hoc consultations;
- II. Harmonization of statistical methodologies and enhancing data comparability;
- III. Sharing of knowledge and experience in the areas of statistics, essential for supporting shared strategic priorities;
- IV. Foster good practices underlying official statistics;
- V. Facilitate the exchange of statistical data.
- VI. The Sides will organize visits, if required, of managers and statisticians to share expertise and experience.

C) RESOURCES

Each Side will bear the financial costs of its participation in the above mentioned activities.

D) REVISION

Any amendment to the present Memorandum of Understanding will be the subject of a written document signed by both Sides.

E) SUSPENSION

Any provision of the present Memorandum of Understanding, or all of them, may be suspended with immediate effect on the basis of a written notification by one Side to the other one, without harming the interest of the latter.

F) CONFIDENTIALITY

Information, documents or data not already in public domain and shared in accordance with this Memorandum of Understanding will not be disclosed or distributed to any third party, except if a written authorization is released by the Side providing it.

In the event of termination of this Memorandum of Understanding, the Sides agree that the above provision will continue to apply to the information, documents and data exchanged under the mentioned Memorandum.

G) DURATION AND TERMINATION

The present Memorandum of Understanding takes effect from the date of signature by the two Sides, and will remain in force for a period of five years. It may be renewed by mutual consent in writing by the Sides at least six months prior to its termination.

The present Memorandum of Understanding may be terminated by either Side by written notice of at least one month. Unless the two Sides disagree, any specific document deriving from this Memorandum which came into effect before its termination will not be affected by such termination.

The suspension and/or the termination of this Memorandum of Understanding will not affect the implementation of ongoing activities or programmes.

H) FINAL PROVISIONS

The two Sides will apply the provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding on a voluntary basis.

The provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding are designated not to create any legal rights or obligations under international law.

Done at New Delhi , on (10th February 2012). Signed in two originals in English language.

**FOR THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION
(EUROSTAT)**

**FOR THE CENTRAL
STATISTICS OFFICE (CSO)**

Mr. Joao CRAVINHO,
Head of Delegation, Delegation of the
European Union to India

Dr. T.C.A. Anant,
Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and
Programme Implementation



146. India – European Union**Joint Declaration on Research and Innovation
Cooperation New Delhi, 10 February 2012***Considering:*

The vibrant and strong cooperation in science and technology between India, the EU and many of its Member States through a rich diversity of ongoing bilateral initiatives, programmes and schemes;

The EU's "Innovation Union" and the Indian "Decade of Innovation" strategies for achieving inclusive, sustainable and affordable innovation, towards finding solutions to growing societal challenges such as climate change, increasingly scarce energy, water, resources, raw materials, demography, security, natural disaster management, sustainable transport and mobility, health and combating diseases and supplying high-quality and affordable food;

The scale and complexity of these challenges which call for increased Indo-European cooperation, pooling and making more effective use of financial and human resources;

The Agreement on scientific and technological cooperation between the European Community and the Government of the Republic of India concluded in 2001 and renewed in 2007, and the annual meetings of the joint steering committee which have sustained the momentum of the cooperation and enabled signing of letters of intent partnerships in biotechnology and health research;

for dedicated

The EU-India Joint Action Plan adopted in 2005 which includes a significant research and innovation dimension;

The New Delhi Communiqué issued at the first India-EU Ministerial Science Conference in 2007, which recognized that important windows of opportunity existed for a significant increase in the breadth and depth of EU-India S&T cooperation, in particular through coinvestment of resources in joint actions;

The successful implementation since 2007 of regular coordinated calls for proposals between the EU and India in the fields of computational materials science, food and nutrition research, solar energy research and water related challenges, with a total budget of M•60 co-funded by India and the EU, as well as the active participation of Indian research organisations in the EU Research

Framework Programmes;

The Joint Statement issued at the 2010 Conference on India-EU/Member States Partnership for a Strategic Roadmap in Research & Innovation on the occasion of the successful launch of the India-EU/Member States Pilot Initiative towards more coherent and structured approach in S&T cooperation;

The conclusions of the last EU-India Summit in 2010 where both sides welcomed the new dynamic India-EU and Member States research and innovation partnership for more coordinated cooperation.

In this spirit, India and the European Union have come together to declare their resolve to moving up a gear in their research and innovation cooperation, fully exploiting its potential towards finding solutions to common societal challenges, and mobilising Indian and European stakeholders to define a strategic "Indo-European Research and Innovation Partnership" by the end of 2012. The joint stakeholders' conference and ministerial meeting on 31 May and 1 June 2012 in Brussels will be an important milestone in its preparation.

This Partnership will include the following elements:

- Increasing the scale, scope and impact of our cooperation through reinforcing EU-India collaborative research activities, promoting networking and synergies between research organisations and ongoing initiatives in areas of common interest using a variety of instruments on a multiannual basis such as coordinated calls, networking and twinning of projects and programmes;
- Increasing focus on innovation with mobilisation of industrial partners in EU-India cooperation, defining policies and measures to create favourable framework conditions (e.g. standards, regulations, public procurement) for the deployment of innovative products and processes focussing in particular on societal challenges of common interest;
- Streamlining the governance of Indo-European cooperation by facilitating the alignment of funding mechanisms, improving the coherence of cooperation rules and principles on issues such as ownership and access right to results of collaborative research, movement of material and equipment across borders, reciprocal access to facilities, conditions of mobility of researchers, improved (simpler and faster procedures) organisation of interactions with stakeholders, and setting up of regular Senior Official meetings involving India, the EU and its Member States to review the state of play and implementation of cooperation;
- Developing EU-India cooperation to define common objectives and

coordinate positions in international fora on global issues such as guidelines on sharing of and access to research infrastructures;

- Reinforcing EU-India research and innovation cooperation as a pivotal part of Europe's and India's overall relationships towards the realisation of their broader objectives.

Done in New Delhi on 10 February, 2012

FOR THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA

FOR THE EUROPEAN UNION

Dr. Ashwani Kumar,

Mr. Karel de Gucht,

Minister of State for Science &

European Commissioner for Trade

Technology and Earth Sciences and

Planning



147. Joint Declaration issued at the end of the India-EU Summit for Enhanced Cooperation on Energy.

New Delhi, February 10, 2012.

1. Recalling the India-EU Strategic Partnership and the Joint Action Plan, adopted in 2005 and reviewed in 2008, setting up the India-EU Energy Panel for dialogue and cooperation on energy issues;
2. Recalling the Joint Work Programme on Energy, Clean Development and Climate Change adopted at the India-EU Summit held in Marseille in 2008;
3. Recalling the 11th India-EU Summit held in Brussels in 2010, whereby India and the EU reaffirmed their commitment to enhanced cooperation in the energy sector;
4. Recalling the first Coordinating Committee meeting of the Agreement for Cooperation between Government of India and Euratom in the field of fusion energy research, held in Gandhinagar in October 2010, whereby both parties agreed a bilateral work programme in support of ITER;
5. Acknowledging that India and the EU share common objectives as regards enhancing energy security, promoting energy efficiency and energy safety, and the pursuit of sustainable development through, inter alia, the development of clean and renewable energy sources;
6. Recognising that business operators play a significant role in the development of innovative clean and efficient energy technologies and that mutually beneficial activity can be further expanded;
7. Welcoming the India-EU Energy Panel decision, taken on the occasion of its 6th meeting held in New Delhi in November 2011, to extend the dialogue to include regular exchanges on energy security matters, to enhance security of supply and coordination of positions in international organisations and initiatives on energy and to continue deepening cooperation in the energy field, through a series of focused, result-oriented activities;
8. The Government of India and the European Union will work together to improve energy security, safety, sustainability, access and energy technologies and will focus their joint efforts in a number of key energy areas, on the basis of common interest and mutual benefit, inter alia:
 - a. Development and deployment strategies for clean energy production, inter alia clean coal technologies and advanced coal mining,
 - b. Improved energy efficiency of products,

- c. Improved energy efficiency in the buildings sector,
 - d. Development of smart power grids, including the integration of renewable energy sources,
 - e. Cost-effective ways for the uptake of renewable energy sources as well as research and innovation cooperation on new, clean and renewable energy technologies,
 - f. Energy safety, in particular nuclear safety and off-shore drilling safety,
 - g. Advancing in developing fusion energy as future sustainable energy source.
9. Joint activities, including technical meetings gathering energy experts designated by the Indian Government and the European Commission, vocational training, and participation in relevant events organised in India and the European Union, will be set up on a regular basis throughout 2012 and onwards, with due involvement and support of both sides. Relevant institutional and government stakeholders on both sides, as well as relevant market actors, such as energy regulators, nuclear safety organisations, business representatives, research institutes and academia, transmission system operators and distribution system operators, will be invited to contribute to these activities, as appropriate. Business to business cooperation (with a specific focus on SMEs) shall be promoted to enhance cooperation in the energy sector through appropriate financial and technical institutions on both sides.
10. Support from EU funded programmes and initiatives will be explored as well as from other India and EU schemes to promote mutual cooperation. Complementarities with relevant initiatives promoted in India by the EU Member States and International Financial Institutions and other international institutions and fora, as needed, will be sought, in the context of India's priorities and policies, so as to ensure a comprehensive approach with maximum impact. Both sides will discuss the activities to be undertaken under India-EU Joint Work Programme on 'Energy, Clean Development and Climate Change' by various institutions supported under EU funded programmes and initiatives and exchange information on a regular basis at the India-EU Joint Working Group on Environment, the India-EU Energy Panel and the India-EU Sub-Commission on Economic Cooperation, in order to maximise impact.
11. Progress in the implementation of these activities will be reported to the 2012 India-EU Energy Panel meeting.



148. Joint Statement by India and European Union on the 12th India-EU Summit.

New Delhi, February 10, 2012.

1. The 12th India-EU Summit was held in New Delhi on 10 February 2012. The Republic of India was represented by the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh. EU was represented by Mr. Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council, and Mr. José Manuel Durão Barroso, President of the European Commission.

2. The leaders expressed satisfaction at the deepening comprehensive bilateral relations. India and EU, as long-standing strategic partners, are committed to working together with a balanced and result-oriented approach, bearing in mind each sides' respective development priorities, based on common shared values, relating to democracy, rule of law, civil liberties, fundamental freedoms and respect for human rights.

3. Both sides discussed bilateral, regional and multilateral issues of mutual concern with a view to, inter alia, strengthen their multifaceted bilateral cooperation, coordinate responses to regional issues, and tackle international challenges including the current financial crisis.

Bilateral Issues

4. Leaders expressed satisfaction that since the last India-EU Summit in December 2010, negotiations on the India-EU Broad based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) have intensified with substantial progress achieved across the board on different areas. Both sides have engaged intensively to find solutions for outstanding issues which are mutually acceptable. Negotiations on an ambitious and balanced package are now close to completion which is expected to provide a new thrust to bilateral trade, investment and economic cooperation. This is especially significant in the context of the current economic climate so as to provide a new impetus to growth. Commerce, Industry and Textile Minister, Shri Anand Sharma and European Trade Commissioner, Mr. Karel De Gucht would monitor the progress of these negotiations for an early conclusion.

5. Underlining the importance of dialogue and cooperation between their respective business communities, leaders welcomed the business summit held on the margins of the summit and agreed to continue working towards an improved business climate including facilitating the exchange of information on opportunities for further collaboration.

6. Leaders took note of the India-EU Ministerial Meeting of 16 January 2012 and the decision to hold Foreign Policy Consultations on an annual basis in order to strengthen political dialogue.

7. Leaders welcomed the holding of the India-EU Security Dialogue in New Delhi in May 2011 India and the EU and reiterated their desire to maintain and expand cooperation in the field of security.
8. Recalling their Joint Declaration on International Terrorism, adopted at the previous Summit in December 2010, leaders welcomed the holding of the India-EU Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism in New Delhi in January 2012. India and the EU condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and reaffirmed their united stance in combating threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts wherever they may take place. Noting the progress made on implementing the Joint Declaration, leaders welcomed the identification, by their experts, of areas of future collaboration in this respect.
9. Both sides recognized the importance of the activities of the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee [CTC] (of which India is the Chair) and concluding negotiations on the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism [CCIT], at the earliest; and they agreed to the need of ensuring that the international financial system is made secure from the threats of money laundering and financing of terror.
10. Leaders welcomed the discussions held in New Delhi on 16 December 2011 between India and EU at expert level aimed at enhancing cooperation on anti piracy efforts and their decision to have such exchanges on a regular basis. They noted in particular that their experts had agreed in principle to cooperate in the escorting of WFP shipments, to enhance the regulation of privately contracted armed security guards in the context of the International Maritime Organisation, and to share piracy related information in a systematic manner with the aim of, inter alia, improving the situation of hostages and tackling the illegal financial flows linked to piracy off the coast of Somalia.
11. Leaders also expressed satisfaction with bilateral consultations on Cyber security and Cybercrime as a result of which some concrete areas for mutual cooperation were identified. They called for continuation of these consultations stressing the importance of further dialogue.
12. Considering the high level of importance that both sides attach to bilateral cooperation in the sphere of energy, the leaders welcomed their Joint Declaration on Enhanced Cooperation in Energy. They looked forward to an expeditious finalisation of the Joint Report on the Results of the India-EU Joint Work Programme on Energy, Clean Development and Climate Change and reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening cooperation in these areas.
13. India and EU welcomed the discussion held in November 2011 on ICT and recognised the importance of further dialogue on cooperation in this sector.
14. Leaders reiterated their respective positions on the inclusion of aviation in

the EU Emissions Trading System and noted the strong divergence of views. Both sides agreed on the need to urgently resolve the issue.

15. Recognising the mutually beneficial cooperation on science and technology and the potential of strengthening it, the leaders welcomed the signing of the Joint Declaration on Research and Innovation Cooperation with the aim of enhancing the scale, scope and impact of cooperation and building an "Indo-European research and innovation partnership", with a focus on common societal challenges and enhanced synergies between India, the EU and its Member States.

16. Leaders acknowledged active cooperation pursued by Space Agencies and Industries of both sides in various fields of space science, technology and applications. Both leaders expressed satisfaction on the progress in finalizing ISRO-ESA Agreement for cooperation on Earth Observation and Climate Change. They reaffirmed their commitment to finalization of the Agreement on Satellite Navigation and related Technical Agreement on the use of the frequency spectrum.

17. Leaders called for progress and finalisation of an agreement between India and the European Atomic Energy Community for R & D cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

18. India and EU reiterated the importance they attach to encouraging people-to-people contacts and human exchanges and reaffirmed their determination to co-operate closely in the field of migration within the framework of the India-EU Joint Statement of 10 December 2010 and in the context of the India-EU High Level Dialogue on Migration.

19. Leaders welcomed the ongoing cooperation in the field of vocational training and noted the potential for further enhancing cooperation in this area.

20. India and EU called for appropriate steps to enable the entry into force of the Horizontal Civil Aviation Agreement.

21. EU took note of the difficulties being faced by some Sikh passengers while travelling through European airports, due to the turbans they wear. Leaders acknowledged the need for effective aviation security measures and discussed the ongoing development of new technologies and methods of addressing security taking into account the dignity of the individuals involved.

22. Leaders welcomed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on Statistics.

Regional Issues

23. Leaders reiterated their commitment to assisting Afghanistan to become

a stable, democratic nation free of terrorism and extremism. As NATO/ISAF prepares to complete the ongoing transition and Afghan authorities assume full security responsibility for the country by the end of 2014, leaders welcomed the long-term commitment of the international community to Afghanistan in the Transformation Decade from 2015 to 2024 reiterated in the recent conference in Bonn. Both sides acknowledged that Afghanistan needs time, development assistance, preferential access to world markets, foreign investment and a clear end-state and strategy to attain lasting peace and stability. Both sides underlined the need for more effective regional cooperation for the stabilisation of Afghanistan, including by preventing terrorists from finding refuge across Afghanistan's borders. Leaders welcomed the Istanbul process on regional security and cooperation for a secure and stable Afghanistan.

24. Leaders stressed that a stable and democratic Pakistan is in the interest of the entire region. They agreed that terrorism and violent extremism represent serious threats to international peace and security and on the importance of Pakistan's cooperation with countries in the region to eliminate terrorism and dismantle terrorist networks.

25. The leaders recalled their view that terrorism cannot be justified on any grounds and stressed that perpetrators of the November 2008 Mumbai attacks should be brought to justice expeditiously.

26. Leaders acknowledged the significant progress in the reform process in Myanmar. They encouraged the process to continue and urged the international community to step up its engagement with Myanmar.

27. India and EU exchanged views on regional integration. They recognized that closer cooperation among the countries of South Asia is crucial for the development of that region, and in this context, agreed to continue consultation and cooperation between SAARC and the EU.

28. Leaders discussed events in the Arab world, voicing support for the democratic aspirations of the populations aimed at deepening democratic governance. They also discussed the Middle East Peace Process and called on the parties to engage actively in accordance with relevant UNSC resolutions and along the lines of the Arab Peace Plan and the Quartet Statement adopted in New York on 23 September 2011. Leaders expressed great concern about the situation in Syria and reiterated their support for the efforts by UNSC and the League of Arab States.

Global issues

29. Leaders exchanged views on the state of their respective economies and expressed their concern on the international economic situation. In this context,

both sides reaffirmed their commitment, as had been agreed to at the Cannes Summit held in November 2011, to ensure that the IMF continues to have sufficient resources to play its systemic role to the benefit of its whole membership. Leaders also recognized the need to ensure effective reform of financial and commodity markets as agreed at the Cannes Summit and for an appropriate transition towards an international monetary system which better reflects the increased weight of emerging market economies.

30. Leaders underlined the importance of international trade to the recovery of the international economy and reaffirmed their commitment to the Doha Development Agenda and to combating protectionism.

31. Leaders looked forward to the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (RIO+20) for a renewed political commitment to Sustainable Development based on the Rio Principles to advance progress in the implementation of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, the Programme for the further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. They welcomed the hosting of the Conference by Brazil on 20-22 June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro and pledged to extend all support to make it a success. Leaders agreed that green economy should be seen as a means to achieving the overriding priorities of sustainable development and poverty eradication and emphasized that Sustainable Development should be approached through a balanced integration of economic, social and environmental pillars.

32. Leaders reaffirmed that poverty eradication should remain the central focus of the global development agenda, called for a redoubling of efforts to push for maximum achievement of MDGs by 2015 and reaffirmed that inclusive and equitable global growth is fundamental in ensuring the attainment of the MDGs, particularly poverty reduction, and this would require continued focus on these goals even beyond 2015.

33. Leaders reaffirmed the importance of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and of strengthening global efforts towards preventing biopiracy and preserving genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with their use. They committed their full support and pledged to cooperate closely for the success of the 11th Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD-COP11) to be held in Hyderabad, India in 2012. In this connection India and the EU agreed to actively work towards the early entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilisation (ABS).

34. Leaders discussed the outcome of the Climate Change Conference held

in Durban, South Africa in December 2011, and called for continued dialogue between both sides with a view to enhancing cooperation on bilateral and international issues relating to Climate Change in accordance with the objectives, principles and provisions of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

35. India and EU reaffirmed their commitment to global and non-discriminatory disarmament and to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems. They pledged closer cooperation aimed at providing a robust nuclear non-proliferation regime and supported a prompt commencement of negotiations on Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty in the Conference on Disarmament.

36. The parties reaffirmed their commitment to diplomacy to resolve the Iranian nuclear issue and expressed the need for Iran to take constructive and immediate steps to meet its obligations to the IAEA and the UN Security Council. Parties welcomed efforts by the EU High Representative, on behalf of the E3+3, aimed at engaging Iran into meaningful talks.



Documents signed during 12th India-EU Summit

New Delhi, February 10, 2012.

MOU/Document	Signatory from the Indian Side	Signatory from the EU Side	Remarks
Memorandum of Understanding between the Central Statistics Office (CSO), the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India and the European Commission (EUROSTAT) on Statistical Co-Operation	Dr. T.C.A. Anant, Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation	Mr. Joao Cravinho, Head of Delegation, European Union to India	This agreement will facilitate greater interaction and collaboration between our experts in sharing best practices and information in the field of statistics and improve our capacities for a better informed decision-making process
India-European	Dr. Ashwani	Mr. Karel de	Both sides declare

**Union Joint
Declaration on
Research and
Innovation
Cooperation**

Kumar, Minister of Gucht, European
State for Science Commissioner for
& Technology and Trade
Earth Sciences
and Planning

their resolve to
moving up a gear in
their research and
innovation
cooperation, fully
exploiting its potential
towards finding
solutions to common
societal challenges,
and mobilising Indian
and European
stakeholders to
define a strategic
"Indo-European
Research and
Innovation
Partnership" by the
end of 2012

New Delhi

February 10, 2012



G – 20**149. Speech of Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee in the First Session of the G- 20 Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors on 'Global Economy and Framework'.****Washington (D.C.), April 19, 2012.**

“We have witnessed a great amount of economic and political turmoil over the past year. Volatility in commodity prices and disruptions to supply chains and high oil prices have added to global uncertainty and impacted businesses across the globe, slowing the recovery in both advanced and emerging economies. Even as the after effects of the global crisis continue to linger in many advanced economies, steeply rising sovereign debt in the absence of a quick return to trend growth is making markets nervous. Although actions by Euro zone countries and the ECB have stabilized the situation and calmed the market somewhat, the underlying structural problem remains and downside risks remain significant as manifest in recent movements in bond yields. While near term economic data has unexpectedly encouraging, economic conditions overall remain weak, and unemployment at politically unacceptable levels. We need to carefully deliberate our options going forward.

Developing countries and emerging economies are expected to continue as growth drivers for the world economy. The fact, however, is that even here growth has decelerated. The global economy is too interconnected for them to be insulated from the knockdown impact of developments in advanced economies. We are confronted with the unseemly situation of deflationary pressures in one part of the world, and inflationary pressures in a number of developing countries, including India. We need to get to the roots of this anomaly and take corrective actions in a coordinated manner through our Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth. We need to be mindful, however, that the capacity of most countries to deal with any fresh crises stands somewhat diminished, more so on account of the prolonged use of fiscal and monetary tools. As far as India is concerned, despite adverse conditions prevailing in our external environment, we are reasonably confident that the underlying growth fundamentals remain firm. We are intent on ensuring that the process of fiscal consolidation gains further momentum, with monetary policy remaining vigilant in dealing with inflationary pressures. We expect real GDP growth in 2011-12 to be around 7.0 per cent, and to gain further strength in the ensuing fiscal.

My Canadian colleague will be making / has already made a detailed presentation on the progress made by the Framework Working Group. I will limit my intervention to adding a few thoughts to facilitate our discussion today.

As we push the Framework process forward and work towards an Action Plan for Los Cabos, we need to ensure that the plan adopted by our Leaders is both credible and ambitious enough to put the global economy firmly on the path of recovery over the short run, and promote strong, sustainable and balanced growth and job creation over the medium to long-term. In this regard, I would like to emphasize that the action plan should pay greater attention to three important issues at this juncture.

First, as mandated by our Leaders, we will need to develop a framework to assess the progress made on G20 commitments. Since the time between the Cannes and Los Cabos Summits is quite short, this would be an important component of our Action Plan. It is also critical for our own credibility in the eyes of the world. The Framework Working Group has indicated that assessment in some areas is complicated by the lack of a common framework to assess progress. You would recall the Cannes Action Plan has both short-term and long-term policy commitments. Since assuring the 'recovery' continues to be our topmost priority, the focus of our assessment framework at this stage should be on short term commitments, while keeping in view that these should not be in conflict with our medium to long-term objectives.

Secondly, there is general concern over the global employment scenario, especially the falling labor participation rate and growing youth unemployment. Leaders had consequently tasked us to mainstream jobs and employment issues into the Framework exercise. Persistent high unemployment tends to have significant long-lasting detrimental impacts on the economy, holding back economic recovery further, adding to social tensions and adversely affecting productivity and growth in the medium to long-term. Credible action for both short and medium-term policy to create jobs and employment needs to be a cornerstone of the G20 Framework.

Thirdly, the world has been pre occupied with dealing with the problems in the financial sector, which was need of the hour. However, keeping in view the emergent situation, some members have been stressing the need to step up efforts to support investment in the real sector, and especially in infrastructure, at a global level to help revive global growth and support demand and job creation. This route to reviving global growth has not received the attention that it merits. To the extent that much of this investment, including in infrastructure, will occur in developing countries, it would also help rebalance global demand, as also, redirect savings. Some developed countries also need to increase investment and upgrade their infrastructure. While construction works would stimulate local growth and job creation, the large demand for capital goods created for modern infrastructure would also stimulate private investment and job creation globally. There are a number of ways in which investment and infrastructure could be dovetailed into the G20 finance work-streams, such as through the Working

Groups on the Framework and the International Financial Architecture (IFA), and providing necessary incentives in the architecture of financial regulation. Credible actions to step up efforts in this regard could be a distinctive feature of the Los Cabos Action Plan.”



150. Intervention Statement of Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee on Financial Regulation in Second Session of G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' (CBGS) Meeting.

Washington (D.C.), April 21, 2012.

The global financial system continues to face a complex set of challenges. While some countries and regions are recovering from the crisis of 2008, others are confronting renewed turbulence. The uncertain and uneven recovery has led to calls in some quarters to weaken financial reform initiatives. While there may be some case for some back loading of difficult adjustments to strengthen the recovery of the financial sector, any weakness shown in our resolve and commitment to reform will sow the seeds of fresh crises down the line. The key task is to fully implement what has already been agreed in a cooperative manner.

There is a concern that unless the same standards are implemented in all jurisdictions simultaneously there would be scope for regulatory arbitrage that could result in financial activity migrating to less regulated jurisdictions elsewhere, as well as into shadow banking. While all countries are committed to Basel III, major jurisdictions have separately come out with their own regulatory standards. The disharmony would be confusing and expensive for the banks, which are spending significant amounts to prepare for and comply with the new standards.

Collaboration between financial authorities has never been so testing and yet never has collaboration been so important. Collaboration is difficult when it entails profound structural change in the face of volatile financial markets and anemic growth prospects worldwide. Yet it is precisely these challenges that make it so vital that the regulatory response should be well coordinated internationally to ensure that the new regulatory framework is effectively and globally implemented.

Going forward, while we push for the progress on implementing the reform agenda to update the global financial regulatory framework, we should be mindful that our reform agenda incorporate the main lessons from the crisis and that they address the challenges posed by current conditions.

In this regard, we look forward to the outcomes of the initiatives of specific concern to the emerging and developing economies including financial inclusion, consumer protection and the study to identify the extent to which the agreed regulatory reforms may have unintended consequences for EMDEs.

With the relaxation of control of foreign investments and foreign exchange by countries, there has been a great increase in cross-border transactions which bring into focus issues of tax evasion and illicit flows that pose serious challenges

to the world economy and the efforts of the countries to raise revenue for development. India, like most of G20 countries, has signed the Multilateral Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters. To make the Convention really effective, the G20 should give a call that the Convention is signed by Offshore Financial Centers and countries traditionally believing in secrecy of bank laws and that country should not give exemptions which will eclipse the efficacy of the Convention.

India believes that the Automatic Exchange of Information is one of the most effective ways to improve voluntary tax compliance and decrease tax evasion and there is a need to make it obligatory. Members of the G20 can take a lead in this regard by exchanging information automatically with their treaty partners on a voluntary basis and then urging other countries also to do so. India would also like to suggest that an implementation of a country-by-country financial reporting standard, which includes the obligation for each multinational company to report in every country in which it operates, can increase transparency and reduce the scope of tax evasion.

Finally, Phase 1 and Phase 2 reviews of the Global Forum should not remain one off measures. An institutional mechanism may be established so that the reviews are done at periodic intervals. The effectiveness of the exchange of information should be monitored on a continuous basis by the Global Forum and reported to the G20 regularly.



151. Speech of Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee at the G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting on “Energy and Commodities”.

Washington (D.C.), April 21, 2012.

As a major commodity importer, India is very concerned about the increase and volatility of commodity, and especially oil, prices, in recent times that seem to be not aligned with underlying economic fundamentals. These distortions are, inter alia, adding to inflationary pressures in a number of developing countries, including India.

Despite several studies, including one done by the G 20 itself, it is still not very clear as to what is driving this heightened volatility, which seems to be a mix of financialization of commodity markets, monetary policy actions, political uncertainties, and demand-supply imbalances.

We feel that improving information and transparency in commodity markets, including futures and over the counter markets would help alleviate the problem. We therefore welcome the G 20 initiatives in this direction. There is an urgent need for countries to put in place a mechanism for gathering commodity market information and creating a publicly accessible comprehensive data base on production, price, inventories, demand and supply forecasts, etc. An unfettered access to vital information on the commodity markets would discourage excessive speculation and exaggerated price movements.

In addition, there should also be a thrust towards increasing production and productivity of commodities through improved technology to relieve any demand-supply imbalances that may exist to maintain price stability. During our last meeting in February we had also felt that there is a need for a commitment by producing countries to continue to ensure adequate supply to mitigate supply shocks.



152. Intervention Statement of Union Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee on 'GREEN GROWTH AND CLIMATE CHANGE' in Third Session of G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting.

Washington (D.C.), April 21, 2012.

India welcomes the initiatives taken by Mexico on Green Growth. As G-20 Finance Ministers, we should recognise that our concerns on Green Growth and Climate Change require, inter-alia, new solutions and a closer discussion on various possible options, and that such discussions should ultimately feed into UN processes. The G20 can contribute in this area through the identification of best practices for sustainable development, provide researched inputs, sharing of technology and suggesting ways of raising resources to go forward.

We need to recognize that there is currently no internationally agreed definition of "green growth". Our deliberations on the issue must therefore strike a balance between all the three pillars of sustainable development i.e. economic development, social development and environmental sustainability, on which there is consensus, and be consistent with the objectives, provisions and principles, including common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, of the UNFCCC.

We note the proposal for setting up a new study group of co-facilitators with the objective of organizing and delivering a report on Climate Finance commitments. However, the criteria and the process as to how this Study Group of Co-facilitators will be formed are not clear. I would like to point out that the views and interests of all G 20 countries need to be reflected through a transparent and inclusive process. Further, I would like to point out that while technical analysis and researched inputs on these issues are welcome, a review of the progress on commitments on climate finance has to be done by the Conference of Parties to UNFCCC only. The study group might benefit by limiting its focus on specific areas and where finding common ground remains contentious but breakthroughs are needed, such as financing for sustainable development.



153. Intervention Statement of Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee at Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Ministerial Meeting.

Washington (D.C.), April 21, 2012.

India appreciates the efforts of FATF in issuing the new international standards to combat money-laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation financing. These new standards would help better address new threats to the international financial system and provide stronger framework to act against criminals.

We are convinced that implementation of these new standards by the global community will make financial systems more transparent, safe and robust.

We fully share the view that due to integration of world economies and intermingling of the threats in the international business environment, no country can alone meet the threats of money-laundering and terrorist financing. There is an ever growing need for international cooperation to deal with these threats that are increasingly acquiring international dimensions. We hope the new standards will improve the domestic and international cooperation amongst the agencies to combat these crimes.

We have special concern that in cases of terrorist financing, stronger and faster international cooperation should be encouraged. It is also important that systems are put in place to prevent and detect the misuse of formal and informal channels irrespective of the size of fund.

The recommendations relating to transparency of legal entities and legal arrangements would help in promoting international cooperation in determining the controllers and beneficial owners of legal structures.

I am confident that FATF, while framing the assessment methodology, will take into account the diversities in the financial and legal structures of various countries and the implementation challenges that countries with lower capacities would have to face. India will fully contribute with member countries in developing suitable assessment methodology and procedures.

India is committed to implement these recommendations in an effective manner and contribute towards the global efforts to ensure integrity of the financial system

With these few words I reiterate India's support to FATF process and to the extended mandate being sought up to 2020.



154. Statement of Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee on Augmentation of IMF Resources at the Joint IMFC- G-20 Session.

Washington (D.C.), April 21, 2012.

Since January 2012, when the Managing Director made a proposal to augment IMF's resources, several landmark developments have taken place which have brought about a welcome change in the global economic and financial environment. In view of these developments, a measure of calm has been restored. But, several uncertainties and downside risks continue.

We welcome the recent efforts by EU to raise the size of its firewall and we request that these efforts should continue to play the primary role in addressing the needs of members of the EU as and when the situation so demands. We also feel that IMF assistance should only underpin the EU's efforts and play a catalytic role in order to provide confidence to investors.

Any bilateral financial contributions made should be voluntary. It should not be linked to reform of quota formula. Further these contributions should not be looked upon as a substitute to quota resources. It is important that innocent bystanders affected by the crisis, particularly the PRGT covered and low income countries are adequately protected and there should be sufficient resources available for them.

India has already ratified the 2010 quota increase. We have also confirmed that we will maintain our relative share of the new arrangements to borrow. Considering the gravity of the economic uncertainties we support the new funding initiative. Our exact contribution will be announced in due course.

India will continue to play its role to assist the IMF in its efforts to augment permanent resources. However, governance issues are also linked with this and we are disappointed at the pace of the reform on quota and governance issues. A dynamic process of reform is necessary to ensure the legitimacy and effectiveness of the Fund and the best possible means to improve governance and legitimacy is by ensuring that there is no slippage on crucial reforms.

The Quota Formula is due for review by January 2013 and it is important that there should not be any slippage in the target date in this regard. The quota formula is of central importance since quotas are the main determinant of the voting power of members. For the emerging and developing countries, GDP is the most important variable in the quota formula and the weight of the blended GDP variable should be substantially increased in the formula. Our objective is a simple formula with GDP blend as either the sole or predominant variable and with a higher share of GDP-PPP.



155. Final Communiqué issued after meeting of G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors.

Washington (D.C.), April 21, 2012.

1. We, the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, met to assess progress on the fulfillment of the mandates given to us by our Leaders and to address ongoing economic and financial challenges and promote robust growth and job creation.
2. Recent economic developments point to the continuation of a modest global recovery, supported by some significant policy actions that have taken place since our last meeting. The tail risks facing the global economy only months ago have started to recede. However, growth expectations for 2012 remain moderate, deleveraging is constraining consumption and investment growth, volatility remains high partly reflecting financial market pressures in Europe and downside risks still persist. We remain committed to further reduce these risks. High levels of public and private indebtedness, the need for structural reforms, insufficient global rebalancing, and persistent unemployment and development gaps continue to weigh on medium-term global growth prospects. In the context of high unemployment and indebtedness in many countries, supporting growth and job creation, structural reforms, restoring medium-term fiscal sustainability and promoting global rebalancing remain at the core of our commitments. In addition, protecting investment is crucial for the global recovery and, in accordance to the mandate by our Leaders in Cannes, we reaffirm our commitment to avoid protectionism. Vigilant of high oil prices, G20 members stand ready to carry out additional actions as needed and welcome the commitments by producing countries to ensure adequate supply.
3. We have made progress in implementing the commitments established in the Cannes Action Plan for growth and jobs, as well as taken additional actions consistent with our shared objectives for strong, sustainable and balanced growth. These commitments remain fully relevant. Complete and timely implementation is critical, though more needs to be done. We agreed today on the main elements of the accountability assessment that will be carried out in order to enhance monitoring of the implementation of our commitments, as mandated by our Leaders in Cannes. We have also agreed on the main priority areas for further policy actions that should be reflected in the Los Cabos Action Plan that will be announced by our Leaders in June, including on fiscal, financial, structural, monetary and exchange rate, trade and development policies. We took note of a preliminary report by the international organizations on how the G20 framework can contribute to job creation, with the final report being presented at the Los Cabos Summit. These are important initiatives as increasing growth, infrastructure financing, employment and social inclusion are at the heart of all our actions.

4. We remain committed to take the necessary actions to secure global financial stability. We welcome the euro area members' decisions in March to strengthen European firewalls as part of broader reform efforts and the availability of central bank swap lines. Together with the IMFC we have reached agreement to enhance IMF resources for crisis prevention and resolution. This is the result of a broad international cooperative effort that includes a significant number of countries. There are firm commitments to increase resources made available to the IMF by over \$430 billion in addition to the quota increase under the 2010 Reform. These resources will be available for the whole membership of the IMF, and not earmarked for any particular region. The resources would be channeled through temporary bilateral loans and note purchase agreements to the IMF's General Resources Account. Should it become necessary to use these resources, adequate risk mitigation features, conditionality and burden sharing among official creditors would apply, as approved by the IMF Board. This effort, together with the national and regional structural, fiscal, and monetary actions that have been put in place in the past months, shows the commitment of the international community to safeguard global financial stability and put the global economic recovery on a sounder footing.

5. We reaffirmed our commitment to fully implement the 2010 Governance and Quota Reform by the 2012 IMF/World Bank Annual Meeting. We will continue to contribute towards a comprehensive review of the IMF quota formula by January 2013 and the completion of the next general review of quotas by January 2014, fulfilling the commitments made in Seoul and Cannes. We reaffirm that the distribution of quotas should better reflect the relative weights of IMF members in the world economy which have changed substantially in view of strong growth in dynamic emerging markets and developing countries.

6. We welcome recent initiatives on IMF surveillance, and agree that the current surveillance framework should be significantly enhanced. This process should help achieve a better integration of bilateral and multilateral surveillance, with a focus on global, domestic and financial stability, including spillovers from countries policies. This could be achieved through a careful use of Article IV consultations. We welcome the progress by the IMF in advancing consideration of an integrated surveillance decision and commit to support the decision process. We underscore the importance of rigorous surveillance on exchange rate policies and support a more ample coverage of surveillance activities, where relevant, including global liquidity, capital flows, capital account measures, reserve and fiscal, monetary and financial sector policies that could have an impact on external stability. We welcome the ongoing work to produce an external sector report, which would strengthen multilateral analysis and enhance the transparency of surveillance. We also recognize that political ownership and traction is critical to effective surveillance, and that the IMFC has a role in facilitating the active

involvement of all IMF members. We call on the IMF to address issues that constrain effective surveillance as identified by the IEO.

7. We assessed progress on the implementation of our financial regulatory reform agenda as outlined in our February 2012 Communiqué in order to deliver on our commitments looking ahead to the Los Cabos Leaders' Summit, and reaffirmed our commitment to common global standards by pursuing the financial regulatory reform agenda according to our agreed timetable in an internationally consistent and non-discriminatory manner. We take note of the work to date by the FSB and BCBS on the modalities for extending the SIFI framework to domestic systemically important banks (D-SIBs), and look forward to the completion of this work by November 2012 and welcome the FSB progress report on strengthening the oversight and regulation of the shadow banking system to mitigate potential systemic risk and look forward to its final recommendations by end-2012. We support the work of the Working Group on FSB Capacity, Resources and Governance to put the FSB on an enduring organizational footing while preserving the strong links with the BIS and look forward to Leaders receiving the Group's recommendations in June 2012; the work coordinated by the FSB to provide safeguards supportive of a global framework for central counterparties (CCPs) as an important element in achieving the agreed OTC derivatives reforms, so that authorities can make informed decisions on the standards and requirements of CCPs to meet by end-2012 their commitment that all standardized OTC derivatives be centrally cleared in CCPs with the appropriate safeguards; and the efforts of the IASB and FASB to achieve convergence to a globally accepted set of high quality accounting standards and urge them to meet their target of issuing standards on key convergence projects by mid-2013, at the latest, in order to achieve a single set of high quality international accounting standards. We look forward for the completion of the study, coordinated by the FSB with the IMF and the World Bank, to identify the extent to which the agreed regulatory reforms may have unintended consequences for Emerging Markets and Developing Economies. We support the work of the FSB on the global governance framework for the legal entity identifier and look forward to its recommendations in June on establishing a global LEI system. We support work on developing for consultation, internationally consistent standards on margining for non-centrally cleared OTC derivatives by June 2012.

8. We reiterate our call upon all countries to join the Global Forum on transparency and to sign on the Multilateral Convention on Mutual Assistance. We look forward to an interim report by the OECD for the Los Cabos Summit on progress made and on a new set of reviews and on necessary steps to improve comprehensive information exchange. We welcome the ongoing work by the FSB on adherence to supervisory and regulatory information exchange and

cooperation standards. We support the renewal of the FATF mandate, sustaining global efforts to combat money laundering and the financing of terrorism and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

9. As an important complement of the G20 financial regulation agenda, we agreed to follow through on the five recommendations of the 2011 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion report, endorsed in Cannes, and take the financial inclusion agenda forward towards concrete results and we agreed to present to our Leaders at the Los Cabos Summit the G20 Basic Set of Financial Inclusion Indicators, which will assist countries, policymakers and stakeholders in focusing global efforts on measuring and sustainably tracking progress on access to financial services globally. We acknowledge the efforts of those G20 and non-G20 countries willing to commit to national coordination platforms and strategies for financial inclusion under the “G20 Financial Inclusion Peer Learning Program” at the Los Cabos Summit as well as the ongoing efforts and the importance of coordinated support, policy advice and technical assistance by GPMI implementing partners, other stakeholders, including the UN, and bilateral donors and request their continued support to national strategic planning, implementation and data initiatives in support of financial inclusion. On financial education we recognize the importance and relevance of the work that the OECD, its International Network on Financial Education (INFE), and the World Bank have been doing in this topic and look forward for the OECD/INFE High Level Principles on National Strategies for Financial Education to be presented to our Leaders for their consideration at the Los Cabos Summit. For advancing our financial consumer protection agenda we recognize the importance of the International Financial Consumer Protection Network (FinCoNet) as a global network of market conduct financial authorities. We also ask the G20/OECD Task Force on financial consumer protection to develop with the FSB effective approaches to support the implementation of the High Level Principles endorsed in Cannes, and recognize the importance of an active participation in this process. We recognize the need for women to gain access to financial services and financial education, and call for the GPMI and OECD/INFE to identify additional barriers women may face.

10. We welcome the participation of the International Organizations on the assessment of the macroeconomic impacts of excessive commodity price volatility on growth and their identification of policy options that countries could consider as per their national circumstances to mitigate any such effects. We will report to Leaders in Los Cabos on these policy options and their implications for our national agendas.

11. We reaffirm our commitments to enhance the transparency and functioning of energy markets. We will work to improve the JODI-Oil database and work on

applying the same principles to JODI-Gas, and to rationalize and phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies over the medium term, while providing targeted support for the poorest, and report on progress made to our Leaders in Los Cabos. We look forward to the IOSCO progress report on the implementation of its Principles for the Regulation and Supervision of Commodities Derivatives Markets at our next meeting in November. We welcome the consultation by IOSCO on the functioning and oversight of price reporting agencies and look forward to an update on their emerging recommendations for leaders in Los Cabos.

12. We received the preliminary report prepared by the OECD, the World Bank and UN on inserting green growth and sustainable development policies into structural reform agendas and look forward for the final version to be delivered to our Leaders. We welcome G20 countries voluntary self-reporting on current actions to integrate green growth and sustainable development into structural reform agendas.

13. We will continue to work on climate finance with the establishment of a G20 study group to consider ways to effectively mobilize resources and support the operationalization process of the Green Climate Fund taking into account the objectives, provisions and principles of the UNFCCC.

14. We appreciate G20 countries contributions and involvement in promoting Disaster Risk Management (DRM), and welcome the efforts made so far by the World Bank and OECD, with support from the UN to prepare a compilation of country experiences to be presented to our Leaders in Los Cabos, and towards having, by November, a voluntary framework aimed to facilitate the assessment of risk and financial strategies towards implementing DRM.



156. Media Briefing on Prime Minister's visit to Mexico for the G-20 Summit and for the Rio 20 + Summit.

New Delhi, June 15, 2012.

Please See Document No. 072



- 157. Statement by the Prime Minister prior to his departure for Mexico to attend the G-20 Summit and Brazil to attend the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20).**

New Delhi, June 16, 2012.

Please see Document No. 073



158. Media Briefing by Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission on G20 Summit.

Los Cabos, June 17, 2012.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Syed Akbaruddin): Good evening friends and let me welcome you to this media interaction with the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia. As we mentioned to you, he is also the Sherpa of the Prime Minister for the G20. What we will do is that we will ask the Deputy Chairman to make a few opening remarks, and then he is open to respond to any question that you may have. We hope that this interaction would last for about thirty minutes. With that I invite the Deputy Chairman to make his opening remarks.

Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission (Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia): Thank you very much. I hope you all have a nice flight because you all look very bright and cheerful, much better than I did when I landed here a couple of days ago.

We are in the middle of the whole process of agreeing on a draft declaration. So, some of the key things are really going to be decided when the leaders meet at the Summit. So, all I can tell you at this point is that attempts are being made to refine issues, attempts are being made to find out how much agreement there is; and obviously people will be referring back to their principals who are only just arriving. I had an opportunity to brief the Prime Minister on whatever the situation in these discussions is only about half an hour ago, and other leaders are just about turning up.

So, I am not in a position to say what is happening in the Summit other than that a lot of very good preparatory work has been done. I think you know all the issues that are going to be at the top of the agenda. Many of them are continuing issues. But the basic thing on the G20 agenda is really what progress we are making in what was originally agreed to be a cooperative global action plan to restore growth and stability.

There is a very extensive process of peer discussion which is aimed at trying to identify what are the policy priorities before the different G20 members in order to achieve the common goal of getting the global economy back to some kind of reasonable growth. I think the general assessment clearly is that the global economy is extremely weak, and so something does need to be said and hopefully even further done. And that is really what the Los Cabos Declaration in the end will hope to do.

I think with those introductory remarks I will be happy to answer questions knowing that none of the questions actually answer what you really want to

know which is, what is the declaration going to say? But to clue you in what the issues are, I would be very happy to respond. So, it is your interview.

Question: Since India's economic growth slipped below that of the global financial crisis period - in fact it was at a nine-year low - on that parameter can we assess that this time crisis is much more severe than global financial crisis period? And are the G20 leaders now better equipped to tackle the crisis?

Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission: It is quite clear the financial crisis of 2008 is a very serious crisis, and the initial response to that was actually quite good. And ... (Inaudible)... the feeling was that actually the world would get back to normal. And what we now see is the second crisis. In some ways how serious this crisis is at the moment? It is more market nervousness and uncertainty rather than an actual crisis triggered by lots of weaknesses in the banking system of the Eurozone. We do not know how effectively these weaknesses can be handled. But there is no doubt that if they are not handled, then we will have a second crisis; and that will be more serious in the sense that most countries have exhausted firepower. So, in the first crisis there was, if you like, lot of fiscal room to respond. There is not that much fiscal room to respond now.

Also when you have a first crisis and you respond to it quickly, you kind of bring expectations back to some sort of positive zone. We have a second crisis. It is more difficult to bring expectations back. So, in many ways I agree with the view that this is a more challenging crisis in some ways. I would not say at the moment that it is more serious because we do not know whether it will be managed or not.

Question: Do you think that G20 has any trump card which can encounter the European Union economic crisis? Second, while the G20 Summit is going on and BRICS countries leaders are meeting, what is the agenda? And third, in our country RBI is in a dilemma because inflation is not coming down, and for growth it is much that interest rates should go down. So, what is the option?

Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission: The last question is surely something you should be asking me in New Delhi, of course. I am out of touch with what is happening in the last two days. But let me address the first two.

You may have to remember bits of it because I would not necessarily capture them all. On the issue of whether the G20 has some kind of silver bullet, let us be clear that it is not as if the G20 deploys some firepower which is separate from the established system. I think what you have got is a global recovery that was faltering anyway. And there are lots of weaknesses everywhere. I think most countries were aware of what those weaknesses were and were trying to sort of put themselves in a position where basically they could give a better fillip to growth.

Then you were hit by the possibility of a very serious Eurozone crisis which initially was basically triggered by the uncertainty about what is going to happen in Greece. I assume you are all aware that what has happened in Greek election and the Centre Right party supported by Pasok looks as if they are likely to form a government. The likely elected leadership has made a very strong statement that they want to be within the Euro but that of course everybody was saying; but they also seemed to have made a statement that they want to continue with the programme of reform. Maybe it will get adjusted or not I do not know. So, on the whole, that outcome probably will calm markets a little bit.

But the biggest challenge really to solving the problem of the Eurozone is how the Eurozone is going to respond. It has been the view of all countries - and that is normally the case whenever there is a weakness anywhere - that the country or countries concerned have to respond in a credible manner and that the international community should stand ready to support them. That is basically the principle that is going to be followed here. So, the real issue is, what is it that the Eurozone should do; are they willing to do it?

And really the question of how far the Los Cabos Summit can go is something that you will have to judge from whatever the Declaration says two days from now. But I do not think we should look to these declarations as if they are going to be a detailed group interaction. After all, the Greek Government has just come in and the first statement made by the new Greek leader, which I have heard on TV, looked a bit reassuring. But you have to give them time to see what they are going to do.

The Europeans are going to meet on the 20th and 29th of June. No doubt we will have more detail about what they want to do available by then. So, I think it is not what the G20 is going to do. I think the G20 is creating an environment, providing a sort of global collegial support for the right action in terms of broad directions. People will want to see whether everybody is on the same page. And I think if everybody is on the same page what it means is that the Eurozone knows it is a problem, it is planning to handle it this way, and that the global community stands ready to provide support. It is that kind of outcome that we should expect to see when the leaders meet and discuss and so forth.

Question: The Eurozone question you have answered, but as far as India's expectations are concerned, the sense that one picks up is that the Prime Minister's statement on push for infrastructure development at previous summits has not come through as far as the G20 nations being able to deploy their surplus capital for infrastructure. My question at this stage is, as far as India's expectations are concerned, given our particular economic concerns and the overall need for stability, what do you expect to go back home with?

Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission: Let me say, we are fortunate that

we are not in a position right now where we have to be looking for any kind of emergency assistance. So, we are not posing to the G20 any specific thing that has to be done for India. We are basically saying, look the most important thing that the G20 can do for India is to put in place a credible reassurance of global financial stability. Because, if that does not happen and if there is contagion in Europe, it will be highly destabilizing given the size of the Europe and the importance of its banking system. So, quite frankly, if we can go back saying, the G20 has given a positive signal which suggests that the Eurozone crisis is likely to be handled well, that is something that we should be quite happy about. So we are not going back with sort of specific things for India, we are going back with an assurance of stability.

We do not actually need any support from the IMF or the World Bank or anything like that. World Bank of course we borrow from every year. But we have not come here looking for those kinds of things. But clearly the Prime Minister's statement on infrastructure, which he made earlier also, I think is finding resonance. It is not the case that We have other countries that have supported our position. We have to wait and see in the Declaration what comes out. But his point really was that, look in a situation where globally demand is weak for a variety of reasons, it makes sense that we should be supporting demand and we should be supporting the kind of demand that is consistent with generating growth in developing countries. That is our concern.

One of the things that has come out is that we have provided, the global community has provided, a huge amount of resources to build up the IMF firewall. That is a good thing because European markets and European banks need it and it is important for stabilization. But what we have been saying is that look, if we are providing so much resources from what are effectively rich countries, should we not also be doing something to strengthen the flow of finance towards developing countries? In that context he said, infrastructure investment is good for developing countries; is good for developing countries in a short run because it gives a demand impetus; it is good for developing countries in a long run because it increases their growth; it is also good for the global economy because in the short run advanced countries will gain from the stimulus because this is not something that would be limited only to domestic demand, and in the long run to the extent to which developing countries grow rapidly that will provide a stimulus to global growth also. So, as we think of it, it is a win-win situation.

Now what we need to get out of the Declaration is a recognition in the Declaration that this is an important point. And then it sends the signals down to the multilateral development banks and other working groups to do something about it. It is not a negotiated outcome where you will get a concrete result. I am hopeful, I should not say anything about the Declaration but I can assure you that we have found a lot of support amongst developing countries virtually

universal. And I would also say amongst developed countries there is an appreciation that the this was the sensible thing to do.

Question: Sir, you said all these things about the need of infrastructure. How vulnerable are we, we meaning India when we look at the European Union, the major trading partners? Our IIP is down and the GDP is also down. In that situation, how vulnerable are we?

Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission: It is a very familiar question, because every time I walk out of my office in the Planning Commission this is what they ask me.

I can assure you, after you have spent about half an hour here, my suggestion is you talk to all the other journalists you meet and you tell them that we are really very worried because the Indian growth rate is down to 6.9 per cent. And you will find that they will say, 'What!' very quickly.

Jokes apart, we are obviously concerned. PM has said and everybody else has also said that we have been affected. We clearly said that it is not just a global slowdown though the global slowdown was an important element. There are also domestic constraints which we are trying to address, and we hope that we will be able to address them. But in this environment, if China slows down to 7.5 and India slows down 6.9, they simply view this as the fact that when there is a big global crisis, the emerging markets are not left unaffected, the emerging markets are also affected. I think our own view perhaps is, and that is certainly my view, that a significant part of the slowdown can be attributed to the global downturn; we also have domestic problems that we need to address. But that is not something that is being discussed here.

Question: With Mamata walking out, that appears to be partly addressed.

Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission: You are all better informed than I am on that.

Question: Are we getting a new Finance Minister?

Question: Are we looking at the new Finance Minister?

Question: You have just mentioned that if G20 basically fails to come up with this positive stability statement for the markets, there is going to be a horrible, horrible outcome for the world. What is the contingency plan in India that is being worked on? There are some reports in the media that there is an entire crisis management group meeting this and next week to analyse the situation. Could you please give us some details about that?

Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission: What management group in India?

Question: Crisis management group. What is the contingency plan in India?

Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission: Contingency plan for a global crisis?

Question: Yes.

Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission: We expect to succeed in Los Cabos so that the contingency plan ... (Inaudible)... But any sensible government always makes plans for extreme or ... (Inaudible)... risk events. I am sure that the RBI and all these people have done that. When you say contingency plans, there are two kinds of situations. When you have a completely open capital account, then the contingency plan really has to do with the fact that you might suddenly see a massive, whatever, contraction, withdrawal of deposits. That is not possible in India. There is no point in having a contingency plan about what is going to happen if there is a global crisis and the world economy slows down. We are also thinking about that.

Internally in the Planning Commission right now we are in the last stages of completing our exercise on the 12th Plan. And internally one year ago we had said that we wanted to aim at a nine per cent growth. It is quite clear with what is happening in the global economy and with presently depressed levels of growth, that we cannot be unaware of this. So, we need to rethink for example how will we get back on to the right growth trajectory. So, those kinds of issues are certainly being looked at. More generally, my feeling is that we are not likely to be vulnerable to sudden outflow type of situations. The real question is that if the global economy does not improve, then clearly it has an impact on how rapidly India can grow and we have to build that into our contingency plans.

Question: The December figures put out by the Reserve Bank on credit falling due within one year is towards 137 billion dollars. Now that is the extent of foreign claims on India. If things do not go right, some or a large amount of that money is likely to be – it is going to out anyway but - go out a bit faster than it might otherwise have done. In that context, is there a contingency plan?

Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission: Clearly, as I said, these are the kinds of things that the RBI and the Finance Ministry do, and they are not the kinds of things that the Planning Commission actually gets involved in. But look at it objectively. Yes, there is a debt volume which sort of ... (Inaudible)... how much falls due for maturity. But the assumption that we may be hit by that shock actually is based on the assumption that certainly nobody wants to loan any more money to India. If you are a banker looking around the world, sure you would say, well maybe these guys are not on a nine per cent growth trajectory, and could it be that they are really down to seven or even 6.5. But suppose you have made a pessimistic conclusion that they are down to 6.5, then you looked around the other countries and you found that they were all growing, except for

China, much more slowly. I am not clear that you would immediately decide to withdraw money from India. I do not think that is really a credible prospect. So, I personally think that both on the external front and on the financing front, we need not be excited to see such a huge, sudden shortage you are thinking of. And let us take an extreme case. Suppose you have such a shock, the reserves can actually take that and you will end up with 137 billion less dollars of debt and still quite a lot of reserves, and there will be very few countries which bankers would not then prefer to lend to because India would look like quite a good bet. Those mechanical calculations are not in my view as alarming as one thinks. It would be quite a different matter by the way if we had 137 billion dollars of short-term debt falling due and 50 billion dollars is reserves. That is all a different ballgame.

Question: Mr. Ahluwalia, can you throw some light on what the suggestions from our side are to overcome this economic crisis?

Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission: Frankly, we are not making specific suggestions. In an inter-governmental meeting, I think decisions are discussed at a pretty high level, I mean aggregated level. First and most important in our view, most of the solutions to the Eurozone problem lies within the Eurozone. We do not view this as a situation where the Eurozone countries have no options and the entire gap that they may be experiencing have to be filled by the IMF. In our view, the answers lie very much in their own hands. And if they are clear about those answers and position themselves giving signals that they are actually going to do that, then there will be a much easier return to calm in the markets. That is different from whether they will get back at growth. You remember, there are two different issues here. The first issue is, are we going to have a banking collapse in the Eurozone, flight of capital, deposits flying out of this country's banks and that country's banks as has happened in the case of Greece. The second issue is that we know there would not be a collapse, but will the Europe grow at one per cent or half a per cent or 1.25 per cent? These are two separate issues.

I think that there is no doubt in my mind that Eurozone is perfectly capable of giving clear signals that it is going to prevent a financial collapse. No doubt at all. The ECB has enough firepower. There are a few rules etc., which they have to get around. But I think that if they are clear that they are going to use it, I think they have the ability to do that. The more difficult thing is that having done it, will Europe quickly get back to two plus per cent? Eurozone will experience negative growth in the current year. So, how early will they get back to reasonable growth? That is a big issue. That requires a lot of action.

I think if the leaders' declaration comes out the way I think it will come out, then there is a very clear indication of what needs to be done in different countries.

Now we have to see finally what is actually said. But you know the logic of the mutual assessment process, which is what the G20 really started, was that for each of the G20 countries there will be an assessment that this is what you have to do in order to bring about restoration of growth in the world economy.

Now the G20 countries are 80 per cent of global GDP. So, there is 20 per cent left outside. But if you are talking about 80 per cent growth of GDP, you are talking about a lot. I think those policies, the longer term policies, will all be there in what will probably get called as Los Cabos Action Plan. The system is one which monitors performance against declared policy commitments. So, I mean the people are making commitments, then they will be monitored and hopefully. When people make commitments in international gatherings, these are not the legal enforceable type of commitments. They do represent a serious indication on the part of government. Each government is in effect making it public that this is what it is going to do that builds up some support domestically, although some opposition but build up that enables them to explain to their electorate that we are going to do this but that is because somebody else is also going to do something else and someone else is doing something else, and all together will be good for the world. So, that is what this mutual assessment process was meant to do. And I think you will see a lot of that in the Los Cabos Action Plan when it is unveiled day after tomorrow.

Question: Dr. Ahluwalia, while we continue to compliment ourselves for the fantastic growth rate, we compare it to the rest of the world, what is certainly a fact - and I would like you to clarify - is that India is way more vulnerable in 2012 than we were in 2008 when we were able to weather the storm. And talking about the firepower that is there with the G20 nations, isn't it true that India also has a far limited firepower right now to actually battle any worsening global situation, no fiscal room whatsoever to provide any stimulus? In that sense also, isn't the government continuing to be in denial of the sharp slowdown that we are seeing? Last year we started by talking of nine per cent, we ended at 6.9 per cent. We have a worsening global economic situation with government continuing to talk of 7.6 per cent growth for this fiscal whereas the rest of the world does not seem to think that we will grow at six per cent.

Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission: I am not aware by the way that the government has said 7.6 for this fiscal. I certainly never said it. I do not believe the Prime Minister said it.

Question: The Budget number is 7.6.

Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission: These numbers by the way are not what are at the top of the Budget-makers' minds in the week before the Budget. These numbers come out of the Economic Survey. That document gets finalized sometime ...

Question: But all your revenue calculations would be based on that.

Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission: I am not disputing that. Let me come to that. First, is the Government in denial? Absolutely no. You do not have to look anywhere beyond the Prime Minister's own statements. He has categorically said that we have slowdown, we are worried about it, and it is not just due to the global economy. That is why he has been having all these coordination meetings and this and that and the other which we hope are going to lead to some. So, I think you are just factually wrong to say that the Government is in denial.

It is factually correct to say that we have slowed down. That is true. We have slowed down from nine per cent before 2008 to about 6.9 last year. It is also true that the slowdown is more than we thought it would be. But please remember the global slowdown is also more than what anyone thought it will be. Unfortunately, it is not clear why but too much of our own discussions take place without an adequate appreciation of what is happening in the world. If you look at the IMF's predictions about the world one year ago, and you look at the IMF's prediction about the world today, there is a huge downgrade in virtually every category.

It is true that we did not forecast 6.9. It is true that the Budget said 7.5. I am not responsible for the short-term forecast. And I have said on a number of occasions that we will be lucky this year if we can be somewhere between 6.5 and seven. And I think that still remains a reasonable range to talk about. Sure, it is much below our long-term target but the world is growing much more slowly.

Of course, if your concern about denial is that the Government does not intend to do anything about it, I think that is not true. I do not know what happened in the last couple of days because I have been out of touch. But certainly in the week before that, the Prime Minister gave the very clear signal, which I think he has repeated what he said before taking off at least what I saw, that they are working to try to make sure that large infrastructure projects remain on track. I think one of the problems is, if you look at the data in India what has really happened is there is a big slowdown in investment. Investment we know is driven by what are called animal spirits. And animal spirits are affected by all kinds of things including the global economy. We cannot do very much about the global economy. But one of the things we can do is to address the nervousness on the part of investors that things are getting stuck, things are not moving, Ministries are not agreeing with each other, etc. That is a genuine problem which I think the Government has acknowledged. It has set up a mechanism to try to resolve. I think there has even been some progress there in the sense that very large projects that were stuck were made to come unstuck. But I think to be fair it will take six months before a fair-minded observer looks

back and says yes things really started to move because we have set up these things. How effective the mechanisms are it will take six months.

And I am hopeful that if you interview me six months later and ask this question, even you would be compelled to say that I have to agree that some things move. At least that is what I hope.

Question: Hope we are going to be like the inflation numbers.

Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission: By the way, let us be clear, I got an inflation number, I made a forecast which turned out to be wrong in the next year. I said this time I am really to be right and I was. And nobody reported that.

By the way, anybody who thinks that making forecasts is a criticism of making forecasts if you get them wrong, then you should not make forecasts. Yogi Berra I think said it is very difficult to make forecasts especially of the future. I think there is a lot of wisdom in that.

Question: Is the vulnerability in 2012 versus 2008 ... (Inaudible)...

Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission: I agree with you in that. If you mean by vulnerability we have less firepower and less fiscal space, that is absolutely correct. That is also the general problem around the world, one of the weaknesses. That is why quite frankly, my view is that this slowdown cannot be handled by a quick fix, let-us-speed-up-expenditure type of thing. One message that clearly comes out is that fiscal consolidation has to be medium term oriented and not instantaneous. That is not just true of us, that is true of all countries. But we need to look at affecting the underlying factors that determine growth and determine investor expectation and welcome those. It is true that those things take a little bit longer. So, that is where when I said we are looking at what is a reasonable target of the 12th Plan, we are sort of assuming that we are going to take at least two years to try to get back to a reasonable growth rate, and then the average target has to be calibrated around that kind of assumption.

Question: This is the same issue which has been raised by my colleagues. In 2008 we survived the economic depression in some way. Now on the eve of this Los Cabos meet, what kind of reassuring words in the sense that India can insulate ourselves from the G20 or mainly the Eurozone crisis? Are you in a position to give something to people back in India on the eve of the meet tomorrow?

Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission: The name of the game should not be to insulate ourselves. It is really easy to insulate yourselves from the world.

Question: The Prime Minister has categorically said that because there is a trading and business partnership between many European countries and India there is a major concern in India. That is why I am asking, is there any way we can insulate ourselves from this?

Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission: It is part of the process of globalizing the economy and benefiting from globalisation that you increase the potential vulnerability. The solution is not insulation. The solution is to be able to counter these negative effects. It is very easy to insulate ourselves. Just go back to two per cent growth. So, it is not our objective to insulate ourselves. I think we ought to work on one hand looking at a global solution which will stabilize the global economy and keep markets open. After all even in these countries frankly if it is mismanaged, you can see a rise of protectionism which is not good for them and it is not going to be good for us.

So, on the one hand at the global level what we are trying to do is to create a reassurance that countries are willing to cooperate, countries are willing to work with each other, they should keep their markets open, we keep our markets open, etc., etc., Then we have to counter, we have to protect ourselves. One of the important elements of protection is for example that we have fairly large reserves. Another element of protection is that we do not have a fully convertible capital account. And we have consistently maintained that we want to encourage capital inflows, long-term inflows, FII inflows, but not short-term debt. Otherwise TCA's point about how many billion dollars would be maturing in a year, the number would be quite different.

So, I would not call this insulating but I would call this calibrating the nature of our globalizing process in a manner where we get a lot of advantages and when there is a downturn globally, we have instruments which can minimise the damage to us. That is what we should be doing.

Question: What is India's specific message to Europe going to be? Are we going to give them any particular message? Secondly, the Prime Minister a few hours ago said that he hopes that the G20 will arrive at a constructive solution to what he called the crisis. So, what is the desired outcome in the declaration? As you said, will it just be every country committing itself to certain deliverables, or they will be more specific on that?

Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission: I do not want to prejudge what the Communique will be ... (Inaudible)... partly because some of the key elements of it are still being negotiated. But I do want to anchor your expectations a little bit. What is going to happen out of this is not a global agreement to introduce a new global rescue fund of zillions of dollars. It is more sort of coming to an agreement on how do you handle this problem. And if all the countries including the Eurozone countries agree that this is how we are going to handle the problem, then financial markets looking at individual countries will get a sense of what they are planning to do.

And you know, since this is a high profile meeting, international meeting, countries

are making commitments, leaders are signing on declarations, there is going to be a reasonable expectation that they are going to act the way they said. Now you have to read the declaration and make up your own mind whether it is adding a little bit of information to what is currently being thought to be the likely attitudes or prejudices or knee-jerk reactions of individual countries. I think the key thing here is that countries would be more willing to commit themselves to sensible actions, if they know that all the other countries are actually going to be doing things that are supporting the global effort.

So, it is the totality of what comes out that actually makes sense. Take one of the simpler statements that have been made in the last two or three years by the G20, their promising not to increase protectionist measures. Actually if you think about it, that is quite a major commitment for countries to make. Historically if you go back to the Great Depression, the natural instinct whenever output is down and unemployment is high, the natural instinct is to raise protection. And so far they have avoided it. Here and there some little action may be but by and large there has been no, and this is the assessment of the WTO that although this has been in many ways the worst crisis since whenever the Great Depression and it has gone on now for some time, there has not been a relapse into protectionism. That is a good outcome.

I am sure that if you look at the industrialized countries, the fact that they signed up on these things conditions what is done domestically ... (Inaudible)... although these are not legally enforceable. If somebody were to violate these things, there is nothing to do about it. But I do think that governments know that they are being watched by markets; governments know that they will be judged by whether they live up to what they say. And that is true for us also. So, we take very seriously what we sign up to in this and I think other countries do also.

Question: Do not you think this is one of our specific messages to Europe?

Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission: No, this is not a case where India is giving a message. That is a bit presumptuous. I think all of us are giving messages to all of us together. Your best bet is, look at what the Prime Minister said before he left India. Look at what he says in his speech tomorrow, which will be circulated. There have been developments since then, so it would not be exactly I suppose what you said; and then you look at the draft declaration. And if you think that basically the declaration reflects what we have been saying, all we can say. It is not as if we are writing the declaration; twenty other countries are doing the same thing.

The interesting thing is that it is the same message. There was not much point in having a Declaration where page 32 is India's message to Europe and page 33 is somebody else's message to Europe. Europe has had enough messages.

The important thing about this ... (Inaudible)... is that the Europeans are going to sign on to it. And I think we should look to see whether you will think that substantively.

Question: Just continuing from what you said, the Prime Minister would be having a bilateral with Angela Merkel. Will he be asking her to shed her position from austerity to pro-growth position like other governments?

Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission: I do not actually know, in fact the Foreign Secretary will probably know, what the bilaterals are. However, they have lots of coffee sessions in between. So, even if there is not a scheduled bilateral, they will be meeting each other.

Question: The other thing is, IMF in March issued a Debt Assessment Report on Greece which argued that Greece is heading into insolvency because it was not fulfilling the IMF targets. Basically, if I understand correctly, that means the IMF Board has to make a vote as to whether they will continue their programme. Which direction will India vote on those?

Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission: I do not think we have made up our minds on this and I would not even know. Let me say on the issue of Greece, first let us be clear that Greece is not a member of the G20. Therefore, Greece and its problems are really not the subject of discussion. We of course wish the new Greek government well as we wish all governments that have come in a very difficult time. I think one thing should be very clear. Whatever happens in Greece, its impact on the rest of the world is going to be determined only by the contagion effect on the rest of Europe. I am not saying that what happens in Greece is not important. Greece has a large population, it is very important for them. But it is a small country.

The worry that people have was that any kind of extreme event in Greece would trigger a contagion which would lead to a collapse in the banking system in Europe. That is what would have huge affects around the world. So, most of our discussion is focused on how you stabilize the European financial system. I think it also should be said by the way that to say that the European financial system is that much affected just by Greece is a little unfair to Greece. The fact is, European banking system has come under a lot of stress because you have got huge sovereign debt problems and most of this debt is held by the banks, and the Eurozone countries are not in a position where they are going to grow rapidly. So, in the absence of growth and a very high sovereign debt, there is all sorts of doubts about how you stabilize that situation.

The Greek thing was only a trigger that might sort of lead to a contagion. And that is a genuine worry, and I think it is shared by all G20 countries. And I would hope that the Declaration tomorrow would give a very clear appreciation that

this is how the G20 countries assess the situation and this is how they hope to handle it. And G20 here includes all the major countries in Eurozone.

Question: I just want to understand the functioning of G20 in terms that the larger issues which are discussed at G8 ultimately are discussed at G20 because of the larger participation. But what about the concrete steps which are also expected out of G20 like money laundering, black money, tax avoidance, etc. What is happening on that front?

Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission: I think quite a bit. That is a continuing effort but you will see in the Declaration that the G20 has had an initiative basically aimed at disciplining what are called a combination of tax havens and non-conforming jurisdictions, plus the whole issue of money laundering, terrorist financing, etc. There are agreements that are being entered into, tax information sharing agreements. So, these are slowly being put into place and they are useful for countries when they are searching for people evading taxation.

Question: But I think there was a kind of agreement emerging that there will be automatic transfer of tax information so that even banks that ... (Inaudible)... to a nonresident would automatically be accounted for. There was a proposal of this nature. Is there any concrete development in that?

Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission: The details of these agreements and how they play out is something that our Revenue Department will be better able to tell you. But there is no doubt that as a result of pressure from the G20, institutionally the degree of exchange of information has improved quite substantially. Now different people have different expectations of what degree of tax information sharing there should be. And that is a legal issue that really has to be sorted out. I think the main issue is that most countries do not agree to what we call a fishing expedition type of exchange of information. But I think if you have actually taken action against someone based on information that you have for tax avoidance, I think we are much better armed today than we were let us say four years ago in trying to get information sharing to take place. Now there may be a few jurisdictions which do not comply with this and pressure is being brought to essentially bring them in line. But otherwise we are getting information that four years ago we were not getting

Question: Dr. Ahluwalia, when you talk about India's priorities at the G20 Summit, one thing of course that is coming up time and time again is the Eurozone and the worries around that and also protectionism. Apart from those two, what do you think can be ranked as one of India's chief concerns at the G20 that Prime Minister Singh is likely to address tomorrow?

And if I can ask a question of Foreign Secretary Matai, could you just tell us a

little bit more and confirm what the bilaterals are for Prime Minister Singh? Prime Minister Singh will also be meeting the new French President for the first time. You have served in France as well. What is the focus going to be in terms of that bilateral?

Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission: On India's concerns, I do not have anything to add. You have got a fair sense of what I think our concerns are.

Foreign Secretary (Shri Ranjan Mathai): The bilaterals tomorrow are with the President of Mexico and with Chancellor Merkel as you have just heard. On the 19th, on Tuesday, he will be meeting the Prime Minister of Canada, Prime Minister of the UK, President of France and President of Russia. You have mentioned of course President of France he will be meeting for the first time. I think the aim would be to confirm the kind of very substantive relationship which has been built up between our two countries. President Hollande has already been in touch with PM through an exchange of letters. But this would be an occasion to catch up with some of the major issues. I presume by then the election results in France would also be out. I think the first indications were that the President's Socialist Party expects to win a substantial position in the National Assembly there. This would be an occasion I think to go over the main themes in our relationship, very strong relationship in the field of civil nuclear energy, space, counterterrorism, political dialogue. But also it should be an occasion to see what we need to do to advance the trade and economic relationship between the two countries which is still considered to be somewhat below its potential.

Question: Going back to the question that I had asked Dr. Ahluwalia which he had referred to the FS about what will you be asking Mrs. Merkel about ...

Foreign Secretary: I think that he has already answered. There are a number of issues which they will be discussing. This is the sixtieth year of our diplomatic relationship with Germany. So, there is a lot going on in the bilateral field. I think some of those issues will be ... (Inaudible)...

Question: On the issue of ... (Inaudible)...austerity ... (Inaudible)...

Foreign Secretary: I think on that the Deputy Chairman has already spoken. We will not be lecturing or proposing anything to any specific leader. But in terms of preferences of how we emerge and get back on to the growth path, I think that is what ...

Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission: I do not know what the public image of different countries is, and I do not want to respond to those images. I think the issue of austerity versus growth is one of the central issues before the G20 because you have a situation where it is very clear that most of these countries

have very high sovereign debt. If one country had such a high sovereign debt, there is no doubt in anybody's mind that they will say you ought to do a little bit of austerity. But when all countries have very high sovereign debt, I think it can be argued that coordinated austerity across the board is not going to lead to a high growth. And I do not think there is any dispute on that. I mean do not think that because ... (Inaudible)... style or caricature of position of one lot versus another lot.

This is all a matter of balance. And I think you have to wait for the Communique and try to look at it to see whether as a result of these discussions across countries something more like an agreed, common position has emerged. Nobody ever says by the way that fiscal prudence does not matter. We do not. We do not say that at all and I do not think the Prime Minister has ever said that. But the issue really is that if you have got a globally depressed situation, how do you orchestrate a return to fiscal consolidation? And the general view is, we all do it over the medium-term. Obviously countries that are in very deep trouble need to act more and countries that are not in very deep trouble maybe need to even expand. I mean that is what global rebalancing is all about. So, you need to wait and see what the Communique gives in terms of signals and to what extent does that, I would not say reflect a shift in position, but it might reflect a clarification of positions versus some caricature of position that will be spread in the markets.

Question: That is what you will be telling Merkel?

Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission: No, I am not going to. Prime Minister will be speaking. By the way they have met before and they have very good relations. I very much doubt. There is so much bilateral for them to discuss that I doubt if these sorts of things which are being discussed in the summit as whole will be the principal focus of discussion.

Question: Where do the Chinese stand in all this? What is their position in G20 normally on such issues?

Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission: I feel uncomfortable, not that there is a problem but it is not proper for me to be speaking for the Chinese. Maybe they are having a press conference and you can ask them.

Question: What is India's ... (Inaudible)...

Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission: I think we have had very good and cooperative, I would say that the Chinese participation in G20 will be very constructive. Actually, if you look at it from their perspective, when G20 began the whole perception was that the biggest imbalance in the world is the China imbalance because they are the ones running huge surpluses and they are the

ones whose exchange rate was too depreciated. And I think what they correctly pointed out is that their surpluses were down and their exchange rate is appreciating maybe not as much as some people want but they have certainly moved.

Earlier they were being criticized as wanting to extract an unreasonable amount of growth out of a global economy that could not support such growth without causing problems to others, and they have lowered their growth target. So, I think you could argue that if the name of the game was bringing about global balancing, the Chinese have in fact done what most people wanted. Now if you go into it in more detail and find for example more here and less there, etc. But I do not think their view is different from ours in the sense that in the main issues that I raise that the Eurozone crisis is an extremely important crisis, it is not just a European problem, bulk of the solution lies in the hands of Europe, but the global community must stand ready to support a credible European effort. I think like us they also feel that there has been a lot of focus on crises that actually are at the moment focused on richer countries. And in this process the needs of the developing countries which we talk about and they talk about I think they need to be given more attention. I think we are on the same page on all this.

Question: In the context of the telephone call which the US President had with our PM last week, is there a likelihood of a bilateral at the current summit?

Foreign Secretary: We have not scheduled one. But the possibility that they will meet on the margins and speak as they say either a pull aside or something, that is always open. But nothing has been scheduled.

Official Spokesperson: Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen. With that we come to the end of this discussion.



159. Speech of Prime Minister at the Plenary Session of G-20 Summit.

Los Cabos (Mexico), June 18, 2012.

Mr. President,

Let me begin by thanking you for the warmth of your hospitality and the excellent arrangements made for this Summit.

The global economic situation is deeply worrying. The economic recovery is faltering and even the fast growing emerging markets are slowing down. This calls for policy action on several fronts. Of greatest concern at present is the uncertainty affecting the Eurozone. The sovereign debt crisis and the banking crisis now on the horizon have grave implications for the health of the entire global economy.

A new government in Greece is about to take office. We wish them well and are encouraged by the early statements of intent.

However, the risks of contagion in Europe remain because they reflect weaknesses in the banking sector arising from excessive sovereign debt and low growth prospects. A crisis in the European banking system can choke trade finance quite quickly, and end up choking economic growth not just in the Eurozone but in the world in general.

This Summit needs to send a strong signal to the markets that the Eurozone countries will make every effort to protect the banking systems and the global community will back a credible Eurozone effort and response.

However, there are some problems I would like to mention.

There is concern that the firewall available may not be adequate to deal with contagion. The resources currently expected to be mobilized by Europe and the IMF are less than was estimated a year ago, and the crisis is actually more serious.

Part of the solution lies in providing liquidity to cope with loss of market confidence. But liquidity does not help when solvency is in question. To address this problem, liquidity must be provided in parallel with effective adjustment programmes that ensure an early return to debt sustainability. The adjustment programme adopted should lead to an acceleration of growth, so that countries can grow out of the debt trap.

This brings me to the contentious issue of the relationship between austerity and growth. It can be argued that austerity now will lay the basis for sustained

growth later. But there is also an alternative view that with growth impulses as seriously weakened as they are today, synchronized austerity across many countries may not be the right medicine.

Financial markets normally favour austerity, but even they are beginning to recognize that austerity with no growth will not produce a return to a sustainable debt position.

I am not suggesting that fiscal prudence is not important. I am only saying that given the large adjustment needs, not all of it can be front-loaded everywhere. This is especially relevant within a currency area. Austerity in the debt-ridden members of the Eurozone can work only if surplus members are willing to expand to offset contraction elsewhere in the currency area.

The International Monetary Fund has a critical supportive role to play in stabilizing the Eurozone. All members must help the Fund to play this role. I am happy to announce that India has decided to contribute \$ 10 billion to the IMF's additional firewall of \$ 430 billion.

Mr. President,

While many rich countries face difficulties, the less developed and developing countries are also facing serious problems because of the negative impact of the global crisis. Infrastructure investment in developing countries assumes special importance in this context. It lays the foundation for rapid growth in the longer term, while providing an immediate stimulus for their economies and also for the global economy, by providing a robust source of demand.

An expansion of investment in infrastructure in developing countries is only possible if they can get access to long term capital to finance such investment. This is difficult at a time when capital flows are disrupted. The Multilateral Development Banks can play a major role in this context.

We have expanded the resources of the IMF enormously, largely to support programmes in rich countries. We now need to take steps to substantially expand the resource base of Multilateral Development Banks so that they have the firepower to help developing countries pursue their development goals. The G-20 Framework Working Group and the Financial Stability Board could examine how to enhance investment in infrastructure through country commitments and incentives in the regulatory framework.

Mr. President, let me say that I believe that the G-20 agenda is getting overburdened. We need to refocus on a few goals rather than dissipating energies on too many fronts.

Like other emerging economies, India too has slowed down. The global downturn

and especially the impact on capital flows have played their part. Internal constraints have also affected performance and we are working to correct them.

Our growth rate in 2011-12 declined to 6.5% from the level of 8.4% in the previous year. This may look like a reasonable figure, given growth rates being experienced in the rest of the world, but our public is impatient for a return to high growth and faster jobs creation. The fundamentals of the Indian economy remain strong and we are confident of bringing back the rhythm of high growth of 8-9% per annum.

Investment has been affected by the adverse global climate which impacts both foreign and domestic investors. We are taking steps to revive investor sentiment. We are determined to create an environment that would boost investor sentiment and promote an atmosphere conducive to enterprise and creativity. Our policies will be transparent, stable and designed to provide a level playing field to both domestic and foreign investors.

We are focussing heavily on infrastructure investment and in this context we have set ambitious targets to keep infrastructure investment on track and also put in place a problem resolution mechanism to overcome implementation bottlenecks.

Like other countries, we too allowed the fiscal deficit to expand after 2008 to impart a stimulus. We are now focussing on reversing the expansion. This will require tough decisions, including on controlling subsidies, which we are determined to take.

In this context, I would like to mention a landmark effort underway in India to provide unique identity numbers for all residents with capture of biometric data. This massive database covering over a billion people will facilitate delivery of a whole range of financial and other services, through effective targeting and reduced leakages in subsidy schemes.

Thank you.



160. Prime Minister's Statement at Second Plenary session of G-20 Leaders on "Strengthening the international financial architecture and the financial system and promoting financial inclusion".

Los Cabos, June 19, 2012.

We welcome the efforts to strengthen the IMF resources and as I announced yesterday, we will contribute US\$ 10 billion.

I must point out however that progress in quota reform is proceeding more slowly than raising resources. I recognise that there are practical reasons why the quota reform agreed in 2010 will not be completed by the end of 2012, but it must be done expeditiously thereafter.

It is also important that the quota review schedule for January 2013 is completed in time. Quotas must reflect economic weights, in a manner that is simple and transparent.

These objectives can be best achieved by recognizing the predominant role of GDP on PPP basis in the formula without going into other variables. This basic position should not be compromised in any way and we need to reiterate our position strongly.

I welcome the progress made in financial regulatory reform. However much remains to be done. We discussed the need to move towards a banking union in Europe to help strengthen financial stability.

I am also concerned that prudential rules adopted in banking regulation do not discriminate against lending to developing countries.



161. Prime Minister's statement to the Media at the conclusion of the G20 Summit in Los Cabos

Los Cabos (Mexico), June 19, 2012.

The G-20 Summit took place in very difficult circumstances. Faltering growth in most countries was overshadowed by the threat of uncertainty in the Eurozone arising from a combination of excessive sovereign debt combined with banking weakness. The Summit provided a very valuable opportunity for G-20 leaders to share their concerns.

My speech at the G-20 has been circulated and it indicates our view. My overall assessment of the meeting is that there was general agreement that policy in all countries must shift to strengthening growth. There are many things that have to be done to achieve this, but there was also general agreement that the most urgent problem we must tackle is to reduce uncertainty about the Eurozone.

Eurozone leaders have assured us that they are firmly committed to protecting the integrity of the Euro Area. They recognize the need to move beyond the present monetary union towards unified banking supervision and adoption of common and enforceable fiscal rules. However, this will necessarily be a gradual process. Making changes in treaties involving 17 Parliaments in the case of the Eurozone, and 27 in the case of the E.U., is a time consuming process. Eurozone leaders indicated their strong commitment to take whatever action is needed to protect the Euro-area as the longer term institutional structures are built up. They will be able to give more specific indications after the European Summit on 28th or 29th June. They also indicated their determination to push through structural reforms in both product and labour markets to enhance competitiveness.

The G-20 countries have responded to the need to enhance the resources of the IMF to enable it to play its role in the current situation. India has contributed \$ 10 billion. BRICS and other countries have also contributed, taking the total commitments, including what was earlier agreed in April, to almost \$ 460 billion.

India's contribution reflects our recognition that as a responsible player in the global community, we must play our part. The amount we contribute is entirely liquid, in the sense that the Fund assures contributors that it will be available whenever needed. It will, therefore, continue to form part of our reserves.

Many leaders emphasized the importance of accelerating governance reforms in the IMF, including a change in the quota formula to reflect economic weight.

The Summit also reiterated the standstill on new protectionist measures and extended it beyond the earlier commitment up to 2013 to 2014. This is an important statement of intent by the G-20 leaders to resist protectionist tendencies, which typically increase in periods of high unemployment and low growth.

The Los Cabos Declaration fully reflects our initiative that investment on infrastructure in developing countries can play a major role in strengthening development and in stimulating global recovery. The Declaration indicates that Multilateral Development Banks should be strengthened for this purpose. We would work with G-20 countries to transform their commitment to specific action.

The Summit also discussed a number of other important issues including especially the progress in regulatory reform, issue of food security and agricultural productivity, anti-corruption measures and issues related to green growth.



162. Media Briefing by the Prime Minister on his visit for G20 and Rio+20 (Onboard AI- 1).

June 23, 2012.

Please see Document No. 078



163. G20 Leaders Declaration, Los Cabos, June 18, 2012

1. We, the Leaders of the G20, convened in Los Cabos on 18-19 June 2012.
2. We are united in our resolve to promote growth and jobs.
3. Since we last met, the global recovery has continued to face a number of challenges. Financial market tensions are high. External, fiscal and financial imbalances are still prevalent, having a major impact on growth and employment prospects and confidence. Clearly, the global economy remains vulnerable, with a negative impact on the everyday lives of people all over the world, affecting jobs, trade, development, and the environment.
4. We will act together to strengthen recovery and address financial market tensions.
5. We will work collectively to strengthen demand and restore confidence with a view to support growth and foster financial stability in order to create high quality jobs and opportunities for all of our citizens. We have agreed today on a coordinated Los Cabos Growth and Jobs Action Plan to achieve those goals.
6. Euro Area members of the G20 will take all necessary policy measures to safeguard the integrity and stability of the area, improve the functioning of financial markets and break the feedback loop between sovereigns and banks. We look forward to the Euro Area working in partnership with the next Greek government to ensure they remain on the path to reform and sustainability within the Euro Area.
7. We are implementing our structural and regulatory reform agenda to enhance medium-term growth prospects and build more resilient financial systems. We remain committed to reduce imbalances by strengthening deficit countries' public finances with sound and sustainable policies that take into account evolving economic conditions and, in countries with large current account surpluses, by strengthening domestic demand and moving toward greater exchange rate flexibility.
8. Despite the challenges we all face domestically, we have agreed that multilateralism is of even greater importance in the current climate, and remains our best asset to resolve the global economy's difficulties.
9. Recognizing the impact of the continuing crisis on developing countries, particularly low income countries, we will intensify our efforts to create a more conducive environment for development, including supporting infrastructure investment. Our policy actions will improve living conditions across the globe and protect the most vulnerable. In particular, by stabilizing global markets and promoting stronger growth, we will generate significant positive effects on development and poverty reduction across the globe.

Supporting economic stabilization and the global recovery

10. Strong, sustainable and balanced growth remains the top priority of the G20, as it leads to higher job creation and increases the welfare of people across the world. We are committed to adopting all necessary policy measures to strengthen demand, support global growth and restore confidence, address short and medium-term risks, enhance job creation and reduce unemployment, as reflected in the Los Cabos Growth and Jobs Action Plan (see Annex). We will implement all our commitments in a timely manner and rigorously monitor their implementation.

11. Against the background of renewed market tensions, Euro Area members of the G20 will take all necessary measures to safeguard the integrity and stability of the area, improve the functioning of financial markets and break the feedback loop between sovereigns and banks. We welcome the significant actions taken since the last summit by the Euro Area to support growth, ensure financial stability and promote fiscal responsibility as a contribution to the G20 framework for strong, sustainable and balanced growth. In this context, we welcome Spain's plan to recapitalize its banking system and the Eurogroup's announcement of support for Spain's financial restructuring authority. The adoption of the Fiscal Compact and its ongoing implementation, together with growth-enhancing policies and structural reform and financial stability measures, are important steps towards greater fiscal and economic integration that lead to sustainable borrowing costs. The imminent establishment of the European Stability Mechanism is a substantial strengthening of the European firewalls. We fully support the actions of the Euro Area in moving forward with the completion of the Economic and Monetary Union. Towards that end, we support the intention to consider concrete steps towards a more integrated financial architecture, encompassing banking supervision, resolution and recapitalization, and deposit insurance. Euro Area members will foster intra Euro Area adjustment through structural reforms to strengthen competitiveness in deficit countries and to promote demand and growth in surplus countries. The European Union members of the G20 are determined to move forward expeditiously on measures to support growth including through completing the European Single Market and making better use of European financial means, such as the European Investment Bank (EIB), pilot project bonds, and structural and cohesion funds, for more targeted investment, employment, growth and competitiveness, while maintaining the firm commitment to implement fiscal consolidation to be assessed on a structural basis. We look forward to the Euro Area working in partnership with the next Greek government to ensure they remain on the path to reform and sustainability within the Euro Area.

12. All G20 members will take the necessary actions to strengthen global

growth and restore confidence. Advanced economies will ensure that the pace of fiscal consolidation is appropriate to support the recovery, taking country-specific circumstances into account and, in line with the Toronto commitments, address concerns about medium term fiscal sustainability. Those advanced and emerging economies which have fiscal space will let the automatic fiscal stabilizers to operate taking into account national circumstances and current demand conditions. Should economic conditions deteriorate significantly further, those countries with sufficient fiscal space stand ready to coordinate and implement discretionary fiscal actions to support domestic demand, as appropriate. In many countries, higher investment in education, innovation and infrastructure can support the creation of jobs now while raising productivity and future growth prospects. Recognizing the need to pursue growth-oriented policies that support demand and recovery, the United States will calibrate the pace of its fiscal consolidation by ensuring that its public finances are placed on a sustainable long-run path so that a sharp fiscal contraction in 2013 is avoided.

13. Monetary policy will maintain price stability over the medium term while continuing to support the economic recovery. We will strengthen confidence in our banks, maintaining momentum on the financial sector reforms needed to safeguard our financial systems over the medium term while taking appropriate actions to protect credit channels and the integrity of the global payment and settlement systems. Healthy banks, with an ability to lend, are critical to the global recovery.

14. G20 members will remain vigilant of the evolution of oil prices and will stand ready to carry out additional actions as needed, including the commitment by producing countries to continue to ensure an appropriate level of supply consistent with demand. We welcome Saudi Arabia's readiness to mobilize, as necessary, existing spare capacity to ensure adequate supply. We will also remain vigilant of other commodity prices.

15. A number of emerging markets are now also experiencing a slowdown in growth. In response, these countries are appropriately directing monetary and fiscal policies to support growth while ensuring stability and, in some cases, introducing new measures to boost their economies, in particular through strengthening domestic demand in a context of weaker external demand.

16. We welcome progress by countries with large current account surpluses to increase domestic demand and actions by countries with large current account deficits to increase national savings. Emerging surplus economies will carry out further actions to increase domestic consumption, including by removing price and tax distortions and strengthening social safety nets, while advanced surplus economies or those with relatively weak private demand will promote domestic demand, notably through the liberalization of service sectors and the promotion

of investment, including through the removal of inefficiencies. Higher national savings in countries with current account deficits will contribute to a lasting reduction in global imbalances. We recognize the special circumstances of large commodity exporters with regard to current account surpluses. We reaffirm our commitment to move more rapidly toward market-determined exchange rate systems and exchange rate flexibility to reflect underlying fundamentals, avoid persistent exchange rate misalignments, and refrain from competitive devaluation of currencies. We also welcome the commitment by China to allow market forces to play a larger role in determining movements in the Renminbi (RMB), continue to reform its exchange rate regime, and to increase the transparency of its exchange rate policy.

17. All G20 members have put forward structural reform commitments to strengthen and sustain global demand, foster job creation, contribute to global rebalancing and increase growth potential. These include product market reforms to increase competition, measures to stabilize the housing sector, labor market reforms to boost competitiveness and employment, as well as steps to strengthen social safety nets in a way that is fiscally responsible, advance tax reform to raise productivity, increase investment in infrastructure, and promote inclusive green growth and sustainable development as appropriate to country circumstances. We ask Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors to consider ways in which the G20 can foster investment in infrastructure and ensure the availability of sufficient funding for infrastructure projects, including Multilateral Development Banks' (MDBs) financing and technical support.

18. In all policy areas, we commit to minimize the negative spillovers on other countries of policies implemented for domestic purposes. We reaffirm our shared interest in a strong and stable international financial system. While capital flows can be beneficial to recipient economies, we reiterate that excess volatility of financial flows and disorderly movements in exchange rates have adverse implications for economic and financial stability.

19. Recognizing the importance of transparency and accountability in reinforcing credibility and confidence, we have agreed on the Los Cabos Accountability Assessment Framework that accompanies the Growth and Jobs Action Plan. This Framework establishes the procedures we will follow to report on progress in implementing our policy commitments. We welcome the first Accountability Report under this new framework. We task our Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors to present the second Accountability Report for the Leaders' Summit in St. Petersburg in 2013.

Employment and Social Protection

20. Quality employment is at the heart of our macroeconomic policies. Jobs with labor rights, social security coverage and decent income contribute to more

stable growth, enhance social inclusion and reduce poverty. We therefore endorse the recommendations of our Labor and Employment Ministers to urgently combat unemployment through appropriate labor market measures and fostering the creation of decent work and quality jobs, particularly for youth and other vulnerable groups, who have been severely hit by the economic crisis. We reaffirm our commitment to youth to facilitate their access to quality jobs, which will boost their life prospects. We welcome the work of the G20 Task Force on Employment and extend its mandate for an additional year in the terms proposed by our Ministers. Consistent with the Los Cabos Growth and Jobs Action Plan, we consider that structural reforms, in full respect of the fundamental principles and rights at work, can play an important role in lifting economic growth to generate labor market opportunities, mobility and jobs. We also commit to intensify our efforts to strengthen cooperation in education, skills development and training policies, including internship and on-the-job training, which support a successful school-to-work transition.

21. Creating jobs and reducing unemployment, particularly among our youth and those most affected by the crisis, is central to all our countries. We welcome the report by the International Labour Organization (ILO), Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank on boosting jobs and living standards in G20 countries. We will continue to focus on measures to accelerate the pace of the recovery in jobs and the reduction in unemployment.

22. We recognize the importance of establishing nationally determined social protection floors. We will continue to foster inter-agency and international policy coherence, coordination, cooperation and knowledge sharing to assist low-income countries in capacity building for implementing nationally determined social protection floors. We ask international organizations to identify policy options with low-income countries on how to develop effective sustainable protection floors.

23. We commit to take concrete actions to overcome the barriers hindering women's full economic and social participation and to expand economic opportunities for women in G20 economies. We also express our firm commitment to advance gender equality in all areas, including skills training, wages and salaries, treatment in the workplace, and responsibilities in care-giving.

24. We ask our Labor Ministers to review progress made on this agenda and we welcome consultations with social partners. In this regard, we appreciate the contribution of the Business-20 (B20) and Labor-20 (L20) to the process of the G20 under the Mexican Presidency.

25. We recognize the role of travel and tourism as a vehicle for job creation, economic growth and development, and, while recognizing the sovereign right

of States to control the entry of foreign nationals, we will work towards developing travel facilitation initiatives in support of job creation, quality work, poverty reduction and global growth.

Trade

26. We are firmly committed to open trade and investment, expanding markets and resisting protectionism in all its forms, which are necessary conditions for sustained global economic recovery, jobs and development. We underline the importance of an open, predictable, rulesbased, transparent multilateral trading system and are committed to ensure the centrality of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

27. Recognizing the importance of investment for boosting economic growth, we commit to maintaining a supportive business environment for investors.

28. We are deeply concerned about rising instances of protectionism around the world. Following up our commitment made in Cannes, we reaffirm our standstill commitment until the end of 2014 with regard to measures affecting trade and investment, and our pledge to roll back any new protectionist measure that may have arisen, including new export restrictions and WTOinconsistent measures to stimulate exports. We also undertake to notify in a timely manner trade and investment restrictive measures. We uphold the inventory and monitoring work of the WTO, OECD and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on trade and investment measures and encourage them to reinforce and deepen the work in these areas, consistent with their respective mandates.

29. We value the discussion held by our Trade Ministers in Puerto Vallarta on the relevance of regional and global value chains to world trade, recognizing their role in fostering economic growth, employment and development and emphasizing the need to enhance the participation of developing countries in such value chains. We encourage a deepening of these discussions in the WTO, UNCTAD and OECD within their respective mandates, and we call on them to accelerate their work on analyzing the functioning of global value chains and their relationship with trade and investment flows, development and jobs, as well as on how to measure trade flows, to better understand how our actions affect our countries and others, and to report on progress under Russia's Presidency.

30. In line with the Cannes Communiqué, we stand by the Doha Development Agenda mandate and reaffirm our commitment to pursue fresh, credible approaches to furthering trade negotiations across the board. We will continue to work towards concluding the Doha Round negotiations, including outcomes in specific areas where progress is possible, such as trade facilitation, and other issues of concern for least developed countries. We urge progress in streamlining WTO accession procedures for the world's poorest countries.

31. We support strengthening the WTO through improving the way it conducts its regular business, and its dispute settlement system. We also direct our representatives to further discussions on challenges and opportunities for the multilateral trading system in a globalized economy.

Strengthening the international financial architecture

32. We recognize the importance of effective global and regional safety nets. We welcome the firm commitments to increase the resources available to the IMF. This is the result of a broad international cooperative effort that includes a significant number of countries. The commitments exceed \$450 billion and are in addition to the quota increase under the 2010 Reform. These resources will be available for the whole membership of the IMF, and not earmarked for any particular region. These resources, which qualify as reserve assets, would be channeled through bilateral loans and investments such as note purchase agreements to the IMF's General Resources Account under the modalities which have been approved by the IMF Executive Board. This effort shows the G20 and the international community's commitment to take the steps needed to safeguard global financial stability and enhance the IMF's role in crisis prevention and resolution.

33. We reaffirm our commitment to implement in full the 2010 Quota and Governance Reform by the agreed date of the 2012 IMF/World Bank Annual Meetings. These reforms are crucial to enhancing the IMF's legitimacy, relevance and effectiveness, and will support efforts to further strengthen Fund surveillance and to ensure that the IMF is adequately resourced to play its systemic role. As part of these reforms, we are committed to completing the comprehensive review of the quota formula, to address deficiencies and weaknesses in the current quota formula, by January 2013 and to complete the next general review of quotas by January 2014. We agree that the formula should be simple and transparent, consistent with the multiple roles of quotas, result in calculated shares that are broadly acceptable to the membership, and be feasible to implement based on timely, high quality and widely available data. We reaffirm that the distribution of quotas based on the formula should better reflect the relative weights of IMF members in the world economy, which have changed substantially in view of strong GDP growth in dynamic emerging markets and developing countries. We reaffirm the importance of continuing to protect the voice and representation of the poorest members of the IMF. We ask our Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors to review progress on this issue when they meet in November.

34. We agreed that the current surveillance framework should be significantly enhanced, including through a better integration of bilateral and multilateral surveillance with a focus on global, domestic and financial stability, including

spillovers from countries' policies. We welcome the work of the IMF to advance considerations for a proposed integrated surveillance decision and commit to support the decision process. We underscore the importance of rigorous surveillance on exchange rate policies and support a more ample coverage of surveillance activities, where relevant, including global liquidity, capital flows, capital account measures, reserve and fiscal, monetary and financial sector policies that could have an impact on external stability. We welcome the IMF's ongoing work to produce an external sector report, which would strengthen multilateral analysis and enhance the transparency of surveillance. We also recognize that political ownership and traction is critical to effective surveillance, and that the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC) has a role in facilitating the active involvement of all IMF members. We look forward to substantial progress by the next IMF/World Bank Annual Meetings.

35. We welcome the interim progress report and look forward to the joint annual progress report to support the development of local currency bond markets to be prepared by the World Bank, Regional Development Banks, IMF, OECD and the Bank of International Settlements (BIS). The full report will be presented at the November meeting of G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors. This issue is of great importance to emerging markets and developing countries, recognizing that the liquidity, efficiency and operation of these markets are being challenged by the current global financial situation.

Reforming the financial sector and fostering financial inclusion

36. We welcome the progress report by the Financial Stability Board (FSB) on taking forward the G20 commitments for strengthening financial stability and the FSB's enhanced monitoring of implementation at the national level. We are committed to the timely, full and consistent implementation of agreed policies in order to support a stable and integrated global financial system and to prevent future crises.

37. We welcome the publication of the traffic lights scoreboard to track progress in the implementation of all our financial reform recommendations and pledge to take all necessary actions to make progress in the areas where difficulties in policy development or implementation have been identified.

38. In particular, we recognize the substantial progress to date in the priority reform areas identified by the FSB's Coordination Framework for Implementation Monitoring (CFIM): the Basel capital and liquidity framework; the framework for global systemically important financial institutions (GSIFIs), resolution regimes, over-the-counter (OTC) derivatives reforms, shadow banking, and compensation practices. We commit to complete work in these important areas to achieve full implementation of reforms.

39. We reaffirm our commitment that all standardized OTC derivative contracts should be traded on exchanges or electronic trading platforms, where appropriate, and cleared through central counterparties by end-2012, OTC derivative contracts should be reported to trade repositories and non-centrally cleared contracts should be subject to higher capital requirements. We welcome the FSB progress report on implementation. Now that substantial progress has been achieved in the four safeguards for a resilient and efficient global framework for central clearing, jurisdictions should rapidly finalize their decision-making and put in place the needed legislation and regulations to meet the G20 commitment for central clearing. We acknowledge the progress made to develop the key principles to promote internationally consistent minimum standards for the margining of non-centrally cleared derivatives and encourage international standard setters to finalize the proposed global margin standards by the end of this year, to match the implementation deadline for other OTC derivatives reforms and for the Basel capital framework.

40. We welcome progress in implementing Basel II, 2.5 and III and urge jurisdictions to fully implement the standards according to the agreed timelines. We welcome the Basel Committee's consultative proposals for a fundamental review of the market risk framework. We welcome the FSB's progress report on the implementation of the principles and standards for sound compensation practices, reaffirm our commitment to ensure that these are followed and ask the FSB to continue its ongoing monitoring.

41. We reiterate our commitment to make our national resolution regimes consistent with the FSB Key Attributes of Effective Resolution Regimes so that no bank or other financial institution is "too big to fail". To this end, we also support the ongoing elaboration of recovery and resolution plans and institution-specific cross-border cooperation agreements for all G-SIFIs. We reiterate our commitment to strengthen the intensity and effectiveness of the supervision of SIFIs and ask the FSB to report on further progress in this area to the November 2012 G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' meeting.

42. We welcome progress on developing a set of principles as a common framework for the identification of, and policy measures relating to, domestic systemically important banks (D-SIBs) and ask our Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors to review recommendations in these areas at their meeting in November. We support continuing work for the strengthening of the oversight and regulation of the shadow banking system, and look forward to our Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors reviewing recommendations in these areas at their meeting in November. We ask the FSB in consultation with the International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS) to complete their work on identification and policy measures for global systemically important insurers by April 2013. Towards reducing systemic risk, we look forward to the preparation by the FSB in consultation with International Organization of Securities

Commissions (IOSCO) of methodologies to identify other systemically important non-bank financial entities by end-2012 and call on Committee on Payment and Settlement Systems (CPSS) and IOSCO to continue their work on systemically important market infrastructures. We also ask the IAIS to continue its work to develop a common framework for the supervision of internationally active insurance groups by end-2013.

43. We call for accelerated progress by national authorities and standard setting bodies in ending the mechanistic reliance on credit ratings and encourage steps that would enhance transparency of and competition among credit rating agencies. We support continuing work to achieve convergence to a single set of high-quality accounting standards. We welcome IOSCO's report on the functioning of the credit default swap markets and ask IOSCO to report on next steps by the November 2012 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' meeting.

44. We endorse the FSB recommendations regarding the framework for development of a global legal entity identifier (LEI) system for parties to financial transactions, with a global governance framework representing the public interest. The LEI system will be launched by March 2013 and we ask the FSB to report on implementation progress by the November 2012 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' meeting. We encourage global adoption of the LEI to support authorities and market participants in identifying and managing financial risks.

45. We welcome the FSB study, prepared in coordination with the IMF and the World Bank, to identify potential unintended consequences of the agreed financial regulatory reforms for Emerging Markets and Developing Economies (EMDEs). We encourage continued monitoring analysis and reporting by the FSB and dialogue among the FSB, standard-setters, international financial institutions and national authorities of EMDEs, to address material unintended consequences as appropriate without prejudice to our commitment to implement the agreed reforms.

46. We endorse the recommendations and the revised FSB Charter for placing the FSB on an enduring organizational footing, with legal personality, strengthened governance, greater financial autonomy and enhanced capacity to coordinate the development and implementation of financial regulatory policies, while maintaining strong links with the BIS. We call for a full implementation of the recommendations by our next meeting and substantial progress by the November 2012 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' meeting. We call on the FSB to continue to keep under review the structure of its representation.

47. We welcome the ongoing work by the FSB on adherence to supervisory and regulatory information exchange and cooperation standards and look forward to a further public statement on progress under the initiative ahead of the Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' meeting in November 2012.

48. In the tax area, we reiterate our commitment to strengthen transparency

and comprehensive exchange of information. We commend the progress made as reported by the Global Forum and urge all countries to fully comply with the standard and implement the recommendations identified in the course of the reviews, in particular the 13 jurisdictions whose framework does not allow them to qualify to phase 2 at this stage. We expect the Global Forum to quickly start examining the effectiveness of information exchange practices and to report to us and our finance ministers. We welcome the OECD report on the practice of automatic information exchange, where we will continue to lead by example in implementing this practice. We call on countries to join this growing practice as appropriate and strongly encourage all jurisdictions to sign the Multilateral Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance. We also welcome the efforts to enhance interagency cooperation to tackle illicit flows including the outcomes of the Rome meeting of the Oslo Dialogue. We reiterate the need to prevent base erosion and profit shifting and we will follow with attention the ongoing work of the OECD in this area.

49. We support the renewal of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) mandate, thereby sustaining global efforts to combat money laundering and the financing of terrorism and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. G20 members also welcome the adoption of the revised FATF standards and look forward to their implementation. We welcome the progress made by FATF in identifying and monitoring high-risk jurisdictions with strategic Anti-Money Laundering/Counter-Terrorist Financing (AML/CFT) deficiencies, using AML/CFT tools in the fight against corruption, improving transparency of corporate vehicles and increasing cooperation against tax crimes, addressing the risks posed by tax havens, as well as in increasing the reach and the effectiveness of AML/CFT measures by also considering financial inclusion efforts. We look forward to the completion in 2013 of the update of the FATF assessment process for the next round of mutual evaluations.

50. We welcome the progress made by the Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPFI) on implementing the five recommendations set out in its 2011 report and call on the GPFI to continue working towards their full implementation. We endorse the G20 Basic Set of financial inclusion indicators developed by the GPFI. Recognizing the key role that SMEs play in economic development, and poverty reduction, we welcome the launch of the SME Finance Compact that will support developing innovative models and approaches to address the specific access to finance challenges and constraints faced by developing countries with regards to SME finance. We welcome the forthcoming GPFI conference on standard setting bodies and financial inclusion as a means of helping to create an enabling regulatory environment, and we call on the GPFI to report progress to our Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors in November. Finally, we support the ongoing effort to create a fourth GPFI subgroup that will focus on consumer protection and financial literacy issues.

51. We acknowledge the efforts of those G20 and non-G20 countries committed to national coordination platforms and strategies for financial inclusion under the "G20 Financial Inclusion Peer Learning Program" and encourage similar efforts to advance effective implementation of the G20 Principles for Innovative Financial Inclusion such as the commitments to concrete actions to promote financial inclusion made by developing and emerging countries under the Maya Declaration, recognizing the ongoing efforts and the support by the World Bank Group and the Alliance for Financial Inclusion, and other stakeholders including the United Nations (UN), and bilateral donors to foster financial inclusion.

52. On financial education, we endorse the OECD/International Network on Financial Education (INFE) High Level Principles on National Strategies for Financial Education, and call on the OECD/INFE and the World Bank in cooperation with the GPFi to deliver further tools to promote financial education, with a progress report to the next Summit. For advancing the financial consumer protection agenda, we take note of the discussion on the Statutes of the International Financial Consumer Protection Network (FinCoNet) and on the issues of formal structure and financial support to ensure the exchange of best practices. We also endorse the Action Plan presented by the G20/OECD Task Force on Financial Consumer Protection to develop effective approaches to support the implementation of the High Level Principles on Financial Consumer Protection, and look forward to an update report by the Leaders' Summit in St. Petersburg in 2013.

53. We recognize the need for women and youth to gain access to financial services and financial education, ask the GPFi, the OECD/INFE, and the World Bank to identify barriers they may face and call for a progress report to be delivered by the next Summit.

54. We welcome the launch of the Mexico Financial Inclusion Challenge: Innovative Solutions for Unlocking Access, a call for innovations that address barriers to financial inclusion through the creation of valuable, affordable, secure, and comprehensive financial services. Enhancing food security and addressing commodity price volatility

55. The Action Plan on Food Price Volatility and Agriculture adopted by the Ministers of Agriculture in 2011 underlined that to feed a world population expected to exceed 9.3 billion by 2050, agricultural production will have to increase between 50 and 70 percent, and by almost 100 percent in developing countries. We recognize that increasing production and productivity on a sustainable basis while considering the diversity of agricultural conditions is one of the most important challenges that the world faces today. The crisis in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa also underscores that strengthening emergency and long-term responses to food insecurity remains a pressing challenge. We also note that chronic malnutrition is an enormous drain on a country's human resources, and

we therefore support the Scaling Up Nutrition movement and encourage wider involvement of G20 members.

56. We welcome the considerable progress made in implementing the Action Plan and the food security pillar of the Seoul Multi-Year Action Plan on Development. We support the G20 Agriculture Vice-Ministers' Report annexed to this Declaration, on the progress made on previous commitments and key recommendations on sustainably increasing agricultural productivity, containing inputs from several international organizations coordinated by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the OECD, in addition to other recommendations from B20 and civil society.

57. To fight hunger, we commit to continue our efforts on our initiatives, including the Tropical Agriculture Platform, the Platform for Agricultural Risk Management, the GEO Global Agriculture Monitoring, research initiatives for wheat, rice and corn, the Rapid Response Forum, regional emergency food reserves, the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program and support for the Principles of Responsible Agriculture Investment. Recognizing the important contribution of greater transparency to reducing food price volatility, we welcome the progress made in the implementation of the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS). We recognize that a more stable, predictable, distortion-free, open and transparent trading system, including as regards agriculture, has a critical role to play to promote food security.

58. We reaffirm our commitment to remove export restrictions and extraordinary taxes on food purchased for non-commercial humanitarian purposes by the World Food Programme (WFP). We encourage the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security.

59. We strongly welcome the launch of the "AgResults" Initiative, aimed at improving food security for the poor and vulnerable by encouraging private sector innovation of new agricultural products and systems constrained by market failures in agriculture. We look forward to the launch of the pilot projects focused on innovations in nutrient-fortified crops, post-harvest waste-reducing storage solutions and crop quality technologies in Sub-Saharan Africa. We commend those who have already committed or signaled their intention to commit funding to this initiative and encourage broader participation.

60. We recognize the need to adapt agriculture to climate change and we recognize the importance of improving the efficiency of water and soil use in a sustainable manner. To this end, we support the development of and a greater use of available technologies, well-known practices and techniques such as soil fertility enhancement, minimum tillage and agroforestry, and call upon international organizations to provide a report on science-based options to improve

the efficiency of water use in agriculture including in ways particularly suitable for small farms.

61. We recognize the importance to the global economic recovery of maintaining stability in international commodity markets. We stress the importance of well-functioning and transparent physical and financial commodities' markets and reduced excessive price volatility to achieve food security and strong growth that is both sustainable and inclusive. We recognize that excessive commodity price volatility has significant implications for all countries, increasing uncertainty for actors in the economy and potentially hampering stability of the budgets, and predictability of economic planning. We recognize that mitigating the negative effects of commodity price volatility on the most vulnerable is an important component of reducing poverty and boosting economic growth. We therefore endorse the conclusions of the G20 report on the macroeconomic impacts of excessive commodity price volatility on growth and its identification of policy options that countries could consider, taking account of national circumstances to mitigate any such effect. We also acknowledge and appreciate the participation and valuable inputs of the IMF, World Bank and UNCTAD. We ask our Finance Ministers to report in 2013 on progress on the G20's contribution to facilitate better functioning of these physical markets, taking note of possible areas of further work outlined in the report. We reaffirm our commitment to enhance transparency and avoid abuse in financial commodity markets, including OTC, with effective intervention powers for market regulators and authorities and an appropriate regulation and supervisory framework. In this regard we look forward to IOSCO's report on the implementation of its recommendations on commodity derivatives markets by November 2012.

62. We recognize that excessive price volatility in energy commodities is also an important source of economic instability. We remain committed to well-functioning and transparent energy markets. We will continue to work to improve the timeliness, completeness and reliability of JODI-Oil and look forward to a progress report next year. We will work on the JODI-Gas database on the same principles. We expect the International Energy Forum (IEF) report on improving the reliability of the JODI-Oil database and the report on transparency in international gas and coal markets submitted by the International Energy Agency (IEA), IEF, and Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to be discussed by our Finance Ministers in November. We also look forward to IOSCO's recommendations to improve the functioning and oversight of Price Reporting Agencies in November 2012, which will be produced in collaboration with other mandated organizations (IEF, IEA and OPEC), and task Finance Ministers to take concrete measures in this area as necessary.

Meeting the Challenges of Development

63. Eradicating poverty and achieving strong, inclusive, sustainable and

balanced growth remain core objectives of the G20 development agenda. We reaffirm our commitment to work with developing countries, particularly low income countries, and to support them in implementing the nationally driven policies and priorities which are needed to fulfill internationally agreed development goals, particularly the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and beyond.

64. We welcome the initiative of the Development Working Group to build upon the work of previous G20 presidencies, and its focus on three priorities during the Mexican Presidency - food security, infrastructure and inclusive green growth. We commend the progress achieved against our commitments in the Seoul Multi-Year Action Plan, and support the 2012 Development Working Group progress report annexed to this Declaration. We invite the Development Working Group to explore putting in place a process for ensuring assessment and accountability for G20 development actions by the next Summit.

65. Investment in infrastructure is critical for sustained economic growth, poverty reduction, and job creation. We therefore welcome the strong progress made under the Multi-Year Action Plan, including in implementing the recommendations of the Multilateral Development Banks' (MDBs) Action Plan and the High Level Panel on Infrastructure.

66. While recognizing that public financing of infrastructure development projects in developing countries remains essential, we consider it should be complemented by private sector investment. We encourage MDBs to continue progress under the Action Plan, and welcome the report on addressing Misperception of Risk and Return in Low Income Countries. This contains important messages about properly perceiving the risks posed, as well as the opportunities offered, by long-term infrastructure investment in low income countries. Recognizing the challenge that rapid urbanization poses and the need to make cities more sustainable, we welcome the report on Best Practices for Urban Mass Transport Infrastructure Projects in Medium and Large Cities in Developing Countries, and support the follow-up actions as set out in the Development Working Group report.

67. We reaffirm our commitments to the global partnership for development, as set out in the MDGs,

and welcome efforts to contribute to this end, including the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation to be launched with voluntary participation under the auspices of the broad consensus achieved at the 4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness held in Busan, Korea.

68. We recognize the value of Disaster Risk Management (DRM) tools and strategies to better prevent disasters, protect populations and assets, and financially manage their economic impacts. We appreciate World Bank and

OECD combined efforts, with the UN's support, to provide inputs and broaden participation in the discussion on DRM. We welcome the World Bank's and Mexico's joint publication on country experiences in this area with the support of G20 members, and look forward to the OECD voluntary framework to facilitate implementation of DRM strategies, to be completed by November.

Promoting longer-term prosperity through inclusive green growth

69. The long-term development and prosperity of current and future generations requires us to look beyond the immediate economic crisis. We acknowledge the importance of finding ways in which economic growth, environmental protection and social inclusion can complement and reinforce each other. Inclusive green growth in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication can help achieve our development and economic goals, while protecting our environment, and improving social well-being on which our future depends. Inclusive green growth should not be used to introduce protectionist measures.

70. We commit to continue to help developing countries sustain and strengthen their development through appropriate measures, including those that encourage inclusive green growth. We will reaffirm our commitment to sustainable development at the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). We commit to maintaining a focus on inclusive green growth as part of our G20 agenda and in the light of agreements reached at Rio+20 and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

71. Climate change will continue to have a significant impact on the world economy, and costs will be higher to the extent we delay additional action. We reiterate our commitment to fight climate change and welcome the outcome of the 17th Conference of the Parties to the UN climate change conferences. We are committed to the full implementation of the outcomes of Cancun and Durban and will work with Qatar as the incoming Presidency towards achieving a successful and balanced outcome at COP-18. We emphasize the need to structurally transform economies towards a climate-friendly path over the medium term. We welcome the creation of the G20 study group on climate finance, in order to consider ways to effectively mobilize resources taking into account the objectives, provisions and principles of the UNFCCC in line with the Cancun Agreement and ask to provide a progress report to Finance Ministers in November. We support the operationalization of the Green Climate Fund.

72. The Development Working Group discussed a broad set of practical, voluntary measures and actions that have the potential to help countries define their paths towards sustainable development based on their own circumstances and priorities. We believe that developing countries should have access to institutions and mechanisms that can facilitate knowledge sharing, resource

mobilization and building technical and institutional capacity to design and implement inclusive green growth strategies and policies. We welcome international efforts in launching the Green Growth Knowledge Platform and will continue exploring options to provide appropriate support to interested developing countries. We welcome the delivery of a nonprescriptive, voluntary toolkit of policy options for inclusive green growth and encourage efforts to promote its implementation. We encourage further exploration of effective mechanisms to mobilize public and private funds for inclusive green growth investment in developing countries, including through the public-private Dialogue Platform on Inclusive Green Investments. We welcome the B20's Green Growth Action Alliance.

73. We highlight that green growth and sustainable development have strong potential to stimulate long term prosperity and well being. We welcome the report prepared by the OECD, the World Bank and the UN on incorporating green growth and sustainable development policies into structural reform agendas, tailored to specific country conditions and level of development. We also acknowledge the G20 efforts to voluntarily self-report on current actions taken to integrate green growth and sustainable development into structural reform agendas. We will self-report again in 2013, on a voluntary basis, and ask appropriate officials to report back on countries' efforts and progress on incorporating green growth policies in structural reform agendas and in relevant national plans to promote sustainable development.

74. We welcome the progress report on fossil fuel subsidies, and we reaffirm our commitment to rationalize and phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption over the medium term while providing targeted support for the poorest. We ask Finance Ministers to report back by the next Summit on progress made, and acknowledging the relevance of accountability and transparency, to explore options for a voluntary peer review process for G20 members by their next meeting. We also welcome a dialogue on fossil fuel subsidies with other groups already engaged in this work.

75. In Cannes we committed to promote low-carbon development strategies in order to optimize the potential for green growth and ensure sustainable development in our countries and beyond. We therefore welcome the report on clean energy and energy efficiency technologies and acknowledge the G20 countries' efforts to foster investment in these technologies through the sharing of national experiences regarding challenges for technology deployment.

76. We welcome the establishment of a Global Marine Environment Protection Best Practices Sharing Mechanism website, and look forward to its launch in accordance with the Cannes mandate.

Intensifying the fight against corruption

77. Corruption impedes economic growth, threatens the integrity of markets, undermines fair competition, distorts resource allocation, destroys public trust and undermines the rule of law. We call on all relevant stakeholders to play an active role in fighting corruption.

78. Closing the implementation and enforcement gap remains an important priority, and we continue to make significant progress towards the full implementation of the Seoul G20 Anti-Corruption Action Plan, and the commitments made in the Cannes Monitoring Report. We reiterate our commitment to the ratification and full implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), and to more active engagement with the OECD working group on bribery on a voluntary basis. We welcome continuing engagement from the B20 in the fight against corruption and, in accordance with the Terms of Reference of the review mechanism, will involve the private sector and civil society in the UNCAC review process on a voluntary basis. We endorse today the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group principles for denial of entry to our countries of corrupt officials, and those who corrupt them, and will continue to develop frameworks for cooperation. We also endorse the Working Group's principles for financial and asset disclosure systems for relevant officials to prevent, identify and appropriately manage conflicts of interest.

79. We commit to enforcing anti-corruption legislation, and we will pursue those who receive and solicit bribes as well as those who pay them in line with our countries' legislation. To help facilitate international cooperation among G20 and non-G20 governments in their investigation and prosecution of corruption, we will publish a guide on Mutual Legal Assistance from G20 countries, as well as information on tracing assets in G20 jurisdictions. We renew our commitment to deny safe haven to the proceeds of corruption and to the recovery and restitution of stolen assets.

80. We extend the mandate of the Anti-Corruption Working Group for two years to the end of 2014 and request the Working Group to prepare a comprehensive action plan, as well as a second Working Group Monitoring Report, both to be presented for consideration and adoption by Sherpas by the end of 2012.

Other paragraphs

81. In light of the interconnectedness of the world economy, the G20 has led to a new paradigm of multilateral co-operation that is necessary in order to tackle current and future challenges effectively. The informal and flexible character of the G20 enables it to facilitate international economic and financial cooperation, and address the challenges confronting the global economy. It is important that

we continue to further improve the transparency and effectiveness of the G20, and ensure that it is able to respond to pressing needs. As a contribution to this, in line with the commitment made in Cannes, Sherpas have developed a set of evolving G20 working practices.

82. An informal meeting of G20 Ministers of Foreign Affairs was held in Los Cabos in February, which explored the ways in which G20 member countries could contribute more effectively to address key challenges in global governance.

83. Recognizing the far-reaching impact of G20 decisions, we welcome the extensive outreach efforts undertaken by the Mexican Presidency, including the meetings of Business-20, Labor-20, Youth-20, and Think-20. We will continue developing efforts with non-members, regional and international organizations, including the UN and other actors. In line with the Cannes mandate, in order to ensure our outreach remains consistent and effective, we welcome a set of principles in this area, developed by Sherpas.

84. We thank international organizations, including the UN, IMF, World Bank, WTO, FSB, ILO, FAO, and OECD, as well as civil society, for their input into the G20 process. Their reports and recommendations have provided valuable inputs to G20 discussions, in areas ranging from sustainable development to financial regulation.

Conclusion

85. We look forward to the rest of the work that will take place during Mexico's Presidency until November 30. On 1 December, 2012, Russia will start chairing the G20. We will convene in St. Petersburg, under the Chairmanship of Russia. We thank Mexico for hosting a successful Los Cabos Summit.



164. Policy Commitments by G20 Members - INDIA

Los Cabos Summit , June 18-19, 2012

Fiscal Policy

Commitment/Timeframe	Objectives	Update on Progress
Central Government is committed to fiscal consolidation roadmap to reduce Fiscal deficit to 3.9% of GDP and Public Debt to 41.9 % of GDP <i>Timeframe:</i> By 2014 -15.	Prudent fiscal management to provide conducive environment for investment without undermining growth.	Fiscal Deficit and Public Debt estimated at 5.9% and 45.7% to GDP respectively in FY 2011-12. Fiscal deterioration has been conditioned by deceleration in growth coupled with persistently high inflation that has hit revenue. Fiscal consolidation remains medium-term priority of the Government.

Monetary and Exchange Rate Policy

Commitment/Timeframe	Objectives	Update on Progress
Market determined exchange rate with no predetermined target <i>Timeframe:</i> On continuing basis.	To help minimise external imbalances.	This commitment has already been substantially achieved. This is however making the exchange rate very volatile, mirroring the volatility in capital flows. The exchange rate of the Indian rupee against US dollar witnessed a sharp fall during August-December 2011.

Financial Sector Policy

Commitment/Timeframe	Objectives	Update on Progress
Improve financial sector laws, rules and regulations and to improve inter-regulatory agency	To promote financial stability for strong and sustainable growth by streamlining the	Government constituted the Financial Sector Legislative Reforms Commission on the 24th March 2011 to evolve a

<p>coordination. <i>Timeframe:</i> Ongoing process with no specific timeline.</p>	<p>financial sector laws, rules and regulations and bring them in harmony with the requirements of a modern financial sector.</p>	<p>set of principles for governance of financial sector regulatory institutions and also to examine the case for greater convergence of regulations and streamline the regulatory architecture of financial markets. The commission is expected to submit its report by end of March 2013.</p>
<p>To implement Basel III capital standards <i>Timeframe:</i> As per agreed timeline.</p>		<p>Government has set up an apex-level Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) under the Chairmanship of the Finance Minister with a view to strengthen and institutionalise the mechanism for maintaining financial stability and enhancing inter-regulatory coordination.</p> <p>The RBI issued draft guidelines for implementation of Basel III Capital Regulation in India in December 2011 with, <i>inter alia</i>, an accelerated timeline for implementation by March 31, 2017 as against the BCBS timeline of January 1, 2019.</p>

Structural Reforms

Commitment/Timeframe	Objectives	Update on Progress
<p>Prioritize infrastructure investment and increase the role of PPP.</p>	<p>Promote environment for strong and sustainable Growth</p>	<p>While this is an ongoing objective, we expect to mobilise about \$ 1 trillion of</p>

<i>Timeframe:</i> Ongoing process with no specific timeline.		infrastructure investment during 2012 to 2017. About half of this is expected to come from the private sector.
Introduce a general goods and services tax (GST). <i>Timeframe:</i> Ongoing process with no specific timeline.	Improve efficiency and reduce distortions in tax collection, and reduce compliance costs.	The Constitutional Amendment Bill, a preparatory step in the implementation of GST was introduced in Parliament in March 2011. It is right now before the Parliamentary Standing Committee.
UID. Over five years starting 2010-11, the UID Authority plans to issue 600 million UID. <i>Timeframe:</i> Ongoing process	Make growth more inclusive and better targeting of public programmes.	The enrolments into the UID system have already crossed 200 million.
Improve environment for FDI <i>Timeframe:</i> On continuing basis.	To promote strong and sustainable growth	FDI in single brand retail sector and in cash and carry wholesale trade permitted to the extent of 100 per cent.



165. THE LOS CABOS GROWTH AND JOBS ACTION PLAN

Risks and uncertainty in the global economy have increased substantially. Our collective focus now is to strengthen demand, growth, confidence and financial stability in order to improve employment prospects for all of our citizens. We have agreed today on a globally coordinated economic plan to achieve those goals through our Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth. This plan, which incorporates and extends the Cannes Action Plan, significantly intensifies our efforts to achieve a stronger, more durable recovery. The *Los Cabos Growth and Jobs Action Plan* starts from the premise that cooperation and coordination will result in better economic outcomes. We are united in our commitment to take strong and decisive action to deliver on the commitments set out below.

We have agreed that, in light of what are perceived to be the most significant risks, our policy actions should focus on:

- Addressing decisively the sovereign debt and banking crisis in the Euro Area. The Euro Area authorities have taken a number of relevant and critical actions that have helped to stabilise the situation, however, significant risks remain and further action is required.
- Ensuring financial stability, including dealing with the potential impacts of deleveraging.
- Boosting demand and economic growth, and reducing persistently high and rising unemployment in many advanced economies, especially among young people.
- Ensuring the pace of fiscal consolidation in advanced economies is appropriate to support the recovery, taking country-specific circumstances into account and, in line with the Toronto Commitments, addressing concerns about medium-term fiscal sustainability.
- Dealing with the possibility that geopolitical risks might lead to a supply-induced sustained spike in oil prices, in an environment of limited spare capacity and modest inventories.
- Ensuring emerging markets maintain a strong and sustainable growth path that contributes to the global recovery and quality job creation.
- Resisting protectionism and keeping markets open.

Our ability to successfully address these risks is influenced by our ability to take stronger actions to promote stability and growth, and reduce ongoing imbalances, including by encouraging the rotation of demand from the public to the private sector in countries with fiscal deficits and from the external to the

domestic sector in countries with current account surpluses. We are in full agreement that we need to intensify our efforts to reduce both internal and external imbalances.

As we agreed in Cannes, we have established the *Los Cabos Accountability Assessment Framework* (Annex A) to assess progress in meeting commitments toward our shared goal of strong, sustainable and balanced growth. This Framework is based on three pillars. First, guiding principles to ensure the assessments are: country-owned; based on a comply or explain approach; concrete; consistent across members; fair; open and transparent. Second, a peer review process that includes review and discussion of members' policies and in-depth assessments from the international organisations. Finally, annual reports to Leaders summarising the outcomes of the assessments.

We have conducted our first assessment under this framework (Annex B). We have agreed that the commitments set out in the Cannes Action Plan to promote recovery and lay the foundation for robust growth and job creation remain broadly appropriate. The recent intensification of risks, however, has increased the importance of implementing and building upon the Cannes commitments. Progress has been good in meeting some elements of the Cannes Action Plan, but in several areas more progress is needed. We will undertake ongoing accountability assessments and improve our tracking of measures to assess progress as set out in the *Los Cabos Accountability Framework*.

The Los Cabos Action Plan, as set out below, includes a combination of policy measures, with short- and medium-term impacts, in order to ensure that policy credibility is enhanced and to reflect the different capacities of countries to respond in particular areas.

Addressing Near-term Risks, Restoring Confidence, and Promoting Growth

Central to this plan is a common agreement that the strongest actions to minimize risks and spur growth are those that promote the stability and proper functioning of our financial systems, supported by fiscal and monetary policy actions.

To address near-term risks, promote confidence, ensure economic and financial stability, and bolster the economic recovery, we have agreed on the following actions.

1. The Euro Area members of the G20 will take all necessary measures to safeguard the integrity and stability of the area, improve the functioning of financial markets and break the feedback loop between sovereigns and banks.
 - We welcome the significant actions taken since the last summit by the Euro Area to support growth, ensure financial stability and promote fiscal responsibility. In this context, we welcome Spain's plan to recapitalize its banking system and the Eurogroup's announcement of support for

Spain's financial restructuring authority. The adoption of the Fiscal Compact and its ongoing implementation, together with growth-enhancing policies and structural reform, are important steps towards greater fiscal and economic integration. The imminent establishment of the European Stability Mechanism is a substantial strengthening of the European firewalls.

- We fully support the actions of the Euro Area in moving forward with the completion of the Economic and Monetary Union. Towards that end, we support the intention to consider concrete steps towards a more integrated financial architecture, encompassing banking supervision, resolution and recapitalization, and deposit insurance.
 - Euro area members will foster intra Euro Area adjustment through structural reforms to strengthen competitiveness in deficit countries and to promote demand and growth in surplus countries.
 - The European Union members of the G20 are determined to move forward expeditiously on measures to support growth including through completing the European Single Market and making better use of European financial means, such as the EIB, pilot project bonds, and structural and cohesion funds, for more targeted investment, employment, growth and competitiveness, while maintaining the firm commitment to implement fiscal consolidation to be assessed on a structural basis.
2. Fiscal policies in all of our economies will focus on strengthening and sustaining the recovery in a manner which promotes fiscal sustainability and enhances policy credibility.
- Advanced economies are generally on track to meet their near term commitment to halve deficits between 2010 and 2013. Advanced economies are committed to meeting the medium term Toronto commitments by implementing credible medium-term fiscal consolidation plans.
 - Recognizing the need to pursue growth-oriented policies that support demand and recovery, the United States will calibrate the pace of its fiscal consolidation by ensuring that its public finances are placed on a sustainable long-run path so that a sharp fiscal contraction in 2013 is avoided.
 - Japan will implement reconstruction spending as expeditiously as possible.
 - Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, Indonesia, Korea, the UK and the US are allowing automatic fiscal stabilisers to operate, taking into account national circumstances and current demand conditions.

- Italy will deliver on its agenda of frontloaded fiscal consolidation accompanied by growthenhancing measures.
 - Fiscal policy in Spain will remain focussed on consolidation.
3. Monetary policies will remain focused on maintaining price stability and sustaining the global economic recovery. In this context, the actions taken by central banks in advanced economies have played an important role in promoting global economic growth and stability. Central banks will remain vigilant and take action as appropriate to achieve their objectives.
 4. Our central banks, financial market supervisors and treasuries will remain in close dialogue and will cooperate through the FSB to maintain financial stability during this period of heightened uncertainty. We will maintain momentum on the financial sector institutional reforms needed to safeguard our financial systems over the medium term while taking appropriate actions to protect credit channels and the integrity of global payment and settlement systems.
 5. Should economic conditions deteriorate significantly further, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, Korea, Russia and the US stand ready to coordinate and implement additional measures to support demand, taking into account national circumstances and commitments.
 6. Emerging markets will adjust their macroeconomic policies to support domestic demand, while ensuring price stability. When and where appropriate, macro-prudential measures will also be used to help manage domestic credit growth and liquidity.
 7. Recognizing that geopolitical risks might lead to a supply-side induced spike in oil prices, in an environment of limited spare capacity and modest inventories, members stand ready to take additional actions as needed. We welcome the commitments by producing countries to ensure adequate supply. In particular, we welcome Saudi Arabia's readiness to mobilize, as necessary, more than 2.5 million barrels per day of existing spare capacity.
 8. In all policy areas, we commit to minimize the negative spillovers on other countries of policies implemented for domestic purposes. We reaffirm our shared interest in a strong and stable international financial system and our support for market-determined exchange rates. We reiterate that excess volatility and disorderly movements in exchange rates have adverse implications for economic and financial stability.

Strengthening the Medium-term Foundations for Growth

All members agree to build on the 6-point plan developed in Cannes to boost confidence, raise global output and create jobs, focussing on priority areas.

1. Advanced economies will ensure their fiscal finances are on a sustainable track.

- Recognizing the importance of strengthening and implementing their medium-term fiscal consolidation plans, the US and Japan commit to actions that will lead to steady reduction in their public debt-to-GDP ratios:
 - The US commits to placing its federal debt-to-GDP ratio on a firm downward path by 2016 through a balanced approach.
 - Japan reaffirms its commitment to meet its primary balances targets for FY2015 and FY2020, and to reduce its debt-to-GDP ratio from FY2021 onwards.
 - By our next Summit, members agree to identify credible and ambitious country-specific targets for the debt-to-GDP ratio beyond 2016, where these do not currently exist, accompanied by clear strategies and timetables to achieve them. These strategies will consider tax and expenditure reforms, including modifications to entitlements.
2. We will intensify our efforts to rebalance global demand, through increasing domestic demand in countries with current account surpluses, rotating demand from the public to private sector in countries with fiscal deficits and increasing national savings in countries with current account deficits.
- The reduction of structural fiscal deficits and actions to promote private savings in advanced economies with current account deficits will contribute to a lasting reduction in global imbalances (US).
 - We reaffirm our commitment to move more rapidly toward market-determined exchange rate systems and enhance exchange rate flexibility to reflect underlying fundamentals, avoid persistent exchange rate misalignments, and refrain from competitive devaluation of currencies. We recognize the important decisions to increase the fluctuation bands for the exchange rates in China and Russia. China is building on its commitment to gradually reduce the pace of reserve accumulation, and to allow market forces to play a larger role in determining movements of the RMB and to increase the transparency of its exchange rate policy. We welcome China's commitment to continue exchange rate regime reform.
 - Emerging markets will take further actions to rebalance demand, including by: continuing to promote the liberalization of interest rates (China); and, increasing investment (Brazil) and savings rates (Turkey).
 - Advanced surplus economies or those with relatively weak private demand will help promote domestic demand through the further liberalization of service sectors (Korea, Germany, Japan); encouraging investment through eliminating inefficiencies (Germany); and, creating new industries and new markets through innovation in areas such as environment and

healthcare (Japan). The recent developments in private households' real income in Germany will help strengthen domestic demand and accelerate internal rebalancing within the Euro Area.

- Oil-exporting countries will continue to pursue productive public investment and encourage private investment, which will have positive regional and global spillover effects, while ensuring fiscal sustainability given the volatile nature of revenues.
3. In Cannes, countries put forward structural reform commitments to boost and sustain global demand, foster job creation, contribute to global rebalancing and increase the growth potential in all G-20 countries. These remain core priorities going forward and are reflected in additional reforms and commitments made since Cannes. These reforms include:
- Labour market reforms to increase employment and increase labour force participation, such as: retraining long-term unemployed (US); skills development (Spain); increasing wage flexibility, such as decentralizing wage setting (Italy); reducing labour tax wedges (Brazil, Italy); reforms to employment insurance to make it more effective and efficient in supporting job creation (Canada); enhancing education, training and skills development (Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Turkey, South Africa); encouraging the participation of females in the labour force by, for example, reforming benefit systems and providing affordable child care services (Australia, Germany, Japan, Korea); improving employment opportunities for targeted groups such as youth and persons with disabilities (Canada, Korea, UK); encouraging the participation of younger workers through apprenticeships (UK); and, encouraging formal sector employment through better education or skill development (Brazil, Indonesia, Mexico, South Africa).
 - Product market reforms to promote competition and enhance productivity in key sectors (Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Mexico); „h Actions to promote the stabilisation of the housing sector (US).
 - Providing targeted support for the poor or strengthening social safety nets (India, Indonesia, China, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, South Africa).
 - Phasing out distortive subsidies in the medium-term where they exist in both advanced and emerging economies.
 - Tax and benefit reforms to enhance productivity and improve incentives to work (Australia, Germany, Italy, UK);
 - Planning regulation reforms to better support economic growth by reducing the burdens facing businesses wishing to expand (UK);

- Encourage further trade liberalization through unilateral tariff elimination in key sectors (Canada);
- Promote investments in infrastructure to increase productivity and living standards in the medium term by addressing bottlenecks (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, UK); and,
- Commitments to promote green and sustainable growth (Australia, Korea, Germany, Mexico).

4. We have made substantial progress in strengthening financial sector regulation and supervision. Current global economic challenges underscore the need to reaffirm our commitment to the effective implementation of the agreed financial reforms in order to make the financial sector more resilient, stable and able to support economic growth. We welcome the FSB's work, in conjunction with the IMF and the World Bank, identifying the extent to which agreed regulatory reforms may have unintended consequences for EMDEs. G-20 members continue to look to the FSB, in cooperation with standard setters, to monitor progress, reporting back on a regular basis. This will be complemented by efforts to increase financial inclusion.

5. We reaffirm our commitment to resist protectionism in all forms and promote open trade, and will take active measures to reduce the number of WTO inconsistent trade restrictive measures and resist financial protectionism.

6. Members reiterate the commitment on actions to maximize growth potential and economic resilience in developing countries, as well as the importance of fulfilling aid commitments by advanced countries, and mobilizing domestic, external, and new innovative sources of finance to meet development needs. These actions will complement the efforts of multilateral and bilateral donors, public and private partners to assist developing countries in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Emerging market members will also promote a range of reforms to promote development, including improving the investment climate and enhancing infrastructure investment.

Details on country-specific reform commitments are posted on the Mexican Presidency's website. We will continue to coordinate policy in the future as economic conditions evolve. We ask our Finance Ministers to work closely together in the coming months to address vulnerabilities and sustain the recovery. We will review progress against all of our commitments at the St. Petersburg Summit in 2013.

ANNEX A:

THE LOS CABOS ACCOUNTABILITY ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

G-20 members have developed an Accountability Assessment Framework based on three pillars. This Framework will be used to prepare reports on progress in meeting past commitments, which will inform the development of future action plans and domestic policies.

Guiding Principles

To make sure that the Framework meets the needs of the membership, members have agreed that it be:

- Country-owned and country-led, based on the members' assessment and with the input of independent third-party evaluations (by the IMF and other international organizations).
- Based on a rigorous comply or explain approach, which recognizes that policy actions take time and policy priorities may need to change.
- Concrete, using quantitative measures where possible to help focus the discussion and assess progress.
- Consistent across members, to ensure comparability of treatment, while at the same time allowing for country-specific circumstances where relevant.
- Fair, by encouraging an open dialogue between members through self-assessments and by providing objective, third-party analysis.
- Open and transparent, with the overall outcomes communicated to the public after agreement by the G-20.

1. A Peer-Review Process informed by Third-Party Assessments

At the core of our accountability assessment is a peer review process, in which members will assess progress made in meeting past G-20 fiscal, financial, structural, monetary and exchange rate, trade and development policy commitments. To enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the discussions, the process focuses on those commitments across all policy areas where the coordination of policies has the most impact in reducing near term risks, and promoting strong, sustainable and balanced growth.

The peer review discussions will include the following elements:

- A review and discussion of policy actions members have undertaken to meet their commitments.

- A discussion of the global economic outlook to assess the progress being made in moving towards our objectives of strong, sustainable and balanced growth.
- An assessment of members (approximately every 2 years) against the 'Indicative Guidelines' that we endorsed in Cannes in order to identify large and persistent imbalances. As well, discussions of the new (or updated) External Sustainability Reports prepared by the IMF for countries where the guidelines suggest imbalances require further analysis.
- A review of reports from the international organisations (from the IMF, OECD, FSB, World Bank, ILO UNCTAD and the WTO) to enhance the objectiveness of the assessment process.

To ensure the Framework's credibility and integrity, we task our officials with further enhancing the Accountability Assessment Framework, by looking at ways to promote peer review discussions based on a shared understanding of issues. We are committed to agreeing on a common approach to measure progress against previous commitments in the areas of fiscal, monetary, exchange rate, and other policies. As well we agree that commitments need to be specific, measurable and relevant to achieving strong, sustainable and balanced growth. We task our Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors to review progress by their meeting in Mexico City in November 2012.

2. Regular Reports to Ministers/Governors/Leaders

The culmination of the peer review discussions will be short progress reports prepared for Ministerial meetings and regular Annual Accountability Assessments for Ministers, Governors and Leaders. These assessments would also provide critical input to inform the range of concrete policy commitments that should be included in the G-20 Action Plans.

ANNEX B:

The Los Cabos Accountability Assessment

The G-20 launched the Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth in Pittsburgh in 2009 to promote the range of policy actions required to overcome the legacy of the 2007-08 financial crisis and put the global economy back on the path of strong, sustainable and balanced economic growth and robust job creation. The bold policy actions undertaken by G-20 countries in response to the crisis limited the loss of output and jobs, and launched the global recovery.

While significant policy actions have been implemented since then, our common goal of achieving strong, sustainable and balanced growth as agreed in Pittsburgh has remained elusive. It is clear that the rebuilding of public and private sector balance sheets across advanced economies will continue to constrain global growth for some time. Further, a number of risks continue to weigh heavily on global growth as outlined above. The recovery in private demand in most advanced economies remains muted. Although growth in emerging market economies has remained relatively strong, there are indications that it too is slowing. Reflecting the differential growth profiles, unemployment rates in emerging market economies have generally fallen below pre-crisis levels, while unemployment rates in advanced economies generally remain stubbornly high.

External imbalances have generally narrowed compared to the very large imbalances in the pre-crisis period. Structural policy adjustments have played a role in some countries, but the improvement also reflects cyclical effects, in particular the relatively weak cyclical position of many advanced economies and movements in terms of trade. Oil-exporting countries continue to run large and mounting current account surpluses.

On balance, developments since Pittsburgh suggest that a continued and more determined effort across all policy areas is required to meet the objectives set out when we established the Framework.

Fiscal Policy

Good progress has been achieved in meeting the Toronto fiscal commitments, although the weaker-than-expected economic outcomes has affected the fiscal adjustment paths of some countries. In some countries the credibility of fiscal policy needs to be bolstered through actions to place public finances on a sustainable medium-term path:

- Most members (Australia, Canada, France, Germany and Italy) are projected by the IMF to achieve the Toronto target to halve their deficits from their 2010 levels.¹ In some cases, strong policy actions actually reduced the 2010 deficits below expected levels. Recognizing the need to pursue growth-oriented policies that support demand and recovery, the United States will calibrate the pace of its fiscal consolidation by ensuring that its public finances are placed on a sustainable long-run path so that a sharp fiscal contraction in 2013 is avoided. In the UK, the

¹ For consistency across members, this assessment of the Toronto commitments is based on general government deficit, using the actual deficit in 2010 and comparing to the IMF's projections for 2013, allowing a 0.5 percentage point confidence band around the projections.

actual 2013 deficit projection meets the Toronto objective when cyclically-adjusted

measure is used. Spain may miss its 2013 target, reflecting the significant weakness in the economy and the restructuring of its banking sector. Thus, a very significant structural effort and deficit reduction plan is being implemented.

- Most advanced economies are also on track to achieve the Toronto commitment to stabilise or reduce the debt-to-GDP ratio by 2016.² The US is expected to meet this commitment in 2016 at the federal government level, but the federal government debt is expected to increase thereafter according to the IMF. Spain is expected to require additional actions to meet its target. Japan is on track to meet its own medium-term target of halving the primary deficit by FY2015 from its FY2010 level, but more action is needed to reach its long-term target to reduce its debt-to-GDP ratio from FY2021 onwards. Finally, while advanced economies had agreed to promote sustainable fiscal finances over the medium term, debt levels are expected to remain high in many countries in 2016. Further policy efforts are required to achieve sustainable public finances in the medium term, particularly in the context of population ageing.

Member countries have made progress on their commitments to implement structural fiscal reforms. The Euro Area has strengthened its fiscal frameworks with the adoption of the Fiscal Compact. Some members have delivered on their commitment to reform the pension system (Italy) and others are making progress on pension reforms (France, the UK). Brazil has approved a reform of the civil servants' pension system. Spain has implemented a major labour market reform. Further progress is required on a range of fiscal actions across G-20 members that would both promote sustainable public finances and facilitate global rebalancing: the Euro Area needs to complete reforms to fiscal governance; and, the US and Japan need to fully implement ambitious medium-term fiscal plans. India, Indonesia and Mexico need to continue their reforms of major subsidies. Further progress on tax reform is required in many emerging and advanced economies to reduce distortions.

Monetary and Exchange Rate Policies

In advanced economies, monetary policies have played an integral role in supporting the recovery while maintaining price stability. In emerging market economies, inflationary pressures have generally eased, largely as a result of slower growth.

Since the Pittsburgh Summit, emerging market economies with relatively inflexible exchange rate regimes, under the IMF's de facto classification system, implemented a number of important reforms. In particular, both China and Russia have widened their exchange rate floating bands. China's exchange rate has appreciated substantially since 2005, but progress towards greater exchange rate flexibility has been less clear since the Cannes Summit, particularly given

the short time that China's most recent reforms have been in place. Reserves fell in China during the last quarter of 2011 partly owing to the narrowing in its current account surplus. Reserve accumulation resumed in the first quarter of 2012.

Emerging market countries expressed concerns that the easing in monetary policies in advanced economies is contributing to an increase in both the level and variability of capital flowing to their

2 Using the IMF's forecast for the general government debt-to-GDP ratio over 2015 and 2016.

economies and volatility in other financial variables, complicating macroeconomic policy management. Members generally recognised that domestic monetary policies of advanced economies are appropriately targeted to achieve domestic objectives while at the same time recognising the need to remain vigilant against possible negative spillovers of their policies.

Structural Policies

The implementation of key structural reforms is critical to strengthening growth and creating jobs, and promoting global rebalancing, such as policies that affect social safety nets and investment patterns. However, members agreed that structural reform commitments are particularly difficult to assess, in part due to the length of time it takes to implement them and witness their effects. That said, members remain committed to pursuing structural reforms as not only are some reforms able to provide employment gains in the short-term, they also boost jobs and growth domestically and have positive spillovers via trade and other linkages to help rebalance the global economy.

The OECD estimates that implementation is underway for over three quarters of all structural reform commitments, with full implementation of about one-third of all commitments. Progress in implementing reforms is broadly similar for advanced and emerging economies. However, progress across the different categories of structural reforms has been uneven and greater ambition is needed to implement the reforms that will have the greatest impact on rebalancing, job creation, and promoting stronger growth.

Several advanced economies need to make more progress on product market reforms (Euro Area, Japan). Emerging markets, in general, need to further improve the business and investment environment, which will facilitate investment in infrastructure and enhance potential growth, and foster financial inclusion. To facilitate global rebalancing: the US needs to do more to encourage private savings; Germany should implement measures to promote domestic demand; and, some emerging markets need to increase domestic consumption and improve the efficiency of investment.

Trade, Financial Sector and Development Policies

The WTO, UNCTAD, World Bank and OECD continue to monitor progress countries have made in reducing tariffs and liberalizing trading systems, including reducing entry barriers in key sectors. Most members have maintained their commitment to resist protectionism, including by addressing unfair trade practices through WTO-consistent trade remedy measures rather than ad-hoc policy responses. However, the political climate in some regions appears to be more accepting of new forms of protectionist measures, which should be resisted.

The FSB is responsible for coordinating and promoting the rigorous monitoring of the implementation of the agreed G-20/FSB financial reforms and its reporting to the G-20 under the FSB's Coordination Framework for Implementation Monitoring (CFIM) that was established last year. This process involves intensive monitoring and detailed reporting, in collaboration with the standard setting bodies, on national implementation progress in six priority reform areas (Basel III, policy measures for G-SIFIs, resolution frameworks, OTC derivatives, compensation practices, shadow banking) as set out in the FSB's report to G-20 Leaders. The FSB, in coordination with relevant standard setting bodies, also reports on the implementation of other agreed regulatory reforms and publishes information on the steps taken by FSB members to implement them. The IMF reviews progress realized by its members via its Article IV surveillance and FSAP assessments. The FSB, in coordination with the staff of the IMF and World Bank, has prepared a study identifying the extent to which agreed regulatory reforms may have unintended consequences on emerging market and developing economies.

The World Bank, in conjunction with other international organizations, will continue to assess the growth and development agenda in developing countries, including the impact of the Framework policies and the external environment on promoting development and reducing the development gap. In addition, they continue to monitor the progress towards fulfilling commitments in this area.

Conclusion

Overall, progress has been made in moving ahead on the Cannes and previous summit reform commitments, but more progress and new actions are required in several important areas. In order to facilitate future assessments, members also recognised that policy commitments need to be as specific and concrete as possible, and need to substantively contribute towards the overall objective of strong, sustainable and balanced growth. We also agree on the need for a common approach to measure progress against previous commitments in all policy areas.



G - 24**166. Opening Remarks of Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee at the G – 24 Finance Ministers' Meeting.****Washington(DC), April 19, 2012.**

"We are meeting at a time when the global economy appears to be strengthening gradually after suffering a setback. Although actions by Euro zone countries and the ECB have stabilized the situation and calmed the market somewhat, underlying structural problems remain and downside risks remain significant as manifest in recent movements in bond yields. Volatility in commodity prices, threats of disruptions to supply chains and high oil prices have added to global uncertainty and impacted businesses across the globe, slowing the recovery in both advanced and emerging economies.

Developing countries and emerging economies are expected to continue as growth drivers for the world economy. The fact, however, is that even here growth has decelerated. The global economy is too interconnected for them to be insulated from the knockdown impact of developments in advanced economies. This presents both a challenge as well as an opportunity for organizations like the G24 to take a lead role in creating a platform for exchange of ideas and to develop a consensus to arrive at solutions that are not only effective in the short run but also sustainable in the long run. The need for concerted action among the world nations for facing the volatility in the global economy was well articulated in our last meeting in September 2011 in this very same venue. Many of us who are gathered here today represent the voice of the masses of the poor and vulnerable populations who are adversely affected by the lack of jobs, infrastructure, food and finance and for whom we need to do more together.

The role of the IFIs today deserves to be viewed in this light. There are serious apprehensions regarding the governance structure of these IFIs, adequacy of their resources as well the flexibility of their lending procedures. These apprehensions have strengthened the trend of setting up new and regional financial mechanisms and institutions where the voice of these nations are heard, and adequate finance is forthcoming.

The present global juncture presents an opportunity for the G24 to devise strategies to enhance its effectiveness in the global policy making process. All international organizations today recognize the fact that none of them can be an active participant in the global economy unless and until EMDCs are taken on board and given a greater role. In this scenario, the G24 is uniquely positioned

as it is well represented by all major EMDCs. G24 is rightly making use of this opportunity by organising meetings on Infrastructure Financing and Financial Inclusion on April 22. As developing countries become major economic powers in global scenario, their responsibilities will also increase.

In today's meeting, we will cover 3 issues, namely the Global Economy, reform of the International Financial Institutions and Infrastructure Financing. I look forward to your views on these agenda items. In view of the limited time available at our disposal, I would request you to cover all the agenda items in your interventions."



IBSA

167. Statement issued by the IBSA member-states on the situation between Israel and Palestine.

November 22, 2012.

India, Brazil and South Africa express their strongest condemnation of the ongoing violence between Israel and Palestine, that threatens the peace and security of the region. The IBSA countries deeply regret the loss of human lives and express their concern over the disproportionate and excessive use of force.

They urge the parties to immediately cease all violence, to exercise maximum restraint and to avoid taking any action that may further exacerbate the situation. They stress their expectation that the United Nations Security Council will do its utmost in the fulfilment of its responsibilities in regard to this serious situation.

They also stress the urgent need to lift the blockade on Gaza which continues to worsen the already dire socio-economic and humanitarian situation in Gaza.

The IBSA countries express their strong support to the mediation efforts of the Government of Egypt, the League of Arab States and the UN Secretary-General aimed at achieving a negotiated ceasefire.

The IBSA countries believe that only diplomacy and dialogue will lead to the resolution of the current crisis, which makes it even more urgent to resume direct talks between Israel and Palestine, leading to a comprehensive solution to the Palestinian Question i.e. the achievement of a two-state solution.

In view of the upcoming UN General Assembly discussion on the Question of Palestine, India, Brazil and South Africa express their support for Palestine's request to be accorded Observer State status in the United Nations system.



IOR - ARC

168. Media Briefing by Secretary(ER) Sudhir Vyas on 12th IOR-ARC meeting.

New Delhi, October 30, 2012.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Syed Akbaruddin): Good afternoon friends and thank you very much for coming to this interaction. I am particularly grateful for our colleagues in the media from the Indian Ocean Rim countries who are here. There are 31 of them and I would like to welcome them specifically to this first interaction that they are attending in the Ministry of External Affairs.

Our primary focus today would be a briefing on the Twelfth Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation. I have here with me Secretary (Economic Relations) Mr. Sudhir Vyas, who is India's representative at the Senior Officials' Meeting of the IOR-ARC. He will brief you today on the events leading to the IOR-ARC Ministerial meeting. After that we will open the floor for questions on IOR-ARC.

Along with Secretary (Economic Relations) we have Mr. Dinesh Bhatia who is Joint Secretary (Multilateral Economic Relations), and Mr. Charan Jeet Singh who is Director (Multilateral Economic Relations). Both of them will assist Secretary (ER) in case you have some questions which are of such deep value that he would require further assistance from others.

With that, I would request Secretary (ER) to make his opening remarks and then we will open the floor for questions.

Secretary (Economic Relations) (Shri Sudhir Vyas): Thank you, Akbar. Thank you all for joining us this afternoon. Thank you for your attention and your interest in the subject. My welcome also to those friends from the media who are here for this important event.

External Affairs Minister Mr. Salman Khurshid will be chairing the Twelfth Meeting of the Council of Ministers which is the apex body of the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation, which we refer to by its acronym IOR-ARC, on 2nd of November at the Oberoi Hotel in Gurgaon. This meeting is the culmination of a series of interactions of bodies of this Association. It will be preceded, therefore, by the Indian Ocean Rim Academic Group, the Indian Ocean Business Forum, the Working Group on Trade and Investment which is a group of government officials dealing with trade policy issues, and finally the Committee of Senior Officials which I will chair tomorrow and day after tomorrow.

The meetings have already begun with the Academic Group having met

yesterday. Today the Working Group on Trade and Industry is deliberating issues of trade facilitation and so on. Tomorrow the Business Forum will meet to take up its agenda of business-to-business cooperation. The Committee of Senior Officials will meet alongside to pull the strings together and take stock of progress and decide upon its recommendations to the Council of Ministers, which will then meet on the 2nd and conclude this event.

A few words on the background to this Association. The idea of such an association actually goes very far back. You would be interested to know that our first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, in his book 'Discovery of India' which predates Independence, had envisioned a group of countries bordering the Indian Ocean and helping each other in tackling common challenges. A similar idea was mooted by the then Foreign Minister of South Africa Mr. Pik Botha during his 1993 visit to India, and given a further fillip by Mr. Nelson Mandela in 1994. It was also mooted by the Shah of Iran in 1974, and subsequently explored by Mauritius in 1980s. So, there is a very strong political will that underpins this Association.

When this led to a group of seven countries, one from each side of the Indian Ocean - Australia, India, Kenya, Sultanate of Oman, Singapore and South Africa - the so-called seven meeting in Mauritius in 1995 was called M7 (Mauritius 7) to talk about enhancing cooperation on the rim. In a Joint Statement they agreed on - interestingly these words are relevant - "Principles of open regionalism and inclusivity of membership with the objectives of trade liberalisation and promoting trade cooperation". This was expanded to the M14 with the addition of seven more members. The Association was formally launched, after five more members had joined, in March 1997. This makes it the fifteenth year of the Association's existence.

IOR-ARC is the only pan Indian Ocean organization of its kind - a unique group of states on the rim of the Ocean which accounts for no less than two billion people, states that are characterized by diversities in size, population, culture and economic development. A notable feature is the number of overlapping regional organizations which have their rationale. Therefore, the members of IOR-ARC are also members of other multilateral groupings like ASEAN, GCC, SAARC or SADIC. Therefore, IOR-ARC has to increasingly position itself as an apex body which takes into account the differing perspectives, the differing approaches and binds them together into a unified whole in spite of the diversity.

Over the last few years, the countries of the Indian Ocean Rim have clearly come together on one account, that their strategic interests are served by the wellbeing and stability of the maritime domain. That is what brings this Association together and what has given it its increased relevance in the contemporary period.

The Indian Ocean is the third largest body of water on Earth linking the developed economies of the West to the burgeoning powerhouses of markets of Asia in the East. Seventy per cent of global traffic in petroleum products and energy and half the world's containers traffic transits across the Indian Ocean. Apart from its major reserves of oil and gas, the Indian Ocean Rim is rich in resources from fisheries to precious minerals, from agricultural wealth to valuable human technical expertise. And the Indian Ocean has its challenges. We know the threats in parts of the Indian Ocean to maritime security, the incidents of piracy that have taken place over the last few years, Indian Ocean region has been the victim of a tsunami in 2004, all these are issues that are of concern to the membership.

Therefore, the wellbeing and stability of the region has been and continues to be critical for the membership as well as for global economic growth. It is interesting that despite the global economic slowdown and the slow recovery, Indian Ocean Rim economies performed well in 2011. In 2011 the combined GDP of IOR-ARC members was estimated at US\$ 6.5 trillion, up from 5.7 trillion in 2010, in just one year. From 2001 to 2010, regional trade more than tripled from US\$ 1.1 trillion in 2001 to US\$ 3.5 trillion in 2010. And the share of intra-IOR-ARC trade in global trade increased from 8.6% to 11.6% over the same period. Its regional investment trends have also shown a steady growth, both FDI inflows as well as outflows. FDI inflows into Indian Ocean Rim countries quadrupled to US\$ 201 billion in 2011 from a mere 50 billion dollars in 2001. Share of IOR-ARC's global FDI inflows increased from six per cent in 2001 to 13.2 per cent in 2011.

For India, the Indian Ocean occupies a particularly important position in our economic and strategic perspectives. Across the Indian Ocean move 90 per cent of our energy imports - it gives you a sense of the criticality of the wellbeing of this domain for us - and over 80 per cent of India's international trade. India's total trade with the RIM states has grown more than eight-fold to reach 156 billion dollars during the period 2001 to 2010. It was 156 billion dollars last year. Our telephone and internet connectivity is largely dependent on quality under sea communication cable infrastructure in the Indian Ocean.

Let me talk a little bit about the Association itself. Today, IOR-ARC has 19 members. Seychelles has joined as the 19th member in the last Council of Ministers meeting at Bengaluru last year. The members are: Australia, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Malaysia, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Seychelles, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, UAE and Yemen. There are five Dialogue Partners for the Association, namely China, Egypt, France, Japan and the UK. There are two observer organizations, namely the Indian Ocean Research Group and the Indian Ocean Tourism Organisation based in Oman.

IOR-ARC has established three institutions so far. Institution-building, excellence in disciplines and areas of interest and relevance and value to the Indian Ocean Rim are a critical component, an important component of the work of our Association. Take for example the fisheries sector. The Fisheries Support Unit was established in 2005 in Oman for enhancing the cooperation in fisheries sector and an action plan is under finalization. And it is clearly realized by all members that action in such fronts cannot be handled by one country alone. Cooperation can augment individual resources and produce results.

The Regional Centre for Science and Technology Transfer in Tehran has the mandate for facilitating transfer of technology at a regional level in dissemination and commercialisation of knowhow and technology. Maritime Transport Council, established in 2010, is envisaged as a regional specialized agency for strengthening cooperation in maritime transport issues.

I had mentioned earlier that IOR-ARC is an association of tremendous diversities including in levels of economic development and financial capacity. Therefore, it has instituted a special fund at the Sixth Council of Ministers Meeting in Tehran, to help support Indian Ocean Association projects by some of its less developed members who may require additional financial resources to organize workshops, events or interactions. In fact, India was the first country to announce an initial contribution to this special fund and it has been followed by Iran, Oman, Yemen, China and others. Last year, India announced a further contribution of one million dollars at Bengaluru, and I am happy to state that this fund we would like to put to best possible use. We are also in the process of simplifying and laying out clear-cut procedures to enable this fund to be put to best use.

The contemporary situation. When India assumed the Chair of IOR-ARC first time incidentally at Bengaluru last year, at the 11th Council of Ministers, chairmanship is for two years, there was clearly an expectation and a sense in the air that this association needs to add much more value to its deliberations. There is so much at stake in the Indian Ocean region and we need to channelize it in a manner which can serve the interests and expectations of its membership. So, we made a beginning in Bengaluru last year by identifying six priority areas for the work of our Association. I should have mentioned this earlier. The Association's primary objective is economic wellbeing, economic cooperation for the welfare of the peoples of the Indian Ocean. A lot of elements feed into this primary objective. The first of our priorities is one such – Maritime Safety and Security which includes anti piracy operations. Whether we can coordinate our efforts and put our individual efforts to best use on this? Capacity building in this area, and so on.

Secondly, the core area of trade and investment facilitation. Again as I mentioned

earlier, IOR-ARC is not a monolithic body. It overlaps with other regional organizations and, therefore, has to find a means and a way of organizing its work of trade facilitation and liberalization that does not conflict or run into conflict with the priorities of the others. So, we follow a very deliberative approach. We can talk about it later. Third, fisheries. I mentioned this in the context of the Fisheries Support Unit. Many countries, particularly for example of the coast of East Africa, talked about the amount of poaching that takes place in their very rich exclusive economic zones of fish. How do we manage, monitor, conserve and make use of fish stocks? Do we know the requirements? This is the second area of priority cooperation.

Disaster risk reduction and humanitarian access. The region has suffered from a tsunami in 2004. Tomorrow if there is an oil spill considering the amount of crude that travels across the Ocean, it could be devastating for one of the smaller economies. Therefore, humanitarian access and disaster management is a critical area which was identified as a priority.

Academic and science and technology cooperation. I mentioned the Academics Group which has just met yesterday. Do we know our domain? Do we understand our domain? Do you know the monsoons? Do you know the hydrology, the oceanography of the Indian Ocean? Do you know the coastal zones and how they would be impacted by coastal erosion? All these issues, the patterns of trade, the history behind the Indian Ocean, all this is relevant to this priority area, academic and science technology cooperation.

Finally, tourism promotion and cultural exchanges. Tourism is a USP of the region. Cultural commonality exists across the region which goes back centuries. Therefore, this is a fit subject for priority.

As chair of IOR-ARC, our approach has been to take forward cooperation within each of these priority areas and I am happy to see that we are seeing some forward movement ...

I will touch upon, if you are interested later, the kind of activities that we have initiated over the last year in pursuit of the objectives. But let me not take time in just reading about them. But I would want to mention that a lot of these have been extremely well attended, and I am happy to see that there is lot of interest in the activities. We are planning some major ones in early next year.

Future perspectives. Despite the enormous potential for cooperation in such a range of areas we feel, and I am sure this feeling is widely shared in other member states also, that IOR-ARC could do much more, and that is a challenge before us. That is what we have tried to do as the Chair to try and build body, build substance and value to this Association. As I said, this year marks the fifteenth year of the creation of IOR-ARC. We have chosen a theme for the

Twelfth Council of Ministers Meeting, which is "IOR-ARC at 15 – The Next Decade". We would like to discuss amongst ourselves what could be the focuses of cooperation under our Association, what could be the directions of its growth in coming years, ways and means to further consolidate our efforts so that IOR-ARC can cope with the fast-changing global economic and strategic environment, and in particular enhance its capacity to meet the contemporary expectations of its members and the challenges that this region is faced with.

This is by way of background. If you have any questions, we would try and answer them.

Official Spokesperson: Any of you who would like to ask a question, please raise your hand so that we can identify. Many of you are coming here for the first time. Maybe you should identify also on the mic before you ask the question.

The floor is now open for questions on IOR-ARC at this stage.

Question (Bangladesh Media): I want to know the state of cooperation between Bangladesh and IOR-ARC.

Secretary (ER): Between Bangladesh and the Indian Ocean Rim what I can tell you is that Bangladesh has been a very active participant in the affairs of the Indian Ocean Rim. It has brought value and substance to all our meetings and interactions. If you are looking for example for figures, like the ones that I mentioned, of trade between India and the other Indian Ocean countries, I think that question you probably will have to address to the Delegation of Bangladesh, which would be best placed to respond to that. But having said that, we value the Bangladesh's contribution to all our deliberations, particularly in areas of scientific and technical cooperation and trade facilitation it has come up with some very useful suggestions and ideas and have been taken onboard.

Question (Iranian Media): I have one question. What is India's plan to promote IOR-ARC's status among other international organizations, for example, G8, G20 or SAARC? Do you plan to have a political body for this organization such as that organisations?

Secretary (ER): Thank you for that very interesting question. The Association's objectives as defined in its charter are primarily economic and social wellbeing of the region. There is no proposal at the moment to give it a political content. However, when we talk about the strategic relevance of the Indian Ocean to all its membership, it is inevitable that some issues which are not necessarily purely economic in nature impact on the work of the Association. Take for example, I just mentioned this, maritime security, issues of piracy, issues of humanitarian access and disaster relief, these are not necessarily economic but they impinge and impact directly on the economic welfare of our region and

the economic activities and objectives of our region. Therefore, they will certainly form part of the Association's work. The other issue about its association with different bodies, given the value and the relevance of this Association not only to its members but also globally, because we are now talking of an oceanic domain which is a domain that is of interest and of relevance globally, we sense, and this is something that we are going to discuss, we would like IOR-ARC to position itself as an apex body for the region. It is the only association that brings together the entire rim. Therefore, as an apex body, should work with overlapping institutions like SAARC, like SADIC, like ASEAN to see whether we can build on commonalities. We would also for example like to work with the United Nations system, the ECOSOC, as we believe that we can bring value and substance to organizations like this. This is again a subject of ongoing debate and will be debated during this forthcoming meeting and I hope with positive outcomes. I cannot predict obviously what would happen. But my understanding is that it is very much in the minds of all the membership.

Question (Malaysian Media): I notice that IOR-ARC has steered clear of defence. Is this consciously done or given the fact that the increasing concern over American and Chinese presence in the Indian Ocean, which would of course affect all countries on the borders of the Ocean. Should this be on the table? And will it be on the table at this meeting?

Secretary (ER): Again the charter envisages this grouping as a primarily economic and social grouping. If there are needs and requirements, again I revert to this whole question of maritime security. We are not talking about defence here, we are talking about capacity building and cooperation, two hands being better than one in managing improved and improving maritime security environment in the Indian Ocean because that impacts on the work of the Association and that impacts on the wellbeing. You have piracy. Take for example, the incidents of piracy that have taken place. Today you see that rising insurance rates for shipping impact on the economic wellbeing of all our countries. Therefore, it is a fit subject and a relevant subject for it to be brought in. So, if you ask me directly a pointblank question whether defence is going to be brought in, I cannot give you an answer. If it is relevant to the charter, we will find a way to deal with it.

Question (Sultanate of Oman Media): When the Indian Embassy sent us the invitation for this conference, we did not know what this conference is about, even my boss. So we had to google it. I have heard that this was the case of many of the journalists in the group itself. So, do not you think that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have to work more in promoting this conference and maybe make more fast and serious decisions that really make a difference in the Indian Ocean rim countries?

Secretary (ER): A splendid question! And you are spot on! I completely agree that the commonalities of the Indian Ocean and what we need to do should permeate very deeply into the thinking population, journalists, academics, because without that kind of awareness things are not going to move forward. Having said that, Oman is a founder member of IOR-ARC, you should have known what this conference is about.

Question (Bangladesh Media): I would like to know your organisation IOR-ARC ...

Secretary (ER): Our organization please.

Question: Yes, our organization is working with various aspects. But especially maritime security is the most important part of this organisation's work. I would like to know maritime boundary with Bangladesh has a complaint at international tribunal, which will be solved in 2014. Is not there any option or opportunity to solve the maritime boundary problem in discussion by this organization logically, reasonably we can resolve by this organization? Is there any opportunity? In this conference, can we discuss this?

Secretary (ER): I know there are mechanisms for dealing with these kinds of issues which routinely arise in many parts of the world. But no, this association as a conscious policy excludes bilateral or divisive issues. It is looking at areas where all the countries share a common interest and we can build capacities which will be of value to them. It excludes bilateral issues.

Question (Yemen Media): How do you look to the current economic cooperation that is going between Yemen and India as we have historical and business and investment right for centuries? And how do you look at the cooperation that is currently going on in the Association? When you discuss piracy, we know that Yemen has been affected badly by the piracy and the shipping to Yemen is the most expensive for security issues? You are helping us. What I know is that the insurance companies are not accepting to load the ships to Yemen when it comes to shipping. So, they rather go to Djibouti rather than going to Yemen. The prices are increasing tremendously because of the shipping costs. Can you just brief us on how you are helping Yemen to get out of this problem?

Secretary (ER): Very relevant. Yemen of course is at the forefront of this anti piracy effort and has clearly been impacted very severely by what is happening. The whole challenge of piracy off the Horn of Africa which borders Yemen has clearly impacted very heavily. This has been identified as a priority for our efforts in IOR-ARC and will certainly be debated with some intensity, and some in-depth views will hopefully emerge. We are also looking at workshops and seminars for capacity building in this particular area. A couple have already been held and we are looking at organizing one in, if I am not mistaken, April

next year on the whole issue of maritime security and piracy. We are planning to hold a seminar in India which can act as a focus for cooperation within IOR-ARC in this area. You ask me a little bit about bilateral figures of trade and investment between India and Yemen. I am afraid I do not think I have the bilateral figures with me but we can certainly get them for you. That is no problem at all. At this point of time I am not in a position to share this with you.

Question: ...(Inaudible)...

Secretary (ER): Of course, historically the relations between Yemen and the west coast of India go very very far back. Born on the monsoon winds, which blow in one direction for half of the year and the other direction for the other half, our traders have been moving back and forth between the Yemen coast and the west coast of India. There is actually a wealth of historical documentation and literature for that matter. It has spawned some superb literature, stories and so on in India, historically. We had an exhibition of archives under the Indian Ocean Association auspices recently. The archival material available with the National Archives of India should bring out vividly and beautifully the kind of exchanges that used to exist between India and Yemen historically. But the potential is growing.

Question (Singapore Media): You said that 90 per cent of economic imports and 80 per cent of international trade go through the Indian Ocean. Is that correct?

Secretary (ER): The figures that you mentioned pertain to India. Ninety per cent of India's energy exports come across the Indian Ocean. **Question (Singapore):** Okay. You have also said that piracy is impacting the economies of the IOR-ARC nations. The melting ice in the North Pole is opening up new sea routes. Will this affect the economies of the IOR-ARC countries? If it does, what is the plan that the organization has?

Secretary (ER): That is looking very far into the future. But yes, that is an area of interest undoubtedly.

Question (Singapore Media): It has already started and the shipping lanes ...

Secretary (ER): The melting of ice has already started and there is a whole host of implications. One can debate them and study them. I would certainly like the Academic Group for that matter of IOR-ARC to take this on as a subject of its interest, very much. The Academic Group will deliberate on this. If not this time, it will do it next time. We meet every year.

Question (Iran Media): Do you have any special plans to enhance trade interaction with Iran within the framework of this Association given the fact that Iran is under sanctions and India needs Iran oil and we import goods from India?

Secretary (ER): I think that is a little bit outside the purview of the work of this association. Certainly the Association would be looking at matters of trade facilitation, ease of business and so on and so forth. But where it comes to bilateral issues, and these kind of issues, I think that is a little beyond the purview of this Association.

Question (Indonesia Media): As we know, Somalia is the host of these pirates. Is there any plan of the Association to include Somalia into this Association? Or is there any plan of a legal or political action against Somalia for this case?

Secretary (ER): The issue of piracy I do not think can be categorized in black and white terms. There are a whole host of elements that are behind the growth of this scourge in the western Indian Ocean. It is issues of livelihood, it is issues of governance, it is a whole host of factors that come into play. So, these are not easy issues for which you can find immediate answers. The issue of combating piracy will certainly be a subject and a very important subject, a priority subject in IOR-ARC discussions, workshops and seminars, but perhaps not in such a black and white manner in which you are putting it.

As far as Somalia joining the association, yes, at some point in future, if you are looking at an inclusive association of the Indian Ocean, when it is in a position to join, when it has a government – there is a transitional government of course – but a government that is in a position to contribute and benefit from this Association.

Official Spokesperson: Thank you very much. With that we come to the end of this part of the interaction.



**169. Opening Remarks by External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid at the 12th IOR-ARC Council of Ministers Meeting.
Gurgaon, November 2, 2012.**

Excellencies,

Distinguished Leaders and Delegates,

Representatives of the Media,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I extend a very warm welcome to all of you to the 12th Council of Ministers' Meeting of Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation at Gurgaon. The city of Gurgaon is rightfully called the industrial and financial power house of the State of Haryana, and its vitality and dynamism perfectly complement those of India's Capital, New Delhi.

I do hope that you are all comfortable and have had an opportunity for some rest after your arrival.

This is the second and last meeting of the Council of Ministers under India's current Chairmanship of our Association. Over the last year, since we assumed the Chair at Bengaluru last November, India has worked closely with her IOR-ARC partners to further deepen and consolidate our cooperation in pursuit of our shared objectives.

We have taken our agenda forward and a number of activities have been successfully concluded in each of the six priority areas identified for IORARC at Bengaluru, namely maritime security and safety, disaster risk reduction, trade & investment facilitation, fisheries management, academic and S&T cooperation, and tourism and cultural exchanges.

It gives me pleasure to report that several programmes were undertaken under these priority areas. These include a professional course for diplomats from IORARC countries, a workshop on coastal zone management, a meeting of Heads of National Archives of our countries, a mobile exhibition of archival documents from IORARC countries and a separate IORARC segment in the forthcoming International Film Festival of India in Goa this month. The first meeting of the Core Group on Cultural Cooperation, the 13th Meeting of the Working Group of Heads of Mission and a meeting to finalize the Draft Constitution of the University Mobility in the Indian Ocean Region were held in South Africa earlier this year. The Regional Centre for Science and Technology Transfer hosted a number of useful programmes to further our cooperation in the arena of Science and Technology.

The IORARC Report on Trade and Investment prepared by the Indian think-tank 'Research and Information Systems for Developing Countries' (RIS) was released followed by two very useful workshops on Trade Facilitation and Customs Harmonization, and on Trade Policy, held in India and Australia earlier this year. The active participation by member countries in all these programmes is a reaffirmation of our collective commitment to our Association. These initiatives have helped further consolidation of the cooperative agenda.

A mid-term meeting of Committee of Senior Officials was held in Mauritius in May this year under India's Chairmanship to take stock of the progress in our cooperation. India has made the payment of US\$ 1 million towards the Special Fund as was committed by us at Bengaluru in November 2011.

These are a few highlights of the activities over the last one year. The Secretary General and the Chairman of the Committee of Senior Officials would provide details later in the day.

India, as the Chair, is committed to maintain the momentum gained by our Association during the last one year in pursuit of our aim to deliver tangible benefits to the peoples of the IOR region.

Excellencies,

Before I proceed further, I would like to place on record our appreciation for our officials, business chambers and academics, as well as the IOR-ARC Secretariat, for the hard work they have put in to prepare for our meeting today.

With these few words, I have the honour to declare open the 12th Council of Ministers' Meeting.

I request the Secretary General to make his opening remarks.



170. Statement by External Affairs Minister Salaman Khurshid at the 12th Council of Ministers' Meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC).

Gurgoan, November 2, 2012.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I now have the honour to begin the proceedings of our meeting.

We are meeting today at an important juncture. We launched IORARC in 1997, a decade and a half ago, with the primary objective of promoting sustained growth and balanced development of the region and of its Member States. IORARC has helped promote understanding and cooperation amongst our countries over these years, yet immense untapped potential remains.

The geo-strategic importance of the Indian Ocean cannot be underestimated. As focus of global economic growth shifts to Asia, it will occupy even greater salience in our strategic perspective. We envision IORARC as a regional body that can respond effectively to this need and enhance our individual and collective capacities to deal with contemporary challenges facing our common maritime domain. It must be strengthened to enable it to rise to our expectations.

We considered it appropriate, therefore, to focus our deliberations today on the theme "IORARC at 15 – the Next Decade". In our view, the objective of this exercise should be to lay down a roadmap and agenda for our Association for the coming years that will eventually establish IORARC as an apex organization for the Indian Ocean region.

Our region is characterized by great diversities in size, population and levels of development. A prospective roadmap for our Association must therefore be inclusive, taking IORARC forward at a pace acceptable to all.

Secondly, in facilitating the creation of a regional climate conducive to peace and prosperity, IORARC should aim at opening as many channels of communication and cooperation amongst its membership as feasible. It must thus be comprehensive, an integrated effort bringing together governments, civil society and business and deepening people-to-people contacts.

And finally, its agenda must reflect common regional interests that hold value for its membership. We took the first steps when we last met in Bengaluru in November 2011, and identified six priorities for our Association's work, including maritime security and safety, disaster risk reduction, trade & investment facilitation, fisheries management, academic and S&T cooperation, and tourism and cultural exchanges.

Each of these areas has its own relevance for us. Here I would like to touch on just three aspects.

IORARC follows an approach best defined as “cooperative regionalism”. IORARC does not impose binding conditionalities on its membership. Rather, it provides a platform for discussion and cooperative engagement on issues of common regional interest, and on which members can offer their capacities and facilities to regional partners for their benefit. Economic cooperation is at the core of our collective effort, and we need to consider appropriate initiatives aimed at meeting the developmental, energy and food security needs of our region, new infrastructural linkages with enhanced connectivity, and trade and investment facilitation that builds on the complementarities in our economic strengths.

Job creation for our growing youthful populations is an imperative across our region. Capacity building and skilling in all our identified priority areas is a cross-cutting need, which IORARC can also address.

Economic development cooperation requires a conducive environment to flower. Security of maritime commerce and safety of seafarers are of concern to all of us. There is a need, for example, to be more precise in defining High Risk Areas in the Indian Ocean, based on actual incidents of piracy, as this impacts adversely on insurance premiums and adds to the cost of shipping in our region. India will host an IORARC seminar on maritime security in early 2013, and we should consider its institutionalization as a regional forum for continuing exchange of views and monitoring of the situation.

Finally, we should consider ways and means of providing greater structure to the IORARC process, and enhancing the capacity of the Secretariat to support this effort. We could consider having a theme of contemporary relevance for future Council meetings, for example, as we have done for this one, which can help focus our discussions on the issues at hand.

Excellencies, I thank you again for your support. I look forward to hearing your views.

Thank you.



**171. Media Interaction of External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid at the 12th IOR- ARC Council of Ministers Meeting.
Gurgoan, November 2, 2012.**

Official Spokesperson (Shri Syed Akbaruddin): Good evening ladies and gentlemen. I welcome you to this media interaction.

We have here with us the External Affairs Minister of India Shri Salman Khurshid. Along with him is Shri Sudhir Vyas, who is Secretary (Economic Relations) and was the Senior Indian Representative at the 12th Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation meetings.

As is usual, we will have opening remarks by the Minister followed by a few questions. May I now request the Minister to make his opening remarks?

External Affairs Minister (Shri Salman Khurshid): Thank you. Good evening to all of you.

Friends, it is a privilege to be addressing a very exclusive band of journalists who do the foreign circuit. You report on what I believe is a very important part of the profile of our country across the globe.

Foreign policy has a historical significance and I believe that the consensus in this country, if at all there is a consensus on anything, has always been on foreign policy. It is a tribute to the leaders of our country indeed and several generations of outstanding diplomats who have served this country with great distinction, that they have not only...*(Inaudible)*...and given to our country a remarkable platform to project our national interests and to ensure that the world not only coordinates its efforts with the aspirations of our country but treats us truly as a responsible part of the international scene. With that sense of responsibility we have made our contributions, I believe, to some very important decisions in the world, and I hope that in the times to come we will continue to play that role effectively.

We have gathered here today to brief you on a very important event that has taken place which is the Twelfth Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation. Many years ago when I was Minister of State I saw this emerge as an outstanding initiative by countries that have a link not in the normal course by way of a landmass that they share but by way of common linkages, both historical and geopolitical, that they have through the high seas. It was in that sense a new initiative. We are now 15 years down the road and when we met today at a very important juncture, the theme being Looking Ahead to the Next Decade, having looked back with satisfaction over the last fifteen years.

I hope you guys have looked at the Gurgaon Communique. To my knowledge,

this is the first time that on the international stage Gurgaon has appeared as a gathering for convergence of aspirations on an international plane, and that too for convergence of aspirations of the countries around the Indian Ocean Rim in which India both by size and its position plays a very significant role.

We have had extremely useful discussions. The environment I believe was marked with a remarkable amount of mutual trust, warmth, cordiality and friendship. We believe that we have achieved the right chemistry that we needed today to take the Association forward in line with members' needs, their aspirations and expectations. You obviously are familiar that this is a gathering which has great diversity, not simply in terms of size, populations, significant associations with other regional groups. That diversity indeed is what we have tried to work into our strength.

The evolving strategic environment in the Indian Ocean is something that we cannot lose sight of. That is the backdrop in which we have made our endeavours. It is becoming increasingly critical to the world's economic and energy security, even more so for countries, members of IOR-ARC, that are on its rim. This is the third largest body of water in the world connecting developed countries in the West to the rapidly-growing countries in the East. The sea lanes across the Indian Ocean are, therefore, critical to global economy. You know that 80 per cent of the world's seaborne trade in oil for instance transits through the Indian Ocean.

So, fifteen years ago in 1997 this was set up, the only Indian Ocean Regional Organisation of this kind. It seeks to promote sustained growth, balanced development of the region, cooperation in development of human resources, economic and technical cooperation, expansion of trade and investment, strengthening of dialogue in international fora, and on global economic and other issues of mutual interest.

For us, under India's chairmanship this is the second Council of Ministers' meeting. You would recall that India assumed the chair for a period of two years at the Eleventh Meeting that was held in Bengaluru last year. We hosted that meeting in Bengaluru in November 2011. Of course there were obviously very high hopes and expectations of India. We had identified six priority areas which were: maritime security and safety which remains a matter of grave concern, disaster risk reduction, trade and investment facilitation, fisheries management, academic, science and technology cooperation, tourism and cultural exchanges.

As I said, fifteen years over and ten years ahead is what we are looking at. I believe some very far-reaching suggestions and proposals have come forward. Many will be worked upon. We are looking at out-of-the-box suggestions. Of course this is the time world over we are all very tight as far as finances are concerned. Yet, I do believe the important initiatives which have been taken

must go forward and India would be willing to partner every possible effort to make sure that we succeed with the aspirations of IOR-ARC membership.

I want to share with you that today we have our twentieth member, a new member that has joined us today, the Union of Comoros. So, that is twenty members. We have also taken a far-reaching decision consensually, which is how all our decisions are taken, and the United States of America is welcomed as the sixth dialogue partner. The expansion of the IOR-ARC membership with Seychelles and the Union of Comoros joining as members and the US as a dialogue partner under India's chair, is the manifestation of a growing interest that the world community has in our efforts. The Council has also welcomed Indonesia as the next Vice-Chair of the Association who would take over from Australia when Australia gets into the chair.

It has been my privilege and honour to host the Foreign Ministers, many of whom I had very useful bilaterals with, and Heads of Delegation of various members, dialogue partners, observers, in Gurgaon, a city which is fast turning into a global destination for corporate and multinationals. I hope that we have not only reciprocated adequately to the hospitality offered to us by Gurgaon and I thank the Chief Minister of Haryana on this occasion. I thank them all who participated, our delegates and the heads of delegations, for their constructive contributions. They help us make this a great success. We look forward now to the next meeting in 2013 in Australia when Australia will assume the Chair of the Association from us. I would once again like to thank the Government of Haryana as well as the administration of Gurgaon for facilitating, assisting with enthusiasm, warmth and making this an event worth remembering.

Thank you very much. I will be happy to answer your questions.

Question (Mr. Manish Chand, IANS): In an important step the United States joined today as the dialogue partner of the IOR-ARC. In what way does the US bring value to this regional body?

Secondly, we learned there was a proposal for renaming this body because many people feel the current name is honestly speaking unpronounceable or is not a fitting acronym. Was there any discussion on that?

External Affairs Minister: Yes, indeed, there was discussion on it. I did find it is a little bit of a tongue twister. You have to pause to be able to get it right. There is a sense that we could simplify it and make it user-friendly. I think that fifteen years is not so long that people get very attached to a particular phrase or a particular word. I think this was looked at very seriously. There are some issues that need to be examined, the Secretariat will have them examined, including issues on the legal position. I think once that is done we would be able to move forward. The sense was that it would be good to shorten it and make it more user-friendly. Hopefully, we will see this happen in the future.

As far as the United States of America is concerned, you know that the world's two largest and oldest democracies are India and the United States in a different way of defining ourselves. We do have a strategic relationship with the United States of America as far as India is concerned. Therefore, the consensual invitation and acceptance of the United States as a dialogue partner is obviously something to be welcomed. We are very pleased that this decision has been taken. The United States has a very important role in world governance and world institutions. Their participating as a dialogue partner will add value to the discussions and deliberations that take place here and certainly make our decisions more far-reaching and get endorsed more, in a sense, globally than we would be doing it only if we restricted to ourselves to the rim. But of course the thrust and the concerns and the priorities will remain that of the members of the rim. There are other dialogue partners and I think this is a positive step that has been taken. I do acknowledge and applaud the consensual manner in which firstly the Senior Officials and then the Heads of Delegations welcomed this decision.

Question (Mr. Venkat Narayan): Mr. Minister, in the morning you have made a remark to the effect that there should be a university which will deal with the issues concerning the whole Indian Ocean rim region. Was that discussed in any detail or is that just an idea floated by you? There is no reference to it in the Communique. What do you have in mind and what would you like to achieve through that?

External Affairs Minister: As you know, a university is not small project and certainly a University of the Indian Ocean would be I think on a scale that is not easily put together. My sense is that the idea was received well, I have only flagged the idea. It is a big ticket idea. We are today conscious that we should not as countries over commit ourselves to finances.

India is involved, as you know, in two very major universities that are now in the process of being nurtured - one is the Nalanda University and the other one is the South Asia University. I think both of them are very significant universities. But we all know that there is a growing need for multidisciplinary institutions and universities. There is a great thirst for knowledge and we are into the knowledge age. Therefore, the cutting edge is particularly in the Indian Ocean region. Looking at our historical, geopolitical, cultural and commercial dimensions a university of the Indian Ocean can be actually unique.

I just threw the idea at my colleagues to see who would want to snap up a university opportunity. I do not think we should pretend or try to be monopolistic and get every good idea for ourselves. This is a shared aspiration, and we would be willing to work with anyone who thinks that this university could be situated there. Of course, India is always ready and willing. It is just an initial idea. It is,

shall we say a twinkle in the eye and we will wait a little bit longer for it to move forward. But I am convinced that the sense that I received was that this is an idea that will be pursued diligently and quickly.

Question (Mr. Archis Mohan): This question is a little unrelated. Your predecessor, at his press conference after he quit, seemed to suggest that your present job required experience. With your relative inexperience - and you are the youngest Minister on the CCS - is that a hindrance? How steep has been the learning curve? What have been the changes that you find compared to your last stint here? How are you coping with a very hectic weekend with all that has been happening outside and not just in Delhi?

External Affairs Minister: I hit the ground running and I must say I was pleasantly surprised with the remarkable number of initiatives and the speed at which we are moving forward. I was very pleasantly surprised with an exceptionally efficient foreign affairs office, the Ministry of External Affairs. The talent is no less than it was when I was last in this Ministry. I think it has actually grown and it is certainly looking far greater than I saw it last time. There is a lot more work to be done, but greater efficiency and competence is visible even at first sight. I would not use the word being in great awe, but I would be happy to use the word awesome. It is a word you understand I think and more people understand these days than understood in the past.

There will be a lot of learning to do because there are a lot of new things that have happened in the world. The world has changed while I was away from this Ministry. But since I was not asleep all these years, it is not that I was rubbing my eyes and discovering the world. A lot of this is frankly familiar to me. A lot of what you have been writing and telling people is something that I have been reading since there is no extra cost on reading what you write on external affairs. I was not sure I would never come back to External Affairs. But I will not pretend to say that I never wanted to come back to External Affairs. So, I am happy to be here. I feel greatly honoured that I was found fit and suitable to be in this office. But there are some very experienced Foreign Ministers around the globe. And some of them said that they welcome me to the travelers club. So, I know that I have a lot of travelling to do.

Let me just say that the first three days have passed somewhat pleasantly and I am very happy to see that I will be chased around by eminent and successful and wonderful journalists like all of you, and that it is going to be a little more difficult than answering questions in Uttar Pradesh. So, let us just take it a step at a time. I am willing to learn. I have been a teacher too. So, I will learn from those who can teach me and I will teach those who can learn from me. That is what I wish to do.

Question (Ms. Anchal Vohra, NDTV): Sir, this is also unrelated but something

that I really wanted to ask and now that you are really...*(Inaudible)*... What is the update on the Kazmi case, on the attack on the Israeli diplomat in India because Kazmi has got bail. We found out that Israelis are very unhappy. Has Israel's Ambassador got in touch with the Ministry of External Affairs, has he expressed his unhappiness? What is happening on that?

External Affairs Minister: Let me just say this to you that of course people remain in touch all the time and people do not get in touch only when they are unhappy. People are in touch all the time because their messages have to travel, and that is the whole point of having diplomatic missions and having Ambassadors that you ask questions and you give information and you seek assistance and you urge and persuade the host Government to pay attention to what is your concern. I can assure you that just as we remain concerned about issues that are of great importance to us which we convey from time to time to the diplomats representing other countries, we also certainly pay heed and attend to any concern that they may address.

In this context, which is after all a matter of rule of law, we do not and cannot interfere in the pronouncements of courts. We can assist the courts through best possible counsel and the material that can be supplied by agencies that are required to supply material to the courts. Our impression is that the evidence with which and the concern that we expressed in the investigation of the matter and ensuring that the people responsible are brought to book and produced before court, there was a great satisfaction expressed to us. I am not sure if that satisfaction level has come down, but if at all anyone has any concern, that concern will be factored in. And I am sure that the agencies under the law who appear in the matter would do their utmost that they have to. I think everyone understands that India has a very strong rule of law and that the courts are entirely autonomous, independent. We can at best assist courts. We are not always happy and necessarily satisfied with the decisions courts take, but the courts do take decisions that we have to respect. That is the final word. We do not have a system in which we can go beyond a decision that the courts can take. I think trust and faith in our courts is paramount for our democracy. And I hope that all our partner countries and friends will understand this as well, just as we understand decisions that are taken by their independent and autonomous courts of law.

Question (Mr. Saurabh Shukla): Mr. Minister, just two quick questions. India and Pakistan will be resuming the cricket ties. Pakistan cricket team is coming to India. There have been some reservations in certain quarters. Bal Thackeray has written about it. How does the MEA and you as the Minister view this?

And you said you would be a frequent traveler now. How will you cope up with people like India Against Corruption who are obviously taking up stuff in your Constituency Farrukhabad?

External Affairs Minister: I am not sure that anyone is moving residence to my Constituency. If they are, it will rid India of them because they would be concentrating on one Constituency. As far as I have responsibilities to fulfill I think the nation would be conscious that anyone that represents a nation abroad represents the nation and not a party, and not just the Government. We have a responsibility to speak for India, with or without banners my job is to speak for India. I speak for the whole country. I do not speak for one segment, one section or one group of people.

As far as issues about handling any dissent in our democracy or any disagreement in our democracy is concerned, there are Ministers and party officials who are obviously authorized and mandated to deal with subjects that come under their purview. I think that you would all agree that the Foreign Minister of India should be left to look after India's interests globally rather than be distracted by dissent and disagreement on something that has happened within the country. We have a lot of very competent people both in the bureaucracy, the Council of Ministers and in the political parties - not my party alone - who can handle issues in a democratic manner.

On cricketing ties, I like watching cricket. These are issues that are decided from time to time by people who have the authority and who have the mandate to decide how far they should go. I think that we should have faith in them and we should trust them. It is not always that the matters require Government intervention. But as far as cricket is concerned, we are certainly concerned about issues that relate to accountability for a very unwholesome attack on our citizens. We expect all countries including our neighbouring country Pakistan to deliver on their frequently indicated promise, or for that matter an indication that they will make those people accountable. There is no question of dilution of our demand, expectation as far as that is concerned.

But my understanding of dealing with difficult situations with neighbours has been that we do put aside some issues on which there is an immediate resolution, and we continue with those issues on which consensually it is possible to have improvement of relations. I do not think isolation or cutting of any contact or any communication has ever helped. We do hope that this will be seen more as an attempt to persuade people that this is collaborative effort, and what was a conflict must be put to an end. It is a conflict on which there must be delivery of expectations that we have. But we do not want the clock to come to a standstill. The clock does move forward.

I think a degree of aloofness was called for, and I think that aloofness was shown by our cricketing bodies. If they in their assessment have come to the conclusion that there is now time to open a window, I think we should respect their decision for this. Of course, it is always possible to review any decision we

take. This is not an irreversible or a permanent decision that they would have taken. And as and when they need advice from us or we need to advise them, I am sure that will be done. Not everything done is done publicly. A lot of this has to be done discreetly and has to be done behind closed doors because we do not want our attitudes to be projected in unfavourable light.

We are cautious, we are careful, we are committed to the security of our country and our people. We are committed to accountability for the wrong that has been done. But we do want to look at a possible future, a future that is not held hostage by the past.

Question (Mr. Sachin Parashar, The Times of India): Sir, my question is about Sri Lanka. In the past few weeks we have seen that there have been repeated calls by forces from within the Government including their Defence Secretary that Sri Lanka do away with the Thirteenth Amendment altogether. I want to ask you if you took up this with your counterpart who you met this morning. If yes, what was his response?

External Affairs Minister: Sorry, I do not understand the thrust of that question because my understanding is that we would rather support the Thirteenth Amendment and that we have been given indications from time to time formally, officially, even privately, we have been given reaffirmation of the Thirteenth Amendment. If anything, we have understood that there is a demand from one side for going beyond the Thirteenth Amendment and that the Thirteenth Amendment would not be adequate. This is my understanding of the distance between the two sides on moving forward. We have no indication whatsoever that there is an issue of dilution or a reversal of the Thirteenth Amendment.

The bottom line that we know is that the Thirteenth Amendment stands and the Thirteenth Amendment is reaffirmed, but that there is now an expectation that has been placed that there is need to go beyond the Thirteenth Amendment. How soon that is possible, if at all it is possible what will be the procedure and the process that will be undertaken to examine this further, what will be its impact on the deadlines and dates that Sri Lanka has set for itself for elections in the Northern Province which is sometime next year, this is the matter that we will have to watch and wait for. I think that it is an internal matter for that country. It of course has an implication for us, but it is an internal matter for that country and there are, I am sure, some very competent people and sensitive people.

I would like to share with you that my meeting with the Sri Lanka Foreign Minister was a very rewarding meeting. It so happens that he is a senior of mine from Oxford, and perhaps Oxford people speak the same language. So, I may have understood his language better than I might have understood anyone else's language. I did have a very rewarding and very satisfying meeting with him. I

must say that we had a very candid and a very frank exchange of views, and an extremely helpful exchange of views.

Official Spokesperson: Thank you very much.

With that, we come to the end of this interaction.



172. Gurgaon Communiqué issued on the conclusion of the 12th Meeting of the Council of Ministers of IOR-ARC- at 15 – The Next Decade.

Gurgaon, November 2, 2012.

We, the Ministers of Member States of the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IORARC), met at Gurgaon, India, for the 12th Meeting of the Council of Ministers on 2nd November 2012. Our meeting was held in an environment marked by warmth, cordiality and openness.

2. Our meeting followed the 14th meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials, the 18th meeting of the IOR Academic Group, the 12th meeting of the Working Group on Trade & Investment and the 18th meeting of the IOR Business Forum. Their recommendations enriched our agenda and supported our work.

3. We thank the Committee of Senior Officials and all those involved in the three forums for their efforts. We also appreciate the hard work put in by the Secretary General and his team and their commitment to furthering the activities of the Association.

4. Our Association turned 15 this year. Set up in 1997 with the primary objective of promoting “sustained growth and balanced development of the region and of its Member States, and create common ground for regional economic co-operation”, IORARC is the apex pan-Indian Ocean multilateral forum with its membership open to all sovereign States of the Indian Ocean rim that adhere to the principles and objectives of its Charter. Over the years, IORARC has helped build and expand understanding and mutually beneficial cooperation, and facilitated the creation of a regional climate conducive to peace and prosperity.

5. We feel that the time has come now for IORARC to take the necessary steps, through an inclusive approach and in conformity with its Charter, to strengthen its institutions and enhance their capabilities, to play its due role as the apex organization in the Indian Ocean region that can effectively deliver on issues of contemporary relevance to its Members.

6. At our last meeting in Bengaluru in November 2011, we had identified six priority areas for our cooperation agenda, *maritime security and piracy, disaster risk reduction, trade & investment facilitation, fisheries management, academic and S&T cooperation, and tourism and cultural exchanges*. We believe that the outcome of the Bengaluru meeting has helped bring greater focus on our Association's work. We are pleased to note that a number of useful cooperation initiatives have since been and are being taken in each of these priority areas.

7. The geo-strategic importance of the Indian Ocean cannot be underestimated. Its stability and well-being are critical for global economic

prosperity, and even more so for the countries on its Rim. We are convinced that we can augment our capacities to deal with our common challenges in a more effective manner by forging enduring partnerships amongst ourselves. We support closer interaction between our Association and regional organizations in the Indian Ocean, such as the African Union.

8. Piracy is an increasingly serious concern, posing a threat to maritime commerce and the safety of sea farers, making insurance costlier and adding to the costs incurred by the shipping industry in the Indian Ocean Region. Weak governance and instability in parts of the region have contributed to its degeneration into transnational organized crime. We welcome the emphasis that our Association has placed on cooperation in maritime security issues in the Indian Ocean and reaffirm the importance of maintaining freedom of navigation and safety and security of Sea Lanes of Communication in the Indian Ocean.

9. We note that several useful regional and multilateral initiatives to deliberate on various relevant aspects of the fight against piracy have been taken in the Indian Ocean region, and IORARC should consider ways of engaging with these where feasible and complementing each other's efforts. We would like the IORARC seminar on maritime security scheduled for 2013 to consider concrete proposals of cooperation in this broad area, including institutionalization of a regional mechanism for continuing exchange of views and monitoring of the situation.

10. We believe that IORARC offers a useful platform for exchanging information on white shipping, and developing legislative frameworks and sharing best practices in coastal security and regulation of fishing activities in coastal waters.

11. We underscore the importance of better preparedness to fight natural and other disasters in our maritime domain. Cooperation in search and rescue and training in oil spill response are relevant areas for IORARC. We also acknowledge the need to develop cooperation among our agencies concerned to evolve regional disaster management strategies and operational processes.

12. Several Member States have experienced rapid economic growth. IORARC should consider ways to utilize this economic potential, including that offered by blue economy, for increased intra- and inter-regional trade for the benefit of all member states. While reiterating our commitment to free trade, we see trade facilitation measures as an important dimension in the context of regional trade and investment expansion. In this regard, we welcome the regional workshops on Customs harmonization and Trade Policy held this year as potentially contributing to ease of business, and direct the Working Group on Trade and Investment to take these initiatives forward.

13. The connectivity provided by the Indian Ocean has played an important

part in our shared history and will continue to shape our collective destiny. Enhanced connectivity can have a catalytic effect on economic integration by drastically reducing the costs of doing business, and we must find ways of enhancing regional connectivity to realize the full potential of economic cooperation in our region.

14. In this context, development of port and harbour infrastructure in the region assumes critical importance. We direct the Working Group on Trade and Investment to explore the potential of cooperation in this sector, including investment in and upgradation of shipping infrastructure and logistic chains in the region. This would act as an economic multiplier, facilitating growth in individual rim economies.

15. We emphasize the need of building human connectivity through deepening cultural cooperation and promoting tourism in the region which is marked by diversity in social and cultural values.

16. IORARC has developed valuable assets in the form of institutions, such as the Fisheries Support Unit, Maritime Transport Council and Regional Centre for Science and Technology Transfer. We welcome the activities undertaken by them in relevant priority areas on our agenda. We would like these institutions to develop into nodal centres of excellence and to network with other institutions in their respective fields in the region.

17. We attach high importance to our cooperation in the academic and S&T area. The IOR Academic Group should continue to pursue well-thought out initiatives of relevance to our region and member states, implement them in a timely manner, and consider possibilities of promoting exchanges of scholars and scientific and technical experts in this context. We encourage studies on areas of contemporary and regional significance for member States such as climate change, marine biology, coastal management, capacity building in ICT, analysis in investment promotion, etc. We express our appreciation at the successful hosting of IORARC programmes such as the meeting of Heads of National Archives and the mobile Exhibition of Archival material, and the workshop on Multidisciplinary Oceanographic Observations for Coastal Zone Management in India and encourage institutions in our region to develop an agenda for cooperation for action in these and other relevant subjects. We encourage member States to participate in different programmes organized under the Association.

18. We emphasize the important role that the IORARC Troika can play in coordinating cooperation through regular interaction amongst its members. We also recognize the need to strengthen the IORARC Secretariat and enhance its capabilities to support the activities of our Association.

19. We welcome the simplified procedures for utilization of the IORARC

Special Fund and encourage all members to contribute to and make use of the Special Fund of IORARC for effective implementation of programmes in priority areas of the Association.

20. We welcome the Union of Comoros as the 20th member of our Association. We have also decided to admit the United States of America as the 6th Dialogue Partner of IORARC.

21. We thank the Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India for the warm hospitality extended to us and our delegations and making excellent arrangements for hosting the 12th Council of Ministers and other meetings at Gurgaon. We look forward to continuing our engagement and meeting in Australia in 2013.



173. Media Briefing by Foreign Secretary on Prime Minister's visit to Iran to attend the XVI NAM Summit.

New Delhi, August 25, 2012

Official Spokesperson (Shri Syed Akbaruddin): Good afternoon friends and thank you very much for coming for this media interaction with the Foreign Secretary on the Prime Minister's visit to Tehran for the Non-Aligned Movement Meeting.

As is usual, we will begin with a few opening remarks by the Foreign Secretary followed by any questions that you may have.

Before I begin, I also wanted to mention that along with Foreign Secretary is Mr. Yash Sinha who is Joint Secretary (Pakistan, Afghanistan & Iran) and he will be assisting the Foreign Secretary in case there are any questions that you may like to ask on that matter too.

With that I request the Foreign Secretary to make his opening remarks, and then we will follow with the Question & Answer Session. Foreign Secretary.

Foreign Secretary (Shri Ranjan Mathai): Thank you, Akbar. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh will be visiting Iran to participate in the Sixteenth Summit Meeting of the Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement which is being held at Tehran on 30th and 31st August, 2012.

This will be the third NAM Summit in which Prime Minister Dr. Singh is participating. He had earlier participated in the NAM Summit held at Sharm el-Sheikh in Egypt in July 2009, and earlier at the Summit in Havana in Cuba in September 2006. PM will address the Summit during the General Debate on 30th August.

The theme of the Tehran NAM Summit is "Lasting Peace through Joint Global Governance". An interactive debate on this subject is expected at the Ministerial Segment of the Summit on 28th and 29th August.

As is customary in NAM Summits, the Tehran Summit will also have comprehensive discussion on major global regional and sub-regional issues as well as issues relating to social and economic matters. The Summit meeting is expected to adopt a Final Document, which is a rather lengthy document, listing the Movement's position on all important international issues.

The Summit level meeting will be preceded by a customary Ministerial meeting, to which I referred, which will be on 28th and 29th August, and a Senior Officials Meeting on 26th and 27th August. The External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna will represent India at the Ministerial Meeting. The External Affairs

Minister will also represent India at the NAM Ministerial Committee on Palestine which is scheduled to meet separately in the evening of 28th August. I will be leading the Indian delegation for the Senior Officials meeting which starts tomorrow.

Non-alignment has been the bedrock of India's foreign policy since it was enunciated by the first Prime Minister of India Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. In the post-Cold War era, when the world is no longer divided into two military blocs, the Non-Aligned Movement has a renewed role to play in the emerging world order. Today NAM seeks to articulate the concerns of the developing countries regarding the contemporary global challenges facing the international community such as food security, protection of the environment and the reform of the institutions of global governance.

As a founding-member of the Non-Aligned Movement, India has consistently striven to ensure that the Movement moves forward on the basis of cooperation and constructive engagement rather than confrontation, and that it straddles the differences of the traditional North-South divide. India's commitment to NAM is firm and abiding and this will be the guiding principle for our participation at the Tehran Summit.

Prior to this multilateral event, Prime Minister will have bilateral engagements with the Supreme Leader and President of Iran on 29th August. This will be the first bilateral visit at this level after 2001. India shares historical and cultural links with Iran and in recent times the relationship has expanded to include cooperation in diverse fields like hydrocarbons, trade and economic matters, consultations on important international and regional issues, cultural and people-to-people contacts.

During the Prime Minister's meetings with the leadership of Iran he will review the state of bilateral relations and discuss all issues of interest to us. The Prime Minister is likely to meet representatives of the Indian community based in Iran.

Finally, Prime Minister will also be meeting with some of the leaders from other NAM countries participating in the Summit. This is subject to scheduling arrangements because arrivals and departures of various leaders makes the time available somewhat limited. Many of the other leaders are arriving only late on the 29th and some on the 30th. But we expect to fix meetings with the leaders of Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Nepal and Pakistan. And we are scheduling a pull-aside meeting, subject to time constraints making it possible, with the President of Egypt.

Thank you.

Official Spokesperson: Before we open the floor for questions, may I request

that all questions related to NAM and Iran be asked first. And if there is time, then Foreign Secretary will take questions on any other issue. We will begin with NAM and Iran.

Question: Sir, Susan Rice was here a few days ago. The US is obviously a factor when it comes to India's relations with Iran in terms of their views and their perceptions on the bilateral engagement. Have they formally raised any concerns that they would like India to take to Iran when this visit does take place both at the NAM level and at the bilateral level with the leadership of Iran, America's concerns and how India will sort of negotiate or navigate?

Foreign Secretary: Susan Rice was here on really what was a private visit, but we did have a full discussion. NAM as such was not a topic for discussion with Ambassador Rice. We did discuss matters relating to Iran and other issues in West Asia, but formally no such issues were taken up.

Question: Sir, there was a report just this week that the Iranians would be giving the green signal to the Chabahar port investment deal. In the same story there was this reference that Afghanistan might not be very keen on that. So, I was wondering, what is the Indian position? Is there a possibility of an India-Afghanistan-Iran trilateral meeting?

Foreign Secretary: Yes, in fact we are hoping to schedule a trilateral meeting, this is what the Iranians had suggested, in fact tomorrow. This would be a meeting at the level of the Foreign Secretaries or Deputy Foreign Ministers of the three countries. The discussions between India and Iran on this issue have been under way for some time now. We have just received a report analyzing various options in the light of what Iran plans for the port. And this report has been given to us, which we had commissioned by the Indian Ports Association. It has a number of different possibilities and we are studying it. So, at this stage it is a little premature to prejudge the outcome of how the discussions would take place. But we have been told that a trilateral meeting would be held at my level.

Question: What is the present state of bilateral, economic, trade relations between India and Iran, and how the US sanctions come in the way of deepening economic relations between the two countries?

Foreign Secretary: Relations between our two countries have been strong. Trade relations have in fact been improving over the last few years. The balance of trade is still decisively in the favour of Iran because of the large scale oil purchases and the relatively small level of Indian exports. It is around 11 to 12 billion dollars from one side and two or three billion dollars, give or take a little, depending which year's figures we use. We would certainly like to expand Indian exports to Iran. To give you the exact figures, total bilateral trade in 2011-12 was around

15.9 billion US dollars, of which imports to India was 13.5 billion dollars and exports from India was around 2.4 or 2.5 billion dollars.

We have emphasized again and again that we formally accept only the sanctions which are those implemented by the United Nations. But given the fact that there are a number of sanctions which have been introduced by other countries, there are problems which arise in terms of banking arrangements for trade, for shipping, insurance, and so on. So, these have had an impact on the level of the trade, particularly in the level of oil imports from Iran.

Question: Sir, the Iranians are coming up with a Resolution on Syria to finding a peaceful solution to the crisis there. Does India have a stand on this? Could you elaborate a little bit on India's stand on the current situation?

Foreign Secretary: Actually the position of the Non-Aligned Movement in the final outcome document, that is the Declaration, was concluded in Sharm el-Sheikh one or two months ago. After that, we have not been told of any formal intention to have a separate declaration on Syria. What was agreed at Sharm el-Sheikh was, in fact, "that the Heads of State and Government took note of the efforts of the international community to deal with the situation in Syria. They welcomed the efforts of Mr. Kofi Annan and called for full implementation of the Joint Envoys Plan and its six points as well as the Security Council Resolutions 2042 and 2043. And they welcomed the acceptance by the Syrian Government of this plan". This is what is in the document as it has been negotiated at the Meeting of Senior Officials in Sharm el-Sheikh. We fully endorse this position.

Question: Sir, you spoke of the meeting with the Supreme Leader Khamenei. We hear from the Iranian side that India wanted the meeting. Can you tell us what the issues are going to be? Also, Victoria Nuland last night has said specifically that America would be happy if India expressed American concerns about peace and security to the Iranians. Can you react to that please? What kind of American concerns are these and what really would be expressed by the Indian side, if they are?

Foreign Secretary: First of all, let me say that we have indeed proposed to schedule a meeting with the Supreme Leader. We have been told that it is being arranged. The exact timing will be known very soon. During this meeting, Prime Minister will of course raise all issues of importance in India-Iran bilateral relations, and issues of interest and concern to us. Peace and security is indeed our primary concern given just how important the entire West Asian region and the Gulf region in particular is for India's security for the very large number of Indian citizens who live in that region and for the Indian economy both in terms of our oil imports and our exports. So, this is our own concern and we do not have to take anybody else's concern as being a priority over that. This is indeed our

own very specific concern. Prime Minister will raise those and definitely discuss issues relating to West Asia and issues relating to peace and security in the region from our perspective.

Question: Sir, there was this case of some Indian students being expelled by Iran in an apparent retaliation of some Iranian students being expelled from India. This matter was raised at various levels. Will it be coming up at the bilateral with Iran? And what is the status on this issue?

Foreign Secretary: This issue has been discussed with the Iranian side during various meetings including what was called the Bilateral Consular Committee, which was held some months ago. We have not had a final outcome of that, but we will continue to discuss it, probably while we are there in Tehran, and we hope that this issue will be resolved soon.

Joint Secretary was there at the Consular Committee's meeting, maybe he will tell you.

Joint Secretary (PAI) (Shri Y.K. Sinha): There is this issue of certain Iranian students also who had left from here over the last two years and three Indian students were also asked to leave from there. We are seeing how we can amicably resolve this issue, as Foreign Secretary mentioned. It has been discussed in various fora and various bilateral meetings and we would be taking this up again in Tehran, and we hope for an expeditious resolution of this issue.

Question: Sir, US Ambassador to the United Nations Susan Rice was here a couple of days ago. I believe there were discussions on Syria and Iran. In the context of the bilateral meeting, does the US expect us to carry any message to the Iranian President? Second, what proposals are we carrying to reinvigorate Non-Aligned Movement? What will be our pitch at the Non-Aligned Movement?

Foreign Secretary: I have answered the question regarding my discussions with Susan Rice. She was here on what was essentially a private visit but we took the opportunity to raise issues. We discussed, let me just clarify this, issues in front of the United Nations. That is the basis on which I had a discussion with her and that certainly included both Syria and Iran, and I have already said what was discussed at that level.

In terms of reinvigorating NAM, I think we are looking at NAM focusing on issues which unite the entire movement and the membership of the Movement rather than divisive and contentious issues. What we would like is a greater focus on issues of global governance, how the balance in international institutions should be, including the reform of the United Nations, reform of international financial institutions at one level. We would also like a focus on food security, on energy, on issues of sustainable development. We have had these major conferences at Rio, and this issue will be coming up in a number of other

conferences. The time has come for the members of the NAM, which includes almost all the developing countries in the world, to give greater emphasis to finding common positions in regard to these global issues so that they can subserve the common interest of all developing countries.

Question: Sir, there was the issue of the attack on the Israeli diplomat here in Delhi and of course a series of other attacks elsewhere that also linked with the Iranians, and also the Delhi Police team that went to Iran alleged that they actually were not given much cooperation, how will this issue play out? Will there also be message that New Delhi should not be turned into some sort of a chessboard between these forces?

Foreign Secretary: Let me start by saying that we have not received the report of the police team which went there. As soon as we receive it, we would be able to decide what needs to be done. But in general terms when we are in Tehran and we meet at various levels – at the officials level, Ministerial level – we will certainly emphasize to Iran our desire that they should cooperate fully with us so that we can get to the bottom of this attack and ensure that India is not drawn into other people's conflicts. But as I said, at this moment, I cannot comment in greater detail as we have not received the Delhi Police report yet.

Question: Sir, the last two meetings of the Non-Aligned Movement attended by the Prime Minister saw very big news between India and Pakistan, as you know, in Sharm el-Sheikh and Cuba. Do we expect anything substantial coming out of the proposed bilateral? Can you tell us what the focus would be from where new news can come out? As you know, Sharm el-Sheikh was a kind of a milestone.

Foreign Secretary: All I can say is that, as I mentioned in the beginning, we are scheduling these meetings. As soon as they are over, I will do a briefing.

Question: You just said that you are not aware of the Delhi Police team's report.

Foreign Secretary: I have not received it.

Question: Isn't that unusual that they went there without keeping the MEA in the loop?

Foreign Secretary: Let me clarify. They went abroad in a meeting which was arranged by us. What we are saying is their conclusions at the end of their visit, normally there would be a report which has not been received yet.

Question: The US and Israel have suggested that Tehran is not an appropriate place for a UN Secretary-General to visit, even if it is for the NAM Summit. Does India have a position on this?

Foreign Secretary: This is a matter for the UN Secretary-General to decide.

Question: Sir, you mentioned that you are going to meet your Iranian and Afghan counterparts in a trilateral. I know it is sort of before the event happened, but what are the proposals for example that India would be looking at?

Foreign Secretary: The proposal is specifically for a discussion on Chabahar. And when I say my counterparts, I know that the Iranian counterpart is there. Whether the Afghan counterpart would be the same person who normally interacts with me, I am not sure. But they have said at Deputy Foreign Minister's level they will be represented. The idea is to take forward a kind of general discussion as to what we need to do about Chabahar, what is our common interest in the development of the infrastructure, the port, developing the use of Chabahar and the related infrastructure as an alternative route into Afghanistan which we certainly regard as being of very great significance. So, we will discuss it.

But as I said, there are a number of options which are on the table given that the Iranians have a certain amount of infrastructure, they have a two-phase plan for developing that infrastructure – Phase 1 and Phase 2 – and there are options of participating in these. Separately they have an idea of developing an industrial zone just on the side of it and they are inviting investments in that zone. Beyond that there is a road infrastructure which already links Chabahar to the border of Afghanistan. The Iranians have plans for developing also the rail lines which will go from Chabahar not only towards the Afghan border but further to the Turkmen border through Mashad. All these raise a number of very interesting possibilities in terms of the reconstruction at the industrial developments in Afghanistan in which we have a very large stake. Afghanistan certainly also finds it of interest being an alternative route into their country from which they can get vital supplies. So, I think this is a common interest, and we are going to look at it. But as I said, between these very interesting concepts and general matter of interest, there is always the nuts and bolts of how it works, how much it will cost, whether it can be cost effective, if not this model what is a better model which could be more cost effective, these are the kinds of things on which we need expert level advice.

As I said, we have received some expert opinion from the Indian Ports Association. I will be discussing some of those issues with the Iranians and with the Afghans and then we will take it forward. What we would probably need is a kind of a Joint Working Group at experts' level to take up what we mutually decide is probably the best way to go. But it's early days yet.

Question: Going back to the Syrian issue that will be one of the agenda items in Tehran,... *(Inaudible)*... Sharm el-Sheikh Summit but on the ground situation has evolved dramatically and a lot of things happened.... *(Inaudible)*... And on the other side, do you have any bilateral scheduled with any other delegation?

Foreign Secretary: Let me clarify. What I read out was not from the Sharm el-

Sheikh Summit but it was from the Sharm el-Sheikh Senior Officials / Ministerial Meeting which was held I think two months ago. That Senior Officials Meeting prepared the document which should be now the document which is the outcome of the Tehran Summit. We have not been told that that language anyone is seeking to change. That language, as I read out to you, is based on the desire of the international community and the NAM itself that there should be peace and reconciliation in Syria, that the former United Nations and Arab League Joint Special Envoys Plan with its six-point agenda is endorsed and supported, and that the Syrian Government's acceptance of the plan is a very positive development. So, that is the position.

Certainly during the general debate we expect that various leaders will express their own views. We would certainly express our view which is already known from our position which we have clarified every time the matter has come up for discussion, and we have said this also in our bilateral engagements that we would like to see a Syrian-led, inclusive process for reform and change in Syria to bring an end to the current conflict. We believe the international community's role should be to assist that Syrian-led process. In that the United Nations has a particular role to play. And that is why if you look at the record of our voting, we have voted consistently in favour of the United Nations having a role, whether it was through a monitoring mission or through support to the Joint Special Envoys. We will continue to take that position and support it.

I have said that we would certainly like to schedule a meeting with the President of Egypt. We have been told that possibly Mr Halqi the Prime Minister of Syria, would also be coming to Tehran. The exact details we do not know. But when we are there we will see if there is a need and a possibility to have short meetings with other leaders. There would be one or two other leaders at Head of Government, Head of State level. In fact, in total we were told originally 30 countries are to be represented at Head of State, Head of Government level. We now understand the number may go up even higher. So, depending on who is there, what time available is, certainly Prime Minister would like to engage in discussions with this. Our position has always been in terms of trying to win support for an outcome which helps the Syrian people achieve their own objectives.

Question: So far as this nuclear policy of Iran, there is a lot of push and pull in the global scenario. I want to know what India's position is before this visit. There is a theory that for nuclear deterrence it is better to be a nuclear Iran. It is a developing situation. So, I want to know the latest position of India before this visit?

Foreign Secretary: In the NAM itself there is no specific reference to Iran per se. There is a discussion relating to peaceful uses of nuclear energy. I will just

mention it because this is significant and it leads on to the second part of your question.

Question: Sir, bilateral meeting also.

Foreign Secretary: Yes, but let me finish this, if I may because it leads on, as I said, to the bilateral. The Heads of State and Government took note of the adoption of what is being discussed in the IAEA Board of Governors, etc., etc., and then it says at the end, "The Heads of State and Government emphasize that decisions should be made by consensus with the participation of all IAEA members states, and that the decisions of the IAEA must be consistent with its statute without any prejudice to the inalienable right of its member states to research, develop and use for peaceful purposes, of nuclear sciences in all its aspect including the inalienable right of each state party, if it so decides, to develop for peaceful purposes a full national nuclear fuel cycle in accordance with its rights and obligations under the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons". This is the language which has emerged.

In effect, this is precisely the language we have used in all discussions relating to the Iranian nuclear programme. This has been our position, it has been explained in the IAEA, we believe that there is a right of each state party to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, and this has to be done in a manner which accords with both their rights and their obligations which they themselves have entered into.

Question: I want to seek two clarifications from the Secretary. The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Jayalithaa has written a letter to the Prime Minister stating that two military personnel of Sri Lanka are getting training secretly at Nilgiri. Not only the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu but all the political parties of Tamil Nadu demand that these two people be sent back to Sri Lanka immediately. Secondly, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has demanded that Kutch island is the only solution for the Tamil fishermen, the Tamil fishermen being targeted by the Sri Lankan naval force on day-to-day basis. Now the political parties of Tamil Nadu feel that getting back Kutch island is the only permanent solution for the Tamil fishermen problem. Would you like to comment on these two issues?

Question: Sir, it is the Defence Services Staff College. That is where they are.

Foreign Secretary: I am not aware of this latest letter, but there were some letters which we have seen earlier, and these are addressed to the Prime Minister and not to our Minister. As far as we are concerned, this is a matter for the Ministry of Defence and we are in touch with the Ministry of Defence and whatever decision they take we will be supportive of that.

As far as the fishermen's issue is concerned, the question of the India-Sri

Lanka maritime boundary was settled in 1974. In MEA I am not aware of any proposal before the Government to reopen that question.

Question: I just wanted to know if the Iran-Pakistan-India pipeline is off the board because it is no longer talked about.

Foreign Secretary: I think it has been talked about. Would you like to mention it?

Joint Secretary (PAI): This issue was dealt in the Joint Working Group between India and Iran, which is having its next meeting next month in Delhi. It is the Joint Working Group on Hydrocarbons.

Question: Sir, you told us that there is a meeting scheduled between Prime Minister and Pakistan President on the sidelines of the Summit. What would be the issues the Prime Minister would like to flag in that meeting? And would Prime Minister like to raise concern about the recent hate campaign that was emanating from Pakistani soil on social networking media?

Foreign Secretary: As I said, we are in the process of scheduling meetings with various leaders including the leader of Pakistan. As soon as that meeting is over, I will do a briefing and I will give you all the details of what was taken up.

Official Spokesperson: Thank you very much. With that we come to the end of this interaction.

New Delhi

August 25, 2012



NAM

173A. Statement by the Prime Minister prior to his departure for Tehran for the XVI NAM Summit.

New Delhi, August 28, 2012.

I am leaving today to attend the XVI NAM Summit in Tehran at the invitation of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

India is a founder member of the Non-Aligned Movement. During the entire period of the Cold War and its ideological and military confrontation across the Iron Curtain, the Non-Aligned Movement constituted a voice of reason and sanity. Our grouping, while avoiding entanglement in a destructive and wasteful confrontation so as to be able to pursue economic and social development, was nevertheless at the forefront of promoting mutual understanding and lessening of tensions. I will emphasize at the Summit that those original wellsprings of our Movement continue to remain relevant, especially in a world where the global economy remains in crisis and the geo-political landscape continues to be transformed in uncertain and unpredictable ways.

There is widespread recognition that the outdated structures of global governance have not been able to keep pace with contemporary political and economic challenges. Many of these challenges, such as the worsening situation in Syria, a persistent global economic slowdown, and other new and emerging threats, require credible trans-national action. The theme of the XVI NAM Summit – Lasting Peace through Joint Global Governance – is thus extremely relevant. I will stress that our Movement should provide a strong political impetus to the ongoing efforts to reform and democratize global governance structures, which are critical to tackle these challenges more effectively.

The diversity and size of membership of NAM presents a tremendous potential for collaboration and cooperation amongst us to resolve shared developmental challenges. It is important that our Movement catalyzes such opportunities for mutual benefit. India will continue with its contributions in these endeavours of South-South cooperation.

During my visit to Tehran, I will also hold bilateral meetings with the Iranian leadership and with leaders of various other NAM countries participating in the Summit. I look forward to the opportunity to review our respective bilateral relations with these countries. I also look forward to exchanging views on regional and global issues with many of my counterparts.



174. Intervention by External Affairs Minister at the Interactive Debate on ‘Lasting Peace through Joint Global Governance’ at the Preparatory Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Tehran, August 28, 2012.

Mr. Chairman,

Excellencies and Distinguished delegates,

At the outset, allow me to extend my warm congratulations to the distinguished Foreign Minister of Iran on his election as Chair of this meeting. I thank our Iranian hosts for their gracious hospitality and excellent arrangements made for this Summit.

As we deliberate today in Tehran, I also recall the shared civilizational linkages and interaction between the peoples of our two countries.

I also wish to convey our sincere appreciation to the Government of Egypt for their able stewardship of the Movement over the past three years, amidst a period of profound democratic transition in the country.

The theme of our debate is significant and timely. In today's increasingly interconnected and interdependent world, the destinies of nations are more inextricably linked than at any other time in our history. While the process of globalization has offered us immense opportunities, it has also accentuated the challenges, which are much more complex, multidimensional and transnational in nature.

Mr. Chairman,

The central challenges of our times relate to management of the global economy and finance, securing stable food and energy supplies, poverty alleviation, eradicating hunger and deprivation, tackling pandemics, raising literacy levels, ensuring sustainable development and coping with climate change. Equally serious challenges are posed by terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, piracy, drug trafficking, organized crime and other threats to international peace and security.

Developing countries have been disproportionately impacted by the uncertainties in the current global economic environment. The global economic recovery continues to falter. The situation in the Euro zone has made matters even more difficult. At this juncture, enhanced international policy coordination is necessary to maintain macroeconomic stability conducive to the healthy recovery of the global economy.

With 80% of the world's population and about 90% of the world's youth living in

developing countries, the challenges of growth and development facing us are immense. We need to impart our youth with the necessary technical skills. We need to create job opportunities to foster rapid economic growth.

Mr. Chairman,

Attainment of the Millennium Developmental Goals (MDGs) is fundamental to our quest for inclusive, equitable and sustained global growth. Given the halting progress that we have achieved so far, it would be important to maintain our focus on MDGs beyond 2015, entailing enhanced financial and technological support for developing countries.

Nowhere in the world are the development challenges as stark as in the African continent. The Movement must continue to work towards ensuring Africa's primacy in the development Agenda. On our part, we are scaling up our development assistance bilaterally as well as within the framework of India-Africa Summits and South-South cooperation. We must work towards preserving the centrality of the development agenda in the Doha round of multilateral trade negotiations.

The imperatives of ensuring Sustainable Development and addressing Climate Change are greater than ever before. Recently, we had a successful conclusion of the RIO+20 Conference. It is important that we make all possible efforts to realize the outcome in letter and on the basis of the accepted principle of common but differentiated responsibility and equity. More importantly, we need to firmly anchor the role of the developing world in the decision making processes.

Mr. Chairman,

Terrorism is the biggest scourge of our times targeting the socio-economic fabric of our pluralistic societies. We need to raise the fight against terrorism to a higher level. There should be zero tolerance towards terrorism. It is high time that we demonstrate the necessary political will and agree on a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism at the United Nations. Piracy off the coast of Somalia has brought immense human sufferings while posing a serious threat to sea-lanes of maritime commerce. We need concerted international action to combat this menace, preferably under the aegis of the UN.

The Movement needs to play a more active and advocacy role in efforts aimed at achieving universal nuclear disarmament and a world free of all nuclear weapons. The apparent failings of the present global governance architecture have further constrained our ability to respond to global challenges. The time has come for the developed and the developing countries to work together on the basis of universally recognized norms of international law and multilateral decision making to deal with the challenges and the opportunities before the world today.

Mr. Chairman,

We need approaches which are inclusive, transparent and firmly anchored in multilateralism to navigate these challenges. It is our considered view that the United Nations stands best placed to play a central role in this regard. We need to redouble our efforts towards a more democratic, equitable, and legitimized international architecture that reflects contemporary realities.

India remains convinced that until comprehensive reform of the UN Security Council is undertaken, the overall reform of the UN can only be regarded as piecemeal and incomplete. We also need a more representative international financial architecture, with an increase in the voice and representation of the developing countries. The current slow pace of quota and governance reforms in the IMF must be expedited.

Since the beginning of 2011, people's profound yearning for playing a greater role in their political, social and economic lives has been sweeping parts of West Asia and North Africa. In dealing with legitimate aspirations, it is necessary that all sides shun recourse to violence. Changes brought about by non-violent, inclusive political processes are not only enduring but also promote social cohesion and stability.

In this context, we are deeply concerned at developments in Syria, which have the potential to spill over beyond Syria's borders. Further militarization of the conflict must, therefore, be avoided. We reiterate our support for a Syrian-led inclusive political process that meets the legitimate aspirations of all sections of Syrian society and respects Syria's independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty.

Mr. Chairman,

Developments in West Asia and North Africa should not sideline the Palestinian issue. We continue to support the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to a state of their own based on the pre-1967 border with East Jerusalem as its capital living side by side and in peace with Israel. We also continue to support Palestine's application for membership of the United Nations.

The diversity of our Movement is our biggest strength. We respect each other's paths to development, distinct cultural traditions and have an abiding faith in peaceful co-existence. India's former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi quite aptly described NAM as the largest peace movement in the world.

For further strengthening our Movement, we need to build on areas of commonality and effectively exploit the synergies amongst its vast membership. I am confident that our deliberations during the course of this Summit would be helpful in evolving a contemporary and compelling vision for our Movement.



175. Intervention by External Affairs Minister at the Ministerial Meeting of the NAM Committee on Palestine.

Tehran, August 28, 2012.

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished members of the Committee,

At the outset, let me thank the NAM Committee on Palestine for organizing this Ministerial Meeting. As you may recall, this meeting was originally scheduled earlier this month in Ramallah to demonstrate solidarity with the Palestinian people. Unfortunately, Israel prevented the meeting on the grounds that some members do not have relations with Israel. The NAM Committee had aptly condemned this blatant action of Israel in strong terms.

The Palestinian cause is of paramount importance to India. In fact, India was the first non-Arab country to recognize the State of Palestine on 16 November 1988, pursuant to the Algiers Declaration of 15 November 1988.

We believe that the conflict in West Asia is essentially political in nature and cannot be resolved by force. In line with our support for UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, India supports a negotiated solution resulting in a sovereign, independent, viable and united State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its Capital, living within secure and recognized borders, side by side at peace with Israel as endorsed in the Quartet Roadmap and UNSC Resolutions 1397 & 1515. In addition, we have also supported the Arab Peace Initiative.

Mr. Chairman,

India has always extended its unwavering support to the Palestinian cause in international fora. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in his address to the United Nations General Assembly in September 2011 announced that India looks forward to welcoming Palestine as an equal member of the United Nations. When I visited Ramallah in January this year, I, too, reiterated India's firm resolve to continue to support the Palestinian nationhood.

The Government and people of India eagerly look forward to the visit of President Mahmoud Abbas to India next month.

India has called for an end to illegal Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories and for an early and significant easing of restrictions on the free movement of persons and goods within Palestine. The continuing settlement activities in West Bank and East Jerusalem are threatening the basic premises of the two-state solution. We think that freezing of illegal settlement activities by Israel should be the first step for resumption of direct talks.

Settlement activities have also exacerbated the humanitarian problems of the Palestinian people with increasing violence and aggravation of tension between the settlers and the Palestinian population. We, therefore, reiterate our call to Israel to stop all settlement activities.

Mr. Chairman,

India has been providing developmental support and assistance to Palestine. The assistance includes capacity building measures and support for the development of human resources. We would be regularly exploring ways to further enhance our developmental support to Palestine.

The political upheavals in the Middle East and North Africa and some other factors have unfortunately pushed the Middle East Peace Process to the background. We support the revival of the Peace Process. We had welcomed the 'direct talks' between the Israelis and the Palestinians. However, informal talks over the last two years have not resulted so far in any substantive progress towards resumption of direct talks.

In line with their commitment to democratic values and principles, reconciliation in Palestine is welcome. We hope that these efforts will bear fruit soon, leading to the formation of a Unity Government, holding of elections, re-unification of Palestinian state institutions and measures for reconstruction and development of Palestinian society.

Let me reiterate that India continues to support the legitimate right of the Palestinian people to an independent State living side by side and in peace and security with Israel.

We are hopeful that this collective endeavour of NAM will send a strong signal to all concerned and will lead to revival of the peace process to achieve a just, comprehensive and durable peace in the Middle East.



175A. Media Briefing by Foreign Secretary in Tehran on Prime Minister's meetings in Iran.**Tehran, August 30, 2012.**

Official Spokesperson (Shri Syed Akbaruddin): Thank you all for being very patient and waiting. Both our Ambassador and Foreign Secretary will make a brief opening statement each. After that, if you have any questions they will answer those. I will first ask Ambassador to make his opening remarks followed by which Foreign Secretary will make his opening remarks, so that you will get the entire picture of our activities.

Indian Ambassador to Iran (Shri D.P. Srivastava): Good evening; India-Iran relations go back to more than two thousand years. You may be interested to know that while it is well known that Urdu has Persian parentage, not many are aware that there is a strong belief, that the roots of Farsi can be traced to Sanskrit.

Coming to the visit, this was the sixth Prime Minister's visit. The earlier visits were bilateral. This visit took place on the margins of NAM Summit. Before the Summit segment there was an official meeting and there was a Ministerial segment. Foreign Secretary had a trilateral meeting with Iran and Afghanistan on Chabahar. Our External Affairs Minister met Dr. Salehi. During these two meetings the entire spectrum of bilateral relations including commercial, economic, political, consular, were discussed. Prime Minister had made a call on the President. This was followed by meeting with the Supreme Leader.

During these two meetings, both sides recalled our historical relations, cultural links, and the Prime Minister expressed our support to Iran's Chairmanship of NAM. I will stop here and I will request Foreign Secretary to speak.

Foreign Secretary (Shri Ranjan Mathai): I would just like to add one word and then I will come to Pakistan because I know that is of interest.

PM's meeting with the President of Iran was in fact a full-fledged official meeting with delegations, a full bilateral meeting. It was not in the nature of a courtesy call. PM made a call on the Supreme Leader Ayatollah Uzma, Grand Ayatollah Khamenei. I would like to mention that in that call – it is, I think important to reflect on this – the Supreme Leader of Iran spoke about the deep-rooted civilisational ties between India and Iran which go well beyond the state of our bilateral relations. I know that Akbar has given you some briefing yesterday. But I thought there were two-three remarks which were very very significant in that. He recalled his own readings of Indian history, his appreciation for Gandhiji's struggle, and his belief that Nehru was in fact the founder of the Non-Aligned Movement, and the wellsprings of that foundation really came from the beliefs and the struggles which were led by both Gandhiji and Nehru in India's own Independence Struggle. So, that was the kind of background.

He also made a very interesting comment about contemporary India. He said, "We want sincere and deep-rooted relations". Then speaking about his own experience he mentioned that he had been on a street called Ali Kabir Street here; he had seen members of the Sikh community who live in this country and who run businesses here. He had gone into one of those shops - this was many years ago - and he had been presented some books. So, he had some idea about the Sikh religion and the diversity of religions in India. He had in 1981 visited India and seen some of this for himself. He said that he believed that religious diversity was important and should not harm India's national unity; sectarian feuds should be avoided; and there is a need for harmony among all groups.

He then made a very interesting statement. He said, "It is important and valuable to us in Iran for India to have stability and power". I think this is the kind of background which reflects the deep-rooted civilisational ties between our two countries, and the deep understanding which the Iranian leadership has of the nature of Indian society, our polity and what we stand for.

I will now turn to PM's meeting with President Asif Ali Zardari. PM and the President met. This was a meeting which took place at the Conference venue at 6 p.m. Iranian time today, so not so long ago. The two leaders recalled their last meeting in Delhi in April and both agreed that such meetings were useful not only for reviewing the state of bilateral relations but for giving an impetus to the ongoing dialogue process.

PM reiterated our desire to have a peaceful and cooperative relationship with Pakistan, and given the complexities of our bilateral relations, we have to be patient and move forward in a step-by-step graduated manner. Both leaders agreed that a step-by-step approach had the best chance of actually succeeding. They were both happy with the developments which have taken place in some areas of our bilateral relationship such as trade.

We have underlined our terrorism related concerns, and he pressed for an expeditious and successful conclusion of the trial relating to those involved with the Mumbai attacks, which is under way in Pakistan. And he mentioned that action in this sphere would be a major confidence-building measure, help in bridging the trust deficit, and help to build up public support for the kind of relationship we would like to see between the two nations.

The Pakistani President reiterated his country's commitment to bring to justice those involved in the Mumbai attacks, and he agreed that terrorism poses a continuing threat to peace and security, and referred in this regard to some of the difficulties faced in his own country.

Both leaders reviewed the state of bilateral relations, as I said, and they expressed satisfaction that the round of talks which had taken place at Secretary level had

concluded; and that EAM's forthcoming visit to Pakistan next month - in fact it is going to be in about eight days' time - would provide an opportunity to take stock of the progress in the resumed dialogue and chart the course for the next round. They expressed confidence that some achievements have been made and they would be able, during the External Affairs Minister's meeting with his Pakistani counterpart, to prepare a kind of roadmap for the way forward.

Speaking specifically about the progress in economic and trade relations, they both felt that there is vast potential for cooperation. The Commerce Secretaries of the two countries are scheduled to meet and take forward the process of completing the three agreements which had been decided on earlier. These, as you are aware, relate to customs cooperation, dispute resolutions and standards. There was an appreciation by both the leaders of the good work done by the Ministers and their Secretaries in this field.

President Zardari mentioned also that there is great scope for regional economic cooperation; and he believes Pakistan can be a catalyst in this regard. And Prime Minister welcomed this approach.

President Zardari reiterated his invitation to PM to visit Pakistan, and PM responded thanking him for the gracious invitation and said he attaches great importance to normalizing relations with Pakistan, and he would like to visit Pakistan at a suitable time, that is to say he would like a well-prepared visit.

PM concluded that a stable and prosperous Pakistan acting as a bulwark against terrorism in its own interest would be in the interest of the region. India wishes Pakistan well, and we are willing to meet Pakistan more than half way in making efforts to normalize our bilateral relations for peace, prosperity and progress in our region.

Prime Minister also had a meeting with Afghan President Karzai. Both leaders reviewed the state of bilateral relations and the importance that the two countries attached to further strengthening our robust bilateral ties. PM conveyed that he looks forward to President Karzai's visit to India. We are discussing dates in November. The two leaders underlined the importance of developing a close economic relationship between our two countries, and they agreed on the importance of Indian investments in Afghanistan.

PM also congratulated President Karzai on the processes under way in his country, and wished him success in his efforts to complete the ongoing transition process. The two leaders agreed on the importance of opposing extremism in any form. PM assured President Karzai that India was a friend of Afghanistan, and India would stand by the people and Government of Afghanistan in this critical time of transition.

Finally, PM also had a meeting with the Prime Minister of Syria, who called on

PM and he explained in detail the ongoing situation in that country, the efforts made by the leadership of that country to undertake a reform process and the difficulties it faced because of the continuing violence, which the Syrian leader said, is instigated from outside. PM reiterated what he has mentioned already in his NAM address, which is that India believes in a Syrian-led, inclusive political dialogue is the only way forward. And he also expressed support for the efforts of Lakhdar Brahimi, who has been appointed as the Joint Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General and the Arab League, to undertake a process of good offices and mediation.

Official Spokesperson: We open the floor now to any questions that any of you may have on either what Ambassador Dinkar Srivastava said or the Foreign Secretary.

Question: Sir, was the issue of prisoners raised by the Prime Minister, in particular of Sarabjit?

Foreign Secretary: Not that I recall. I was present through the meeting. But during the discussions between the Prime Minister and President Zardari, Sarabjit Singh I do not think came up. But there was a discussion on the need for closer consultations. And the Interior Minister of Pakistan mentioned the need for a regular institutionalized dialogue on matters relating to his Ministry. He also suggested in that context, the need for regular exchanges on Border Management. There have been some incidents on the border. He referred to that. In that context, he mentioned the need for a more institutionalized dialogue. And Prime Minister agreed with this and said that this would be our intention also, to have a regular dialog between the Interior Ministry of Pakistan and the Home Ministry.

Question: I have two questions, first one on the question of 26/11. When the Prime Minister mentioned that it would be a great CBM if things would move forward, there is this argument which we hear from Pakistan that their Judicial Commission was not given proper access and that actually was not accepted by the court subsequently. These technical issues, how do you cope up on that because that argument keeps coming back from Pakistani side? Second, when Mr. Zardari says Pakistan can be a catalyst for regional economic cooperation, did he elaborate on it? ... (Inaudible)...

Foreign Secretary: On the Judicial Commission, the Pakistani Interior Minister mentioned that Pakistan had made a request for the Commission to have permission to interview these three personalities. We have responded that this is a matter which is before our courts but we would be in a position to respond to them. As far as we the Government are concerned, we have taken a positive view of this request and we would be able to respond after completing the consultations within our country.

On the question of Pakistan as a catalyst for regional economic cooperation, the President did mention that there is a great scope for expanding trade and commercial relations between South Asia and Central Asia and it is in that context that he mentioned it.

Question: *Sir, you said that the Home Minister of Pakistan suggested talks with the Indian Home Minister. Should we understand that there is going to a mechanism for this purpose between the Home Ministers of the two countries. (unofficial translation).*

Foreign Secretary: yes, this is the intention, to have a dialogue at different levels. I am not saying it has to be at Ministerial level. For example, when I was answering the previous question I referred to the subject of border management. In that regard it was felt that it would be best to have the dialogue directly between the BSF and the Pakistani Rangers. In the same way, there is already a Home Secretary level dialogue with the Interior Secretary of Pakistan. What was felt was that you need these kinds of dialogues on a regular basis between the Ministries and agencies which are dealing with the kinds of issues which are the remit of the Home Ministry and the Interior Ministry.

Question: Sir, is there any estimated time when our Prime Minister's visit is possible to Pakistan?

Foreign Secretary: As I said, the Prime Minister has said he would like to visit Pakistan but he would like to visit at a suitable time with a well-prepared visit.

Question: I have two questions. The Prime Minister was on the dais today. I do not know whether in Sharm el-Sheikh or in Cuba it is a normal practice as a founder member of NAM. Secondly, did Syria walk out? Al Jazeera and Reuters have done stories on that. Do you consider it ... (Inaudible)... We do not have the information whether they have walked out or not walked out. Can you tell us for certain?

Foreign Secretary: I will answer the second question first. It is certainly not our business, but the Syrian delegation was sitting immediately behind us in the hall, and when we turned around we did not see them there during one of the speeches. So, clearly there was a walkout at one stage. But I do not want to make it an India issue at all. But I happened to be seated just in front of them. So, I noticed it.

As regards the seating arrangement and the fact that PM was on the dais, I was not present either at Sharm el-Sheikh or Havana. You would probably have been there. So, you have the advantage over me. What I know is that when the Iranian leadership was speaking to us prior to the actual meeting, we had actually no indication that this seating arrangement was going to be made. But they emphasized one thing that among the founders of the Non-Aligned Movement,

India was the only country present in Iran at the Head of Government level. This was mentioned as a fact in appreciation of our presence. Sorry I need to clarify that. When I say that, it is apart from Egypt which is already in the Chair. So, these were the two countries along with Indonesia and Ghana and former Yugoslavia who were the founding members of NAM. But this is a decision that the Iranian Conference managers took.

Question: *Sir, after the Sharm-el-Sheikh and Havan conferences joint statements were issued. This time there is no statement. What is the reason that you not consider the discussions in a positive sense that there is no need for a joint statement? (unofficial translation).*

Foreign Secretary: *There is nothing like this.* I think there are occasions in which when you have meetings and with adequate time, you do have joint statements. We have a large number of meetings which take place on the margins of international events in which you do not issue joint statements. So, I do not think there is anything to be read into the fact that there was no joint statement. I was in fact asked to come here to tell you what took place.

Question: *The United States has declared 8 terrorists as global terrorists; out of which main Indians are Sajhid Mir, Tatha Saeed who is the son of Hafiz Saeed and Ahmed Yaku. Is this Indian victory at the global level?*

Foreign Secretary: I was told about this decision of the United States only a short while ago. We obviously welcome any steps taken to improve international cooperation in the fight against terrorism, and the steps taken by the United States have certainly been in that direction.

Question: Sir, when you spoke about the need to expedite this trial in Pakistan, what was President Zardari's response that? And is it any way linked when you mentioned that the Prime Minister would look forward to a well-prepared visit, some movement forward ... (Inaudible)... on the trial?

Foreign Secretary: I would like to say that in regard to the trial the Pakistani President and the Interior Minister mentioned that they have had the processes taken up in the courts, and the courts had taken a different view and the trial had resumed. It was in this context that they mentioned the request for a repeat visit of the Judicial Commission, this time with the permission to carry out the interviews which they had wished to do last time with the right to actually examine the witnesses to have those discussions. So, that is the background in which he referred to the difficulties they are facing. Certainly we would like to see progress in this trial. But whether you are linking it directly to the Prime Minister's visit, all I can say is that we repeat that we would like a well-prepared visit with a substantive outcome.

Question: Sir, this is a follow-up question. You said that they wanted to cross-

examine key accused. Who are these three accused? Secondly, how does the fact that the Supreme Court has upheld Kasab's execution impact this Judicial Commission's visit?

Foreign Secretary: I think you are going into very great detail right now. I would only like to say that there are three – the Magistrate, the Doctor and one more, there is a third individual, they had listed – and they wished to interview, because they are the ones who had conducted the examination in India. That is the background. The issue of Kasab did not come up in this particular meeting.

Question: Sir, given the fact that the two countries are now paving the way for some sort of a way for some banking arrangements, were any fresh cross-LoC CBMs on the table, Kashmir discussed? On the visa agreement, it is kind of ... (Inaudible)... watch we do not know of because there seems to be no difference. So, did that issue come up in the talks?

Foreign Secretary: I think the two leaders both felt that the meeting between External Affairs Minister and the Foreign Minister of Pakistan which would take place very soon and would be preceded by the meeting of the Joint Commission, which was probably why they did not discuss. But the meeting at the Ministerial level would provide an occasion to go into substantive issues on all the kinds of matters which you have just mentioned. So, this was not gone into in great detail. The banking arrangements, etc., was not gone into in great detail.

On the second question, as I said, we have already had one round of discussions, and in the next round of discussions we will have occasion to discuss this. As you are aware, this took place in two phases in the earlier segment. There was one discussion when I met the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan. And separately there was a meeting at the Joint Secretary level on cross border CBMs including trade and cross border travel. So, in the next round there would be occasion to take this forward.

Question: Sir, sorry if I have not understood it correctly, what is India's take on Pakistan's demand to send a Judicial Commission once again?

Foreign Secretary: The Judicial Commission has already come. Earlier, there was some question as to whether our processes would allow that Judicial Commission to actually question the three individuals - as I said, one is the Doctor, one is the Magistrate, the third, possibly another Doctor, I would be able to confirm to you in a few minutes. So, the Home Ministry had last time simply said that the visit should take place. This time round, we will have to get a judicial clarification before it actually takes place whether this kind of a cross-examination is valid and is possible. In principle we have said that we would be open to a repeat visit. Now, once we get the clarification on whether they can undertake the kind of cross-examination they wish, then we will allow some questions.

Question: ...(Inaudible)... clarification from and what is the timeline that you expect?

Foreign Secretary: I do not think there is a timeline on it but we are in discussions with the Home Ministry and they are in touch with the concerned judicial authorities.

Official Spokesperson: Thank you very much. With that we end this interaction.

Tehran

August 30, 2012



176. Statement by the Prime Minister at the XVI Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Tehran, August 30, 2012.

I congratulate His Excellency Dr. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on assuming the Chairmanship of the Non-Aligned Movement. Mr. Chairman, India will extend its full cooperation to Iran as it leads the Movement over the next three years.

I also express my appreciation to Egypt for its stewardship of the Movement since the last Summit, even though Egypt has been in the midst of profound domestic change.

Mr. Chairman, the Non-Aligned Movement, representing the large majority of humankind, has been a powerful force for the promotion of global peace, security and development. Our shared objectives of working together to preserve our strategic space, ensure our social and economic development and strive for a more just and equitable world order remain as true and relevant today as they were in the past.

Mr. Chairman, your chosen theme for our Summit – Lasting Peace through Joint Global Governance - is timely. Today's structures for global governance remain driven by the power equations of the past. It is not surprising that they have proved inadequate in dealing with the economic and political crises of our present.

The deficit in global governance is perhaps most stark in the sphere of international peace and security and in restoring just and fair economic and financial mechanisms.

The West Asian and North African region is undergoing profound change. As the world's largest democracy, India supports popular aspirations for a democratic and pluralistic order. Nevertheless, such transformations cannot be prompted by external intervention, which exacerbate the suffering of ordinary citizens. The deteriorating situation in Syria is a matter of particular concern. Our Movement should take a stand on the issue in keeping with universally accepted principles. We should urge all parties to recommit themselves to resolving the crisis peacefully through a Syrian-led inclusive political process that can meet the legitimate aspirations of all Syrian citizens.

The Non-Aligned Movement has always championed the cause of the Palestinian people. Today, we should renew our pledge to support an early resolution of the Palestinian question, so that the long suffering people of Palestine can live in peace and dignity in a state of their own.

Mr. Chairman, in the past, individually we may have had little economic and military clout but the collective voice and reasoned interventions of our Movement commanded respect and credibility. That voice should again find true expression on a variety of issues.

We need new instruments of global governance to confront cross-cutting and trans-national challenges through coordinated global action. These include international terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the menace of maritime piracy, the growing threat to cyber security and the growing challenge of pursuing ecologically sustainable development while ensuring energy, water and food security.

Our Movement should take the lead in building global governance structures that are representative, credible and effective. It is my sincere hope that the Movement can agree on action to reform institutions such as the United Nations Security Council, the World Bank and the IMF. Existing problems cannot be solved effectively without a greater voice for developing countries on issues such as global trade, finance and development.

Developing countries can be drivers of global growth. International financial institutions should therefore be encouraged to fund infrastructure development in the developing world in innovative ways. We should also urge that the current economic crisis should not lead to a dilution of development assistance flows from the developed world to the developing countries.

While we come together on the international stage, it is equally important for us to collaborate among ourselves in tackling problems and developing solutions that are best suited to our own circumstances.

For example, the developing world is rich in renewable sources of energy like solar power. We should use our financial and intellectual resources to develop renewable energy technologies that get less attention in the industrialised world where the resource base is different. Adoption of these technologies will also enable us to contribute to preservation of the environment. We can learn from each other in this effort.

Similarly, food security is a basic problem for many of our countries. Excessive speculation, structural bottlenecks and lack of coordination are fuelling food inflation at the global level. Our Movement should push for effective food policy coordination and cooperation at the global level in areas such as agricultural productivity, weather forecasting and research and development.

Perhaps most relevant for us is to focus on investing in the knowledge economy and building our human resources. When faced with our unique developmental challenges, our youth have the creativity and energy to find solutions that are

innovative, frugal and affordable. However, we need to provide them skills and equip them to find productive employment in a rapidly changing and interconnected global economy. India would be happy to contribute to a NAM initiative on skill development, particularly focused on the knowledge economy.

Mr. Chairman, the African continent provided the intellectual wellspring for many of the leaders of the Non Aligned Movement. The growth of NAM and decolonization in Africa progressed almost hand in hand. Africa therefore has a special place in NAM. India's own strategic partnership with Africa is premised on making the people of Africa its primary beneficiaries. The India-Africa Forum Summit thus provides for an ambitious programme of pan-African institution-building to enhance our multi-faceted cooperation. I invite interested NAM members to work with us in areas of priority to Africa.

Nearly two decades ago, India embarked on a "Look East" policy in an endeavour to learn and benefit from and contribute to the evolution of a new Asian economic community to our East. However, the progress, prosperity, well being, political stability and plurality of the Asia to our West has always been of equal historical and civilisational significance for us. A West Asian region that can realize its full developmental potential, live in peace and harmony and join the comity of democratic and plural societies will contribute enormously to human progress and peace in the 21st Century.

Mr. Chairman, let me conclude by thanking you for this opportunity to renew our Movement's collective endeavour for peace and prosperity which is needed in our troubled planet today. Even as our members have differing views on different issues, our sense of common destiny and solidarity unites us and gives us a common sense of purpose. I am certain that our deliberations will be helpful in restoring this historic Movement to its rightful place on the international stage.

I thank you.



177. Extracts from the Interaction of the Prime Minister with the media on board the Special Flight en route from Tehran to New Delhi.

August 31, 2012.

Prime Minister of India (Dr. Manmohan Singh): Ladies and gentlemen, as you know, I came to Tehran to attend the NAM Summit. My speech at the Plenary Session of the Summit has already been circulated and you must have gone through it.

In addition I had a meeting with the Supreme Leader, and also with President Ahmadinejad to review the state of our bilateral relations. I was particularly struck by what the Supreme Leader told me about his interest and involvement in Indian affairs. He recalled the influence that Mahatma Gandhi had on him, the role that Jawaharlal Nehru played in India's freedom struggle, his visit to India in 1980-81, meetings with Mrs. Gandhi, visiting various other parts of our country including Hyderabad.

And what I was more struck by was his statement that a country of India's great diversity, different languages, different religions, has greater chances of achieving its national goals, if there is growing respect for tolerance and respect for diversity. He said that is the way of the future, human civilization is moving in that direction, and what India is trying to achieve is truly remarkable.

In addition, with President Ahmadinejad I reviewed the state of our bilateral relations. And there is lot of interest in doing business with India and getting Indian investment in infrastructure. There are of course

difficulties imposed by western sanctions, but subject to that I think we will explore ways and means of developing our relations with Iran.

I had also on the sidelines meetings with President Zardari of Pakistan, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, the Prime Minister of Nepal, the Prime Minister of Bhutan, President Morsi of Egypt, the Crown Prince of Jordan, and several other world leaders, including the new Prime Minister of Syria who called on me and explained to me his Government's point of view about developments in Syria.

I think all these matters have been reported to you and you have been briefed about that by the Foreign Secretary. If there are any questions, I will be happy to answer them.

I am sorry I forgot to mention my meeting with President Karzai of Afghanistan.

Question: Foreign Secretary briefed us about your excellent meeting with the Supreme Leader. Sir, he was very appreciative of India's 2000 year old

relationship with Iran. Would you like to elaborate on your meeting with the Supreme Leader whether he sought your intervention in resolving issues with any other country?

Answer: There is no issue of India intervening to solve any problems in which Iran is involved. It was a philosophical discussion. The relations between our two countries which go back to centuries old ties of culture, civilization, language and religion; the continuing relevance of what India is trying to achieve - a country of composite culture trying to make a sense is of diversity of our people, to create a sense of unity amidst diversity. He was very appreciative of this.

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Question: President Zardari again invited you to Pakistan and you had accepted it and you said that you will visit at a suitable time and would like a substantial outcome of that visit? In your opinion, what would be the substantial outcome and a suitable time?

PM: Well, I am very keen to visit Pakistan and am very grateful to President Zardari for inviting me to visit that country, but I also mentioned to him that we have to create a proper atmosphere. There must be a general feeling that Pakistan is doing all that it could do to deal with terrorism directed against India from Pakistani soil, and in this context the court trial of those who have been charged with this heinous crime of Bombay massacre. I think this is a crucial test of Pakistan's sincerity to bring the perpetrators of these horrible crimes to book. Now, on that point, President Zardari and Interior Minister Rehman Malik said they are doing all that is possible subject to the vagaries of the court process. I also said that there are issues like Sir Creek, which he himself had told me when he visited Delhi for going to Ajmer Sharif that these are 'doables'. I said that let us push that process further and in the meanwhile Foreign Ministers of the two countries will be meeting and they can explore the possibilities what can be achieved to facilitate a purposeful visit of my tour to Pakistan.

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Question: In your NAM address you touched two points – one was food security and another was the cyber terrorism. On food security, you said that you would look for international cooperation. What kind of international cooperation are you looking for? For cyber terrorism on our domestic front, we need more domestic legal framework because we are not having any comprehensive cyber policy in our country.

Answer: Well I agree. You are right. I have been asking my National Security Advisor to zero in on the gaps in evolving a viable policy to tackle the menace of cyber terrorism. As far as food security is concerned, we would like the world

to cooperate more in increasing agricultural productivity, particularly in the countries of Africa where there is enormous scope for increasing agricultural production and our India-Africa Forum Summit seeks to use India's capabilities to help them increase productivity whenever there is demand. At the same time, technology can be an important source of increasing food production and also in weather forecasting, developing early warning systems in case of floods or droughts. Biotechnology also has an important role to play. Nations of the world should cooperate with each other to make a success of biotechnology in increasing food production. In the 21st century, use of water is going to be the most important issue and a critical input in development processes. How do we economise use of water? How to use modern technologies for irrigation like sprinkler irrigation as against flow irrigation? Israel has come up with new methods. So there is a whole gamut of issues that the NAM countries may deliberate and cooperate and NAM countries can enlarge their mandate. They can cooperate with other parts of the world on the issue of increasing food production.

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Question: My question is limited to NAM Summit. The few conservative media block repeatedly claimed that Iran is a rogue state with nuclear capabilities. Do you see NAM Summit as a slap? If not, why not.

Answer: NAM Summit is not meant to be a slap to any one country. NAM has a set agenda. This was the 16th Summit. Iran has been chosen as the Chairperson. Therefore it is only appropriate that the Summit should take place in Iran which is a very important country in our region and in the developing world. The Iranians have a very proud civilization. They have many things to contribute to the world. Therefore, meeting in Tehran has no more or no less significance than the fact that Iran be a member of NAM in good standing.

* * * *

Question: Getting back to Pakistan, is India letting Hafiz Saeed off the hook.

Answer. We are not letting anyone off the hook. Whosoever is guilty of crimes, terrorist crimes directed against India should be brought to justice. So I am not saying that anyone should not be brought to justice.



178. 16th Summit of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Movement Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

26 - 31 August 2012

Declaration on Palestine Political Prisoners

1. The Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) *expressed grave concern* regarding the deteriorating situation of Palestinian political prisoners in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. They *condemned* the continued imprisonment and detention of thousands of Palestinian civilians by Israel, the occupying Power, including at least 300 children as well as women and elected officials, and *condemned* the deplorable conditions under which they are being unlawfully held in jails and detentions centers in both the Occupied Palestinian Territory and in Israel. They *recalled* the Ministerial Declaration on Palestinian Political Prisoners adopted by the XVI NAM Ministerial Conference held at Bali in May 2011.
2. The Heads of State or Government *expressed grave concern* in particular about the hunger strike by thousands of Palestinian prisoners, which began on 17 April 2012, annually commemorated by the Palestinian people as "Prisoners' Day". They *expressed solidarity* with the prisoners who have undertaken this massive hunger strike in protest of the occupying Power's illegal practice of administrative detention, by which hundreds of Palestinians are being held without charge or trial, and in protest of the other inhumane, oppressive measures violating their most basic human rights. They *expressed serious concern* about the fragile health conditions of several Palestinians being held under administrative detention, who have been on hunger strike for more than two months and whose lives are at risk. They *stressed* that Israel, the occupying Power, must be held fully accountable for the well-being of all Palestinian prisoners, including the prisoners partaking in the peaceful, non-violent hunger strike protesting Israel's extreme abuses. The Heads of State or Government *called on* the international community to act urgently to address this critical situation in line with obligations under international law, specifically Article 76 of the 4th Geneva Convention, which defines the rights of protected persons faced with detention by an occupying Power.
3. The Heads of State or Government *deplored* Israel's continuing campaign of arrest and detention of Palestinian civilians and *deplored* the violent military raids, forced interrogations, intimidation, and all other brutal, dehumanizing measures used by the occupying Power in this regard. They *condemned* the extremely unhygienic, humiliating and, in many cases, life-threatening conditions under which Palestinian prisoners are being held, including vulnerable groups such as children, women, and ill, disabled and paralyzed Palestinians. They

condemned, inter alia, Israel's use of torture and all other forms of physical and psychological mistreatment and deprivation of Palestinian prisoners, including denial of family visits, denial of access to education and adequate medical care, and the inhumane use of solitary confinement. They also *condemned* Israel's withholding of the bodies of Palestinian prisoners who were killed or died while in Israeli captivity and their burial in military graveyards.

4. The Heads of State or Government *stressed* that under Article 147 of the 4th Geneva Convention, which is fully applicable to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, Israel's policies and practices regarding the imprisonment and detention of Palestinian civilians constitute serious violations, in many cases amounting to war crimes and crimes against humanity which, pursuant to Article 146, should be subject to international criminal prosecution, in accordance with universal jurisdiction, and recalled relevant provisions of the Rome Statute of the ICC. They *demand* that Israel, the occupying Power, fully comply with the relevant provisions of the Geneva Conventions and all other applicable international Conventions and Treaties and adhere to international standards for due process.

5. The Heads of State or Government *reiterated the demand* that Israel, the occupying Power, immediately release all Palestinian prisoners, and *stressed* the need for the return of the prisoners to their families and their speedy reintegration into their communities. They *demand* that Israel cease forthwith the arbitrary arrest and detention of Palestinians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

6. The Heads of State or Government *expressed deep regret* about the devastating impact of Israel's illegal practices on Palestinian prisoners and their families and the Palestinian society as a whole. In this regard, they *commended* the valuable work of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and *called upon* the occupying Power to grant it the necessary access. They *also commended* the valuable efforts of civil society to provide assistance, including legal and humanitarian support, to Palestinian prisoners and their families.

7. The Heads of State or Government *commended* ongoing efforts to raise awareness on the critical issue of Palestinian political prisoners being held by Israel, the occupying Power. They *urged* mobilization of support for the efforts of the Palestinian people and their leadership to address this crisis, particularly the deteriorating situation of hunger striking prisoners. They *reiterated the call* for international action in line with legal obligations, stressing that the plight of these prisoners should be addressed by, *inter alia*, the UN General Assembly, Security Council, and Human Rights Council. They *recalled* the proposal by the Palestinian Minister of Prisoners Affairs for a resolution by the General Assembly

requesting an Advisory Opinion by the International Court of Justice on the legal status of Palestinian prisoners and detainees held by Israel, the occupying Power, and the legal responsibilities of the occupying Power and third parties under international law. Moreover, in accordance with common Article 1 of the Geneva Conventions, they urged the High Contracting Parties to the 4th Geneva Convention to uphold their obligations in this regard, and called for convening of a Conference of High Contracting Parties as a first step towards addressing this serious issue.



179. 16th Summit of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Movement Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

26 - 31 August 2012

Solidarity Declaration on Palestine

1. The Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) *expressed their deep regret* that, due to the deplorable measures of Israel, the occupying Power, the NAM Committee on Palestine was unable to convene the Extraordinary Ministerial Meeting in Ramallah, Palestine, on 5 August 2012, which had been planned as a demonstration of the Movement's solidarity with the Palestinian people. They *condemned* Israel's provocative action, in contravention of international law and its obligations as an occupying Power, which prevented the Members of the Committee from witnessing firsthand the grave situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and from directly conveying to the Palestinian people and their leadership the Movement's longstanding, principled support for the just cause of Palestine and commitment to the achievement of a just, lasting and peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine in all its aspects.
2. The Heads of State or Government regretted that Israel's obstruction of the entry of NAM Ministers to the Occupied Palestinian Territory prevented the Committee on Palestine from meeting with H.E. President Mahmoud Abbas and the rest of the Palestinian leadership. They *expressed deep appreciation* to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for receiving the Members of the Committee on Palestine and for the efforts exerted to facilitate arrangements for the planned Extraordinary Ministerial Meeting. They *recalled* the Press Statement issued by the Committee on 5 August 2012 in Amman, as well as the related Statement by the NAM Coordinating Bureau in New York on 9 August 2012. They *reaffirmed* the Movement's resolve to continue assisting the Palestinian people in their legitimate quest for dignity, justice and their inalienable right to self-determination in their independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, based on the pre-1967 borders.
3. The Heads of State or Government *reaffirmed* the Declarations on Palestine adopted by the Committee and endorsed by the Movement, most recently in Sharm El-Sheikh in 2012 and Bali in 2011, and their commitment to the positions therein. They *renewed the call* for political, economic and humanitarian assistance in support of the Palestinian people and their efforts to achieve their legitimate national aspirations and inalienable human rights, including their right to self-determination in their independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and their right to return. They *paid special tribute* to the resilience of the Palestinian people throughout the many decades of hardship they have

been forced to endure for over 64 years since the 1948 *Al-Nakba*, which dispossessed and rendered the majority of Palestinians as refugees, now constituting more than 5 million people, and for over 45 years since the 1967 Israeli military occupation of the remainder of the Palestinian land, including East Jerusalem.

4. The Heads of State or Government *reiterated their grave concern* regarding the critical situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as a result of Israel's prolonged military occupation and illegal policies and practices. They *condemned* Israel's ongoing military raids and attacks against the Palestinian civilian population; blockade of the Gaza Strip; settlement colonization campaign involving, *inter alia*, land confiscations, construction and expansion of settlements and "outposts", transfer of Israeli settlers, construction of the Wall, home demolitions, and imposition of severe movement restrictions and hundreds of checkpoints; detention and imprisonment of thousands of Palestinians; forced displacement of Palestinian civilians; and all other measures of collective punishment against the Palestinian people, constituting grave breaches of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law.

5. The Heads of State or Government *deplored* the vast physical, economic and social devastation caused by the Israeli occupation, particularly the destructive impact of the illegal Israeli settlements and the Wall, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. They *condemned* all such illegal colonization activities deliberately aimed at altering the Territory's demographic composition, character, and legal status and at forcibly acquiring more Palestinian land in total contradiction of international law and the two-State solution based on the pre-1967 borders. They *expressed grave concern* at the situation in Occupied East Jerusalem, where the Israeli settlement campaign is most intense, and *called for* a complete end to all settlement activities, excavations, including near Al-Haram Al-Sharif (Noble Sanctuary), home demolitions, residency revocations, and closure of Palestinian institutions in the City. They *condemned* also the terror, violence and provocations by extremist Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians and properties, including homes, agricultural lands, and Muslim and Christian holy sites, and *cautioned* that such actions are fueling religious sensitivities that risk further destabilization and must be brought to an immediate end by the occupying Power.

6. The Heads of State or Government *reiterated their grave concern* about the critical humanitarian and socio-economic conditions in the Gaza Strip due to Israel's blockade, by which it continues to collectively punish the Palestinian people and obstruct movement, humanitarian access, entry of essential goods, and the reconstruction of Gaza. They *reiterated the demand* that Israel respect international humanitarian law and fully end this illegal blockade, stressing the

need to ensure the sustained, regular movement of persons and goods between Gaza and the outside world and to restore the link and unity between Gaza and the West Bank, reaffirming that the Gaza Strip remains an integral part of the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

7. The Heads of State or Government further *reiterated the call* for ensuring accountability for the crimes and violations committed by Israel, the occupying Power, during its military aggression against the Gaza Strip in December 2008-January 2009. They also *reiterated the call* to ensure accountability for the Israeli military attack on 31 May 2010 in international waters on the humanitarian convoy destined for the Gaza Strip, in which nine Turkish civilians were killed. They *called on* the international community, including the Security Council, to pursue serious efforts to end Israel's impunity and realize justice for the victims, including via follow-up of the findings and recommendations of the UN Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict. They *reaffirmed* the obligations of the High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Conventions regarding penal sanctions, grave breaches and responsibilities.

8. The Heads of State or Government *expressed grave concern* about the inhumane treatment of Palestinian political prisoners and detainees being held by Israel, including physical and mental abuse, reported torture and denial of access to proper medical care and family visits. They *expressed concern* about recent crises of prolonged hunger strikes by prisoners and detainees, in peaceful protest of the illegal practice of administrative detention, by which hundreds of Palestinians are held without charge or trial, and other human rights violations by Israel. They *reiterated the call* for the immediate release of all the Palestinians detained and imprisoned by Israel, including children, women and elected officials. They *recalled* the Ministerial Declarations on Palestinian Political Prisoners adopted in Bali (May 2011) and Sharm El Sheikh (May 2012), and *urged* the mobilization of efforts to address this critical issue.

9. The Heads of State or Government *demand* that Israel immediately cease all of its illegal policies and practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and cease its violations of the human rights of the Palestinian people. They *reiterated* the demand for the complete cessation of all Israeli settlement colonization activities, which constitute grave breaches of international law and flagrant defiance of UN resolutions, the 9 July 2004 International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion, and obligations under the Quartet Roadmap to freeze all settlement activities and dismantle all settlement "outposts". They *expressed grave concern* that this illegal campaign is undermining the contiguity, integrity, viability and unity of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and jeopardizing the prospects for physically achieving the two-State solution for peace on the basis of the pre-1967 borders, prompting a search for alternative just solutions.

10. The Heads of State or Government *reiterated their serious concern* about the dangerous impasse in the Middle East peace process and *called for* immediate, practical efforts to salvage the two-State solution and advance a fair, credible peace process based on the relevant UN resolutions, including Security Council resolutions 242, 338, 425, 1397, 1515 and 1850, the Madrid terms of reference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Roadmap. They *stressed* that the peace process must ensure an end to the occupation of the Palestinian Territory and the other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including East Jerusalem; the exercise by the Palestinian people of their right to self-determination in an independent, sovereign, and viable State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital; and a just solution for the plight of the Palestinian refugees based on General Assembly resolution 194 (III).

11. The Heads of State or Government *recalled* in this regard the historic role and obligations of the international community, in particular the UN Security Council and General Assembly, as well as the High Contracting Parties to the fourth Geneva Convention to uphold their obligations and ensure respect of the Convention in all circumstances. They *called on* the Security Council, based on its Charter duty for maintenance of international peace and security, to act forthwith to implement its resolutions, to ensure compliance by Israel, the occupying Power, and to promote a just, lasting and comprehensive solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the Arab-Israeli conflict as a whole.

12. The Heads of State or Government *reaffirmed* support for the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and the Palestinian National Authority under the leadership of President Mahmoud Abbas, and *emphasized* the importance of protecting and strengthening the national and democratic institutions of the Palestinian Authority, including the Palestinian Legislative Council, which shall constitute a vital foundation for the independent State of Palestine. They *reiterated* the urgency of Palestinian unity for realization of the legitimate national rights and aspirations of the Palestinian people. They thus *welcomed* the Reconciliation Agreement signed in Cairo, on 4 May 2011, aimed at ending the division since June 2007, as well as the Declaration signed in Doha, on 5 February 2012, aimed at overcoming the challenges to the agreement's implementation, and *called on* the international community to respect and support the Palestinian reconciliation.

13. The Heads of State or Government *called for* continued support for strengthening Palestinian national institutions, in line with the plan launched by Prime Minister Salam Fayyad in August 2009, "*Palestine: Ending the Occupation, Establishing the State*". They *commended* its completion in August 2011 with the implementation of the second phase, "*Homestretch to Freedom*", stressing

the importance of this initiative for laying the foundations for the independence of the State of Palestine, and *called for* efforts to preserve and advance achievements in this regard during this critical period. They further *reaffirmed* the importance of the official recognition extended to Palestine by 132 countries, and *urged* the Members of the Movement that have not recognized the State of Palestine to do so as soon as possible as a positive contribution to making Palestine's independence a reality based on international law and UN resolutions.

14. The Heads of State or Government *welcomed* in this regard the application submitted, on 23 September 2011, by Palestine to be admitted as a Member State of the United Nations, consistent with the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and independence, convinced that realization of this objective will be a major step towards securing freedom, dignity, stability and peace for the Palestinian people. They *also welcomed* the admission of Palestine as a Member State of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

15. The Heads of State or Government *called on* the Members of the Movement to remain at the forefront of support for the historic march of the Palestinian people for freedom and peace. They *called for* intensified efforts in this regard, including at the UN Security Council, General Assembly, Human Rights Council and other relevant organs and agencies. They *commended* the members of the NAM Caucus of the Security Council for their serious efforts concerning Palestine, and *urged* them to remain active to enhance the Movement's role in the peace effort. They *stressed* the importance of regular contacts by the Movement at the Ministerial level with the members of the Security Council, Quartet, League of Arab States and all other concerned parties for advancing Palestine's recognition as a State and its admission as a Member of the United Nations at the earliest possible date as well as for reviving international and regional efforts to bring an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967, realize the long-overdue independence of the State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, and achieve a just, lasting and comprehensive peace and security. The Ministers *extended an urgent call for* launching a plan of action, based on the longstanding terms of reference of the Middle East peace process based on international law and UN resolutions and in coordination with other relevant political and regional groups, for the achievement of these objectives as soon as possible.



179A. 16th Summit of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Movement Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

26 - 31 August 2012

TEHRAN DECLARATION

**The Declaration of the XVI Summit of
Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Movement
Issued on
30-31 August 2012
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran**

We, the Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, gathered at our XVI Conference held in Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran, on 30- 31 August 2012, undertook a review of the international situation with a view to making an effective contribution to the solution of the major problems of concern to all NAM Member States and to entire Humankind, and, *Inspired* by the vision, principles and objectives of the Non-Aligned Movement, articulated in Bandung (1955) and Belgrade (1961), and guided by the Declaration of Purposes and Principles in our efforts to achieve a world of peace, equality, cooperation and well-being for all, *drawing upon* the Movement's experience in the past and its great potential today, *Reaffirming* the lasting validity and the continuing relevance of the NAM vision, principles and objectives in the contemporary international situation, *Strengthened* by our past achievements in the struggle against imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism, apartheid and all forms of foreign intervention, interference, aggression, occupation, domination or hegemony, and staying away from power alliances and their confrontations, continue to be fundamental elements in the policy of non-alignment, *Renewing* our commitment to the NAM principles and objectives and our pledge to strive to make a constructive contribution towards building a new pattern of international relations based on the principles of peaceful coexistence, cooperation among nations and the right to equality of all States, *Continuing to uphold* the principles of sovereignty and the sovereign equality of States, territorial integrity, self-determination and nonintervention in the internal affairs of any State; *taking* effective measures for the prevention and suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of peace, to defend, promote and encourage the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice, are not endangered; *refraining* in international relations from the threat or use of force against territorial integrity or political independence of any State or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter,

Declare that:

1 To build a fair, inclusive, transparent and effective system of joint global governance, based on justice and equitable participation of all countries and to address present challenges and risks stemming from global security threats, environmental hazards, climate change, migration, contagious diseases, extreme poverty, among others, the NAM Member States should coordinate their positions and join force in pressing on the interests of the developing world. To do so, a number of priorities are as follows:

- a. Global governance is broad in scope and encompasses many issues of global interest and concerns than merely economic issues. The world faces challenges in security, social and environmental fields. International peace and security still continue to be high on the priority scale of many countries. The current international decisionmaking architecture in the fields of peace and security is outdated and much more resistant to any change.
- b. The United Nations as the universal and inclusive multilateral body should play a fundamental role in the institutional and legal framework of global governance. Thus, the United Nations could and should have a major role in efforts undertaken to find common solutions to common problems, including a coordinating role among all international and regional agencies. Nonetheless, for the UN to remain at the forefront of any discussion on global governance, focus should further be on its strengthening and modernizing. Towards this end, it is especially essential to revitalize the UN General Assembly, including in the area of international peace and security, and reform the UN Security Council to reflect the realities of today's world.
- c. The growing importance of developing countries is yet to be sufficiently reflected in the governance structures of existing international key decision-making bodies. Key decisions concerning the issues of global governance can no longer be the preserve of a small group of countries. Policies are being made across a broadening range of issues, which affect all in world politics. Thus, it is imperative that developing countries could have a greater voice and participation in the major institutions, which coordinate policies at the international level.
- d. Crises in the past several years have exposed the shortcomings and failures of international financial institutions, which adversely affect their ability to address crises and achieve adequate macroeconomic policy coordination. As they were established following World War II, they fail to address appropriately current World challenges and, therefore, adversely affect developing countries.

- e. In the international community not every nation shares similar values and opinions. To live in peace and harmony the diversity within the global society should be acknowledged and respected. Thus, the attempts to impose values on other members of the international community should be thwarted.
2. Occupation of Palestine lies at the heart of the protracted crisis situation in the Middle East. Any solution to this crisis requires the termination of the occupation, crimes and violations committed by Israel, the occupying power, restoration of the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the establishment of their independent and viable State of Palestine with Al-Quds al-Sharif as its capital. The restoration of the national rights of the Palestinian people is a basic prerequisite for the establishment of an equitable, comprehensive and lasting peace in the area.
3. Racism and racial discrimination are affronts to human dignity and equality, and the resurgence of contemporary and new forms of such abhorrent crimes in various parts of the world is a matter for grave concern. Thus, it is imperative to address with greater resolve and political will all forms and manifestation of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance including new forms of slavery and trafficking in persons, wherever they occur.
4. All human rights are indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, and human rights issues must be addressed through a constructive, non-confrontational, non-politicized, non-selective and dialogue-based as well as cooperative approach, in a fair, equal and balanced manner, with objectivity, respect for cultural diversity and national sovereignty and territorial integrity, noninterference in the internal affairs of States, taking into account the political, historical, social, religious and cultural particularities of each country. Special attention should be paid to the rights of the youth and women and the way be paved for building capacity in this respect and facilitating their participation in the politico-social and economic processes.
5. Nuclear weapons are the most inhumane weapons ever conceived. The maintenance of strategic and tactical nuclear stockpile and their continued modernization, as well as new military doctrines setting the rationale for their possible use, particularly against non-nuclear weapon states (NNWS), represent the greatest threat to humankind. The Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) did not provide a right for nuclear weapon states to keep their nuclear arsenals indefinitely. States Parties to the NPT have obligations under Article VI of the NPT to destroy all nuclear weapons within a time-bound framework, which is yet to be fulfilled. It is imperative to conclude a comprehensive convention on nuclear disarmament.
6. All states should be able to enjoy the basic and inalienable right to the

development, research, production and use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes, without any discrimination and in conformity with their respective international legal obligations. Therefore, nothing should be interpreted in a way to inhibit or restrict the right of states to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. States' choices and decisions, in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear technology and their fuel cycle policies, including those of the Islamic Republic of Iran, must be respected.

7. The inviolability of peaceful nuclear activities should be upheld and any attack or threat of attack against peaceful nuclear facilities operational or under construction amounts to a serious danger to human beings and the environment, and constitutes a grave violation of international law, of the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, and of regulations of the IAEA. There is a pressing need for a comprehensive multilaterally negotiated legal instrument prohibiting attacks, or threat of attacks on nuclear facilities devoted to peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

8. Non-Aligned countries agree to refrain from recognizing, adopting or implementing extra-territorial or unilateral coercive measures or laws, including unilateral economic sanctions, other intimidating measures, and arbitrary travel restrictions, that seek to exert pressure on Non-Aligned Countries – threatening their sovereignty and independence, and their freedom of trade and investment – and prevent them from exercising their right to decide, by their own free will, their own political, economic and social systems, where such measures or laws constitute flagrant violations of the UN Charter, international law, the multilateral trading system as well as the norms and principles governing friendly relations among States; and in this regard, they agree to oppose and condemn these measures or laws and their continued application, persevere with efforts to effectively reverse them and urge other States to do likewise, as called for by the General Assembly and other UN organs; agree to request States applying these measures or laws to revoke them fully and immediately.

9. All acts of terrorism, in all their forms and manifestations, wherever and by whoever committed, are unequivocally condemned. All States should abide by their international obligations in addressing the threat of terrorism, which continues to adversely affect peace, security, stability and development of many NAM countries. All victims of terrorism, including the Iranian civilian researchers and scientists who have fallen victim to inhumane terrorist campaign, deserve the deepest sympathy.

10. Dialogue among religions, cultures and civilizations should be enhanced, through supporting efforts made at the international level, towards reducing confrontation, suppressing xenophobia and islamophobia, promoting respect for diversity based on justice, fraternity and equality should be promoted, and

all attempts of uniculturalism or the imposition of particular models of political, economic, social, legal or cultural systems should be opposed, and promote dialogue among civilizations, culture of peace and inter-faith dialogue, which will contribute towards peace, security, stability and development.

11. The Non-Aligned Movement should mobilize all its capabilities in order to implement the decisions of its leaders, as expressed in its documents. Accordingly, the NAM should consider the possibility of creating necessary mechanism with a view to following up on its decisions.



SAARC

180. Statement by Foreign Secretary at SAARC Business Summit.

New Delhi, January 30, 2012.

Hon'ble Minister for Commerce, Industry and Textiles;

Mr. Sahney; Mr. Annisul Huq; Mr. Kanoria and friends from FICCI;

Ladies and Gentlemen and delegates from the SAARC Region;

It is a pleasure to participate at this SAARC Business Summit, and to welcome friends from the SAARC region in New Delhi. I congratulate Mr. Sahney upon his assumption of the Presidency of the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and I thank his predecessor Mr. Annisul Huq for his contributions during his tenure.

2. We stand at an important juncture in the evolution of a more integrated South Asian economic community. Our goal of enhancing regional economic integration, to complement existing historical and geographical commonalities, is well-known. We need now to speak more on the steps needed to achieve this objective. Today's event provides us an opportunity suggest some clarity.

3. This meeting today is timely, because it takes place as the South Asian Free Trade Area Agreement (SAFTA) is beginning to show results. In the nearly six years since SAFTA's entry into force, intra-regional trade under SAFTA has touched US\$1.4 billion – some 10 per cent of intra-regional trade – but growth has been extraordinarily fast. There is potential for more. The challenge is to create an enabling environment that makes trade between our countries more free, thus raising trade within South Asia to a level more commensurate with its potential, while ensuring that it is a win-win proposition for all countries. We believe this kind of outcome has not just commercial and economic validity but could have positive spinoffs for a more conducive political climate for cooperation across the board in all fields of common endeavour.

4. Furthermore, your meeting comes at a time when our region stands out for relatively high rates of GDP growth. As a result, the South Asia region could emerge as a locomotive for the world economy if we ensure an environment for rapid growth, as also build on our complementarities to make the region a magnet for greater trade, investment and financial flows.

5. It was with this perspective, and in full recognition of India's asymmetrical responsibilities, that our Prime Minister announced an initiative at the XVII SAARC Summit in Addu last November to virtually eliminate India's Sensitive List for Least Developed Countries in the SAARC Region. By slashing this

Sensitive List to just 25 tariff lines, we ensured that zero basic duty will now apply on almost all goods from the five SAARC LDCs. Similar measures from our partners to dismantle tariff barriers across our region would benefit all members in SAARC. We also need to address issues that are potential non-tariff barriers.

6. This process must be accompanied by an effort to enhance free trade in services, and to step up financial flows within the region, in particular, investment. A SAARC Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement is pending finalisation since 2007. There is need also for policy measures that make it possible - and indeed advantageous - for our businessmen to invest in each others' economies.

7. I can assure Mr. Annisul Huq that there is no way other organization get higher priority than SAARC in our scheme of things.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

8. If our region as a whole has to achieve higher trade and investment levels, one cultural requirement is enhanced connectivity. We need to create better hardware, in the form of railways and highways, and also cheaper and more plentiful flight services, telecommunications facilities, and value-added IT enabled services for businesses to maximise competitive opportunities within the region. It was with this perspective again that at the Addu Summit last November, our Prime Minister called for a regional air services agreement, and offered to create enhanced and cheaper telecommunications and other associated linkages.

9. Mr. Annisul Huq has mentioned some practical points about visas and presence of officials in meetings. We will certainly take a look at these issues. We must ensure he does not have to be under water as he feared, if he waited to be present at the last Summit!

Ladies and Gentlemen,

10. There is clearly a historical opportunity before us that SCCI must assist regional businesses in seizing. To do so, however, SCCI may need to consider a practical focus in its efforts. I have a few suggestions for you to consider in the year ahead.

- (1) An inclusive approach: SCCI must not only represent its members, but also the totality of South Asian business. This involves displaying a degree of flexibility and a willingness to reach out to all those involved with intra-regional commerce, including non-SCCI members. This will enhance SCCI's unique position as a spokesperson for regional business.
- (2) Institutional linkages with SAARC: SCCI and SAARC need to have closer interaction and coordination of events, recognizing the fact that intensified regional cooperation cannot be separated from enhanced economic and

commercial partnerships. We had hoped that the SAARC Secretary General's presence today would help us address this issue further.

- (3) Regional production chains: A more integrated South Asia requires strategies to develop regional chains of production. Governments need to work with businesses to create policies to sustain such value chains, and SCCI should canvass for such policies in defined sectors with potential.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

11. Regional economic integration must become meaningful for the millions of South Asians who are not benefiting from our respective national developmental strategies. SAARC has established a number of institutions towards this end, but one that has significant potential to realize this objective is the SAARC Development Fund (SDF).

12. The SDF has done well so far in funding regional projects for social development. Its recently-opened social development window funds a number of useful projects. However, we must be more ambitious with regard to the SDF. In November last year, the SAARC Foreign Secretaries felt that the SDF needed to evolve into a regional development bank. For this, it will require managerial and financial capacity to source and channel finances for regional infrastructure and economic development projects. As mandated by the SAARC Standing Committee, India is providing technical assistance for the SDF, to link it with regional financial institutions and to devise ways for it to open the infrastructure and economic development windows. In the medium term, the SDF could become an important focal point for developing regional infrastructure. Corporate South Asia should have an interest in this process and I would encourage some dialogue with SDF. Ladies and Gentlemen,

13. In conclusion, the current challenging international economic environment could also provide SAARC a once-in-a-generation opportunity to catalyze the potential within the region. We could set the standard as a region that manages the transition from emphasizing tariff and restrictive measures as mechanisms for raising resources, to one in which economic development and infrastructure-creation generate significantly-enhanced employment, human capacity and state-of-the-art infrastructure. This has to be a public-private-partnership in the general meaning of that term. SCCI can be the standard-bearer of such change and the advocate of such a vision.

14. I congratulate you for this excellent initiative and I wish you all success in your endeavours.

Thank you.



181. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs on the meeting of the SAARC Anti-terror Mechanism.

New Delhi, February 9, 2012.

A Meeting of High Level Group of Eminent Experts from SAARC countries to strengthen Anti-Terror Mechanism got underway in New Delhi today. The Two day meeting is attended by delegates from Bhutan, India, Afghanistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and the SAARC Secretariat. Indian delegation was led by Director, Intelligence Bureau, Shri Nehchal Sandhu.

Issues relating to further improving the functioning of SAARC Terrorist Offences Monitoring Desk (STOMD) and the SAARC Drug Offences Monitoring Desk (SDOMD) based in Colombo, Sri Lanka, review of the enabling legislation enacted by the Member States on SAARC Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism and its Additional Protocol as well as the SAARC Convention on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and to further enhance the implementation process of these Conventions by the Member States are being discussed at this Meeting. The Meeting considered the SAARC Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters as well.

Exchange of information among the Member States on a real time basis for better coordination to counter terrorism and drug related activities, developing cooperation, capacity and relationship building among the SAARC Police authorities were identified, among others, as possible methods of strengthening the SAARC anti-terrorism mechanism.



182. Speech by Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai at the inauguration of an exhibition of paintings by SAARC artists at Lalit Kala Akademi.

New Delhi, December 07, 2012.

Artists from India & SAARC countries,
the DG ICCR,
Excellencies,
ladies and gentlemen

I am happy to be present at the exhibition of paintings by artists from the SAARC countries. Many of you are more acquainted with the history of art in our region than I am. So I will be brief in my remarks. We are all deeply conscious that art is an expression of inner feelings – poetry has been described as “emotion recollected in tranquility” and so is painting. It is not, as sometimes alleged, a form of expression used because the artist lacks other forms of expressing emotion. Van Gogh said that – “the only time I feel alive is when I am painting” – and that this involved “moments of frightening clarity”.

Art has been a vital part of our self expression – in this region as much as anywhere else in the world. From pre-historic times from rock paintings at Bhimbetka – to the masterpieces at Ajanta and Sigiriya – and from the tradition of Nepalese paintings of the Lichchavi era, to the great modern works of paintings from Afghanistan to Bangladesh - we have been and are in the mainstream of the world’s artistic impulse. But there is much that is distinctive and “South Asian” in our expressions.

I am happy at the collaboration between ICCR & Seher which hosts the painters camps in various cities bringing artists together. Their collections – the “Jaisalmer Yellow, “Puducherry Blue” and “Kerala Greens” – have become the united colours. Hopefully today we are moving on to the full rainbow. I use the metaphor of the rainbow because it highlights our individualities as well as our commonalities which become evident when we are put together.

I am delighted that ICCR is using art as a vehicle of SAARC cooperation. ICCR have cultural center in almost all SAARC countries and will have one in Iran. I am particularly happy to see the work created during the workshop for children.

Art is one of the many manifestations of South Asian Cooperation – which transcends the boundaries of politics. It expands the scope of our collaborations from commercial, technical and administrative to the sphere of people-to-people contact.

Art unites us in common endeavour – to allow our people to express themselves and produce works of beauty and timelessness.

Thank you for being here.



RIC

183. Opening Statement by External Affairs Minister during Joint Media Interaction at the RIC Ministerial Meeting.

Moscow, April 13, 2012.

Excellency, Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation, Mr. Sergey Lavrov

Excellency, Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Yang Jiechi

Friends from the Media,

I would like to thank Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and the Russian Foreign Ministry for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements for this trilateral meeting.

The current international environment is witnessing dynamic shifts and volatile trends, which shall eventually delineate the contours of the future global scenario. India, Russia and China believe that they have a major role to play in addressing the global challenges.

Our meeting today was yet another important occasion for the three sides to exchange views on several issues of common interest. We also reviewed cooperation among our three countries within the framework of other regional organisations such as BRICS, G-20, SCO and the East Asia Summit Process.

I am happy to note that the IRC Foreign Ministers mechanism has emerged as an important platform for close political coordination amongst the three countries. The dialogue, I felt, was stimulating and enriching.

Within the IRC mechanism, we also discussed the various thematic round tables and also ways to carry forward newer initiatives in areas where we share expertise and can harness potential benefits.

The Joint Communiqué issued today reflects our common understandings on a range of issues and the decisions taken.

I have extended my personal invitation to Foreign Minister Lavrov and Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi to visit India for the 12th IRC Foreign Ministers Meeting.

Thank you.



184. Joint Communiqué of the Eleventh Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Russian Federation, the Republic of India and the People's Republic of China.

Moscow, April 13, 2012.

1. The Foreign Ministers of the Russian Federation, the Republic of India and the People's Republic of China held their 11th meeting in Moscow on 13 April 2012.
2. The Ministers reiterated the importance attached by Russia, India and China to their constructive cooperation in the trilateral format. They stressed that this cooperation was not directed against any other country, was conducive to the promotion of regional peace, security and stability and served to benefit their peoples.
3. The Ministers reviewed the progress in the implementation of the decisions taken at their 10th Meeting in Wuhan, China on 14-15 November 2010.

The Ministers underlined the importance of cooperation in the field of disaster management and appreciated the outcome of the trilateral programme for exchange of information and expertise on the use of geo-spatial technologies in monitoring and forecasting flood and drought organized in Hyderabad, India on 24-26 May 2011. They also welcomed the outcome of the 4th Russia-India-China Trilateral Expert Meeting on Disaster Management in St. Petersburg, Russia on 6-9 September 2011 and identified priorities for further cooperation in the trilateral format.

The Ministers welcomed the growth in trade and investment relations among the three countries and took note of the 3rd Trilateral Business Forum in Rostov-on-Don, Russia on 21-22 September 2011.

The Ministers noted with satisfaction that the 11th Trilateral Academic Scholars Dialogue was convened in Beijing on 15-16 November 2011.

The Ministers supported advancing practical cooperation in the trilateral format in the areas of emergency response, health care, agriculture, business, energy and innovation & high technology, acting in close coordination with efforts made in these areas by different multilateral fora.

4. The Ministers recognized that the world was undergoing profound changes, and the global trend towards multi-polarity was irreversible. Meanwhile, global challenges were becoming ever more serious and complex. In this context, they emphasized the need to find collective solutions to global challenges such as regional conflicts, WMD proliferation, terrorism, transnational organized crime, illicit drug trafficking, natural and man-made disasters, financial and economic

destabilization, food shortages and climate change. They noted that the events in the Middle East and North Africa had shown that there was no alternative to negotiations and peaceful settlement of conflicts through concerted actions by the international community. The Ministers affirmed that Russia, India and China intended to closely cooperate in addressing these challenges, including by consulting among themselves in the framework of the UN and relevant multilateral fora.

5. The Ministers stressed the importance for the Asia-Pacific region to establish an open and transparent security and cooperation architecture responsive to the legitimate interests of every country in the region and built on universally recognized norms and principles of international law, recognition of the indivisibility of security and mutual respect and confidence.

6. The Ministers noted that the East Asia Summits provided a promising format for dialogue on broad strategic, political and economic issues of common interest and concern with the aim of promoting peace, stability, and economic prosperity in East Asia. Russia, India and China called for advancing partnership in the spirit of network diplomacy among various regional associations, fora and dialogue structures, such as ASEM, ASEAN, the SCO, ARF, SAARC, CICA, the ADMM-Plus and others.

7. The Ministers expressed deep concern over the continuing situation in Afghanistan and stressed the importance of the international community remaining engaged in Afghanistan. They called on the international community to deal firmly with terrorist groups to obviate the risk of Afghanistan sliding back to being a safe haven for terrorists and extremists, threatening the region and beyond. The Ministers reaffirmed that Russia, India and China remained committed to a peaceful, stable, independent and prosperous Afghanistan.

8. The Ministers stressed the central coordinating role of the UN in promoting peace and stability in Afghanistan. They reaffirmed readiness to closely interact on Afghanistan in the framework of the UN and within other international fora and regional initiatives, including the Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan, the Istanbul process and the SCO. In this regard they welcomed Afghanistan's aspiration to play a larger role in these regional organizations.

The Ministers stated that the withdrawal of International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) should be guided by the security situation on the ground and the capability of Afghan National Security Forces to take care of the security of their country. The Ministers noted that ISAF should fulfill its task in accordance with the mandates of UNSC resolutions.

9. The Ministers proceed from the assumption that national reconciliation in Afghanistan should take place truly under the Afghan leadership and ownership,

as laid forth in the 20 July 2010 Kabul Conference Communiqué and further elaborated in the 5 December 2011 Bonn Conference Conclusions supported by the Government of Afghanistan and the international community.

10. The Ministers emphasized the urgent need for the international community to counteract illicit drugs production in and trafficking from Afghanistan, in line with the decisions of the Paris Pact and the SCO Anti-Drug Strategy.

11. The Ministers firmly supported the central coordinating role of the United Nations in maintaining international peace and security, promoting common development and international cooperation. They reaffirmed the need for a comprehensive reform of the UN, including its Security Council, with a view to making it more effective, efficient and representative. Russia and China reiterated the importance they attach to the status of India in international affairs and support its aspiration to play a greater role in the UN.

12. The Ministers reaffirmed that, being responsible States that possess advanced nuclear technologies, Russia, China and India considered it as their common task to prevent proliferation of nuclear weapons and contribute actively to strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime. They welcomed the successful holding of the Nuclear Security Summit in Seoul in March 2012 and supported the implementation of decisions contained in its Communiqué.

13. The Ministers noted that the situation concerning Iranian nuclear issue could not be allowed to escalate into conflict, the disastrous consequences of which would be in no one's interest. Iran has a crucial role to play for the peaceful development and prosperity of a region of high political and economic relevance, and needs to play its legitimate part as a responsible member of the global community. The Ministers expressed concern about the situation that was emerging around Iran's nuclear issue. They recognized Iran's right to peaceful uses of nuclear energy consistent with its international obligations, and support resolution of the issues involved through political and diplomatic means and dialogue, including between the IAEA and Iran, and urged Iran to comply with the provisions of the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions and extend its full cooperation to the IAEA. The Ministers expressed the hope that the P5+1 meeting on 14 April 2012 would yield positive results.

14. The Ministers expressed deep concern over DPRK's launch and called for maximum restraint from any move which could lead to escalation of tension on the Korean Peninsula.

The Ministers affirmed the importance of the proper resolution of the nuclear issue of the Korean Peninsula through political and diplomatic means and called on all parties concerned for further work aimed at the earliest resumption of the Six-Party Talks, with a view to achieving the goals set in the Joint Statement of

the People's Republic of China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Russia, the Republic of Korea, the US and Japan of 19 September 2005.

15. The Ministers reiterated strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and stressed that there can be no justification for any acts of terrorism on any grounds. Acknowledging that terrorism is a common challenge that requires the strongest collective action by the global community to combat it, they reaffirmed the action must be taken not only against the perpetrators of terrorist attacks but also against their supporters and sponsors.

16. The Ministers underlined the necessity of assisting other UN member states in better implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and increasing the number of parties to the UN anti-terrorism conventions, and promoting the implementation of Security Council resolutions, in particular Resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005). They emphasized the support to the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee activity and reinforcement of the capacities of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate in key areas related to countering the threat of terrorism.

17. The Ministers expressed concern over the increasing use of information and communication technologies in ways threatening the security of nations as also international peace and security. In this context, the Ministers noted the need for the international community to formulate relevant norms and rules.

18. In the context of developments in the Middle East and North Africa, the Ministers reaffirmed commitment to finding solutions to crises confronting the region's countries within a legal framework and only through peaceful means, without outside interference inconsistent with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

19. The Ministers emphasized strong commitment of their States to the principles of sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Syria and resolutely called for peaceful settlement of the crisis in that country through joint renunciation of violence by all sides and Syrian-led inclusive political process. The Ministers expressed support for the efforts of Mr. Kofi Annan as the Joint Special Envoy of the UN – Arab League, including his proposal for early deployment of the UN observer mission.

20. The Ministers reaffirmed strong commitment to achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of the universally recognized international legal framework, including the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, the Madrid principles, and the Arab Peace Initiative.

21. The Ministers noted that the process of recovery from the global financial

and economic crisis had been uneven. Emerging markets and developing countries were becoming the driving forces for the growth of global economy. The Ministers agreed that major economies should in a precise and timely manner coordinate efforts to facilitate the strong, sustainable and balanced global growth. They expressed particular concern over persisting development gap between the North and the South, and stressed that steps to reduce this gap could enhance global growth.

22. The Ministers of India and China welcomed the accession of the Russian Federation to the WTO, which would make the organization more representative and strengthen the rule-based multilateral trading system.

The Ministers noted the need for all countries to take specific steps to counter any form of protectionism and to strive to achieve a comprehensive and successful outcome of the WTO Doha Round in line with its developmental mandate.

23. The Ministers reiterated the role of the Group of 20 as the major forum for international economic cooperation. They emphasized that the goal of reform of international financial institutions was to achieve, inter-alia, equitable distribution of voting power between developed and developing countries. India and China expressed their strong support for Russia's Chairmanship of the Group of 20 in 2013.

24. The Ministers welcomed the outcomes of the 17th Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC (COP-17/CMP7) held in Durban, South Africa in December 2011. The Ministers expressed confidence that the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June 2012 would provide an important opportunity for the international community to promote global cooperation in sustainable development.

25. The Ministers welcomed the outcome of the Fourth BRICS Summit held in New Delhi, India, on 29 March 2012, which demonstrated the growing stature and weight of this group.

26. The Ministers commended the consultations among the directors of the respective departments of Russian, Indian and Chinese Foreign Ministries that took place on 12 July 2011, and agreed to hold such exchanges on a regular basis.

27. The Foreign Ministers of Russia and China appreciated the constructive engagement of India with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and its willingness to play a greater role in the SCO.

28. The Ministers of India and China thanked the Minister of Russia for the

warm hospitality and excellent arrangements for the 11th meeting of the Foreign Ministers.

29. The Ministers decided to hold the next Ministerial meeting in India.



SCO**185. Press Interaction of External Affairs Minister on SCO Summit and his meeting with Chinese Vice Premier.****Beijing, June 6, 2012.**

Please See document No. 327



186. Press Communiqué of the Meeting of the Council of The Heads of the Member States of The Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

Beijing, June 6 – 7, 2012.

On 6-7 June 2012, the Meeting of the Council of the Heads of the Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) was held in Beijing. President Nursultan Nazarbayev of the Republic of Kazakhstan, President Hu Jintao of the People's Republic of China, President Almazbek Atambayev of the Kyrgyz Republic, President Vladimir Putin of the Russian Federation, President Emomali Rahmon of the Republic of Tajikistan and President Islam Karimov of the Republic of Uzbekistan attended the meeting.

The meeting was chaired by President Hu Jintao of the People's Republic of China. ‘

SCO Secretary-General Muratbek Sansyzbayevich Imanaliev and Director of the Executive Committee of the SCO Regional Counter-Terrorism Structure (RCTS) Dzhenisbek Djumanbekov attended the meeting.

The heads of delegations from the SCO observer states i.e. President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of the Islamic Republic of Iran, President Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj of Mongolia, President Asif Ali Zardari of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Minister of External Affairs S. M. Krishna of the Republic of India, as well as guests of the host state i.e. President Hamid Karzai of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow of Turkmenistan attended the meeting and delivered statements.

The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia Miroslav Jenca, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States Sergei Lebedev, Secretary General of the Eurasian Economic Community Tair Mansurov and Secretary General of the Collective Security Treaty Organization Nikolai Bordyuzha also attended the meeting.

The heads of state exchanged views on the international and regional situations, major international and regional issues and outlook of the future development of the SCO.

The heads of state stated that the establishment and growth of the SCO gave a strong push to regional cooperation, enhanced good-neighborliness and mutual trust and brought about the harmonious coexistence of SCO member states.

Comments by the member states on the work of the SCO and their positions

and approaches regarding how to further improve practical cooperation have been incorporated into the *Declaration of the Heads of State of the Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization on Building a Region of Lasting Peace and Common Prosperity*. In the declaration, the member states stated their shared vision for establishing a just, democratic and multi-polar world architecture and developing state-to-state relations on that basis. They expressed the resolve to build an indivisible world security space and the desire to pursue a path of innovation and sustainable development suited to their national circumstances and to promote global progress with their own development. They also spelled out specific steps for international cooperation towards these goals.

The heads of state approved the *Strategic Plan for the Medium-term Development of the SCO*. They stated that the SCO is an open and harmonious regional cooperation organization running steadily on a smooth and effective institutional basis, and it is conducive to enhancing the good-neighborliness and common prosperity of the member states.

The heads of state heard and approved the report on the work of the SCO delivered by the Secretary-General and the report on the work of the RCTS delivered by the RCTS Council.

Over the past year, the SCO held the Meeting of the Council of the Heads of Government (Prime Ministers) of the member states (St. Petersburg, 7 November 2011), the meeting of heads of departments responsible for the prevention and elimination of emergency events (Dushanbe, 28 September 2011), the meeting of economic and trade ministers (Dushanbe, 26 October 2011), the meeting of transportation ministers (Moscow, 28 October 2011), the meeting of heads of counter-narcotics agencies (Beijing, 2 April 2012), the meeting of secretaries of security councils (Beijing, 12 April 2012), the meeting of heads of supreme courts (Beijing, 23-25 April 2012), the meeting of heads of senior audit institutions (Shanghai, 23-24 April 2012), the meeting of defense ministers (24 April 2012), the meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs (Beijing, 11 May 2012), a session of the SCO Forum (Almaty, 23-24 April 2012), the meeting of ministers of finance and heads of central (national) banks (Beijing, 16-17 May 2012), the meeting of culture ministers (Beijing, 4-7 June 2012) and the prosecutors general conference (Dushanbe, 5-6 June 2012).

Since the meeting commemorating the 10th anniversary of the founding of the SCO, the member states have worked extensively in political, economic, cultural and other areas of cooperation and achieved a series of concrete outcomes.

The heads of state noted that as the threats of terrorism, separatism, extremism, illegal narcotics trafficking and transnational organized crimes became more

acute and turmoil in some parts of the world persisted, to conduct active political and diplomatic work on crisis early-warning and emergency response and engage in security cooperation remains a highly urgent task.

The heads of state approved the revised version of the *SCO Regulations on Political and Diplomatic Measures and Mechanism of Response to Events Jeopardizing Regional Peace, Security and Stability and the Programme of Cooperation in the Field of Combating Terrorism, Separatism and Extremism for 2013-2015*, which broadened the legal basis for security cooperation among the member states.

The heads of state stressed the importance of cooperation among member states in safeguarding international information security and pointed out the need to prevent information and communication technologies from being used to undermine world peace, stability and security and to continue to promote the formulation of an "International Code of Conduct for Information Security" under the framework of the United Nations.

The heads of state supported resolving the Iranian nuclear issue through political and diplomatic means.

The heads of state pointed out that the strengthening of missile defense by a country or group of countries in a unilateral and unrestrained manner in disregard of the legitimate interests of other countries will cause harm to international security and global strategic stability. The relevant issue must be addressed by all countries concerned through political and diplomatic efforts.

The heads of state noted the important progress made in regional economic cooperation and the need to further promote trade and investment facilitation, strengthen economic and technical cooperation in non-resources fields, fight goods smuggling and protect intellectual property right.

The heads of state emphasized the need to continue to take concrete measures to develop multilateral economic and financial cooperation in the region. They pointed out that the mechanism of the meeting of ministers of finance and heads of central (national) banks plays an important role in helping countries in the organization share experience on safeguarding economic and financial stability and advance their fiscal and financial cooperation.

The heads of state commended the work that has been done on setting up the SCO Development Fund (Special Account) and SCO Development Bank, and instructed that the above-mentioned work be continued and completed as soon as possible.

The parties expressed their readiness to safeguard energy security in the SCO region.

The heads of state stressed that the *Agreement among the Governments of the SCO Member States on Cooperation in the Field of Agriculture* signed in June 2010 must take effect as soon as possible so as to raise the efficiency of agricultural cooperation.

The heads of state maintained that it is important to strengthen SCO cooperation in culture, science, technology, innovation, tourism and health and ensure sound sanitation and epidemic control in the SCO region.

The member states pointed out that the success of activities for the SCO Year of Good-neighbourly Friendship has deepened the friendship and cooperation among the member states.

The heads of state spoke highly of the work of the SCO Secretariat and the RCTS, and believed that they provided effective safeguards for the smooth operation of the SCO, the Business Council and the Interbank Consortium and the SCO Forum, enabling them to play an important role in tapping into the potential of economic and academic cooperation.

The heads of state maintained that given the evolving international situation and increase in SCO activities, it is necessary for the parties and permanent bodies of the SCO to enhance the publicity campaign for SCO activities to foster an objective and positive image of the organization.

The SCO member states supported greater international coordination and stronger cooperation with the observer states, dialogue partners and international and regional organizations such as the United Nations and its specialized agencies, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Collective Security Treaty Organization and the Eurasia Economic Community.

The member states took note of the wish of the relevant countries to join the SCO. The member states will continue to have consultations on the legal, fiscal and administrative conditions for membership expansion and work for early completion of the work on the basis of consensus.

The member states will continue to follow the principle of expanding the SCO's international exchanges and carry out cooperation with other multilateral organizations and mechanisms.

The heads of state decided to give the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan the status of SCO observer state and the Republic of Turkey the status of SCO dialogue partner.

The heads of state decided to appoint Mr. Dmitry Mezentsev (Russian Federation) Secretary-General of the SCO and Mr. Zhang Xinfeng (the People's Republic of

China) Director of the Executive Committee of the RCTS. Their terms will be from 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2015.

The heads of state applauded the work of China during its presidency of the organization and expressed appreciation to the Chinese side for the warm hospitality during the Beijing Summit.

In accordance with the *SCO Charter*, the Republic of Kyrgyzstan will hold the SCO presidency in the next stage. The next meeting of the Council of the Heads of the SCO Member States will take place in the Republic of Kyrgyzstan in 2013.



187. Statement by Secretary (East) Sanjay Singh at the SCO Heads of Government Meeting.

Bishkek, December 5, 2012.

Your Excellency Prime Minister Satybaldiev,

Distinguished Heads of Government of the Members and Observers of the SCO,
Special invitees,

Secretary General of the SCO,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour for me to join you in this beautiful city of Bishkek to represent my Prime Minister and my country at this august gathering of world leaders. At the outset, let me thank the Government and the friendly people of the Kyrgyz Republic for their gracious hospitality and warm welcome. I bring good wishes from my Prime Minister and the people of India to our friends in the SCO region.

India has been following closely, as an observer, the evolution of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. We are impressed that the SCO has emerged as an important regional forum focussing on issues of regional importance that are relevant and contemporary. The SCO has played a constructive and valuable role in promoting peace and prosperity in our region. It has made significant contributions both to regional economic development and to regional stability.

India has proactively participated in various SCO fora since 2005, learning much in the process, as also sharing our experience of development and progress. As an Observer, India has always endeavoured to play a constructive role and stands ready to step up its engagement to contribute more meaningfully to the SCO.

The situation in Afghanistan poses a major challenge and opportunity for the SCO, which provides a promising alternative regional platform to discuss and reflect upon the changing security situation in Afghanistan. At the last SCO Summit at Beijing, SCO members agreed to play a larger role in supporting Afghanistan's efforts to build itself into a stable, independent country on the path of peace and development, free from terrorism and drug trafficking. The SCO should grasp the opportunity to work on promoting peace, stability and economic development of Afghanistan and its integration into its neighbouring regions.

On its part, India seeks to strengthen the hands of the Afghan people in bringing

peace and prosperity to their country. India's assistance to Afghanistan has helped build vital civil infrastructure, develop human resources and capacity in areas like education, health, agriculture and rural development. The primary objective of India's development partnership, covering the entire territory of Afghanistan and every development sector, is to build indigenous Afghan capacity and institutions. We have no doubt that other members of the SCO family share these values and objectives.

India has long been a victim of terrorism and we are acutely aware of the threat that terror poses. We thus value all the more the steady progress the SCO has made in building counter- terrorism efforts. The Regional Anti Terrorism Structure (RATS) based in Tashkent has contributed richly to this progress. We look forward to greater engagement with RATS and the SCO member States in co-ordinating efforts to deal with the threats emanating from terrorism and drug trafficking.

India strongly believes in promoting peace and prosperity in our common Asian region. India's vision for its own growth and development has always been that our prosperity is linked to the prosperity of our neighbouring regions. This is the rationale underlying our efforts to step up economic cooperation activities in all our neighbouring regions, including Central Asia, South Asia and South East Asia.

A common vision and approach for rapid economic development of our nations and people should bind us together. The role of the SCO to achieve this objective can be crucial. We need to pool our efforts to surmount the physical barriers posed by high mountain ranges like the Pamirs and the Tien-Shan and create transport networks for the free flow of people, trade and energy through the region. The improved communication network would help strengthen multilateral cooperation in critical areas like energy, finance, infrastructure and telecommunications. and boost trade and investment in the region.

India is already engaged with several SCO member states in areas such as capacity building and human resource development, information technology, pharmaceuticals and health care, small and medium enterprises and entrepreneurship development. We would also like to share our experience in specific areas of economic endeavour such as banking, capital markets and micro-finance. India articulated its 'Connect-Central Asia' policy in Bishkek this year, to further our vision of a region connected closely by its common aspiration for a better life for its people.

Our leadership has made clear that, India stands ready to play a larger, wider and more active role in the SCO as a full member as and when the members of the SCO decide to take forward the expansion process. We have friendly ties

with all the member states and we wish to bring to the table our technical expertise, markets and financial commitments, all of which equip us to fulfil greater responsibilities in this forum.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I once again thank the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic for the arrangements made in this magnificent setting and the warm hospitality. On behalf of the Government of India, I also wish you all success in organising the SCO Heads of State Summit here next year.

\Thank you



188. Statement by External Affairs Minister at the SCO Heads of State Summit.

Beijing, June 7, 2012.

Your Excellency, President Hu Jintao,

Distinguished Heads of State,

Secretary General of the SCO,

Excellencies, Ladies & Gentlemen,

It is a privilege for me to join you in the beautiful city of Beijing, at this august gathering of world leaders. I had the honour to represent India at the last two summits of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and I am delighted to have this opportunity again. I thank the Government and the people of China for the gracious hospitality and warm welcome.

India admires the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and values its contribution over the past decade, to peace, stability and prosperity in the region. As the SCO prepares for the next decade of its journey, we see a welcome process of introspection among members, on the challenges of the next decade and the role of the body in a fast-evolving world, strewn with multiple multilateral bodies, with intersecting agendas.

India, on its part, has been participating constructively at all SCO meetings open to the Observers. By doing so, we have shown our strong willingness to be meaningfully associated with this grouping. We believe the SCO can potentially play a much larger role in the future, both for the security and prosperity of our region. We also value the fact that most SCO member countries are our neighbours, or belong to our extended neighbourhood, with a strong historical and cultural legacy of centuries binding us together.

The most important security challenge we face today relates to Afghanistan, which lies in the heart of Asia and is a bridge, connecting not just Central and South Asia but also Eurasia and the Middle East. The SCO provides a promising alternative regional platform to discuss the rapidly changing Afghan situation.

The economic development projects of the SCO can be a meaningful additional effort for Afghanistan's reconstruction. India has already committed over 2 billion US dollars towards reconstruction and developmental activities in Afghanistan. This is a reflection of our commitment to the prosperity of the Afghan people. We will be unwavering in our support to this cause.

The other major security challenge of our age continues to be terrorism, which

is a common threat to the international community and particularly to our SCO space. India is a long-standing victim of terrorism emanating from our region and believes that there is need for stronger resolve and firmer efforts in tackling this scourge.

We appreciate greater cooperation within the Regional Anti Terrorist Structure as an important regional answer to this challenge. India looks forward to greater engagement with this structure. Illicit narco-trafficking and cyber security are other challenges in the region which deserve greater focus and stronger collective efforts.

Connectivity between SCO countries is crucial to bind us together. The SCO needs to address the problem of connectivity through regional solutions to encourage trade and investment flows between our countries. India is ready to cooperate with regional countries to find viable solutions to this problem and contribute to the endeavour to build bridges between Central and South Asia. The International North South Transport Corridor, which we are re-energising, is one such effort in this direction.

Members and observers of the SCO can prosper by mutual sharing of experiences and best practices. India is already engaged with the SCO member states in areas such as information technology, management, and entrepreneurship development. We will be happy to share with SCO countries our unique experience in specific areas of economic endeavour, such as banking, capital markets, micro-finance, small and medium enterprises.

Energy cooperation is another area of interest to us. The proposed TAPI Project within our region is an example of cooperation that can bind us in energy linkages.

As we have emphasized at various SCO fora, India would be happy to play a larger, wider and more constructive role in the SCO as a full member, as and when the organisation finalises the expansion modalities. We welcome the general trajectory of the SCO towards expansion and redefinition of its role. We feel a wider and more representative SCO will be able to deal more effectively with the common challenges of security and development in our region.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I would like to once again thank our hosts for the excellent arrangements and gracious hospitality.

I also congratulate the leadership of the Kyrgyz Republic on taking over the chairmanship of this important organisation and wish them all the best in organising SCO's activities in the year ahead.



Miscellaneous Meetings

189. Opening Statement by Minister of State E. AHAMED, at the plenary of the Post-Forum Dialogue Partner's meeting.

Rarotonga (Cook Islands), September 3, 2012.

Honourable Chairman and Prime Minister of Cook Islands, Mr Henry Puna

Honourable Secretary General

Excellencies, distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is an honour to be here, amongst you today, on the occasion of the Post-Forum Dialogue Partners Meeting. I would like to compliment the Government of Cook Islands for the excellent arrangements, warm and gracious hospitality.

India has long established historical links with the Pacific region and identifies culturally and socially with communities in the region. We have also been associated with this august Forum since its inception and it is a matter of honour for me personally that I am representing my country 4th time in this Forum.

Excellencies,

We are committed to take our relations forward with each of the countries represented in this Forum collectively and individually. We are also committed to assist eligible Pacific Island countries in their movement towards greater economic and social development as well as in their struggle to counter external issues of climate change that affects them deeply.

India's "Regional Assistance Initiative" for Pacific Island Forum countries, is based on the priorities identified by their leaders in the Pacific Plan. In keeping with its desire to develop closer engagement with the Pacific region, India increased its annual Grant-in-Aid to One hundred and twenty five thousand US Dollars from 2009 to each of the Pacific Island Countries for their economic development.

The assistance offered by India covers a wide spectrum of economic and social needs as determined by the Pacific countries themselves. This includes supply of equipment and materials for social and economic programmes; sustainable development initiatives; capacity building measures on Small and Medium Enterprise promotion, training courses for diplomats by Foreign Service Institute of India and scholarships in higher studies in different centres of academic excellence in India. This year we have provided assistance for office equipment for the ACP-EU conference, supply of a special vehicle for the disabled a mobile

library etc. We have also successfully completed a project worth around One hundred and ninety five thousand US Dollars for upgradation of access road from Jetty to a village and for upgradation of another Jetty.

There are several projects under consideration like supply of medical and dental equipment for Princess Margaret Hospital, renovation of clinics, installation of a Tsunami alert system, community development projects and Parliamentary Support Project etc.

We are committed to continue our development assistance. I would also like to mention that those countries which did not utilize the grant-in-aid of One hundred and twenty five thousand US dollars offered annually in previous years may avail of the same, along with the offer made this year. We also remain committed for greater integration of Pacific island economies with the Indian economy.

Excellencies,

India also offers wide ranging technical expertise in non-conventional energy sources, especially wind and solar energy, information technology and telecommunications.

We are also happy to share our experience in training programmes, disaster management, climate change, adaptation and mitigation and in other areas that are of your interest.

We keenly follow and appreciate the steady progress made by Pacific Island Countries Forum towards regional integration. This Forum provides an excellent opportunity to identify common areas of cooperation in different sectors for sustainable development. India has always stood for the cause of the developing countries at multinational forums such as the UN and the WTO and has been at the forefront of South-South cooperation. Further, we would like to have closer and more intensive India-PIF dialogue at Ministerial level.

Thank you.



190. Joint Press Statement on Iran-Afghanistan-India Trilateral Meeting.**Tehran, August 26, 2012.**

A trilateral meeting between the Deputy Foreign Ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and Foreign Secretary of the Republic of India was held in Tehran on August 26, 2012.

2. The objective of the meeting was to explore ways to expand trade and transit cooperation, including investment, among the three countries starting with the Chahbahar Port. It was agreed that a Joint Working Group (JWG) comprising representatives of the three countries would meet within next three months at Chahbahar to take the discussions forward. It was agreed that the exact date of the meeting would be decided through diplomatic channels.



191. Extract from the Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson on the Trilateral Meetings between India, Japan and the United States.

New Delhi, October 30, 2012.

Question: Could you give us something about the India-Japan-USA trilateral?

Official Spokesperson: The third trilateral dialogue between India, Japan and the US was held yesterday. For those of you who were very interested where it was held, it was held outside the MEA premises in a local hotel. I will not plug for the name of the hotel but it was held outside. Yesterday there was a lot of interest where it was going to be held. In terms of timing, it started around midday. By the time it ended, it was late in the night and that is why we could not brief you last night. It ended approximately by my understanding at around 9 o'clock last night.

At the end of this meeting we have completed one cycle of dialogues. If you would recollect, the first trilateral dialogue was held in Tokyo in December 2011; the second one was held in Washington in April 2012; and this is the third. With this, each of the three participant countries has hosted one meeting of the dialogue. As regards the discussions in that dialogue, each side shared their perceptions of the strategic overview of the Asia Pacific. And there were detailed discussions relating to the ASEAN Summit which is going to be held in Phnom Penh as well as the East Asia Summit. Each side expressed their views on what the issues were and how they are going to take this matter forward.

There was a very interesting discussion on Myanmar, Afghanistan and also Africa and the three sides felt that they should consider the possibility of working through development cooperation in a coordinated manner in these three places. This matter will be carried further.

Obviously there was a discussion on maritime security largely focused on anti piracy operations. I think both the visiting delegations also, during the course of this dialogue, took time off and they called on the Foreign Secretary to have discussions with him.

Finally it was agreed that the next round of the trilateral dialogue will be held in the United States. The dates and the location will be worked out through mutually agreed diplomatic channels. That in a summary is for you the trilateral dialogue that took place.

Question: Sir, a report published yesterday in The Indian Express claimed that Tokyo has officially complained to MEA that the Survey of India map shows the sea between Japan and Korea as North Sea of Japan. Is it true? And what actually does the Indian Government call the sea?

Official Spokesperson: The issue of naming of the water body that you mentioned is not new. This is an issue which has been on the international agenda for about two decades. It has been discussed in various international organizations including the UN and also I think the International Hydrographic Organisation. As far as India is concerned, there is no change in our policy on addressing the water body by the name that we have always addressed it. And that name is for the record that we always have addressed it as the Sea of Japan. As regards your questions whether this was raised, yes, it was raised, and we have reiterated our policy on this matter and that is the policy that I have just explained to you. I hope that clarifies in adequate terms where we stand on this issue.

Question: Sir, South China Sea is a matter of concern for all the three countries – India, Japan and the USA. Was this matter discussed during this trilateral meeting?

Official Spokesperson: I mentioned to you that each side shared the perceptions of the strategic overview of the Asia Pacific. There are countries obviously which have this as an important issue and this was shared. I did not want to list out in detail what was discussed. But then Asia Pacific covers I presume the South China Sea, and if that is what you want to say, the answer is yes.

Question: US-Japan-India trilateral is a sort of follow-up of the strategic quadrilateral in which these three and Australia were involved. Was the inclusion of Australia on the table yesterday? Is there such a proposal yet again?

Official Spokesperson: Not to my knowledge.

Question: You said that during the meeting with Khaleda Zia and the External Affairs Minister today, Khaleda remarked that her visit makes a new beginning of looking forward. What is the response from the Indian side? How do you respond to it practically for resolving the outstanding issues? Will the new Foreign Minister visit Bangladesh immediately to expedite the ongoing dialogue and to resolve the outstanding issues? Is there any immediate plan for the new Minister's visit to Bangladesh?

Official Spokesperson: The External Affairs Minister has said that he would like to visit all our neighbours including Bangladesh at an early opportunity. Given the priority that India places on relationship with neighbours, you can expect a visit at an early date. Of course, the dates are going to be worked out between Foreign Offices and we have an annual meeting of Foreign Ministers. Possibly they could meet on the sidelines of some of the multilateral meetings that are there on the calendar. So, do not be surprised if there are meetings in the not too distant future.

Question: Sir, Bob Blake has said that Narendra Modi, Chief Minister of Gujarat,

is free to apply for a visa. He has also said that the United States will work with whoever is in office in India and of course that he wants good relations with the people of Gujarat. Does the MEA have a reaction as it is part of the Centre which is currently with the UPA?

Official Spokesperson: I do not know what sort of a reaction you would want that a representative of another Government says that they would consider granting a visa to a democratically elected representative of a State in India. This has been going on for several years. The Ministry of External Affairs view has been articulated previously and in Parliament. I will send those details to you if that is what you want.

Question: During the visit of Khaleda Zia, are we getting a sense of a broad bipartisan consensus emerging on the Indo-Bangla relations which were enshrined and mentioned in the two joint statements, one when Sheikh Hasina visited India and subsequently after Prime Minister's visit to Dhaka?

Official Spokesperson: When we invited leaders of various political parties from Bangladesh to India. That is our hope that our relationship with Bangladesh is deep and abiding and transcends anything that is restrictive in nature. Therefore, there have been several visits of leaders from various other political parties also from Bangladesh to India. Ultimately Bangladesh and India are neighbours whose people will live with each other. We are neighbours, we cannot change that. Therefore, people-to-people interaction across the spectrum is what we hope for and we desire and cherish.

Question: When you spoke about the trilateral discussions you spoke about two countries and one continent – Myanmar, Afghanistan and Africa. Could you be more specific about what exactly you spoke about? Is it about South Africa, is it about Mali?

Official Spokesperson: The idea is that India, Japan and US all are interested in providing development cooperation to various countries in Africa as well as to Afghanistan and Myanmar. As far as India is concerned these are our major areas of development cooperation. Japan also has a huge development cooperation programme with these countries. So, the idea is that if we can try and see if there are commonalities that we can work together and reinforce each other's strengths in these areas. At this stage this is only a possibility, as I said. So, we have to get into detailed discussions a little later on that.

Question: We know that India is an emerging power in the world. Do you like behaving like an emerging power, for example, enter into the nuclear dispute between Iran and US and take a mediation role?

Official Spokesperson: I get your point. Your question is that you think India

should mediate right now in the dispute between Iran and the P5+1. Our view has always been clearly stated that there are existing channels of communication, there are existing fora to discuss this. We do not feel that either Iran or the others have asked for any other mechanisms. So, if there are mechanisms which are working, nobody has asked for it. Why would one think of the thing that you are thinking of?

Question: Akbar, what is our position on US request to be a dialogue partner in the Indian Ocean? Do you think it complicates the region?

Official Spokesperson: This matter was discussed between India and USA at the Strategic Dialogue. We have indicated as the Chair of the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation that we will work with other members to try and see if this is possible. We have circulated the US request and this will be discussed at the forthcoming meeting, and we will take it from there.

Question: ... (Inaudible) ...

Official Spokesperson: The meeting of the Senior Officials is slated for tomorrow.

Question: Akbar, are any new members likely to be admitted to IOR-ARC? Is Pakistan one of them? If it is not, why not?

Official Spokesperson: I think the IOR-ARC works on a principle of consensus, and the request that is now currently being considered or is on the agenda is that of Comoros.

Question: Over the last couple of months there has been a bit of scanty information about a possible closer economic tie between India and the Common Market for East and Southern Africa. There have been whispers about that. Could you shed light on this? Is there such an agreement to do something, possibly an FTA?

Official Spokesperson: I do not deal with whispers. I am pretty open. So, I do not know about the whispers that you are talking of.

Question: Will there be any briefing after the meeting tomorrow?

Official Spokesperson: We will have a briefing after the Ministerial Meeting and that briefing will be by the External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid. It will be on the 2nd in the afternoon once the IOR-ARC adopts its final outcome document.

Thank you very much.



192. Inaugural Address by Secretary (East) at the India-Japan-ROK Trilateral Dialogue

New Delhi, June 29, 2012.

Dr Arvind Gupta, Director General of IDSA

H.E Mr Akitaka Saiki, Ambassador of Japan

H.E Mr Kim Joong-Keun, Ambassador of Republic of Korea

Distinguished delegates participating in the Dialogue,

I would like to extend a special and warm welcome to the delegates from Japan and South Korea.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure and satisfaction in delivering the inaugural address for the 1st India-Japan-South Korea trilateral Dialogue. This event today is an important step in the evolution of our relationships. A trilateral forum such as this gives a significant message not only for the participants but also to the observers as it is a manifestation of greater degree of maturity, trust and mutual understanding amongst the partners. It means that the partners have been able to manage their relationship well and have developed the confidence to talk and find solutions to over-arching issues and concerns both bilateral and regional. This is the prime reason for the sense of contentment that I have alluded to.

2. The second and more personal reason is to see that an idea that was incubated by a few people only a few months ago, two of whom are here today namely Ambassadors Kim and Saiki, has seen fruition. With this Dialogue being held in Delhi today, many of us have a deep sense of achievement in being able to implement an idea whose time and moment I believe has arrived. It is now the responsibility of the three partnering institutions namely IDSA, Korea National Diplomatic Academy and Tokyo Foundation and their eminent scholars and academicians to take the process forward and provide it with meaning and substance. The way that this process will develop and evolve will depend on your imagination and efforts. Our expectation is to see this process generating ideas that will influence the wider relationship existing amongst the partners both at governmental level or at the people-to-people level and how we view our region and emerging Asian architecture. This impact will be good measure of the success of this process.

3. This Dialogue marks a milestone in the history of cooperation between our three countries. The foundation stone for this indeed is the robustness and dynamism of our respective bilateral relationships. Speaking for India, and I

believe it holds equally true for Japan and Korea, is the deeply valued strategic partnerships with both Japan and South Korea. In India today there is wide ranging support for the strategic partnerships with Japan and Korea and it is indeed noteworthy that we have been able to constantly re-invent and re-invigorate the relationships. This has been possible because these partnerships are in turn based on something more profound i.e. shared values and goals. These elements are the driving force for the synergy required to propel this trilateral framework. Japan and Korea are already involved in some trilateral processes. We are also involved in a trilateral dialogue with Japan and United States. Our experiences from these processes should inform this dialogue as well and we should from the very beginning calibrate this process to benefit the relationship amongst our countries and our peoples. We can never lose sight of the fact that this process has the unique character of a dialogue between three great democracies of Asia.

4. Being leading democracies of the world we share a common commitment to democratic values, open society, human rights and the rule of law. These shared values provide us similar perspectives and perceptions of the fast evolving regional and global environment. Similarly our strategic interests also coincide. We seek a peaceful and secure Asia free from the threats of terrorism, proliferation, piracy and conflict between states. There is common commitment to maintaining freedom of the seas, combating terrorism and promoting inclusive economic growth. India, Japan and ROK depend heavily on the Sea Lanes of Communications (SLOCs) for their energy security. These are also the mainstay for trade and connectivity amongst our countries and other countries in the region. India has a valued geostrategic location straddling the SLOCs. The Indian Ocean Rim is characterized by large Exclusive Economic Zones and unexplored and untapped marine resources. Similar potential exists for example in the South China Sea which today is witnessing competing claims. Our common objective is to see that the seas and oceans become regions of co-operation instead of competition particularly as our energy security and trade depends on them. The primacy of our efforts must be to maintain maritime trade, energy and economic security in the seas around us. There is indeed a compelling case for us to cooperate on maritime security. From a nuclear security perspective as well there can be significant cooperation amongst us as not only we need to deal with the conventional risks associated with nuclear power but also confront the risks of nuclear and missile proliferation in our neighbourhoods. Deepening cooperation amongst our defence and security establishments will promote our mutual security.

5. In the twenty years since 1992, when India embarked on her "Look East" policy, we have become increasingly integrated with East Asia. The proportion of our trade and investment from East and South East Asia has risen

dramatically. We are not merely a Summit Partner of ASEAN, but are integral to the economic and strategic processes underway in this part of the world. We actively participate in the ASEAN Regional Forum and are founder members of the East Asia Summit. India moored in East Asia through an ever enlarging web of relations with this most dynamic part of the world seeks to build even stronger partnerships with the Japan and Korea both trilateral and in the context of the new regional architecture emerging in Asia. At present, it is not surprising that two of our more significant relationships are with our trilateral partners. The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreements with Japan and Korea are already showing results with positive effects on trade enhancement, investments and opportunities for professionals. A case in point is the growing Indian IT presence in both countries. Even new areas of cooperation are now being explored such as creative industries with Japan.

It may sound incredible but it is true that Indian and Japanese partners are talking about cooperation in such diverse areas as fashion, gaming and *manga* comics. On the other hand Korean and Japanese firms are amongst the most successful in India, particularly in electronics and automobile sectors. Your brands are household names and the watchword in quality and excellence. States of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh are experiencing a very visible impact of investments from Japan and Korea. Our endeavour has been to further facilitate this process and engage in innovative projects to ensure a better business environment for investors. The Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) which is already under implementation and the proposed Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor are good example of how India's infrastructure needs and requirements of foreign investors can be matched to produce world class facilities for both citizens of India as well for investors. In fact when we engage with our interlocutors from other countries we very often give example of the Korean model or the Japanese model of investment related trade creation.

6. The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreements have surely brought our economies closer. There is already movement on up-gradation of CEPA with Korea. These are healthy portents. Bilateral trade between our countries has been growing rapidly. I see greater potential in this area if our entrepreneurs and businesses collaborate and leverage the synergies. My advice to the forum would to be look closely at how cooperation between our three countries can increase trade and investment between our countries.

7. Before I conclude, I would like to wish this Dialogue all success. I am sure you will have enriching deliberations on the three major themes namely i) the evolving Asian Security Architecture; ii) non-traditional security Issues and iii) prospects and challenges for this process. I look forward to perusing the recommendations of this Dialogue particularly those with regard to how we can

promote trilateral cooperation such that it benefits the foreign policy objectives of our three countries and brings are peoples even more close together. I wish you all success.

Thank you.



INDIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS - 2012

SECTION - V

DIASPORA

193. Press Release issued by the Prime Minister's Office on the meeting of the Prime Minister's Global Advisory Council of Overseas Indians.

New Delhi, January 8, 2012.

Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh presided over the third meeting of the Global Advisory Council of Overseas Indians on January 8, 2012 at Raj Bhawan, Jaipur from 1200-1430 hrs. Also present were Shri Vayalar Ravi, Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs, Shri Jairam Ramesh, Minister of Rural Development, Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia and Shri E. Ahamad, Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs and senior secretaries to the Government of India.

2. The Council meeting was attended by eminent Overseas Indians including: Lord Karan F. Bilimoria, Shri Swadesh Chatterjee, Ms. Ela Gandhi, Lord Khalid Hameed, Dr. Renu Khator, Shri Kishore Mahbubani, Shri L.N. Mittal, Lord Bhikhu Chotalal Parekh, Dr. Sam Pitroda, Tan Sri Dato' Ajit Singh, Mr. Neville Joseph Roach, Prof. Srinivasa SR Varadhan and Mr. Yusuffali M.A.

3. The Members of the Council unanimously thanked the Prime Minister for convening the third meeting of the Council at Jaipur and for allowing free exchange of views on matters concerning overseas Indians. The members appreciated that many of the suggestions made previously by them had been implemented for example merging of OCI (Overseas Citizenship of India) and PIO (Peoples of Indian Origin) cards and facilitating voting rights for Non-Resident Indians while certain other issues are under implementation. The members spoke on issues concerning higher education particularly faculty development, engaging second and third generation overseas Indians, Foreign Direct Investment in retail, issues pertaining to governance, and how India can take a more proactive role in the discourse on globalization. The members maintained that on balance, the tenor of reports about India in the international media showed that the global community maintained a healthy respect for India because of India's strong fundamentals.

4. Prime Minister thanked the members for their constructive suggestions. With slowdown in the USA and Europe, Prime Minister noted that the growth centers may have to shift to the Asia-Pacific. He was confident that despite many constraints India would return to a sustained high annual growth path of 9-10 percent in the medium term. Prime Minister further assured that the Government would reflect on all the suggestions made by the Council members, and engage proactively on all of them.



194. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Overseas Indians that Indian Residents' abroad can participate in the election process in India.

New Delhi, January 8, 2012.

Pursuant to the law that was enacted to enable non-resident Indians to vote in our national elections, the Government has issued notifications for registration of overseas Indians electors under the Representation of People Act, 1950. Addressing the inaugural function of the 10th Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas here today, the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh said that this constitutes the first major step to enable Indians resident abroad to participate in our election processes. He said in the last session of our Parliament we have introduced a Bill intended to merge and streamline the People of Indian Origin and Overseas Citizen of India schemes by amending the Citizenship Act. This will rectify some of the anomalies in the schemes and provide for an Overseas Indian Card which will be given to foreign spouses of such card holders as well.

Dr. Singh said that a large number of workers from Rajasthan are emigrating abroad. We have accordingly established an office of the Protector of Emigrants in Jaipur. I am told that the Government of Rajasthan proposes to build a Pravasi Bhartiya Bhawan in Jaipur. This Bhawan will house the offices of not only the Protector of Emigrants but also a Migrant Resource Centre to provide onsite help to overseas Indians and emigrating workers. The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs is implementing the emigrate project that will provide end to end computerized solutions for all processes in the emigration system. The system will link all key stakeholders on a common platform which will be used by workers, offices of the protector of emigrants, recruiting agencies, immigration officials, employers and the Indian missions abroad. The scope of our Labour Mobility Partnership Agreements is being expanded to cover not only skilled workers but also students, academics and professionals. Such Human Resource Mobility Partnership agreements are being negotiated with the Netherlands, France, Australia and the European Union.

He said the government has decided to introduce and sponsor a new Pension and Life Insurance Fund for overseas Indian workers. The schemes will encourage, enable and assist overseas workers to voluntarily save for their return and resettlement for old age. It will also provide a low cost life insurance cover against natural death. The scheme fulfills a long pending demand of our workers abroad. We are acutely conscious of the safety and security of Indians living abroad, particularly in regions, of instability. There are over six million Indians living in the Gulf and West Asia. We need to be alert to the unfolding developments in this part of the world. We have conveyed to the countries of the region that we

have a stake in the peace and stability of this region and that we expect that they would appropriately look after the interests of Indian communities in their countries.

Dr. Manmohan Singh said that following the upheaval in Libya last year, the Government undertook Operation Safe Homecoming to evacuate more than 16,000 people from the strife torn areas through special flights, passenger and naval vessels. Similar evacuations were carried out in Egypt and Yemen on a lower scale. We stand ready to extend such help elsewhere should the need arise. Last year, the Government constituted an inter-Ministerial Committee under the Cabinet Secretary to make recommendations on issues relating to repatriation, relief and rehabilitation of Indian nationals affected by recent developments in the west Asian region. The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has prepared an Action Plan to implement its recommendations.

He said that despite an adverse international environment, the Indian economy is expected to grow by about 7% this financial year. However, we hope to bring back the rhythm of our growth processes to sustain an annual growth rate of 9-10%. Our domestic savings rate which currently stands at 33-35 percent of our GDP will facilitate the realization of our growth objectives. Our efforts to battle inflation are producing results and there has been an improvement in the situation. We have attempted sincerely to address the rising expectations of our people with regard to governance and delivery of public services. The Right to Information Act has proved to be a powerful instrument of bringing in transparency in governance. I am confident that some of the other legislations on these issues, which are on the national agenda, will make a similar impact in the years ahead.

Shir Vayalar Ravi, Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs said that over 1800 delegates from about 50 countries are participating in this Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas. He said that there is an estimated five million Overseas Indian Workers mostly in the Gulf and Malaysia. There is a net annual outflow of over half a million workers from India, excluding returnees. He said these workers make a significant contribution to India and account for close to 40 percent of the total remittances that India receives each year. Last year, India received over 50 Billion US Dollars as remittances. Mr. Ravi said the vast majority of these workers are temporary contractual workers in the informal sectors. They often do not have the protection of labor laws in the host country. This makes them especially vulnerable to economic downturns and sometimes to exploitation. In particular, the often appalling conditions of work and the absence of social security protection for women domestic workers, needs strong governmental interventions. Even the International Labour Organisation has recently drawn attention to the urgency in this regard. He said that India has therefore concluded bilateral agreements with many of the GCC state to work together to ensure decent work and suitable safe guards for women workers.

The Chief Minister of Rajasthan Mr. Ashok Gehlot announced a new scheme, “ Know Rajasthan “ for non resident Indians. He said under this scheme 50 NRIs from 18-28 years of age annually would come on tour to the state. 90% expenditure of their Air Fare will be borne by the Rajasthan Government. He said that along with this, expenditure on internal transport and residence will also be borne by the State Government.

The Prime Minister Ms. Kamla Persad Bissessar, the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago said that India has been and continues to be a great friend of Trinidad and Tobago as we continue to be friend of India and has extended this hand of friendship by providing hundreds of scholarships for our nationals to train in world class Indian Institutions. In particular, India has a lot to teach the world in terms of how to attain food security, as well as to make affordable computers and I-Pads which are basic tools in generating creativity and international competitiveness. She said Trinidad and Tobago as a gate way to America has a number of trade agreements which will allow for market access into the 600 million Central and Latin American markets. For those of us who may be unaware to Trinidad and Tobago, we are the world's number one exporter of methanol and at times urea. In fact the largest methanol plant in the world is located in Trinidad and Tobago. She said that a Mini Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas can be organized in Trinidad and Tobago.

Shri Shivraj Patil, Governor of Rajasthan and Shri Parvez Dewan, Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs were also present on the occasion. Shri B.Muthuraman, President, Confederation of Indian Industry presented the vote of thanks.



195. Address by the Prime Minister at the tenth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas.

Jaipur, January 8, 2012.

I am very happy to welcome you all in this beautiful and historic city of Jaipur for this year's Pravasi Bharatiya Divas. Rajasthan represents Indian hospitality at its very best. It is renowned for its culture, heritage and legends of valour, honour and sacrifice. Today, symbols of modern Rajasthan sit side by side with monuments of breath-taking beauty. I am sure that your stay in this beautiful city will renew your pride in the richness of India's civilization.

This year we are privileged to welcome one of the most distinguished Pravasi Bharatiyas as our Chief Guest. Madam Kamla Persad-Bissessar created history by becoming the first woman Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago. She distinguished herself in her earlier careers in education and law. Subsequently, she responded to the call of public service and proved what a person of talent, dedication and commitment can achieve anywhere in this world.

In welcoming Prime Minister Madam Kamla Persad Bissessar today we also seek to honour the large Indian diaspora in the Caribbean. We are proud of their achievements. Their journey, often in very difficult circumstances, to those far-away lands began many, many years ago, but their links with India remain strong and deep. Our shared passion for cricket is well known. Which Indian sports fan does not know the names of cricketing legends like Brian Lara or Sonny Ramadhin.

This year's Pravasi Bharatiya Divas marks the tenth anniversary of the event which was first held in the year 2003. This decade has been marked by a visible accretion in the influence and impact of the global Indian across the world. We have witnessed a steady growth in their numbers, levels of prosperity and their skills.

The government and people of India recognize and greatly value the important role being played by Indian communities living abroad. We believe that the Indian diaspora has much more to contribute to the building of modern India. We propose to facilitate, encourage and promote this engagement. Over the past year we have taken a number of steps towards this end.

Pursuant to the law that was enacted to enable non-resident Indians to vote in our national elections, the Government has issued notifications for registration of overseas Indians under the Representation of People Act, 1950. This constitutes the first major step to enable Indians resident abroad to participate in our election processes.

In the last session of our Parliament we have introduced a Bill intended to merge and streamline the People of Indian Origin and Overseas Citizen of India schemes by amending the Citizenship Act. This will rectify some of the anomalies in the schemes and provide for an Overseas Indian Card which will be given to foreign spouses of such card holders as well. A large number of workers from Rajasthan are emigrating abroad. We have accordingly established an office of the Protector of Emigrants in Jaipur. I am told that the Government of Rajasthan proposes to build a Pravasi Bharatiya Bhawan in Jaipur. This Bhawan will house the offices of not only the Protector of Emigrants but also a Migrant Resource Centre to provide on-site help to overseas Indians and emigrating workers.

The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs is implementing the e-migrate project that will provide end-to-end computerized solutions for all processes in the emigration system. The system will link all key stakeholders on a common platform which will be used by workers, offices of the protector of emigrants, recruitment agencies, immigration officials, employers and the Indian missions abroad.

The scope of our Labour Mobility Partnership Agreements is being expanded to cover not only skilled workers but also students, academics and professionals. Such Human Resource Mobility Partnership agreements are being negotiated with The Netherlands, France, Australia and the European Union.

I am happy to inform you that the government has decided to introduce and sponsor a new Pension and Life Insurance Fund for overseas Indian workers. The scheme will encourage, enable and assist overseas workers to voluntarily save for their return and resettlement and old age. It will also provide a low-cost life insurance cover against natural death. This scheme fulfills a long pending demand of our workers abroad.

We are acutely conscious of the safety and security of Indians living abroad, particularly in regions characterized by instability.

There are over six million Indians living in the Gulf and West Asia. We need to be alert to the unfolding developments in this part of the world. We have conveyed to the countries of the region that we have a stake in the peace and stability of this region, and that we expect that they would appropriately look after the interests of Indian communities in their countries.

Following the upheaval in Libya last year, the Government undertook Operation Safe Homecoming to evacuate more than 16,000 people from the strife torn areas through special flights, passenger and naval vessels. Similar evacuations were carried out in Egypt and Yemen on a lower scale. We stand ready to extend such help elsewhere should the need arise.

Last year, the Government constituted an inter-Ministerial Committee under the

Cabinet Secretary to make recommendations on issues relating to repatriation, relief and rehabilitation of Indian nationals affected by recent developments in West Asia. The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has prepared an Action Plan to implement its recommendations.

The world is passing through a difficult phase. Many of you are experiencing first-hand the impact of the global economic slowdown. Employment opportunities have declined, there is greater protectionism and attitudes towards migration have also hardened. There is growing social intolerance even in more open societies.

Our country is also going through difficult times. Nonetheless, our economic fundamentals are strong and our constitutional processes are robust. We are up to the task of meeting these challenges we face as a nation. Despite an adverse international environment, the Indian economy is expected to grow by about 7% this financial year ending 31st March. However, we hope to bring back the rhythm of our growth processes to sustain an annual growth rate of 9-10% in the medium-term. Our domestic savings rate which currently stands at 33-35 percent of our GDP will greatly facilitate the realization of our growth objectives. Our efforts to battle inflation are producing results and there has been an improvement in the situation.

We have attempted sincerely to address the rising expectations of our people with regard to governance and delivery of public services. The Right to Information Act has proved to be a powerful instrument of bringing in transparency in governance. I am confident that some of the other legislations on these issues, which are now on the national agenda, will make a similar impact in the years ahead.

The theme for this year's event is "Global Indian - Inclusive Growth." Indian civilization and society have always been inclusive in character. It is only natural that our political and economic processes have also to be 'inclusive' in their orientation and in their outcome.

Over the past years, Indian democracy has deepened and gained in strength and vitality as more and more people from the disadvantaged sections of our society have secured their rightful place in our economic and political processes. We wish to unleash the vast human potential of the many millions, who for one reason or another, have been on the margins of our society in the past. Our government is committed to doing so by providing security of education, nutrition and health to every Indian so that he or she is empowered to live a life of dignity and well being. We are also committed to the pursuit of a development strategy which will protect our environment and the essential life-support systems of our planet.

We in India speak in different languages and follow different faiths. But Indian

culture has a tradition of assimilating and accommodating diverse traditions, customs, beliefs and peoples. That is what makes Indian society, Indian civilization endure and flourish.

The 'global Indian' is a symbol of this diversity of our ancient land. Your individual prosperity and personal achievement are a symbol of what a diverse people like us can achieve.

Many of your forefathers were forcibly taken away from India as labourers; some migrated in distress. Yet, today, the People of Indian Origin are welcomed around the world for the values they represent – values of hard work, values of excellence and enterprise and respect for their communities, their families and their neighbours.

I welcome each one of you to India because I want each one of you to inspire our people with your creative example. May your path be blessed.



196. Address of Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee at the 10th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas.

Jaipur, January 8, 2012.

“Inclusive Growth: Two decades of Economic Liberalization.”

It gives me great pleasure to address this distinguished gathering at the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2012. As we all know, this day celebrates the achievements of the ‘pravasi bhartiya’ or the non-resident Indians whose sterling role in nation building efforts of their adopted countries is recognized all across the world. This day also seeks to highlight and encourage their contributions to India’s social and economic development. Let me begin by welcoming you all to India on this special occasion.

I am glad that the tenth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is being held in the culturally vibrant and entrepreneurially renowned state of Rajasthan. I commend the state government for partnering this event.

I feel proud of the achievements of our nation and of Indians. I am using the word “Indian” to mean much more than nationality. The gathering today is a symbol of the larger idea of Indian identity. This is an identity that goes beyond nationality. It refers to our common history and heritage. In that sense this is a gathering of family members who have spread all over the world but who nevertheless share a deep common bond. I welcome you to our motherland

This larger concept of internationalism was repeatedly stressed by our founding fathers. In 1961 Pandit Nehru had reminded us: “Ultimately ... nationalism will prove a narrowing creed, and we shall all be citizens of the world with a truly international vision. ... The nationalism that we build in India should have its doors and windows open to internationalism.” Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore showed us how India might be intensely national and at the same time international with her thought and sympathy embracing the world.

Today India has begun playing a global role unlike ever in the past. Our economy had been relatively stagnant during the initial years after India’s independence. Then from the early 1980s the growth rate picked up. It rose further after the economic reforms of the early 1990s. And since 2005 there has been no looking back. The economy grew for three successive years at rates over 9 per cent. Even during the global recession of 2008-09, India’s GDP grew by nearly 7 per cent.

The year 2011 has been an eventful one. In terms of the time line in the economic history of the country its passage marks two decades on the path of economic liberalisation. Though we have witnessed ups and downs, this period has

transformed our country and catapulted it into the centre stage in the world. India is viewed as belonging to the group of the fastest growing nations of the world. We are widely recognized as a major driver of global growth. India is a member of the G20 and, within the G20, it is considered a part of the systemically most important 7.

India's integration into the world has had a long history. In the colonial era we had witnessed the migration of large numbers of our fellow Indians, often in pursuit of economic opportunities in agro-produce rich colonies. Others moved to pursue business goals. Then in the post-colonial era the trend turned to a movement towards the industrialised nations. When in the 70s a large number of highly qualified Indians were moving abroad, we were warned of the severe consequences of the brain drain. Contrary to conventional, and in hindsight myopic opinions, luckily we made no attempt to stop the flow. Today we are better off due to that.

The movement of the diaspora is no longer unidirectional as it was in the past. What started as a brain drain, has now become a brain gain, not just for India but the world as a whole. Today mobile Indian professionals and entrepreneurs are contributing across the global economy and enhancing its resilience in these troubled times. Many have also returned to the home turf and are engaged in its socio-economic fabric. Still others have set up enterprises or professional relations that span national boundaries.

This movement of global talent has had many consequences. First of all, it has brought in many global best practices into the Indian economy. At the same time, it has created networks and linkages which serve as channels for flows of ideas across boundaries. This has given the Indian economy an edge in the seamlessly connected global economic environment.

The global success of the Indian diaspora in the spheres of science, economics, education, business, public life and the arts is a matter of great pride for us all. The 'pravasi bhartiya' has contributed significantly to India's 'soft power' and global image in a multidimensional manner. This has no doubt contributed to its attractiveness as an investment destination. The entrepreneurial skills of the Indian business community settled abroad are a matter of envy for other nations. Foreign firms are increasingly aware of the sharp business acumen of the Indian entrepreneur and managers. They have come to respect our business houses and practices.

I believe however that much still remains to be done. We have not yet reaped the full benefits of India's great diaspora. The most obvious area remains that of investment and entrepreneurship. For instance, in China a large chunk of foreign direct investment has come from overseas Chinese. I am aware that there have

been large ticket investments by non-resident Indian entrepreneurs. But I think it is far less than the potential and perhaps too concentrated on the formal sector. Rather, we must pursue an alternative model. One that is more balanced and holistic in a socio-economic sense.

For this we must rightly turn to the inspiration behind the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas. The 9th of January, marks the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to India. The subsequent new vigour he granted our freedom movement is well known. But the Mahatma also brought with him a new outlook and social vision: one that gave great emphasis to the dignity of labour, the importance of our rural sector and social equity. He was intensely aware of the need for social inclusion and had great faith in the ability of the rural economic system to provide a balanced, equitable and optimal solution to the issue of economic development and social equity. His model of development was based on the harmonious self sustaining village economy which put minimal pressures on scarce resources while maximizing livelihood and well-being. In today's parlance what he was aiming for was inclusive development coupled with sustainable growth.

India's economic achievements over the last few years have been commendable. The broad-based growth has brought improved opportunities for livelihood and employment across a wide range of skills. There is also a significant increase in public resources through better tax mobilisation. It has created, perhaps, for the first time in India's post-independent history, the means to bridge the chronic deficits in social and economic attainments and reducing the disparities across different population groups and between the regions. But on our social indicators much remains to be done. In his respect there is need to engage in social enterprises in a proactive manner.

We have tried to evolve a model of development, which is more inclusive and people centric. It has sought to improve the access of the poor and the vulnerable to vital public services by creating entitlements backed by limited legal guarantees. This includes the right to information, the right to work in rural areas, the right to education and the right to food which is in the process of being enacted. There is progress, in all spheres including education, healthcare, financial inclusion and financial literacy, skill development and mainstreaming of hitherto marginalised sections of society, but there is still a long distance to traverse.

It is here that the pravasi bharatiya can probably make the biggest contributions. This requires not just financial contributions, but rather dedication of time, ideas and endeavour. From the agenda of the pre-conference seminars I am aware that discussions have been held on 'Solar Energy- Investment and R&D' and 'Social Entrepreneurship-Water'. These are extremely relevant topics for our development. I hope some new ideas will emerge from your deliberations.

The Indian inclusive growth model - within the framework of democracy and human rights and freedoms, within a diverse and heterogeneous culture - is being recognized the world over as a viable paradigm. The strong diversity also has to be 'included' in the agenda for reforms. And though, as we have seen, it may tend to slow down things a little, as long as the direction is positive and forward looking, we can derive some satisfaction. Every incremental step which comes about with consensus is better than imposing big bang reforms without consensus.

Let me conclude by reiterating that a strong foundation is being created through a pro-active policy framework in both economic and social sectors. It should help form the springboard for the inclusive involvement of the overseas Indian in India's development and its destiny. India presents an opportunity for the world as a whole. Our overseas Indian family with its multifaceted talents, excellent capacity for adapting to and ability to operate within different cultures and environments should make a concerted effort to connect with India's growth and its prosperity in the times to come.

I wish you all the best in your endeavours.



197. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs re: Indian Council of Overseas Employment- A think Tank on 'International Migration'.

New Delhi, February 14, 2012.

Backgrounder

The Indian Council of Overseas Employment (ICOE) is a 'not for profit' society established by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) in 2008 to serve as a think tank on all matters relating to 'International Migration'. The ICOE undertakes empirical, analytical and policy related research, implements pilot projects to document good practices and assists in capacity building of stakeholders at the sub-national level. The mandate of the Council is to devise and execute medium to long term strategies to enable Indian emigrant workers and professionals to move up the value chain and to position India as a preferred source of qualified, skilled and trained human resources across a wide gamut of sectors.

Vision: Lead 'evidence based' work on international migration to support informed policy making and enable strategic interventions for a coherent and harmonised response to the transnational movement of people.

Mission: Partner with individuals, institutions and governments to drive empirical, analytical and policy related research; enhance capacities and pilot good practices in international migration and its governance.

Governance Structure: The Council has a two- tier body comprising of a Governing Body and an Executive Directorate. The Governing Body provides the broad policy framework for the programmes and activities of the Council. The Governing Body is headed by Secretary, MOIA who is the Chairman while the other Members include the Secretaries or their representatives from the Department of Economic Affairs, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Labour and Employment; Secretaries of three State Governments by rotation and four external nominees. The Chief Executive Officer, ICOE functions as Member Secretary of the Council and looks after the functions of the Council and its operations, assisted by a small team.

Key Partnerships: ICOE is building strong research partnerships with institutions of international repute as well as multilateral organisations. Some of the partner institutions include:

- European University Institute (EUI), Florence, Italy
- International Organization for Migration (IOM), India

- Migration Policy Institute (MPI), Washington, USA
- Hellenic Migration Policy Institute, Athens, Greece
- V. V. Giri National Labour Institute, India
- UN Women, India

ICOE also works closely with the following institutions which have partnered with MOIA for various research initiatives on international migration:

- Center for Development Studies, Trivandrum, India
- Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi, India
- Center for the Advanced Study of India (CASI), University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia
- International Migration Institute (IMI), University of Oxford, UK
- University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg

Initiatives of ICOE

i. Skill Development Initiative for Potential Migrants from the North-Eastern States of India is a pilot project currently underway in eight North-Eastern states in partnership with International Organization for Migration (IOM). The objective of the project is to provide job readiness and augment employability of the potential overseas migrants, in the international labour market, especially high demand sectors of hospitality & healthcare. The project will develop standards and an internationally recognized framework for skills up-gradation, assessment, accreditation & certification. The project will be scaled up at national level.

ii. Developing a Knowledgebase for Policymaking on India–EU Migration project is being implemented in partnership with EUI, Florence, with an objective to consolidate a constructive dialogue between the EU and India on migration covering all migration-related aspects. The project is co-financed by European Commission (EC). The objective of the project is to assemble high-level Indian-EU expertise in major disciplines that deal with migration (demography, economics, law, sociology and politics) with a view to building up migration studies in India and to provide the Government of India as well as the European Union, its Member States, the state governments, academia and civil society, with evidence-based policy-oriented research, capacity building, and outreach programmes at sub-national level.

iii. Study on Health of Migrant Workers from India in the Gulf is being

undertaken by ICOE in collaboration with WHO and IOM in three major Indian states of origin (Kerala, Andhra, Pradesh, Punjab), and in the UAE, Oman and Bahrain. The scope of the study is to understand the etiology of the high incidence of hypertension, gestational diabetes and depression amongst Indian workers, relative to their counterparts in India as well as in comparison with other ethnic groups.

iv. Empowerment of Women Migrant Workers in the Gulf is a pilot project instituted by ICOE in collaboration with UN Women for empowering women migrant workers in the Gulf. The project will be implemented over a period of two years in select districts of two major states of origin for women migrants workers; Andhra Pradesh & Kerala. The project aims to institutionalize 'good practices' in the entire cycle of migration from pre-departure to return and resettlement through a series of awareness and capacity building programmes covering all stakeholders in the migration process.

v. Labour Market Assessment (LMA) of six European countries was conducted by ICOE in partnership with IOM to present a market overview and sectoral opportunities in the labor markets in respective countries. The LMA also provided broad-based as well as short-term recommendations for potential improvement on the supply side of labour mobility in India. The second phase of Labour Market Assessment will be carried out in select EU Member States, Australia and Canada.

vi. Research Project on the Movement of Indian Capital, Goods and Labour in Africa in partnership with The Centre for Indian Studies in Africa (CISA) - Wits University to create the basis for a realistic assessment of Indian capital and labour in Africa; and inform policy and practice in India. The project will build statistical & data analysis systems and establish institutional links with think-tanks in Africa to support evidence based research. The research outputs will inform India's engagement with matters of investments and management of overseas Indian labour with particular reference to skills needed. It will also provide recommendations for action to improve labour flows and to engage with the issue of entrepreneurial capital as opposed to direct investments.

vii. Second Employer's Conference will be organized in 2012 with an objective to showcase India as a preferred country of origin for skilled and trained human resource. The conference will be hosted by Haryana Overseas Placement Assistance Society (HOPAS) and is expected to be attended by recruiters from EU member states, Gulf, South-East Asia and Australia.



198. Press Release of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs regarding the contribution of India to the Indian Community Welfare Fund.

New Delhi, February 22, 2012.

The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs provides an amount upto a maximum of Rs.15 lakh to a country in proportion to the size of the Indian work force working in that country. The Ministry's contribution is initially for a period of 3 years or till the fund becomes self sustaining, whichever is earlier. The amount is released annually and is limited to meet the deficit in the financial resources of the missions with due regard to the utilization of the amount released during previous years. The Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) Indian Missions is placed at the disposal of the Heads of Missions and the Mission keeps the record of utilization of fund and beneficiaries. The Ministry has extended the ICWF in Indian Missions across the world.

The Indian Community Welfare Fund is aimed at providing 'on site' welfare services on a means tested basis in the most deserving cases including: (i) Boarding and lodging for distressed overseas Indian workers in household / domestic sectors and unskilled labourers; (ii) Extending emergency medical care to the overseas Indians in need; (iii) Providing air passage to stranded overseas Indians in need; (iv) Providing initial legal assistance to the overseas Indians in deserving cases, (v) Expenditure on incidentals and for airlifting the mortal remains to India or local cremation/burial of the deceased overseas Indian in such cases where a sponsor is unable or unwilling to do so as per the contract and the family is unable to meet the cost. The procedure for disbursement of the fund is as under:

- i. The Head of Mission will consider requests, written or verbal, depending upon the seriousness or sensitivity of the circumstances on a case to case basis.
- ii. The Officer in charge of the Labour Wing or the Officer designated for the purpose by the HOM will examine the case and forward his recommendation for HOM's approval.
- iii. Assistance towards boarding expenses per head will be fixed to a limit as approved by the HOM subject to a maximum of 15 days.

The expenditure on incidentals and for airlifting mortal remains to India or local cremation/burial of deceased Overseas Indians in cases where the sponsor is unable or unwilling to do so as per the contract and the family is unable to meet the cost, is covered under ICWF.

Providing initial legal assistance to Overseas Indians in deserving cases on a means tested basis is one of the objectives of the scheme. The Heads of Missions/Posts are empowered to disburse from the ICWF for providing services on a means tested basis in the most deserving cases.



199. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs on

“UAE and India to Activate an Electronic Contract Registration and Validation System to Streamline the Employment of Indian Contract Workers”.

New Delhi, April 4, 2012.

The UAE Ministry of Labour and India's Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs today signed a protocol at Abu Dhabi to streamline the admission of Indian contract workers by way of an electronic contract registration and validation system. A milestone in the efforts to upgrade rules and procedures governing contract employment of Indian nationals in the UAE, the new system heralds a joint endeavour by the UAE and India.

Mr. Saqr Ghobash, UAE Minister of Labour underlined the commitment of the UAE to exemplary co-operation with India in a range of areas, including the employment of Indian contract workers in the UAE, whose number has grown to approximately 1.7 million. In particular, the new system ensures the full transparency of the contracting process by mandating that the prospective worker be duly informed by Indian government-accredited recruitment agencies of the terms of the contract offer, including the scope of remuneration and employment conditions and benefits, prior to deploying to the UAE. Mr. Ghobash further elaborated that the system requires that the worker signs off on the terms of the contract and that the competent Indian government authorities approve these terms before the admission process is completed and a work permit is issued. These same terms are then electronically captured into the formal employment contract that is signed by worker and employer in the UAE. He stressed the importance of safeguarding and protecting the interests of both workers and employers under the provisions of the UAE Labour Law.

Shri Vayalar Ravi, Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs hailed the protocol, which would protect the interest of workers as well as the employers, as a leap in India-UAE relations in the field of labour employment. He stated that the protocol underlines the commitment of the Indian Government to the protection and welfare of the Indian workers in the UAE, in accordance with UAE legislation. Thanking the Ministry of Labour of UAE Shri Ravi said the new system safeguards the interests of workers and employers alike by validating the contract conditions of the Indian worker in the UAE. The Minister said that India is implementing a comprehensive e-governance system towards making the process of overseas deployment of Indian workers transparent and accessible to all stakeholders. The Contract Registration and Validation System is fully aligned with India's e-governance system, allowing for a seamless application of the respective rules

and procedures of both countries. He cited many projects undertaken by the Indian government to ensure welfare and protection of the Indian workers. Shri Ravi stated that the interests of workers and the employers are complementary and that the new protocol is a commitment of both the governments to jointly work towards the same.

The new system is activated by an online application by a UAE employer for the granting of work permits that requires disclosure of the key terms of the employment offer. The UAE Ministry of Labour processes the application and provides access to the electronic record to Indian government-accredited recruitment agencies in India that are then required to obtain the worker's attested consent; a duly designated Indian government agency also accesses the record for the purpose of reviewing the terms of the employment and granting an emigration clearance accordingly. This is followed by the registration of the electronic contract and the issuance of the work permit by the Ministry of Labour of UAE. This protocol emanates from a comprehensive UAE-India Memorandum of Understanding on Manpower, which was signed by Shri Vayalar Ravi, Minister of overseas Indian Affairs and Mr. Saqr Ghobash, UAE Minister of Labour in New Delhi on September 13 last year.

The protocol mandates the informed consent and approval by the worker, the employer and the Indian competent authorities of the full terms of the work contract prior to the worker's deployment to the UAE. The contract terms are, in turn, captured in the contract document that is eventually signed by worker and employer in the UAE and duly registered with the Ministry of Labour of UAE.



**200. Speech by President Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the
Indian Community Reception in Victoria, Seychelles.**

Victoria, April 30, 2012.

Please see Document No. 462



201. Statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the shooting incident at the Gurudwara in Wisconsin, USA.

New Delhi, August 6, 2012.

"I am deeply shocked and saddened to learn of the shooting incident that has resulted in the loss of precious lives and injuries to devotees attending a prayer service at a Gurudwara in Wisconsin, U.S.A.

That this senseless act of violence should be targeted at a place of religious worship is particularly painful. I send my deepest condolences to the families that have been bereaved in this incident. Our thoughts are with them in this moment of their grief.

India stands in solidarity with all the peace-loving Americans who have condemned this violence. We welcome the U.S. President's statement on the tragic incident. We hope that the authorities will reach out to the grieving families and ensure conditions that such violent acts are not repeated in the future."



202. Media Interaction of External Affairs Minister on the shooting incident at Gurudwara in Wisconsin, USA.

New Delhi, August 6, 2012.

External Affairs Minister (Shri S.M. Krishna): I was deeply shocked on hearing the sad news of the shooting that took place in a Gurudwara in Oak Creek in the State of Wisconsin, United States.

This incident tragically has taken away six precious human lives, and there are three who are injured. I offer my sincere condolences to the families and friends of those who lost their lives, and also to the entire Sikh community in the United States of America.

The Sikhs who live in the United States of America have earned the respect of both the administration as well as the people by their harmonious outlook and their commitment in whatever walk that they are pursuing a career there. I condemn this incident, and I think every right-thinking person has to condemn this. This is an attitude which does not fit into the proclaimed policies of the United States.

In the United States there is religious liberty just like in our own country. Anyone, regardless of his beliefs is entitled to pray, is entitled to pursue the religion of his choice. Any attempt by outsiders to interfere in this very sacred freedom has done a great injustice not only to that country but to the entire people.

We have seen messages of condolences by President Obama, Governor Walker of Wisconsin, Ambassador Powell, and their leaders including Mitt Romney. They have emphasized that the United States attaches importance to religious freedom and tolerance, respecting and protecting the people of all faiths; and the Sikh community's rich contribution to that country has been recognized by all sides.

This incident took place around 10:15 am local time on Sunday, August 5. Our Embassy in Washington DC maintained contact with the US Government throughout the day. A senior officer from the Embassy in Washington DC and two officers from our Consulate in Chicago have already left for the place of the incident. They are in constant touch both with our Embassy as well as with the US administration.

I would like to assure the Sikh community that Government of India would do everything that is in our power to ensure that their places of worship are going to be protected at all costs.

I am trying to get in touch with Secretary Clinton. I believe Secretary Clinton is somewhere in Africa. We have sent a message to the State Department conveying my intention to talk to her at her earliest convenience.

Question: Sir, you said ...*(Inaudible)*... that everyone has a right to their religion and to pray and so on. Does that indicate to you that this was indeed a hate crime because the police there have not really specified what the motive was. But is that the information we have?

External Affairs Minister: I think the Federal Bureau of Investigation has swung into action right away and perhaps the United States administration and the Wisconsin State authorities are awaiting the report of the investigation. Our Ambassador Shrimati Nirupama Rao has been in constant touch with the State Department and the White House officials. I spoke to Ambassador Nirupama Rao this morning, which was late last night American time. She has already registered her sense of disturbance and concern about the developments.

Question: Sir, have the officials of the United States conveyed any ...*(Inaudible)*... of the possible ...*(Inaudible)*...

External Affairs Minister: Motives and who is responsible for this is all going to be revealed once we get the preliminary report by the investigating agencies in the United States. Only then perhaps we can come to some conclusion.

Question: Sir, ...*(Inaudible)*... gun culture in the United States, if you have seen, come up again and again. Is there something that you think the US authorities really need to do about it?

External Affairs Minister: I think they will have to certainly take a comprehensive look at this kind of tendency which certainly is not going to bring credit to the United States of America. But we will not certainly interfere in the internal affairs of the United States of America. I think it is for them to decide what is the next course of action.



203. Press Release issued by the Prime Minister's Office on the call received by the Prime Minister from the US President Barack Obama regarding the shooting in the Gurudwara in Wisconsin.

New Delhi, August 8, 2012.

US President Barack Obama called the Prime Minister today to convey condolences over the shooting incident at a Gurudwara in Wisconsin, USA on August 5, 2012. He appreciated the contributions made by the Sikh community in American society. He said that the tragic incident would be investigated.

The Prime Minister thanked President Obama for the support extended by the government and people of the United States. He hoped that measures would be taken to avoid recurrence of such incidents. He stressed that India and USA, as two pluralistic and open societies with respect for religious freedoms, should continue to work against ideologies of violence and hatred.



204. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs announcing “New Measures for the Welfare of the Overseas Indians”.

New Delhi, September 17, 2012.

Shri Vayalar Ravi, Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs inaugurated the 7th Heads of Indian Missions (HoMs) conference here today. The conference is organized by the M/o Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) every year to discuss the issues related to protection and welfare of Overseas Indian workers. In his Inaugural address, Shri Ravi said that the MOIA is considering to open a Protector of Emigrants Office (PoE) in Bengaluru. He said that Rae Bareli PoE office is also ready and Guwahati PoE office would be functional soon. He announced revised Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) scheme, which includes:

- Assistance towards boarding expenses per head by HOMs is enhanced from 15 to 30 days.
- Payment of penalties in respect of Indian nationals for illegal stay in the host country where prima facie the worker is not at fault;
- Payment of small fines/penalties for the release of Indian nationals in jail/detention centre;
- Providing support to local Overseas Indian Associations to establish Overseas Indian Community Centres in countries that have populations of Overseas Indians exceeding 1,00,000; and
- Providing support to start and run Overseas Indian Community-based student welfare centres in Countries that have more than 20,000 Indian students' presence.

Shri Ravi called upon the HoMs to bestow special attention to Overseas Indians, particularly overseas Indian workers and address their concerns. He also asked HoMs to cooperate on the implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi Pravasi Suraksha Yojana which provides the overseas Indian workers a pension, a sum for return and resettlement and life insurance during the period of five years. He mentioned that the MOIA has undertaken eMigrate Project with a vision to transform emigration into a simple, transparent, orderly and humane process. The Project is an effort towards strengthening the regime of regular migration from India.

The Minister also mentioned that Government has given the voting rights to NRIs. The Government is also getting the PIO and OCI Card Scheme merged into one Scheme. He asked HOMs to suggest how to encourage NRIs to register

in large numbers. He also said that the next Pravasi Bhartiya Divas (PBD) will be held at Kochi, Kerala in January 2012 and the Regional PBD will be held at Mauritius in October this year.

On the occasion, Smt. Preneet Kaur, Minister of State, Ministry of External Affairs and Shri. Parwez Dewan, Secretary, MOIA were also present. The conference is being attended by Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries as well as Jordan, Yemen, Malaysia, the Maldives Angola, Thailand, Nigeria, Iraq and Libya. There are approximately 7.5 million semi-skilled and unskilled overseas Indian workers in the GCC countries and Malaysia on temporary employment/contract visas, predominantly in the construction, healthcare and household services sectors. The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) is the nodal Ministry for protection and welfare of Overseas Indian workers.



INDIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS–2012

SECTION-VI

ASIA

- (i) SOUTH ASIA**
- (ii) PACIFIC, SOUTH EAST AND EAST ASIA**
- (iii) CENTRAL AND WEST ASIA**

(i) SOUTH ASIA

205. Speech by National Security Advisor on “Transforming South Asia” at the Third Asian Relations Conference.

New Delhi, March 9, 2012.

Shri Sudhir Devare, DG, ICWA,
Professor Swaran Singh,
Distinguished participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Thank you for giving me the honour of speaking at the inaugural session of the Asian Relations Conference (III) on “Transforming South Asia; Imperatives for Action”. You have an impressive list of participants and speakers and a full and extensive agenda. I am sure that your conference will contribute meaningfully to the transformation that South Asia is undergoing.

I thought that I would speak about the present situation in South Asia, in terms of the economy and political and security issues, and of what the way forward might be.

1. The Present Situation

We in South Asia tend to be modest (which is a good thing) and to underestimate ourselves (which is not such a good thing) when we speak of South Asian integration and the present situation in the sub-region. We often speak of the South Asian paradox that a region which has so many cultural and other affinities should be so lacking in integration and connectivity. My own view is the minority view. Many of you have heard me say before that there is more to what is happening in South Asia than is described by the (now traditional) narrative of pessimism of which we South Asians ourselves are the major retailers.

That narrative goes something like this: South Asia is one of the least integrated regions of the world, with itself and with the rest of the world. It is also one of the regions most beset with irreconcilable political and security issues and disputes. With 22% of the world’s population it has only 6-7% of the world’s GDP. Intra-regional trade accounts for only about 6% of its own total foreign trade. It is resource poor with only 8.3% of global water resources, and so on and so forth.

All of which might be true but it misses the point that reality is far more complex, that empirical performance by South Asia, particularly in the last five years, has shown us how to deal with these limitations; and, that we have a moment in history which we should seize if we wish to transform South Asia.

Let us first look at the South Asian economies. South Asia has emerged as one of the fastest growing sub-regions in the world with an average rate of growth of 8% sustained over the past five years. Intra-regional trade within South Asia has begun to grow and has doubled over the past five years. We are therefore at a point where it is increasingly evident to all the countries in South Asia that

there are substantial costs to not moving forward by lowering tariffs, minimising sensitive lists, and tackling non-tariff barriers. Each government has taken significant actions in the recent past. India has reduced the sensitive list under SAFTA in a dramatic fashion last year for LDCs. As a result, I am told that Bangladesh's exports to India will cross the \$ 1 billion mark in a twelve month period in July for the first time in history. The India-Sri Lanka FTA has already quadrupled trade between the two countries, and we are now working to improve it. Pakistan has decided to grant India Most Favoured Nation treatment, gradually moving to a negative list system. I could cite bilateral and multilateral examples of positive steps taken recently by each of the countries in the region.

When we speak of South Asia as the least integrated region in terms of trade, we ignore the wide variation in our experiences. The fact is that intra-regional trade as a proportion of total trade varies widely for the countries in South Asia. For Nepal it is as high as 60.5%, for Sri Lanka 18.9%, for Pakistan 6.6% and for India only 2.7%. But this variation also tells us how great the potential is, and why intra-regional trade is growing faster than South Asia's trade with the rest of the world.

The other caveat that we should bear in mind is the fact that official figures certainly underestimate the real magnitude of trade that is taking place between South Asian countries, whether clandestinely or through third countries. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the real figure for India-Pakistan trade could be almost three times greater than the official trade figures of almost \$ 3 billion. It is an open secret that most India-Bangladesh trade is not reflected in the official figures. South Asia has the dubious distinction of a relatively high level of informal trade flows unrecorded and unreflected in official trade statistics. This suggests that natural complementarities do exist between South Asian economies and have already been identified and acted upon.

Several years ago in 1999 RIS carried out a study of the costs of non-cooperation in SAARC. They found that in 1994 Sri Lanka and Pakistan imported many items at higher unit values than would have prevailed if they had imported them from within SAARC, paying on an average twice what they would have paid in South Asia, and losing \$ 266 million in the case of Sri Lanka and \$ 511 million in the case of Pakistan. (Incidentally, these were relatively high values at that time.) If anything the costs of not doing business with each other have risen since then. Products are being exported by countries in the region to the rest of the world but not to other countries in the region! But it is heartening that there is a much wider realisation of these costs within the region. It is probably time that we updated the study today.

The other opportunity comes for the fact that as our economies have diversified and become sophisticated in the last decade similarities in production structures across countries could also offer opportunities for intra-industry trade. Several sectors such as processed foods, rubber products, plastics, pharmaceuticals,

textiles, apparel and light engineering goods are amenable to this kind of trade. If the governments are successful in removing non-tariff and other barriers, this sort of trade should flourish in the region.

As for the nay-sayers' argument that South Asia is resource poor and doomed to poverty and even conflict over resources, we also have our strengths. We are population rich, and have a healthy demographic profile which should last well into the 21st century, giving us the markets and the demand we need to keep growing. And despite these constraints we have maintained a healthy growth momentum in the recent past.

2. Politics and Security

But all this economics ignores the real political and security issues that enable outsiders to call this one of the most dangerous places on earth, I sense you saying to yourselves. We may have got the economics right recently, but can we get the politics right?

Perhaps, would be my answer. South Asia has more than its fair share of issues with insurgencies, radicalism, terrorism, and extremism. But none of these issues has prevented this from being one of the fastest growing sub-regions in the world in the last decade, and outperforming other sub-regions. But it is an open question whether we in South Asia have the institutions and habits of working together to address the real issues of political instability and the security challenges that we face. This is not to question anyone's sincerity. The great advance that we have made in the last decade is in the common realisation throughout the region that we all need a peaceful environment to concentrate on what really matters, seeking to provide security and prosperity to our citizens. Those who argue otherwise are a small minority in all our countries. But there are serious questions about the capacity of state structures and their ability to deal with terrorism and extremism in some cases. And vestiges of zero-sum thinking on political and security issues remain influential in some circles.

Empirically speaking, there has been an improvement in the security situation in important parts of South Asia. The elimination of the LTTE's armed forces in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh's successful actions against terrorists and extremist elements in the last three years, and Nepal's steady progress in its double transition to multi-party democracy and mainstreaming the Maoists are some practical examples.

But overall one would have to conclude that our politics have lagged behind our economics.

3. The Way Forward

There are two possible ways of dealing with this imbalance between our economics and our politics.

One would be to directly attack the laggard sector, politics and security issues,

head on. But these issues which divide us have done so for a long time and there are reasons why they have done so.

Let me tell you a story about the other way.

When Chanakya/Kautilya first met Chandragupta Maurya in Taxila around 330 BC, Chandragupta had just failed in his fifth or sixth attempt to overthrow the Nanda dynasty by a coup in their capital Pataliputra in Magadha/Bihar and fled to the North West. Kautilya then asked him, when you eat a hot dish of rice do you plunge your fingers into the centre or do you start at the cool fringes. Chandragupta changed his strategy to the indirect approach and the rest is history.

I think we should learn the same lesson and should build the economic and other links that we can, while attempting to resolve the political and security issues that divide us.

This does not mean that we ignore the political and security issues. In fact it means the opposite. It certainly means that we must not let political differences and fears stop the processes of South Asian integration. At the same time states in the sub-region must begin to meaningfully address and resolve the political issues and disputes that divide them. Speaking personally I would go further. It may be time for those of you who are scholars and intellectuals to start considering cooperative security frameworks and architectures for this sub-region, and what conditions would be necessary to make them successful. There are a host of issues such as terrorism, maritime security and cyber security which require cooperative solutions and which bear consideration by groups like yours.

In meantime, we should also move forward much more rapidly on the connectivity, including energy and grid connectivity, tourism, people to people, trade and economic links that can make such a major contribution to improving our future.

I am confident that if we do so we will be able to transform South Asia. I am old enough to remember South Asia as it was. Some of us were called "basket cases" and have proven those prophets false. Others told us that we should forever remain hewers of wood and drawers of water. They too have been proved wrong. Just in my lifetime the sub-region has undergone a transformation of its economy, society and polity that is unparalleled in its own long history for its range, depth and speed. What has happened, and what continues to happen, is nothing short of a revolution in the lives and aspirations of our peoples. Our societies and polities have shown the ability to work with unprecedented change. Given our record, I am sure that we can transform South Asia, working together.

I trust that your exhaustive agenda will give you a chance to consider these and other ideas for the transformation of South Asia.

I wish you every success in your deliberations.



206. Address of Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee at the International Conference on 'Co-Operative Development, Peace and Security in South and Central Asia.

Chandigarh, March 30, 2012.

"I am happy to be here today at this gathering of experts from South and Central Asia, a region of which we are a part and with which historically we have had friendly ties. I offer my welcome to those who have taken the trouble to be here today, in the quest for closer regional friendship and cooperation.

India has entered a new era of economic progress in the last couple of decades. The foundations so carefully laid by the country's first leaders, and the labour of the early years, have now begun to yield results. When we set out as an independent country, we received the priceless gift of democracy that underpins all else, and at the same time we began acquiring the elements of a modern state: education, technology, economic advancement, an open and free society and several institutions. We all know that the race is only half run and much remains to be done. All the visible signs of progress on every side cannot, and do not, blind us to the harsher realities of poverty and its attendant ills. Yet the overwhelming recent story of India is of a great nation finally coming into its own.

In this interconnected world, no nation, least of all ours, lives in isolation from the rest. India has always been outward looking and has maintained an active engagement in global affairs, driven by the internationalist vision of our first Prime Minister, the great Jawaharlal Nehru. That vision has never faltered. Not the State alone but its children have reached out to lands abroad, in friendly and peaceful association, and today the growing communities of persons of Indian origin living in different parts of the world reinforce India's search for closer international ties.

India's geographical position provides the country with unique opportunities and drives many of our aspirations. From time immemorial we have been in close touch with the lands in our vicinity, and have engaged in the commerce of material goods and, even more so, of ideas, that has brought benefit to all those involved. Developing ties with countries and regions with which we have such old associations is the larger purpose of this meeting organized by CRRID. It is a task of importance, and the Government attaches high value to it.

A successful quest for accelerated development and making collective efforts in that direction requires a peaceful and tranquil environment. Strengthening of peace is the basic focus of India's external policy. India has always been careful to keep clear of alliances that have any military overtones. We seek cooperation,

and just as we reject domination by others, we do not seek domination for ourselves. We do not aspire to establish any sort of regional hegemony. Our military perspective is defensive; we seek to reinforce our own security, not threaten that of others. Our neighbourhood is a troubled one, as we all know. A prolonged war has been waged in our neighbour and friend Afghanistan, and this can have damaging fallout in the entire region. We all have strong interest in bringing to an end the troubles there and in the restoration of peace.

The region represented here today is rich in resources. Most prominent among the regional resources are oil and natural gas which have already drawn the attention of the world. There are others, such as precious metals, rare earths, and other natural endowments that are in demand everywhere. There are also ample resources for agricultural growth to help meet the world's expanding need for food and for other produce.

To live and prosper within the narrow bounds of our respective national domains is obviously not a productive option for any of us. India is very much aware that it must look to the region represented here to meet a good part of its needs as a rapidly developing nation. Among the proposals in this context that have already drawn serious attention is the proposed pipeline to bring natural gas from Turkmenistan to India across Afghanistan and Pakistan, something that offers great benefits to all the parties concerned. Similarly, there is also the possibility of bringing hydro-electric electric power from Central Asia to consumers in South Asia. There could be mutually beneficial engagement in the field of agriculture as well. Such farsighted schemes are now well within our reach. It is within the purpose of this meeting to think creatively and to think big, for that is where the challenge lies.

Today, we see a growing demand among our neighbours for access to Indian medical and educational services. Our progress in these fields is one of the success stories of modern India.

The Government of India has earmarked substantial funds to promote technical cooperation with partners abroad. A fund for Central Asia has been established which should do much to promote economic interchange between the two sides. Our own neighbourhood has been identified as a priority area for technical cooperation. There are however some constraints that inhibit the progress that we all desire. Political inhibitions that remain need to be overcome. There is the matter of connectivity in the region. Not so long ago, there was relatively free and unrestrained movement across the length and breadth of the region. People and goods moved from one end to the other, most evocatively in the traffic associated with the famous Silk Road. But that is no longer the case and there has been a progressive closing down of land routes from and across India. The reasons for and the costs to the countries in the region, of the failure to address

this issue, merits study. I hope this conference will go into this issue and provide encouragement to further liberalization within the region.

India has taken some steps in recent times through the newly developed concord with Bangladesh on connectivity issues. Bold and imaginative statesmanship by both countries has overcome their previous reserve and opened several fresh possibilities of physical access to each other's territory in a manner calculated to bring considerable benefit to both. I would also like to refer to the important decision by Pakistan to trade with India on MFN basis. This is a welcome development and it can be hoped that it will lead before long to the opening of the land access from India to Afghanistan and Central Asia that has been blocked for so many decades. Economic logic has brought about decisions that had for long been held hostage to political considerations. We must try to ensure that becomes the path of the future.

India's 'Look East' policy has driven this country, for twenty years now, to look creatively towards the great expanse of Asia lying to its east. Improved connectivity as it is now taking shape will give an important boost to this dimension of India's foreign policy. China has taken huge strides to establish road, rail, and river communications with South-East Asia. This is something worth studying and perhaps, for India, worth emulating.

Before concluding, I should like to say a few words about the development of maritime routes and the opening up of access across the seas. This process is currently somewhat shadowed by security considerations, notably that of piracy. Collective action to keep the sea lanes open and accessible to all is being taken internationally and all the countries along the Indian Ocean littoral are making their contribution. For commerce to thrive there has to be security of sea transit, so this subject should not be too far removed from the principal concerns of this meeting.

India will play its full part in strengthening ties within its neighbourhood and its region. The watchword for gatherings like the present one is to look to transcend barriers, surmount long standing difficulties, and develop a new vision for the future. We need bold thinking. We need a clear view of what the region must undertake to achieve its true potential. Gatherings of experts like this one can do much to develop initiatives and chart the way ahead.

I wish CRRID all success and I look forward to receiving from the organizers their report on the deliberations of the conference."



207. Speech by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the UNESCO Madanjeet Singh Institute for South Asian Regional Cooperation.

Puducherry, June 29, 2012.

It is a pleasure for me to be here at the UNESCO Madanjeet Singh Institute for South Asia Regional Cooperation for peace and development. I am sorry that ill health has stood in the way of Shri Madanjeet Singh being with us this evening. I extend a warm welcome to Madame France Marquet, his companion of many years and Trustee of the South Asia Foundation. I request her to convey to Madanjeet our felicitations and good wishes for a speedy recovery to normal health.

In a few weeks from now we will celebrate the 65th anniversary of India's Independence. The struggle for freedom from colonial rule was infused with high sense of idealism that joined together the people, not only of big sub-continent of ours, but also those in other parts of Asia and Africa. But the euphoria and excitement of freedom was tempered by the human tragedy that accompanied it. As a young man, Madanjeet Singh witnessed with his own eyes the trauma and horror of partition as did many of us of that generation.

Whenever I meet South Asians from different walks of life, they always speak of their desire to see our countries live together in peace and work together for our common progress. I can think of no other individual who has invested more to achieve these cherished goals than my friend Madanjeet Singh.

In the year 2000, Shri Singh set up the South Asia Foundation to provide a platform for well-meaning men and women from all the countries of our region to contribute their might to the vision of a progressive South Asia.

The South Asia Foundation seeks to promote regional cooperation through the UNESCO Madanjeet Singh Institutions of Excellence that have been established in various countries of South Asia. Each of the chapters is headed by an eminent personality from that country, six of whom are present here in Puducherry. I extend a very warm welcome to each of the distinguished citizens of South Asia.

I was delighted to learn that very soon Myanmar will also have a chapter of the Foundation. I was in Myanmar recently and was impressed by the enthusiasm and interest of the people of Myanmar to strengthen and promote links with other countries of South Asia.

This Institute in Puducherry was set up as one of the centres of excellence nearly three years ago. I commend the University of Pondicherry for hosting a centre that will focus on South Asia studies. It is ironic that many universities in the West have chairs or centres that focus on South Asia but here in our own region, we have so few of them! I have often felt that the citizens of South Asia

have to start communicating and understanding each other through direct contact rather than through western academic constructs or prisms. The South Asia Foundation provides an excellent platform for doing precisely this.

The world is passing through troubled times. The financial and economic crisis that has gripped Europe in recent years has many important lessons and implications for us. The economic and political rise of post-War Europe was in no small measure due to the vision of thinkers like George Marshall and Jean Monnet. They believed that a stable, prosperous and united Europe was good for the world. That is as true today as it was then. I sincerely hope that the leaders of Europe will find in them the imagination and wisdom to preserve the European project that has served as a guiding light to regional cooperation elsewhere in the world, including South Asia.

The events in the Euro zone should not cast a shadow over our own efforts at building unity and eventually a South Asian union. If anything, we have not been ambitious enough in working towards building a united South Asia where each of our countries seeks its economic and social salvation through cooperative development within the region and by leveraging each other's strengths.

We have many men and women of talent and creativity among us. They should pool their wisdom and work to remove the mental and other roadblocks that are preventing the people of South Asia from realizing their true destiny.

India is fully committed to the idea of SAARC. In recent Summit meetings, I have found a genuine desire among South Asian leaders to write a new chapter in the history of this organization. I am happy that important initiatives that symbolize the idea of South Asia are taking shape. The South Asia University has started its work and will soon have its own full-fledged campus just outside Delhi. The SAARC Development Fund has become operational and has started implementing projects under its social window.

We however need to cooperate more closely to critically understand issues relating to food, energy and water security, disaster management health and education and address these issues from a holistic and regional perspective. Connectivity is also still lagging far behind where it should be. India stands fully committed to building a better-connected SAARC as a strong and effective instrument for regional cooperation.

Since I mentioned Jean Monnet earlier in my remarks, I am reminded that he once wrote: "Nothing is possible without men, but nothing is lasting without institutions." In conceiving of and realizing the **UNESCO Madanjeet Singh Institute for South Asia Regional Cooperation**. Madanjeet Singh has given us an institution that I am confident will stand the test of time and provide a valuable service in our common goal of building a better and closer South Asia."



208. Keynote Address by Foreign Secretary at the release of IDSA Book – India’s Neighbourhood: Challenges in the Next Two Decades

New Delhi, July 13, 2012.

Dr. Arvind Gupta, Director General, IDSA,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure to be present amongst this audience to launch a document that is the result of a unique collaborative effort between the Ministry of External Affairs and the Institute of Defence Analyses.

We live during what has been called an Asian Century. This title was used by some academics in the international arena but today it is used mostly by Asians! Over the last few decades, Asian nations, including India, launched themselves along high-growth trajectories that have led to a discernible eastward shift of global political and economic centres of gravity. This has increased their weight and profile in international relations and enhanced their capacity to influence global events. Hence the new slogan. But this has also created unprecedented challenges for policy makers and strategic establishments that have to grapple with difficult and often unfamiliar problems. One is the need to put in place policies and measures that make the trajectory of high growth sustainable over time. Historical experience suggests caution in accepting projections of continuous growth. The second is the need to deal with an inevitable backlash. Shifts in the global balance are not necessarily welcome to those at the losing end even if they only lose in relative terms. The determined effort to choke our growth through environmental norms and regulations is an example.

These are challenges that cannot be overcome by any one organisation. Multiple strands of thought, multiple perspectives and multiple courses of action have to be taken into account and woven together into composite solutions. “India’s Neighbourhood: Challenges in the Next Two Decades” – the document that is being launched today, needs to be viewed in this perspective.

It is in many respects a path-breaking document that is the first output of the MEA-IDSA Strategic and Perspective Planning Research Group. This Group is itself the product of a sustained effort by MEA and by IDSA to draw upon the best available talent in the country to peer beyond the immediate policy and time horizon. In this report, independent researchers, with the full support of MEA and IDSA have made an effort to find out what lies, in military parlance, on “the other side of the hill”.

The intention is to focus attention on the challenging policy environment in our immediate neighbourhood. The intention is also to provoke a debate, and hopefully

a lively debate, both within India and beyond its borders. We hope to generate ideas and solutions. We hope that we will be able to think out of the box. Mostly, we hope that this debate will allow MEA to find ways to strengthen, in practical terms, its forward-looking and proactive approach to engaging with our neighbours.

The promotion of a politically stable and economically secure periphery is a paramount foreign policy objective for India. This is essential to deal with the challenges of fostering sustainable growth and to ensure that regional differences cannot be exploited by those who would keep us absorbed in disputes. We have been hard at work in fostering inter-connectivity and mutual confidence in multiple areas, in promoting trade and investment, and in trying to leverage India's rapid economic growth into win-win arrangements with our neighbours.

We are also conscious of the currents of globalization and of the need to take advantage of global trends in political economy. We believe that common South Asian interests must factor in the policy-making process of South Asian nations. A South Asian Economic Union is a distant dream; but even an expanded set of economic connections will not only transform the economies of South Asia but will be a force for political stability.

I would be stating the obvious in reiterating that there are very few areas of the world where the benefits or logic of regional cooperation are as obvious as in South Asia. But it is also a fact that there are very few regions where the challenges in creating the structures for regional cooperation are so daunting.

This places South Asian problems in a peculiarly difficult position. Even as we attempt to surmount the challenges that history has imposed upon us, we are being called upon to confront a new generation of problems, the problems of the 21st century. For example, the difficulties in demarcating borders are now accompanied by a completely different set of issues that arise from the growing irrelevance of borders in a globalized world. Demographic trends are producing a South Asia that is young and has high expectations. The so-called demographic dividend, if not managed properly, can turn into a demographic nightmare. Governments that are unable to cope with these expectations will turn their nations into "fragile" or "weak" states that will create challenges of the kind the international community is already struggling to cope with. The dividing line between terrorists and trans-national criminals is disappearing and access to technology is increasing the dangers that they pose. Even as South Asian nations struggle to bridge their internal digital divides, they have to divert resources to foil cyber-criminals who operate in a virtual world.

One of the major issues identified by the report is the rapidity with which change is taking place in South Asia. Policy makers and practitioners operate in an environment where the unexpected is the norm. Policy and responses have to be constantly updated to ensure that we do not apply 20th century solutions and mindsets to 21st century problems. The democratic upsurge mentioned by the

Director General is one of them. We can best influence this by being an example – rather than trying any policy presumption.

We also have to be mindful of the fact that South Asia does not exist in isolation. This year marks two decades of India's engagement with ASEAN and a commemorative Summit will be held in New Delhi in December this year. It also marks twenty years of India's policy of connecting with Central Asia. Our exceptionally close ties to the Gulf region need no elaboration. We are also building an Indian Ocean Littoral community. Our engagement with all these regions is progressing rapidly and it is apparent that many of the problems and opportunities presented in this report need not just a South Asian perspective but have to be seen from a trans-regional angle. We would like our policy towards South Asia and towards these regions to present a seamless continuum.

The document ends by declaring that South Asia is at a cross-roads. We are presented with threats and opportunities, strengths and weaknesses. It is identifying these and suggesting a policy framework to address them that this report has added value to the ongoing discourse on improving linkages within South Asia. The recommendations of the report about the broadening of India's foreign policy approach are being examined seriously and will be taken on-board in our internal deliberations.

I would like to conclude by noting that the Ministry of External Affairs has not been entirely reactive. Nor have we let the acute shortage of resources stop us from taking some proactive steps. We have created bureaus within our Ministry that deal with emerging issues. We have stepped up recruitment of personnel into the Indian Foreign Service. We have also increased the intake from other services and backgrounds to build in-house expertise on non-traditional areas. We are funding an increasing amount of academic research across India on foreign policy issues. We understand that domestic factors will influence policy towards our neighbours and have created a presence in State capitals through Branch Secretariats. We have created a Development Partnership Administration that will look into optimising the programmes that are being devised for development cooperation with our partners in the developing world, particularly with our neighbours. Visa regimes and consular issues remain a challenge but receive our constant attention.

We will continue with our efforts to be responsive to the needs of changing nation. As the world evolves so will we. But our first priority is and will be for some time the neighbourhood. That is why this is the right time to see how it will look over the next 2 decades and I commend this book to you for opening our debate.



209. Keynote Address by Foreign Secretary at the International Conference on “India and her Neighbours: Revisiting relations with Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Maldives”.

Imphal, August 17, 2012.

Hon. Ministers of the Manipur Government, Vice Chancellor of Manipur University, the Jadavpur Association of International Relations, visitors from Myanmar, members of consular corps of Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Special Secretary (PD), MEA and our hosts the University of Manipur.

I am honoured to be present here with all of you on what is my second visit to Imphal. The first was in 1975 when I was on district training in Kohima and came here to see this wonderful place. Great changes have taken place in these four decades. I have been closely associated with this region as I have worked on our relations with neighbours since the late 1970s. I am happy at the opportunity this seminar has provided for me to return.

India's relations with her neighbours occupy a central place in India's foreign policy. We believe a peaceful periphery will enable us to focus on the essential task of development. It is also clear that a stable and prosperous South Asia, will contribute to India's own prosperity. India is ready to walk the extra mile to strengthen bridges of friendship and create new opportunities for the growth, security and well-being of neighbours both bilaterally and through the SAARC mechanism. We believe this approach can provide a broad framework for each of our neighbours to complement their own national priorities.

SAARC has not achieved as much as we hoped. But we remain committed to fostering inter-connectivity and mutual confidence in multiple areas, in promoting trade and investment, and in trying to leverage India's rapid economic growth into win-win arrangements with our neighbours.

The theme of today's conference is aimed at our relations with some of our neighbours individually rather than in the multilateral framework. I will speak briefly on the state of play with these neighbours. But let me say that in general terms – India gives highest priority to our neighbours. It was said by Frost that “good fences make good neighbours” – that is true up to a point - but we know today that good neighbourly relations require people to people contact, trade and political understanding. India has a certain responsibility because we are neighbours to all – none of them are each other's – except Bangladesh and Myanmar. Let me start by saying that our relations are dynamic and not static. What I say today outlines broad patterns – but some details may change by tomorrow!

Nepal

India and Nepal enjoy a special and unique relationship rooted in shared heritage, civilization, culture and extensive people-to-people relations. We attach the highest priority to our relations with Nepal and the government is fully committed to further enhance and expand this relationship. We believe that a peaceful, democratic, stable, strong and prosperous Nepal is not just in India's interest but would also contribute to the prosperity of our region. It is for the Nepalese people through the elected political representatives to come to an agreement on the nature of the constitution they want. We do feel India-Nepal relations would be strengthened by establishment of a multi party democracy.

India continues to be a major trading partner of Nepal. Nearly 60% of Nepal's foreign trade is with India and 48% of its FDI comes from India. Around 40% of Nepal's tourists come from India and more than 5 million Nepalese find employment in India.

Our development cooperation, which covers a broad canvas, including physical infrastructure, water resources, human resource development, health, power, civil aviation, tourism, and agriculture, has now entered a new era. We will construct over 600 Kms of roads in the *terai* region of Nepal, establish two integrated check-posts and two cross-border railway links over the next three years. In the second phase, we will construct additional 800 Kms of roads, three cross-border railway links and two integrated check-posts. We believe these will contribute substantially to Nepal's development efforts and facilitate trade, investments and people-to-people contacts between our two countries. The projects will go ahead on the basis of Nepal's felt needs. We are committed to continuing our engagement and cooperation with utmost sensitivity and attention that it deserves.

Bangladesh

India and Bangladesh share a unique bond and a special relationship. We are bound by our common cultural heritage, shared principles and values and hopes for a bright new future. This relationship has been forged by our common aspirations and sacrifices. We wish to carry forward the mission of strengthening the historic bonds between us and impart a vision for the future that is durable and sustainable.

Exchanges of high level visits in recent times have added a new momentum to our bilateral relations. Our relations have entered a new phase, based on a pragmatic and practical approach which reaffirms our mutual commitment to sovereignty, equality, friendship, trust and understanding. This commitment is for the mutual benefit of the people of India and Bangladesh, and conducive for the collective prosperity of the region.

Bilateral relations between India and Bangladesh received a major boost through the landmark state visit of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh to India in January 2010 that laid the road-map for our interactions. The visit of Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, to Bangladesh in September 2011 opened a new chapter in the bilateral relationship and further cemented the active cooperation and engagement between the two nations.

Last year, India opened its market to all Bangladeshi products, except 25 sensitive tariff lines. Bangladeshi goods now enjoy zero duty access to the Indian market. This is an initiative of strategic significance. It has the potential of changing the economic landscape in Bangladesh. Exports from Bangladesh have increased substantially over the last few months.

The Framework Agreement on Cooperation for Development signed between our two Prime Ministers in September 2011 represents a new phase in our relations with Bangladesh and the region. India has committed itself to discussing sub-regional cooperation with Bangladesh in areas such as the power sector, water resources management, physical connectivity, environment and sustainable development.

India has welcomed the participation of Bangladesh in power projects in India, including in the North-Eastern states, wherever economic viability for such cooperation exists. At present Bangladesh has reservations about the Tipaimukh project and we have agreed to set up a JWG under the Joint Rivers Commission for discussions on the issue.

The exchanges at the highest levels have enabled us to put across our vision of an equal and mutually beneficial relationship with Bangladesh to the widest cross-section of its people. It is essential for us to develop and nurture a comprehensive partnership with that country. The Government remains committed to building a strong India-Bangladesh partnership, including assistance in developmental efforts and enhanced bilateral cooperation to our mutual benefit.

Bhutan

India and Bhutan share uniquely warm and special relations founded on mutual trust and understanding. Regular high-level exchange of visits, close consultations and mutually beneficial cooperation underpin relations with Bhutan. We were honoured to welcome Their Majesties Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and Jetsun Pema Wangchuck, the King and Queen of Bhutan in India in October 2011 on their first visit abroad after the Royal Wedding on 13 October 2011.

India and Bhutan share a common perception of their strategic interests and cooperate closely on security issues and border management. We appreciate Bhutan's commitment and its strong efforts to ensure that its territory cannot be used by forces inimical to India's interest.

India is Bhutan's largest trade and development partner, and source of supplies of most of the essential commodities required by Bhutan. As a Bhutan prepares its people for the information technology age, it is reaching out beyond its traditional sectors of agriculture and hydropower to expansion in tourism, IT, and education, and it offers considerable potential for mutually beneficial economic and business partnership.

Development of hydropower in Bhutan has been the centre-piece of our bilateral cooperation. It is an exemplary win-win partnership: surplus power generated from the hydroelectric projects (HEPs) is exported to India providing Bhutan a steady stream of revenue and providing Indian an assured supply of clean power. There is vast potential to be realised as out of Bhutan's estimated potential of 30,000 MW (20,000 MW is technically and economically feasible), only about 1400 MW has been harnessed. Both governments have set the target of 10,000 MW of hydropower capacity by 2020; and have identified 10 hydropower projects to meet this target.

Myanmar

I believe that here in Manipur there is particular interest on how India's relations with Myanmar develop. Myanmar is the only ASEAN Country with whom we share a land boundary. When we talk of a Look East Policy – we obviously know that we first look at Myanmar. From my own experience in the region in the 1990s I am aware that in Manipur you were already looking East and wanted a policy of greater engagement from decades ago. We share ties of culture, language, trade and tradition that binds us through the NE region. We are proud of these special relations. It is important that there is peace and stability both on our borders as well as inside Myanmar.

Over the past year, India's close and multifaceted relationship with Myanmar has been further strengthened through an exchange of visits at the highest level. The State visit of the Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh to Myanmar in May 2012, the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister after a gap of 25 years, was a major milestone in bilateral relations. During the visit, 12 Agreements and MoUs were signed, including on the US\$ 500 million Line of Credit; Air Service Agreement; setting up of an Advanced Centre for Agricultural Research and Education (ACARE); Rice Bio Park; an Information Technology Institute; border area development; Cultural Exchange Programme; and academic exchanges between Universities and Think Tanks. The visit laid a Roadmap for future cooperation between the two sides. Earlier, the President of Myanmar, U Thein Sein, had paid a State visit to India in October 2011.

We are working closely with Myanmar on various infrastructure development and cooperation projects, including in the field of roads, waterways, power, health, education and industrial training, telecommunications, and others. The

development projects have to move in tandem with the progress of Manipur in these fields. By the end of this decade we expect that direct road connectivity to South East Asia will become easy and will facilitate trade, tourism and travel. We are deeply conscious of the need to have projects like the Imphal-Mandalay bus service as soon as infrastructure is ready and with approval of Myanmar authorities. We would like to work together for development of border regions; including essential infrastructure development.

The significant political and economic reforms instituted by the Government of Myanmar over the past year have led to an increased international interest in Myanmar. As a part of our efforts to promote the nascent democracy and its institutions in Myanmar, we have shared India's experience in parliamentary democracy and facilitate regular exchanges between parliamentarians of the two countries. In this context, a parliamentary delegation led by the Speaker of the Lower House of Myanmar Parliament H.E. Thura Shwe Mann visited India from December 11-17, 2011; and now training programmes are being organised for Parliamentarians and Parliamentary staff. I was happy to interact with the first team and to learn that they found the course useful.

India remains committed to extending all possible assistance and support to the process of national reconciliation and the further strengthening of democracy in Myanmar. Our own experience is that in fact these processes are interlinked and democracy helps take national reconciliation forward both in the sense of bringing communities together and dealing with the gap between rich and poor.

Sri Lanka

We greatly value our relationship with Sri Lanka. The relationship is based upon shared historical, cultural, ethnic and civilisational ties and extensive people-to-people interaction.

This relationship has become multifaceted and diverse, encompassing all areas of contemporary relevance, including connectivity, development partnership, cooperation in agriculture, power, education, human resource development and culture, greater economic engagement. The relationship has been further strengthened through bilateral exchanges, including at the highest level in the recent past.

Today, India and Sri Lanka enjoy a robust trade and investment relationship, with bilateral trade growing rapidly in the last decade. Sri Lanka is currently India's largest trade partner in South Asia and bilateral trade has reached nearly US\$ 5 billion. India has also emerged the largest Foreign Direct Investment and as far as tourist arrivals are concerned.

Following the conclusion of the armed conflict in May 2009, India has partnered with Sri Lanka in programmes for reconstruction and rehabilitation of Internally

Displaced Persons, with the objective of helping them return to normal life as quickly as possible. Our efforts have included all facets of human endeavour, including supply of family relief packs; deployment of emergency medical; housing, shelter; de-mining; revival of agriculture; housing; infrastructure development, including railways, ports, repair and renovation of schools and hospitals. India also continues to assist a large number of smaller development projects in areas like education, health, transport connectivity, small and medium enterprise development and training in many parts of the country through its grant funding.

Our consistent objective has been the achievement of a future for the Sri Lankan Tamil community in a united Sri Lanka in which all citizens can live in equality, dignity and self-respect. In this context, we continue to be engaged with the Government and the people of Sri Lanka in its efforts to reach a durable political solution acceptable to all sides, including through meaningful devolution of powers and the implementation of the 13th Amendment and beyond. It is important to address the issue in a time bound manner in order to arrive at a solution that meets substantially the aspirations of the Tamil community for justice, peace and dignity.

Maldives

India and Maldives enjoy close ties of friendship and cooperation. Both share an abiding faith in, and commitment to, democracy, development and peaceful cooperation. We share a common destiny and peace and stability of Maldives is of great importance to India.

Our relations have been further strengthened through the exchange of high level visits in recent times. The Prime Minister of India had paid a bilateral visit to Maldives in November last year and the President of the Republic of Maldives, Dr. Mohamed Waheed, paid an official visit to India in May 2012.

During Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh's visit, which was the first bilateral visit after 2002 by our Prime Minister to Maldives, an MOU on Combating Terrorism, Drug Trafficking, Disaster Management and Coastal Security and an Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Persons were signed. Both sides have agreed to enhance connectivity by air and sea, in particular through shipping links and ferry services. India has agreed to undertake several new cooperation and developmental projects, including the setting up of the Maldives Police Academy and renovation of the Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital (IGMH) established by Government of India in Male.

Over the years, India has extended economic and technical assistance to Maldives including in the areas of health, education, human resource development, infrastructure development, capacity building. An Agreement extending a new

Standby Credit Facility of US\$ 100 million to Maldives was signed during Prime Minister's visit. A line of Credit amounting to US\$ 40 million for housing project has also been extended to Maldives.

Peace and stability in Maldives is of utmost importance to India and the region. Maldives is a nascent democracy and requires support through technical assistance and capacity building. In this context, we have remained actively engaged with all stakeholders in the reconciliation process in the wake of recent developments, in order to ensure that they continue to take the democratic process forward. India remains committed to assist the Government and people of Maldives in their endeavours to build a stable, peaceful and prosperous country.

It will be evident from this account of India's relations with her neighbours that the overall objective of sustaining good relations has been significantly strengthened in recent months through several major initiatives. Most of these initiatives have been taken in an asymmetric manner. This asymmetry will have to continue simply because India has the largest economy. These initiatives are driven by India's vision of a prosperous and integrated region, in which our citizens can interact with each other in various areas of socio-economic activity for our mutual benefit. Ultimately we need to work towards an association of neighbouring countries where our strengths are synergized and challenges overcome. There are examples from other parts of the world including ASEAN. None of the models can be exactly repeated; it may also not even be necessary to have elaborate structures; but I believe we will find our way to win-win arrangements in which we can all benefit.

We do this in the backdrop of global change – in which no region can be isolated. As H.E. the Education Minister noted Asia is now at the vortex of international growth. We must fit in. Let us work together for the prosperity of our region, the rise of Asia and peace in the world

Thank you.



AFGHANISTAN

210. Remarks by the Official Spokesperson on Terrorist attacks in Kabul.

New Delhi, April 15, 2012.

There have been reports of attacks in Kabul and other provinces of Afghanistan. Some of these attacks have taken place close to the diplomatic enclave in Kabul where many Embassies are located. We are in constant touch with our Embassy in Kabul. All Indian citizens are reported to be safe



The reference was to a multiple attack by Taliban across Afghanistan targeting diplomatic areas, NATO bases and Parliament building in Kabul and three other eastern cities. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack.

211. Press Release of the Election Commission of India regarding training of Afghan Election Officials in India.

New Delhi, April 17, 2012.

A batch of senior officials from Independent Election Commission (IEC) today started receiving training at the India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management IIIDEM of the Commission at New Delhi. The three days Exposure programme which is being organized at the request of Afghanistan covers areas like on Human Resource Management during Elections, Asset Management, Election Budget and Expenditure, Public Outreach and Election Legal Framework.

The visiting delegation led by Mr Zekria Barakzai, Dy Chief Electoral Officer of the Afghanistan Commission also called on the Chief Election Commissioner of India, Dr S Y Quraishi and Election Commissioners, Shri V S Sampath and Shri H S Brahma.

While interacting with the IEC Afghanistan Officials the Chief Election Commissioner, Dr S Y Quraishi underlined that credible and transparent election hold the key in ensuring stability and peace. He offered the Commission's expertise and personnel to support the electoral process in Afghanistan. Election Commissioner Shri V S Sampath and Shri H S Brahma stressed on indigenous capacity building among Afghan Election Managers and said ECI would extend support in this sector.

The Afghan side conveyed that they have come to share the skills and experience of India in Election management before their forthcoming elections, as advised by President Karzai.

This is the fifth International training programme being held in the IIIDEM since its establishment in June 2011. The Commission has already conducted training programmes for delegations from Kenya, Nigeria, Bhutan and Maldives besides 26 programmes for national stakeholders on various aspects of Election Management including Voter Registration, Voter Education and Electoral Participation, Expenditure Monitoring during Election etc. International training courses have been developed with special emphasis on South-South cooperation and cooperation within the SAARC region.

A large number of training programs have been planned at the IIIDEM keeping in view the forth coming elections in some of the States, the Presidential elections and Summary Revision.

Training courses of IIIDEM are being conducted in the interim premises of this Institute at Election Commission of India. The regular campus is being developed in a 5 acre of separate land in the national capital.



212. Opening Remarks by External Affairs Minister at the Joint Media Interaction during the visit of Foreign Minister of Afghanistan.

New Delhi, May 1, 2012.

Your Excellency Foreign Minister Dr.Zalmai Rassoul

Friends from the media

Foreign Minister Dr Zalmai Rassoul and I have today embarked on a landmark step in our bilateral relations by co-chairing the inaugural session of the India-Afghanistan Partnership Council.

Our meeting formally sets in motion the implementation of Strategic Partnership Agreement signed in October 2011 between the Prime Minister of India and the President of Afghanistan.

This event is also a reflection that India is unwavering in its commitment to assisting the people of Afghanistan in their endeavour to build a peaceful, stable, democratic and prosperous nation.

Mr Foreign Minister, let me assure you that while it is a time of change and transformation in the region, India's commitment to Afghanistan is neither 'transitory' nor in 'transition'.

Our approach of high level political engagement and broad-based development assistance in a wide range of sectors, which have been identified by the Afghan government as priority areas for reconstruction and development, will not only continue but is set to intensify under the framework of the Partnership Council.

We will continue our engagement in reconstruction and rehabilitation projects in alignment with the Afghan National Development Strategy.

We will continue to partner the Afghan Government to ensure that Afghanistan is a source of regional stability and does not become a target for extremist forces.

As a measure of our on-going commitment to the long-term future prosperity of Afghanistan, I have informed Foreign Minister Dr Zalmai Rassoul of our intention to hold a meeting of regional investors on Afghanistan in New Delhi. He has kindly welcomed this initiative.

Dr Zalmai Rassoul and I reviewed with appreciation the outcomes of the first Joint Working Group on Political and Security Consultations held yesterday between the Foreign Secretary of India and the Deputy Foreign Minister of Afghanistan.

We have directed that the other three Joint Working Groups under the Partnership Council on Trade & Economic Cooperation; Capacity Development and Education; and Social, Cultural, Civil Society and people-to-people contacts meet at an early date. We are hopeful that these meetings will further enhance and deepen our bilateral cooperation.

Following our review of the entire gamut of our relations and discussions about a range of regional and global issues of common interest, both Foreign Minister Zalmi Rassoul and I are confident that India and Afghanistan have the vision and the intention to enhance our Strategic Partnership.



213. Joint Statement by India and Afghanistan on the Visit of Minister of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan to India

New Delhi, May 1, 2012.

At the invitation of Shri S.M. Krishna, External Affairs Minister, H.E. Dr. Zalmi Rassoul, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, is currently on a visit to India. The Ministers co-chaired the inaugural session of the India-Afghanistan Partnership Council which has been mandated to implement the Strategic Partnership Agreement signed by the Prime Minister and the President of Afghanistan in October 2011. The meeting of the Partnership Council was preceded by a meeting of the Joint Working Group on Political and Security Consultations headed by Foreign Secretary and the Deputy Foreign Minister of Afghanistan. During his visit the Afghan Foreign Minister called on Prime Minister and held meetings with Finance Minister and National Security Adviser on a range of bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest.

2. Prime Minister conveyed his best wishes to President Hamid Karzai and other leaders of Afghanistan. He welcomed the holding of the first session of the India- Afghanistan Partnership Council and expressed the hope that the strategic partnership between India and Afghanistan would be further strengthened in the critical period ahead. He reiterated India's unwavering commitment to assisting the Government and people of Afghanistan in their endeavour to build a peaceful, stable, democratic and prosperous country. The Afghan Foreign Minister expressed Afghanistan's deep appreciation for India's friendship, generous assistance and the crucial role it is playing in the process of stabilisation, reconstruction and economic development of Afghanistan.

3. During the first meeting of the India-Afghanistan Partnership Council, the two Ministers welcomed the holding of the first meeting of the Joint Working Group on Political and Security Consultations and decided that the three Joint Working Groups on Trade and Economic Cooperation, Capacity Development and Education, and Social, Cultural, Civil Society and people to people contacts will meet at an early date to recommend further steps to deepen and enhance cooperation in their respective fields. The Foreign Minister of Afghanistan welcomed India's initiative to host a Regional Investors' Meeting in New Delhi to facilitate investments in Afghanistan.

4. The Ministers reaffirmed the determination of both the Governments to enhance and explore all avenues under the aegis of the India-Afghanistan Partnership Council to further strengthen the strategic partnership between the two countries.



214. Statement by Minister for Law and Justice Salman Khurshid at the Kabul Ministerial Meeting of the Heart of Asia Countries.

Kabul, June 14, 2012.

Excellency, Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Dr. Zalmi Rassoul,

Excellency, Foreign Minister of Turkey, Mr. Ahmet Davotoglu,

Special Representative of the UN Secretary General Mr. Jan Kubis

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am indeed very happy to be present at the first Ministerial Meeting of the Istanbul Process in the city of Kabul. I would like to thank the Government of Afghanistan for the warm hospitality extended to our delegation, and to both the Afghan and the Turkish Foreign Ministries for shepherding this important process over the past months. We believe that its movement from Istanbul to Kabul also marks full Afghan ownership of the process. We are pleased to be able to fully share the vision of the Declaration we shall be adopting today.

2. On its own, India shares a privileged, historical and civilizational relationship with Afghanistan. We have, however, always maintained that the economic viability of Afghanistan depends on its fuller integration into its neighbourhood, so that it can regain its historical role of a land-bridge between South Asia, Central Asia, the Middle East and Eurasia. We fully support the efforts for regional confidence-building as a critical component of international efforts to support Afghanistan as it takes forward the task of national reconciliation even while it assumes full responsibility for security.

3. Excellencies, today's meeting and the Declaration we will be adopting takes some modest steps in the direction of regional confidence-building in a region that is afflicted by the phenomenon of terrorism, extremism and drug trafficking. We are happy to take the lead in the two CBMs, i.e. "Chambers of Commerce CBM" and "Commercial Opportunities CBM". We do so while fully cognizant that these CBMs require an atmosphere of security in the country and in the region. It is important to recall that the principal problem in Afghanistan continues to remain the existence of terrorism, drawing upon ideological, financial and logistical support from beyond its borders. This problem, which not only threatens the future of Afghanistan, but also poses a danger to the region and the wider world, can only be addressed if its true nature is acknowledged. We recognize that the solution to this problem cannot be purely military, but also requires political approaches. The Istanbul Process underlines this political effort and seeks to underpin it with economic cooperation.

4. Among the various strands and processes animating the international dialogue on Afghanistan, one crucial missing component has been the role that private and foreign capital and entrepreneurship can play, not only in ensuring the economic future of Afghanistan, but also in countering the current narrative of anxiety of withdrawal and reversing it with a narrative of opportunity and hope. The prospect of economic progress among the region can create a political dynamic that would discourage external interference aimed at destabilising Afghanistan. I am happy that India has been able to propose an important initiative to address this gap, in the form of the Delhi Investment Summit on Afghanistan being organised in New Delhi on 28 June.

5. The idea for the Investment Summit was first mooted as a means of operationalising one of the economic CBMs of the Istanbul Process, and hence is fully embedded in our deliberations today. However, we also see it as a means to pull together the various parallel strands of dialogue about Afghanistan. By highlighting the opportunities of investing in Afghanistan, and providing foreign investors, from the region and beyond, with a forum to share their risks by venturing together, the 28 June event will, hopefully, lead to greater inflow of foreign capital and technology into this country. We believe there are very productive opportunities in the mining, infrastructure, telecommunications, agro-based and small-scale industries, health, pharmaceuticals, education and information technology sectors of Afghanistan. This, in turn, will make viable many governance and public investment possibilities that need to be funded through official development assistance. Thus, we see the 28th June event as a critical link between today's meeting and the Tokyo Conference of 8th July. A situation where companies from the region and beyond have invested their resources in Afghanistan is also the best way to ensure that we work together as stakeholders with a vested interest in peace and stability in Afghanistan.

6. I would encourage all participating countries of the Istanbul Process, as well as the Supporting Countries, to ensure active participation of your companies in the Investment Summit in New Delhi. I also hope that today's meeting will help to carry forward the excellent work done by our co-chairs, over the past six months, under the rubric of the Heart of Asia Istanbul Process and be able to meet next with a sense of achievement.



215. Address by External Affairs Minister at the Delhi Investment Summit on Afghanistan.

New Delhi, June 28, 2012.

Excellency, Dr. Zalmay Rassoul, Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan,

Excellencies Ministers of Commerce & Industry, Finance, Agriculture and Mines from Afghanistan,

Mr. Muthuraman, former President of the Confederation of Indian Industry

Mr. Chandrajit Banerji, Director General of the CII,

Excellencies, Captains of industry

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is indeed a great privilege and honour for me to welcome Excellency Rassoul and Ministers Ahady, Zakhilwal, Rahimi and Shahrani, other senior officials of the Government of Afghanistan and business leaders from Afghanistan, India, the region and beyond, to this important Investment Summit on Afghanistan.

I am happy to note that the Investment Summit on Afghanistan is taking place within two months after the first meeting of the Partnership Council held in Delhi. I am confident that this event will give strong impetus to the implementation of the Strategic Partnership Agreement signed during President Karzai's visit to Delhi in October 2011.

Two of the central aims of that Agreement was to support Afghanistan's emergence as a sovereign country capable of standing on its own feet with the help of similar partnerships with the international community, and to elevate our own bilateral relationship from largely one of development assistance to a full-fledged and self-sustaining partnership in which business and investment play a major role. This event is a step in that direction.

I believe this is the first ever investment meet in India for another country. The strong response of the Indian business community to the event is a sign of the closeness and solidarity we feel for a neighbour, with whom we share a long history and civilizational ties. We hope that it will be the first of many similar events by India and other countries aimed at strengthening Afghanistan and its economy through trade and investment.

By virtue of its contiguity and proximity, the countries in our region have a particularly important role to play in contributing to the security, stability and prosperity of Afghanistan and the region particularly as NATO forces draw down from a combat to a train, advise and assist role.

I especially call upon companies from the region to invest in Afghanistan for mutual benefit to create a virtuous cycle of healthy economic competition in Afghanistan.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The holding of a major investment meet on Afghanistan when NATO forces draw down by 2014 and terrorism continues to take a toll of lives, may at first sight appear counter-intuitive. Afghanistan may not be the easiest destination to sell to an investor. But India has ventured to do so.

This decision is based on certain fundamental insights.

Firstly, Afghanistan has suffered three decades of conflict and violence that have destroyed the structures of the State. Despite over 11 years of heightened international attention and foreign assistance, Afghanistan continues to remain a special case for development and technical assistance in years to come.

Secondly, this attention and assistance will be necessary not just for Afghanistan's good, but to our own security, that of Afghanistan, its neighbours, the region and the world at large. Let us not forget why the world returned to Afghanistan in 2001.

Thirdly, development, security and technical assistance alone is not enough. The Bonn, Chicago and upcoming Tokyo Conferences, and the Istanbul process on regional confidence-building, demonstrate the will of the international community to remain engaged in Afghanistan. But both military interventions and foreign aid are to a large extent influenced by public opinion and prevailing economic conditions. We need something more enduring, something based on self-interest rather than generosity that can move the country towards greater self-reliance and inter-dependence.

Fourthly, the military draw-down should not result in a political or security vacuum that will be filled by extremists once again. There should be something productive in its place.

Finally, we feel that foreign investment and domestic private sector development, both small and large scale, can play that role. Let the grey suits of company executives take the place of olive green or desert brown fatigues of soldiers; and CEOs, the place of Generals.

They can also play a larger stabilizing role.

Every investment is an investment in the future of a country, and an acquisition of a stake in its security and stability together with its own citizens and investors.

This will not be the security that comes from military operations but a security that comes from mutual interest and shared political commitment.

If companies invest together or in numbers, they will all benefit from the collective security of venturing together.

I call upon the investment community to act together in the interest of the collective security of Afghans and the international community.

We need to offer a narrative of opportunity to counter the anxiety of withdrawal, uncertainty, instability and foreign interference. Investments can provide that hope for employment, training and opportunity for the future. We encourage our industries to venture into Afghanistan in numbers together with Afghan partners.

India has relaxed customs duties for Afghanistan's exports as part of an initiative for Least Developed Countries in the SAARC. We invite Indian and other industry to invest in Afghanistan to access the Indian market on these advantageous terms.

We visualize Afghanistan's mineral resources, agricultural products and human resources as possible drivers of growth and regional economic development that together with the energy resources of Central Asia, Iran and the Gulf, the growing economic prowess and markets of China, Russia, Turkey and India, could knit the entire region between Turkey in the West, Russia in the north, China in the east, and the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean in the south, in a web of trade, transit and energy routes and economic cooperation.

This vision requires international support in the form of institutional finance and foreign investment. I appreciate the presence of the World Bank, the ADB and other international financial institutions at this event.

India has agreed to lead in developing the two commercial CBMs on meetings of regional 'Chambers of Commerce' and 'Commercial Opportunities' identified as priorities under the Istanbul process. I call upon CII and other Indian and regional Chambers of Commerce to identify obstacles to trade and investment in the region to step up trade promotion efforts with Afghanistan and exploit the full potential of Afghanistan as a land bridge connecting various parts of Asia and Eurasia, and particularly the vast market of South Asia.

Naturally there will be concerns of security, legal and regulatory regimes, investment protection, logistics, transport, transit, corruption, dispute resolution etc. These will have to be addressed in a spirit of partnership. This Summit may like to consider recommending a mechanism to develop a 'mutual compact' between the government and foreign investors where the interests of both Afghanistan and the international business community are protected. We look forward to this Summit coming up with recommendations for the upcoming Tokyo Conference on Afghanistan.

India will continue to pursue its vision to stabilize Afghanistan through trade and

investment and regional cooperation. We invite international investors and regional countries to join in this vision for Afghanistan individually or in partnership with others.

I am confident that the Summit will attract investments into Afghanistan, and help forge partnerships between businesses in India, Afghanistan, the region, and the world.

I congratulate and thank the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for both the vision and willingness to respond to this enlightened cause and for organizing this event at such short notice.

May I once again welcome all of you to this Investment Summit and convey my best wishes for the success of your deliberations, which would be an important confidence building measure and act as a catalyst for peace, stability and economic growth in Afghanistan and the region.



216. Address by External Affairs Minister at the International Conference on Afghanistan.

Tokyo, July 8, 2012.

Your Excellencies the Foreign Ministers of Japan and Afghanistan,

Excellencies ladies and gentlemen,

Let me begin by thanking the Government of Japan for the excellent arrangements made for this important conference, which is critical to the future of Afghanistan. I echo the appreciation of other delegations for the warm welcome and hospitality that has been extended to us.

Seven months ago, at Bonn, the international community took the decision to stand by Afghanistan and to support it through its process of transition. We agreed to work with Afghanistan during the Transformation Decade with financial and security assistance commensurate with its needs. The Tokyo Conference is aimed at concretizing that pledge.

Excellencies,

While we assist Afghanistan in attaining its long-cherished goal of self reliance, we must also acknowledge that despite our successes in Afghanistan, the basic ideological, infrastructural, logistical and financial infrastructure of terror is still intact in the region. Afghanistan continues to be a country that faces an existential threat from terrorism emanating from beyond its borders - a threat that it is fighting every day, and that it is ill-equipped to repel in the absence of substantial assistance from the international community.

It is this perspective that should animate our thinking when we commit to Afghanistan's long-term future today. This perspective should not only determine the quantum of resources that we commit to Afghanistan, it should also temper the kind of conditionalities that are attached to assistance. Good governance is crucial to the building of a strong and legitimate state. But good governance also requires a strong state that has full control over its territory. This is not yet the case in Afghanistan. The Mutual Accountability Framework that has been drafted for this Conference is a noble effort, which we support and welcome. At the same time we believe that true mutuality can only be achieved at equal levels of capacity - and we would not need to have this Conference if that were already the case. Clear and visible support to Afghanistan is crucial in order to preserve the gains made by the international community and Afghan men and women in the past decade.

The figures that have been put forward as development assistance to Afghanistan represent a base-line or minimum requirement for a least developed land-locked

country that has experienced externally-imposed conflicts for three decades that has shattered the structures of state and society and continues to face an existential threat of suicide terrorism from across its borders. These amounts give a fighting chance for success if they can be optimized and managed in a frugal way without excessive administrative costs. Indigenization of aid management while upholding best practices should be one of our aims in the Transformation Decade.

On our part, I would like to reiterate that India does not visualise its partnership with Afghanistan as conditions-based or transitory, nor are we looking to transition out of this partnership. In spite of not being a traditional donor country, we have shared significant resources for Afghanistan's reconstruction and development. During his landmark visit to Afghanistan last year, our Prime Minister pledged an additional US\$ 500 million to our development portfolio so far, bringing our total cumulative commitment to 2 billion dollars. A large portion of this assistance has either been disbursed or is committed to ongoing projects. We have also committed to begin a number of new projects over the course of the coming year. All these projects have been initiated on the specific request of the Government of Afghanistan, and hence are in line with the Afghan development priorities. Also, Indian projects avoid the multiple-levels of subcontracting and dependence on private security companies that add to the overhead costs of the work done by many other development partners of Afghanistan. As a result, we have managed to carry out some of the most economical and cost-effective projects in Afghanistan. The US\$ 500 million assistance announced by Prime Minister of India in May 2011 will be spent from 2012 through 2015. The projects will be in line with the projects suggested under the National Priority Programmes of the Government of Afghanistan.

As India continues to grow economically, we will continue to share our resources and experience with friends in the region. India does not plan to limit its future development engagement in Afghanistan to a particular time frame or only to the presently planned projects. Our partnership is for the long-term. The pace and nature of the utilization of the present and future Indian assistance will be determined by the preference, comfort level and absorptive capacity of the Afghan government. "

In line with our commitment to Afghanistan the Confederation of Indian Industry organized an Investment 'Summit' dedicated exclusively to attracting foreign investment and partnerships in Afghanistan. There are interesting prospects in the mining, hydrocarbons, infrastructure, agriculture and agro-industries, small and medium industries, health and education sectors. This was the first time that India has held a conference aimed at highlighting the investment potential of another country. The conference also came out with some notable recommendations, on behalf of the participating Afghan, Indian and international

business representatives, for the Afghan Government, for our own government, and also for the international community. Some of these related to the facilitation of two-way transit and transport agreements and infrastructure connecting Afghanistan to major ports and markets in the region. There were also proposals for and creation of an international fund for SME development in Afghanistan with the active support of international development agencies, governments, and industry bodies. We will need active support of the international community to make a reality of the vision of a prosperous Afghanistan acting as a hub of the region; and with its resources and trading instincts, as a catalyst for wider regional cooperation.

Excellencies,

History shows that the proud Afghan people have always craved independence and self-reliance above everything else. India is ready to partner the international community and Afghanistan to achieve these goals within a globalized economic environment. A dynamic Afghan economy could make it a source of security as well as the heart of a cooperative region.

Thank you



A couple of days before the Conference on July 6, a Press Release issued by the MEA had emphasized the importance of the conference and India's active interest in ensuring sustainable development of Afghanistan. It said India as an active member in the reconstruction and development efforts of Afghanistan, had a stake in the peace and prosperity of the Afghan nation. India and Afghanistan signed the Strategic Partnership Agreement in October, 2011 which reiterated India's long-terms commitment to the development and progress of Afghanistan. Towards this, India organized the Delhi Investment Summit with the objective to attract foreign investment into Afghanistan in the light of new opportunities opening up in the areas like mining, hydrocarbon and infrastructure and investments in traditional sectors like agriculture, industry, capacity building and health & services, etc, said the press release.

217. Remarks by Foreign Secretary at a Round Table during a regional conference on “Peace and Stabilization in Afghanistan: What can neighbours contribute?” organised by Delhi Policy Group

New Delhi, July 19, 2012.

Afghanistan is in the midst of a critical phase of transition wherein it assumes responsibility for security and governance as the NATO/ISAF draw down with the aim of withdrawing from a combat role by 2014.

2. The sustained commitment of the international community to Afghanistan is essential if it is to stand on its own feet. In the last year or so, the international community has reiterated its commitment to Afghanistan at conferences at Bonn, Chicago and Tokyo and at the regional level in Istanbul and Kabul. During these interactions it became clear that Afghanistan’s neighbours carry a special responsibility. So the first requirement is that neighbours must stay engaged with Afghanistan.

3. Secondly while the continued commitment of the international community is essential, a positive contribution by Afghanistan’s neighbours can play an important role in stabilizing the country. For too long Afghanistan has borne the brunt of overt and covert interference and has had to combat terrorist sanctuaries and safe havens that exist beyond its borders. Bringing an end to this dilemma is the critical contribution which some neighbours can make.

4. In addressing this issue we need to reflect on why Afghanistan is often viewed as an arena of conflict and competition. Why have actions of neighbours exacerbated the ethnic and tribal fault lines in the country. We need an environment in which neighbours do not seek ‘strategic depth’ or try to build firewalls to prevent a deteriorating security situation spill over into their territory. We believe that assisting Afghanistan cannot be reduced to a zero sum game and cooperation should replace conflict and competition. This can only happen if countries in the region join together to extend all possible assistance to Afghanistan so that it is able to tackle the manifold challenges of extremism, ethnic and tribal divisions, poverty and unemployment. Simultaneously there is need for some form of assurance that Afghanistan will not emerge as an area of political influence of only one country or group of countries. Neutralism is from a bygone era. But a policy of non-alignment is worth discussing.

5. In our view regional cooperation on projects of multilateral scope and benefit could give an impetus to this scenario. The path of regional cooperation is littered with road blocks and conflicting interests and the record so far not very promising. However, attempts to forge a common and inclusive platform to

realise regional cooperation on Afghanistan continue to be made. The many bilateral, trilateral and quadrilateral dialogues in the region can contribute to narrowing divergences and building convergences, but by their very nature they tend to be restrictive and exclusive. Regional organisations like SAARC and SCO and the proposed arrangements for the “new silk road” – perhaps with a different name – could have an important role to play in Afghanistan and region. However, for Afghanistan to develop its potential and to emerge as a hub connecting Central and South Asia and indeed the entire region, a wider engagement involving Afghanistan’s neighbours and other regional countries, stands a better chance of success as it is able to bring together all important stake holders in the process. The Istanbul ‘Heart of Asia’ process seeks to achieve just that.

6. The Istanbul Conference of November, 2011, brought together a large number of stake holders, including Afghanistan’s neighbours, on a single platform to address the very issues that the international community has been grappling with for over a decade. Since then, while progress has been modest, the Kabul Ministerial Conference of June 14, 2012 has succeeded in evolving a common set of confidence building measures ranging from political and security cooperation to economic cooperation, disaster management and education. The listing of these CBMs and seeking participation of member and supporting countries of the Istanbul process has been a comparatively easy task. But the real challenge before all of us is the implementation of these CBMs in a comprehensive manner.

7. These CBMs, while they may seem ambitious in the context of Afghanistan’s tortured history, bear reiteration. They are as follows:

- (i) Development of joint guidelines for cooperation in the field of disaster management (the ‘Disaster Management CBM’);
- (ii) Enhanced cooperation for fighting terrorism, including through exchange of information (the ‘Counter Terrorism CBM’);
- (iii) Cooperation and interaction among regional countries in the area of counter-narcotics, including through countering the production, trafficking and consumption of opium and other narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and their precursors, as well as through enhancing bilateral efforts to prevent illicit cross-border movement of personnel and material (the ‘Counter Narcotics CBM’);
- (iv) Establishment of a framework for enhanced cooperation among Chambers of Commerce (the ‘Chambers of Commerce CBM’);
- (v) Improvement of the exchange of information on commercial opportunities and specific trading conditions (the ‘Commercial Opportunities CBM’);

- (vi) Development of a coherent strategy to develop and maintain a regionally connecting infrastructure, with support from international partners (the 'Regional Infrastructure CBM'); and
- (vii) Broadening cooperation and exchanges in the field of education and science on a short or long-term basis (the 'Education CBM').

8. While all these CBMs are important, the salience of the Counter Terrorism and Counter Narcotics CBMs needs to be underlined as both terrorism and narcotics have over the years proved to be the most destructive factors in the security architecture of Afghanistan and the region. The role of Afghanistan's neighbours in combating these pernicious evils assumes great importance. Unless the menace of cross border terrorism and the narcotics trade, which often go hand-in-hand, are tackled comprehensively Afghanistan and the region cannot be stabilized. Misguided policies of the past have to be jettisoned for lasting peace and stability in the region.

9. India has taken the lead with respect to the 'Chambers of Commerce CBM' and the 'Commercial Opportunities CBM'. We intend to develop a cooperative framework through which we are able to bind the region in a web of trade, energy and transport linkages that will not only act as a major confidence building measure but will also contribute to greater economic synergies in the region and spur economic growth in Afghanistan and beyond. This is a task which cannot be achieved by any one country alone and hence within the framework of the Istanbul process we will seek to involve countries in the region so that they develop a vested interest in peace, stability and economic growth in Afghanistan.

10. The Delhi Investment Summit on Afghanistan organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), with the support of the Governments of India and Afghanistan as also apex Afghan business and investment organisations, on June 28 this year was aimed at attracting investments into Afghanistan through cross-cutting partnerships and joint ventures. The Summit is an example of how regional countries and the wider international community can seek to come together to change the discourse in Afghanistan from one of conflict and despair to one of progress and prosperity.

11. These various CBMs point to what Afghanistan's neighbours can contribute. If we seize the opportunity available for establishing cooperative arrangements in Afghanistan we could avert the dangerous possibilities ahead and create a climate of peace.



218. Media Briefing on the State Visit of President Karzai to India.**New Delhi, November 9, 2012.**

Deputy Secretary (XP) (Shri Bishwadip Dey): Good Afternoon friends. Thank you very much for coming this afternoon. Today I am deputizing for the Official Spokesperson Mr. Syed Akbaruddin.

I have two announcements to make. I have with me Additional Secretary (Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran) Mr. Yash Sinha. He will speak to you on one of the topics of the announcements that I have to make.

The announcement is about the President of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan His Excellency Hamid Karzai who will be on a state visit to India from November 9-13, 2012. He will be in Mumbai and Delhi during the course of his visit. The President of Afghanistan will be accompanied by a high level Ministerial and official delegation from Afghanistan.

While in Delhi, President Karzai will be accorded a ceremonial welcome on November 12, 2012. The President of India will host a state banquet in his honour. Delegation-level talks will be held between the Prime Minister and President Karzai.

President Karzai will also deliver the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Memorial Lecture organized by the Indian Council of Cultural Relations in New Delhi on November 12, 2012.

The second announcement is with regard to the visit of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Chairperson of the National League of Democracy of Myanmar. She would be visiting India from November 13-18, 2012. She is scheduled to deliver the Nehru Memorial Lecture on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on November 14, 2012.

It would be recalled that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi had accepted the invitation from Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, in her capacity as Chairperson of Nehru Memorial Fund, to deliver the Nehru Memorial Lecture when she met the Prime Minister during his visit to Myanmar in May 2012.

We shall soon be providing you with the details of her visit including her engagements during the visit.

Additional Secretary Mr. Sinha would further brief you on the visit of President Hamid Karzai and has kindly agreed to take a few questions. The questions for today's briefing would be limited only to the visit of President Karzai.

May I now request Additional Secretary Mr. Sinha to make his opening remarks?

Additional Secretary (PAI) (Shri Y.K. Sinha): Thank you Bishwadip. Good afternoon to all of you.

As my colleague has said, I am to inform you that President Hamid Karzai will be making a state visit to India from the 9th to the 13th of this month. He is arriving later today in Mumbai. He has a full engagement during his visit here. We have outlined the elements of the programme. It is a state visit with a ceremonial welcome planned on the 12th at Rashtrapati Bhavan. The President will also be hosting a banquet in his honour later that evening. During the day he has engagements, meetings with the Prime Minister, delegation-level talks. And of course he will be delivering the Maulana Azad Memorial Lecture later in the evening. We expect that during the visit, apart from reviewing the entire gamut of bilateral relations there would be discussions on regional and international issues. We also expect that a few MoUs/agreements would be signed during the course of the visit.

Thank you.

Question: Yash, I am given to understand by the Afghan Ambassador that Mr. Karzai is going to Bombay trying to raise funds for the projects which our consortiums have been able to bag and so on. I am just curious, do we have a plan B in the unlikely event of the Taliban and ISI ganging up after the Americans and NATO forces leave Afghanistan, to protect our assets in Afghanistan?

Additional Secretary (PAI): The President of Afghanistan will be in Mumbai and, as I said, would be interacting with business leaders in the financial capital. The idea obviously is to encourage Indian business to look at Afghanistan as a destination for investments, for greater trade, for greater economic cooperation. As you are aware, India hosted the Delhi Investment Summit on Afghanistan, the first such summit that India has hosted for any other country in India. That was in the end of June this year. There has been considerable follow-up since then. Obviously the intention is to try and attract Indian industry, Indian business to looking at Afghanistan as a destination for investments and trade.

On your second question, I think I would rather not answer that in detail now because obviously the situation is evolving and we will have to wait and see how things develop in Afghanistan and the region. All I can say is that the Government monitors these developments very closely and we will take necessary measures to safeguard our interests.

Question: During the talks, is the implementation of Chahbahar agreement also to come up?

Additional Secretary (PAI): As I said, all issues, regional, international and bilateral issues, will come up for discussion. Specifically of course you are aware that the Strategic Partnership Agreement was signed on the 4th of October

last year. And I think both the leaders will use this opportunity to review and consolidate our strategic partnership.

Question: You just said that there is a considerable follow-up to the Delhi Summit on Investment in Afghanistan. Could you give us any concrete proposals being cleared for investment by Indian companies in Afghanistan? Anything concrete?

Additional Secretary (PAI): When I referred to follow-up I referred to the follow-up in terms of attracting investments into Afghanistan. As you are aware, there is a regional process called the Istanbul Process of which India is a member. India in fact is the lead country for two of the seven regional confidence-building measures, namely the Regional Chambers of Commerce CBM and the Commercial Opportunities CBM. So, it is part of our policy of trying to attract investments into Afghanistan and also to change the narrative from a narrative of anxiety to a narrative of hope.

Question: In the Strategic Partnership Agreement, we had offered to train Afghan army personnel. Can you give us a sense of how many personnel have been trained, how many we plan to train in the coming years, as also a sense of the aid? Yesterday the Cabinet also approved I think something like Rs.540 crore third phase of SDP or whatever. Could you just give us a sense of how much has been given in the last decade? We have committed 2.1 billion dollars one knows. But how much has been invested and how much still remains to be done?

Additional Secretary (PAI): As far as your first question goes, India is involved in capacity building in various fields including the security sector. You are aware of the provisions of the Strategic Partnership Agreement. All I can say at this stage is that we are doing training of the Afghan National Security Forces specifically on requests received from the Government of Afghanistan. I think the numbers are modest. I would not want to go into details.

As far as the investments into Afghanistan are concerned, we are looking at investments in various sectors, particularly in mineral sector. You are aware that the consortium of Indian companies led by SAIL has won the bid for the Hajigak iron ore mines, and discussions are under way to finalise the contract in this regard. So, we are obviously looking at a greater, enhanced economic cooperation with Afghanistan to expand our already very vibrant relationship from a Government-to-Government assistance programme or relationship to cover the entire gamut of activities in the economic, commercial field, in the people-to-people contacts which are extremely strong, and other areas like culture, etc.

Question: Since the strategic agreement was signed, how many times have the Working Groups met? Or have they met at all?

Additional Secretary (PAI): As you are aware, the implementing mechanism for the Strategic Partnership Agreement is the Partnership Council which is co-chaired by the Foreign Ministers of both the countries. The first session of the Partnership Council was held on the 1st of May this year in New Delhi. This was preceded by a Joint Working Group on political and security consultations, which is headed on our side by the Foreign Secretary and on the Afghan side by the Deputy Foreign Minister. There are three other Joint Working Groups - on trade and economic cooperation, on development assistance, and on education, capacity building and culture which we hope will meet shortly.

Question: Sir, you are of course aware of the CAREC meeting that approved 23 billion dollars of trade routes, what is known as the Bonn Agreement. It seems that most of the routes seem to be coming to Gwadar and exit is planned from Gwadar. How are we trying to speed up our connectivity plans with Afghanistan and Central Asia?

Additional Secretary (PAI): I will limit myself to Afghanistan because that is what I handle. Refer your question to my colleague who does handle Central Asia. As far as connectivity and transit to Afghanistan and Central Asia are concerned, obviously it is a priority for us, and not only for us but for Afghanistan also, and we hope that existing treaties like the Afghanistan-Pakistan Trade and Transit Agreement (APTTA) would at some point be extended to cover transit of goods from India to Afghanistan.

Question: Sir, very recently the UN Security Council under the Indian Presidency announced sanctions against the Haqqani Network. Later India in its statement held the Haqqani Network responsible for violent attacks on Indian interests. Which particular attack is India holding the Haqqani Network directly responsible for, Sir?

Additional Secretary (PAI): I think the statement basically welcomed the listing of the Haqqani Network under the UNSC resolutions. As far as attacks on Indian interests are concerned, there have been specific attacks that have been believed to be carried out by the Haqqani Network. I do not want to go into details at this stage except to say that there are credible reports of not only attacks that have taken place but of attacks that could take place in the future.

Question: Is there evidence of ISI involvement in such attacks, Sir?

Additional Secretary (PAI): I would not like to comment on that.

Question: Afghanistan, India and the US held a trilateral dialogue in September. Could you please shed some light on what was discussed in that dialogue?

Additional Secretary (PAI): As you are aware, India and the US during their

strategic dialogue in June in Washington decided to convene a trilateral dialogue between India, Afghanistan and the US. That dialogue took place in September on the margins of the UNGA in New York, and gave an opportunity to all three countries to discuss a variety of issues regarding Afghanistan and the region, and to see where the three countries could cooperate in trying to bring peace, stability and progress in Afghanistan.

Question: Yash, with Pakistan all set to give the MFN status to India by the end of this year, is there any possibility of a trilateral dialogue between India, Pakistan and Afghanistan to explore the possibility of opening up Wagah to send our goods to Afghanistan and vice versa?

Additional Secretary (PAI): I would not like to comment on that right now because I think it is a bit premature. But certainly greater regional cooperation and better connectivity would be good for all the countries in the region.

Deputy Secretary (XP): With that we come to the conclusion of this briefing.

Thank you.



219. Statement by the Prime Minister at the Media Interaction during State Visit of President of Afghanistan.

New Delhi, November 12, 2012.

Your Excellency President Hamid Karzai, President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan,

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Media,

It is my great pleasure to welcome President Hamid Karzai and members of his high-level delegation to India.

President Karzai is no stranger to India. He has long been a close friend of our country and a steadfast supporter of India-Afghanistan relations. We admire his leadership of Afghanistan through a very critical period of more than a decade, during which Afghanistan has made significant progress despite multiple challenges. I therefore consider it a special privilege to be able to receive him in Delhi on a State Visit.

We had detailed and frank discussions today covering the entire spectrum of our bilateral relations, as well as the challenges confronting our region. We reaffirmed our shared vision of a stable, strong, united, sovereign and prosperous Afghanistan. We reviewed progress in the implementation of the Strategic Partnership Agreement during the past year and we reaffirmed our commitment to deepen our cooperation in accordance with the vision outlined in the Agreement.

President Karzai and I have agreed to intensify our cooperation with a special focus on deepening our economic engagement in areas ranging from agriculture and small businesses to mining and infrastructure.

We discussed the need to develop a strategic economic partnership, which will build on our economic synergies for mutual benefit of our two peoples. I also reiterated to President Karzai our belief that Afghanistan's regional economic integration will contribute to overall prosperity and stability in our region.

India remains committed to supporting Afghanistan in its development efforts. Our development assistance commitment to Afghanistan currently stands at approximately 2 billion us dollars. We have expanded our programmes for capacity-building, institution-building and human resource development. With the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding today, we will launch the Third Phase of Small Development Projects to address the socio-economic needs of people throughout Afghanistan.

We also discussed the changes in the security and political situation in and around Afghanistan. I expressed to President Karzai our belief that sustained

international support and cooperation in all respects, including in combating terrorism emanating from the neighbourhood, will help Afghanistan meet these challenges. President Karzai's own enlightened leadership will play a big part in this effort.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The natural bond between India and Afghanistan is based on several millennia of engagement between our two peoples. India supports the nation-building efforts of Afghanistan, especially in the areas of governance, security and development. We also support efforts to achieve a lasting peace in Afghanistan that brings together all sections of Afghan society while preserving the achievements of the last decade, including in the area of women's rights. We respect the choices that the Afghan people make of their own free will.

I am confident President Karzai's present visit will further strengthen the excellent relationship between our two countries. I once again convey my personal good wishes to President Karzai as he leads his country through a challenging time and wish to assure him that India stands with him and the people of Afghanistan.

.I Thank you



220. Joint Statement issued on the occasion of the State Visit by Afghan President Hamid Karzai.

New Delhi, November 12, 2012.

1. At the invitation of His Excellency Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, President of the Republic of India, His Excellency Mr. Hamid Karzai, President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, paid a state visit to India from November 9-13, 2012. During the visit to Mumbai, the President of Afghanistan attended a Business Meet on November 10, 2012 where leading business leaders of India participated. He delivered the prestigious Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Memorial lecture organized by the Indian Council of Cultural relations (ICCR) in New Delhi on November 12, 2012. A high-level delegation comprising Dr. Zalmay Rassoul, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Rangin Dadfar Spanta, National Security Advisor, Mr. Anwar Ulhaq Ahady, Minister of Commerce and Industries, Mr. Wahidullah Shahrani, Minister of Mines, and Mr. Sayed Makhdoom Raheen, Minister of Information and Culture accompanied the President.
2. After a ceremonial welcome in New Delhi, the President of Afghanistan visited Raj Ghat to pay homage to the memory of Mahatma Gandhi. The Vice President of India, Shri M. Hamid Ansari, Minister of External Affairs, Shri Salman Khurshid, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Smt. Sushma Swaraj and the Chairperson UPA, Smt. Sonia Gandhi called on the President of Afghanistan. The President of India hosted a banquet in honour of the visiting dignitary.
3. Afghanistan and India have had a long shared history going back over millennia. The two countries are natural strategic partners by virtue of geography and a common vision of peace and cooperation in the region. The two countries have built up extensive, mutually beneficial relations in all fields. The strong ties have been manifested in recent times in the form of a robust Strategic Partnership Agreement signed between the two countries in October 2011.
4. The President of Afghanistan held delegation-level discussions with Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest and relevance. The talks between President Karzai and Indian leaders were held in an extremely warm, cordial and friendly atmosphere reflective of the special and unique relationship between the two countries. The Prime Minister assured the President of Afghanistan of India's support as Afghanistan completes the crucial period of transition by 2014 and, noting the timeless nature of India-Afghanistan relations, reiterated the continuation of India's support in the period beyond transition.
5. While reviewing their relationship, the two leaders expressed satisfaction

at the progress of implementation of the Strategic Partnership Agreement with the convening of the first meeting of the Partnership Council on May 1, 2012. The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the full implementation of the Agreement in all areas, including the expansion of political, security, economic and cultural cooperation. The two sides noted that the Strategic Partnership Agreement underlines the multifaceted ties between two countries and has drawn its inspiration and strength from the warmth and resilience of our historical people-to-people ties.

6. The two sides welcomed the steps taken towards the promotion of business links between Afghanistan and India, and were supportive of Indian efforts at encouraging investment in Afghanistan through the Delhi Investment Summit on Afghanistan, held in Delhi on June 28, 2012. The Delhi Investment Summit helped attract regional and international attention towards investment in Afghanistan and its potential in providing economic development and stability to Afghanistan during the transition period. They felt there were prospects for enhanced cooperation among all countries of the region in helping Afghanistan build a better future through harnessing of its natural resources.

7. The two sides also reviewed the implementation of Indian development and reconstruction projects in Afghanistan and were appreciative of their contribution to the development of Afghanistan. They also encouraged Indian investments in Afghanistan to help Afghanistan realize its economic potential to both countries' mutual advantage.

8. Both sides acknowledged the importance of regional cooperation and connectivity which could assist in Afghanistan's political and economic progress. They welcomed the Indian stewardship of the two commercial Confidence Building Measures under the Istanbul process that seeks to inspire new trust and confidence in the region by acknowledging and capitalizing on Afghanistan's position at the 'Heart of Asia'. The two sides also discussed the potential of the Chahbahar port in helping expand trade and transit opportunities and providing alternative transport routes for the prosperity and development of Afghanistan and the region.

9. The two leaders expressed severe condemnation of terrorism and extremism that had been inflicted on their countries from beyond their borders. The President and Prime Minister offered their condolences over the killings of civilians and troops in Afghanistan, most recently the suicide bomb blast at a mosque on the day of Eid al Adha, killing more than 40 people and injuring scores of others, and expressed their determination to work with the international community to combat the forces of terrorism posing a threat to the region. They also stressed on the need to deal firmly with the safe havens for terrorists groups that continue to exist outside Afghanistan's borders.

10. Both sides reiterated abiding faith in and commitment to democracy, development and peace. They shared the confidence that cooperation at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels will enable the two countries to realize their developmental aspirations, and contribute to peace, prosperity and security in the region.

11. The two sides signed the following documents during the visit: (i) Memorandum of Understanding on Small Development Projects (SDPs) up to US \$ 100 million; (ii) Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of development of Coal Mineral Resources; (iii) Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the field of Fertilizer; (iv) Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation in Youth Affairs.

12. The President of Afghanistan thanked the President of India for the warmth, cordiality and gracious hospitality extended to him and members of his delegation during their stay in India.



221. List of documents signed during the State Visit of President of Afghanistan.

New Delhi, November 12, 2012.

S. No.	Name of the Document	Afghan Signatory	Indian Signatory
1	MoU between the Govt. of the Republic of India and the Govt. of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan regarding Indian Grant Assistance for Implementation of Small Development Projects through local Govt. bodies, Community Organizations, Charitable Trusts and Educational and Vocational Institutions	Mr. Zalmi Rassoul Foreign Minister	Shri Salman Khurshid External Affairs Minister
2	MoU between the Govt. of the Republic of India and the Govt. of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on Cooperation in the Field of Fertilizer Sector	Mr. Wahidullah Shahrani Minister of Mines	Shri Salman Khurshid External Affairs Minister
3	MoU between the Govt. of the Republic of India and the Govt. of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on Cooperation in Youth Affairs	Mr. Sayed Makhdoom Raheen Minister of Information and Culture	Shri Salman Khurshid External Affairs Minister
4	MoU between the Govt. of the Republic of India and the Govt. of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on Cooperation in the Field of Development of Coal Mineral Resources	Mr. Wahidullah Shahrani Minister of Mines	Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal Minister for Coal



BANGLADESH

222. Cooperation in power sector between India and Bangladesh January 11, 2012.

In response to a question on cooperation in power sector between India and Bangladesh, the Official Spokesperson said that during the visit of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Bangladesh in September 2011, India and Bangladesh had agreed to promote trans-border cooperation in the management of shared water resources, hydropower potential and eco-systems and in the area of connectivity. It was also agreed that arrangements for cooperation in the generation, transmission and distribution of electricity, including electricity from renewable or other sources, would be established.

India has a liberal policy permitting 100% FDI in respect of projects relating to electricity generation, transmission and distribution. In this regard, the participation of Bangladesh in power projects in India, particularly in the north-eastern states of India adjoining Bangladesh, would be welcome. Such joint ventures in the power sector involving the two countries would also facilitate the evacuation of power from North-Eastern India to Bangladesh and through Bangladesh into other parts of India. Details of such cooperation can be discussed at the forthcoming meeting of the Steering Committee on Power held at the level of Secretaries between the two countries.



223. Convocation Address of Vice President delivered at the Tripura University.

Agartala, January 12, 2012.

"I am happy to be in your midst on my first visit to Tripura and participate in the 9th Annual Convocation of the University. In its journey of 25 years, the University has traversed a distinguished path in disseminating knowledge and pursuing excellence, with a focus on aspects of life and culture specific to the North East Region and to the State of Tripura.

Today is a special occasion, as all convocations are. They mark the rite of passage of students from the portals of academia to the world outside to pursue their chosen vocations and their calling in life. They also give us an opportunity to recognise the exceptional and the brightest for their achievements and contributions to the public good.

It gives me great pleasure in welcoming in our midst Bangladesh's illustrious daughter, Her Excellency Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. As the daughter of the Father of Bangladesh, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and as Prime Minister, Your Excellency's tireless efforts in upholding democratic values and women's rights in Bangladesh are recognised and serve as a global benchmark.

We admire your courage, Prime Minister, in facing the threats of terrorism and extremism afflicting humanity, your advocacy of pluralism, moderation and tolerance, and the ambitious agenda of economic growth, welfare and social justice that you have planned for, and implemented in Bangladesh.

Meeting neighbours is always an occasion of happiness and rejoicing. It also provides occasion to review and renew bonds that bind us and address concerns that distract us.

Ladies and gentlemen

The destinies of India and Bangladesh are interlinked. Our people share in great measure a common history, culture, language and tradition. They have co-operated and faced challenges together. Our relationship is rooted in shared values and commitment to secularism, multi-party democracy, social justice and fundamental human freedoms.

The landmark visits of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to India in January 2010 and of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to Dhaka last September elevated the bilateral relationship to new heights.

Bangladesh abuts our North Eastern region and provides critical linkages to its economy, ecology and environment. Indeed, the North Eastern Region Vision

2020 document approved by the North Eastern Council and released by the Prime Minister in July 2008 reflects the commitment of the Union and various State Governments to the comprehensive, inclusive and accelerated development of the region so as to restore its national economic eminence.

We stand committed to fashioning economic and trade arrangements, not only for ensuring closer integration of the region with the national economy but also with the economies of neighbouring countries in the region.

The Vision document has noted that the region should play "the arrow-head role....in the vanguard of the country's Look-East Policy". It specifically calls for "making the Look East Policy meaningful for the region" by improving connectivity with markets of neighbouring countries. It notes that "opening up the land route through Bangladesh could enormously benefit both countries" and calls for diplomatic efforts focused on "improving relations with the neighbours".

The commitment was demonstrated when Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was accompanied by Chief Ministers of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram during his visit to Bangladesh in September 2011. This underscores the great interest and enthusiasm of the States of Northeast India in furthering their engagement with Bangladesh.

Tripura shares a special relationship with Bangladesh. Having borders with it on three sides, the state and its people had played important roles in the path leading to the birth of Bangladesh. We remain confident that implementing the Joint Communiqués issued after the landmark visits of the two Prime Ministers would cement this special relationship through enhancing connectivity between Tripura and Bangladesh and promoting close people to people and business linkages.

As we enter a new year, let us recall that last year was special for our countries as it marked two important milestones in our bilateral relationship. First, Bangladesh celebrated its 40th anniversary of freedom and formation. Second, Bangladesh and India held joint commemorations to mark the sesqui-centenary of the birth of that versatile and multifaceted genius Rabindranath Tagore, who both our nations and our people refer to as kobiguru, Vishwa-kavi and Gurudev and whose pen wrote our respective national anthems.

I myself visited Dhaka in May last year to take part in these celebrations and was struck by how Rabindranath Tagore represents much that is precious in our common heritage and has influenced our intellectual and cultural ethos in an enduring and distinctive manner.

Let us all work together for the one supreme cause that animated Tagore, the union of all sections of humanity in sympathy and understanding, in truth and love.

I take this opportunity to congratulate Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on whom the University has conferred the degree of Doctor of Literature honoris causa.

I also felicitate the students graduating today and wish them all success in their lives and chosen professions."



224. Press Release of the Ministry of Culture on the joint India-Bangladesh celebrations of the 150th birth Anniversary of Rabuindranath Tagore.

New Delhi, May 4, 2012.

A Joint Communique was issued highlighting the importance of joint Indo-Bangla celebrations to mark the 150th Birth Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore after the visit of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina to India in January, 2010. The decision to jointly celebrate the 150th Anniversary provided the two countries an opportunity to build a vibrant and forward looking relationship.

A National Committee (NC) under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister had been constituted on 27th April, 2010 to consider policies and lay down guidelines for the appropriate commemoration. It held its first meeting on 20th May, 2010. A National Implementation Committee (NIC) had also been constituted on 27th April, 2010 under the Chairmanship of Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee for chalking out the programmes and activities and to implement the decisions of the National Committee. The NIC had met twice in 2010 - on 5th May and 14th July. The third meeting of the NIC was held on 6th April, 2011 and the fourth meeting of NIC was held on 24th March, 2012. Several programmes and projects were approved by the NIC for a befitting commemoration of 150th Birth Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore.

A delegation led by the then Secretary Culture, Government of India visited Dhaka in December, 2010 to chalk out the programmes of Joint Indo-Bangla Celebrations. Subsequently a delegation from Bangladesh also visited India in April, 2011 and further discussions was held on joint commemorations. The inaugural function of the commemoration in India was held on 7th May, 2011 in New Delhi to start the year-long joint celebrations. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and Planning Minister of Bangladesh, Air Vice Marshal (Retd.), Shri A. K. Khandker, Smt. Sonia Gandhi, Chairperson, National Advisory Council (NAC), Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Culture Minister Kumari Selja, Information & Broadcasting Minister Smt. Ambika Soni, External Affairs Minister Shri S.M. Krishna, HRD & Communications Minister Shri Kapil Sibal and President, ICCR Dr. Karan Singh participated in the inaugural programme.

Earlier, an inaugural function was also held on 6th May, 2011 in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The National Implementation Committee had decided in its fourth meeting held on 24th March, 2012 that the joint commemoration will culminate with Closing Ceremonies to be organized in Dhaka on 6th May, 2012, and in New Delhi on 7th May, 2012. Accordingly, the Closing Ceremonies are being organized in

Dhaka and New Delhi. Vice-President of India Shri M. Hamid Ansari will be the Chief Guest at the Closing Ceremony on 7th May, 2012 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. Several cultural programmes will also be organized by Indian and Bangladeshi groups on 6th and 7th May, 2012 in Delhi as well as Dhaka.

During the year-long joint Indo-Bangla celebrations, several programmes involving various art forms like songs, dramas, recitation, poetry, kantha paintings etc, were organized in India and Bangladesh. The programmes have been attended by several dignitaries, high officials and top cultural artists of Bangladesh. The performances in packed auditoria have received rave reviews in practically all leading newspapers and electronic media of India and Bangladesh. The same have renewed the bonds of shared cultural heritage of the two countries.



225. Joint Press Interaction by External Affairs Minister and Foreign Minister of Bangladesh at the conclusion of first meeting of India-Bangladesh Joint Consultative Commission.

New Delhi, May 7, 2012.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Syed Akbaruddin): Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen of the media. I welcome you to this media interaction. As is usual, we will begin with opening remarks.

I would now request the External Affairs Minister of India Mr. S.M. Krishna to make his opening remarks.

External Affairs Minister of India (Shri S.M. Krishna): Your Excellency Dr. Dipu Moni, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, members of the respective delegations, friends from the media:

Foreign Affairs Minister Dr. Dipu Moni and I have just had a very useful and productive first meeting of the India-Bangladesh Joint Consultative Commission.

This meeting is reflective of the qualitative transformation that India-Bangladesh relations have witnessed in recent years. Our relations now encompass every possible area of cooperation.

Dr. Dipu Moni and I have reviewed the progress in bilateral cooperation in all areas, including trade, connectivity, power, water resources, security, border management, infrastructure, people-to-people contacts, culture, environment, education among others.

We are happy that our mutual cooperation has resulted in commendable achievements in recent months. Some of these include:

- India is now facilitating 24-hour unfettered access to Bangladesh nationals at Dahagram and Angarporta through the Tin Bigha Area.
- The signing of the India-Bangladesh boundary strip maps by our Plenipotentiaries is almost complete, except for a few which are also likely to be completed very soon.
- The Coordinated Border Management Plan is now in operation, and will help to reduce incidents on the border, including illegal and criminal activities,
- Following the positive experience in Meghalaya, we hope to open new border haats along the International Border in the States of Tripura and Mizoram as well.

I am confident that these measures would act as catalysts in strengthening the excellent bonds of friendship existing at the level of the people of our two countries.

We reviewed our cooperation in the power sector. The work on power inter-grid connectivity is progressing, and we are hopeful that 500 MW power would flow from India to Bangladesh during the summer of 2013. We are also moving ahead with the setting up of a 1320 MW coal-based joint venture power plant which is expected to be commissioned by 2016. We welcome the participation of Bangladesh in power projects in India, particularly in the North-Eastern States of India.

We have made steady progress in the utilization of the US \$ one billion Line of Credit extended by India to Bangladesh. Just yesterday, Hon. Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee announced in Dhaka that US\$ 200 million of the Line of Credit would be converted into grants-in-aid for projects of priority to Bangladesh. Our focus now is to ensure timely delivery on the contracts that have been signed by the Government of Bangladesh. So far, projects worth more than US\$ 810 million have been agreed upon, and five contracts worth US\$ 83 million have been signed. The first consignment of buses has arrived in Dhaka and deliveries of railway rolling stock will start by the end of the year.

On the trade and investment front, the decision by India in 2011 to grant zero duty access to all goods from Bangladesh has opened new opportunities for expansion of bilateral trade. I understand that there has been a significant increase of textile exports from Bangladesh to India.

I have assured Dr. Dipu Moni that India remains committed to an early solution on the issue of sharing Teesta waters. Since water is a sensitive issue, in accordance with the traditions of consensual decision-making in India's democratic polity, internal consultations are on amongst stakeholders.

On the Tipaimukh project, it has been agreed that a subgroup under the Joint Rivers Commission would be constituted to look into all aspects, including our Prime Minister's proposal for joint participation in the project.

Friends, there are few countries in the world whose destinies are as interlinked as ours. We share the longest land borders with each other. Many of us share the same religious beliefs, language, customs and aspirations. We deeply appreciate the initiative taken by the Government of Bangladesh to honour the 'people of India' and the 'Indian Armed Forces' for their contribution to the liberation of Bangladesh, a cause which is very close to our hearts.

The year-long joint celebrations of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore is reflective of the common ethos of shared cultural and civilizational links. We are honoured that Dr. Dipu Moni would be representing

her Government at the closing ceremony of the joint celebrations being held later today.

I take this opportunity to reiterate to Dr. Dipu Moni that India attaches the highest importance to our relations with Bangladesh. We desire to continue to fully utilize our geographic and economic complementarities to mutual benefit.

We desire to use all opportunities in a spirit of trust, understanding, accommodation, friendship and respect for each other's sovereignty.

Thank you.

Official Spokesperson: I now request Foreign Minister of Bangladesh Her Excellency Dr. Dipu Moni to make her opening remarks.

Foreign Minister of Bangladesh (Dr. Dipu Moni): Your Excellency, friends from the media, and delegations from both sides:

I am very happy to be here. The purpose of my visit here is two-fold. One is to attend this meeting, the first meeting of the Joint Consultative Commission, which is very important and we take this very seriously. You have heard from the statement made by His Excellency Mr. S.M. Krishna how extensive the talks have been. We have touched every aspect of our bilateral relationship. The other reason for my being in Delhi is obviously the joint celebration of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore's 150th birth anniversary celebrations and the conclusion of the year-long celebrations. I am happy and delighted to be representing the Government of Bangladesh in that ceremony.

We have gone through all the aspects, all the areas of cooperation. And we have noted with satisfaction the achievements that are there, especially in the areas of trade. Bangladeshi trade with India has gone up. We are happy about the import of cotton which is very important for our garments sector. The 24-hour unfettered access through the Tin Bigha Corridor to Dahagram and Angarpota has been achieved. And there are many other achievements. We have also noted with satisfaction the ongoing issue of connectivity, sub-regional cooperation, especially in the areas of water and power.

Indian side has reassured us about the river-linking project. We have been reassured, not just today but also yesterday, on this issue by the Indian Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee that the Himalayan rivers will not be part of this project. And Mr. S.M. Krishna has reassured that there will be no unilateral undertaking on the Himalayan rivers without consultation with Bangladesh.

On the Tipaimukh thing, the Joint Study Group is now working. And we have talked about our cooperation in water. We have raised our requests with Indian side about the early conclusion of the ratification of the LPA and the protocol,

and also the Teesta agreement. We have been reassured that the Indian side is working on all these issues.

We are very happy with the outcome of this meeting, and we have spent I believe a very fruitful afternoon, running through the entire range of issues on our bilateral agenda. I will return to Dhaka with the confidence that the vision of our two Prime Ministers for collaboration between our two countries for the betterment of the lives of our peoples is fully on track. I am confident that our relationship will be further strengthened and deepened in the days ahead.

Thank you.

Official Spokesperson: The two Ministers have agreed to take a few questions.

Question: My question is addressed to the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh. In this bilateral relationship, connectivity is an important component. So, while reviewing the relations, have you come to any kind of resolution on the transit issue which India has been asking for long? Can you specify on this transit issue what has actually happened in the meeting?

Foreign Minister of Bangladesh: We have discussed about the connectivity issue, issue relating to transit. Both sides are working on this issue. On our side, a lot of work has been done. So, we believe that it has to be done in a sustainable manner. It is not just doing one component or the other. You have to do the whole thing. So, we are working on this, and we are very much hopeful that it will be done.

Question: This is for the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh. Regarding the Line of Credit, the Indian Foreign Minister pointed that projects worth US\$ 810 million have been approved which has not yet been signed. It has been ... (Inaudible)... How do you see the progress on the Line of Credit that has been offered to Bangladesh? What are your expectations? Could it be expedited in the next one and a half years in the remainder of the term of the current Government in Dhaka?

Foreign Minister of Bangladesh: I think now it has reached a stage where it will not take much time because all the groundwork, all the work that both sides needed to conclude, we have already done that. So, I think it will be now done quickly.

Question: The relations between India and Bangladesh which are already extremely good, will gather height once the Teesta agreement is signed. Thousands of Bangladeshi people are eagerly waiting for this agreement. When will it be done?

External Affairs Minister of India: The Teesta agreement is being talked about

since 2009, perhaps a little earlier also. We are trying to develop a political consensus in India. It is important that the views of all those who are dependent on the waters are taken into account and the burden is shared fairly and equitably. Meanwhile, there is no change in the ground situation. The waters are flowing, and in the last technical level meeting held in Kolkata in February this year, both sides exchanged data at Dalia in Bangladesh and Gazaldoba in India. We look forward to making progress on finishing an agreement on Teesta water sharing at the earliest.

Official Spokesperson: With that we come to the conclusion of this event.

Thank you very much.



226. Remarks of External Affairs Minister to Media at the conclusion of the First Meeting of the India-Bangladesh Joint Consultative Commission.

New Delhi, May 7, 2012.

Your Excellency Dr Dipu Moni, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh,

Friends from the media,

Foreign Affairs Minister Dr Dipu Moni and I have just had a very useful and productive first meeting of the India-Bangladesh Joint Consultative Commission (JCC).

2. This meeting is reflective of the qualitative transformation that India-Bangladesh relations have witnessed in recent years. Our relations now encompass every possible area of cooperation.

3. Dr Dipu Moni and I have reviewed the progress in bilateral cooperation in all areas, including trade, connectivity, power, water resources, security, border management, infrastructure, people to people contacts, culture, environment, education, among others.

4. We are happy that our mutual cooperation has resulted in commendable achievements in recent months. Some of these include,

- India is now facilitating 24 hour unfettered access to Bangladesh nationals at Dahagram and Angarporta through the Tin Bigha Area.
- The signing of the India-Bangladesh boundary strip maps by our Plenipotentiaries is almost complete, except for a few which are also likely to be completed very soon.
- The Coordinated Border Management Plan is now in operation, and will help to reduce incidents on the border, including illegal and criminal activities,
- Following the positive experience in Meghalaya, we hope to open new border haats along the International Border in the States of Tripura and Mizoram as well.

5. I am confident that these measures would act as catalysts in strengthening the excellent bonds of friendship existing at the level of the people of our two countries.

6. We reviewed our cooperation in the power sector. The work on power

inter-grid connectivity is progressing and we are hopeful that 500 MW power would flow from India to Bangladesh during the summer of 2013. We are also moving ahead with the setting up of 1320 MW coal based joint venture power plant which is expected to be commissioned by 2016. We welcome the participation of Bangladesh in power projects in India, particularly in the North-Eastern states of India.

7. We have made steady progress in the utilisation of the US \$ one billion Line of Credit extended by India to Bangladesh. Just yesterday, Hon'ble Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee announced in Dhaka that \$ 200 million of the Line of Credit would be converted into grants-in-aid for projects of priority to Bangladesh. Our focus now is to ensure timely delivery on the contracts that have been signed by the Government of Bangladesh. So far, projects worth more than \$ 810 million have been agreed upon and five contracts worth US\$ 83 million have been signed. The first consignment of busses has arrived in Dhaka and deliveries of railway rolling stock will start by the end of the year.

8. On the trade and investment front, the decision by India in 2011 to grant zero duty access to all goods from Bangladesh has opened new opportunities for expansion of bilateral trade. I understand that there has been a significant increase of textile exports from Bangladesh to India.

9. I have assured Dr Dipu Moni that India remains committed to an early solution on the issue of sharing Teesta waters. Since water is a sensitive issue, in accordance with the traditions of consensual decision-making in India's democratic polity, internal consultations are on amongst stakeholders.

10. On the Tipaimukh project, it has been agreed that a Sub-Group under the Joint Rivers Commission would be constituted to look into all aspects, including our Prime Minister's proposal for joint participation in the project.

11. Friends, there are few countries in the world whose destinies are as interlinked as ours. We share the longest land borders with each other. Many of us share the same religious beliefs, language, customs and aspirations. We deeply appreciate the initiative taken by the Government of Bangladesh to honour the 'people of India' and the 'Indian Armed Forces' for their contribution to the liberation of Bangladesh, a cause which is very close to our hearts.

12. The year-long joint celebrations of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore is reflective of the common ethos of shared cultural and civilisational links. We are honoured that Dr Dipu Moni would be representing her Government at the closing ceremony of the joint celebrations being held later today.

13. I take this opportunity to reiterate to Dr Dipu Moni that India attaches the

highest importance to our relations with Bangladesh. We desire to continue to fully utilise our geographic and economic complementarities to mutual benefit.

14. We desire to use all opportunities in a spirit of trust, understanding, accommodation, friendship and respect for each other's sovereignty.

Thank you.



227. Joint Statement by India and Bangladesh on First Meeting of the India-Bangladesh Joint Consultative Commission.

New Delhi, May 7, 2012.

The first meeting of the India-Bangladesh Joint Consultative Commission (JCC), as envisaged in the Framework Agreement on Cooperation for Development signed during the visit of the Prime Minister of India to Bangladesh, was held in New Delhi on 7 May, 2012. The Indian delegation was led by Shri S. M. Krishna, External Affairs Minister. The Bangladesh delegation was led by Dr. Dipu Moni, Minister for Foreign Affairs.

2. The Ministers reviewed the progress in the bilateral relations between the two countries since the visit of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh to India in January 2010 and the visit by the Prime Minister of India to Bangladesh in September 2011. They agreed that greater bilateral cooperation between their countries will promote inclusive growth and development, and contribute to peace, prosperity and stability in their countries and the region.

Political and Security Cooperation

3. The Ministers expressed deep satisfaction at the current state of India-Bangladesh relations which were marked by warmth, cordiality and mutual respect. They noted that India and Bangladesh had entered a new phase in their bilateral relations and had achieved commendable progress in their efforts to further strengthen their friendly ties. There were high expectations for their further growth and development. Both sides welcomed regular high level exchanges, which had helped promote deeper understanding and friendship and the broadening of the areas of cooperation between the two countries. In this context, they welcomed the visit of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh to Tripura on 11-12 January, 2012.

4. Recalling the visit of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh to Tin Bigha on 19 October, 2012, the two sides expressed satisfaction at the facilitation of the 24-hour access for Bangladesh nationals.

5. The two Ministers welcomed the recent meetings of the Home Ministers, Home Secretaries and Directors General of the BSF and BGB. They welcomed the commencement of implementation of the Coordinated Border Management Plan (CBMP) to control cross-border illegal activities, and crimes as well as for maintenance of peace and harmony along the border. They expressed confidence that it would enhance cooperation between the border guarding forces of the two countries, and enable them to manage the identified vulnerable areas with a view to preventing criminal activities, illegal movement, acts of violence and loss of lives along the border areas. They also noted that the fencing work in

185 vulnerable patches along the international border was progressing satisfactorily.

6. The Ministers noted that the signing of the Protocol to the Land Boundary Agreement had paved the way for settlement of all remaining land boundary issues. They agreed on the need for early implementation of the Protocol, including the early signing of the strip maps pertaining to Adverse Possessions and recently demarcated segments.

7. The Ministers noted that the legal framework for bilateral security cooperation would be completed with the signing of the Extradition Treaty. They agreed that both sides would expedite efforts to conclude the Treaty at the earliest. They also reiterated their commitment that the territory of either side would not be allowed for activities inimical to the other and resolved not to allow their respective territory to be used for training, sanctuary and other operations by domestic or foreign terrorist/militant and insurgent organizations and their operatives. They also rejected extremism, violence and terrorism and agreed to cooperate proactively in combating these evils.

8. To further strengthen bilateral cooperation, they agreed to intensify consultations by holding annual meetings at the level of the Foreign/External Affairs Ministers (Joint Consultative Commission) and Foreign Secretaries (Foreign Office Consultations). It was also agreed that biannual consultations at the level of Director General/Joint Secretary would be institutionalized between the two Foreign Ministries.

Trade Connectivity

9. The Ministers noted that increase in trade and investment between the two countries was mutually beneficial, and pledged to continue their efforts to promote balanced and broad-based trade, including border trade. Both sides agreed that the decision by India in 2011 to grant zero duty access to all goods (except 25 items on the Negative List) had opened new opportunities for expansion of Bangladesh exports to India. They welcomed the outcome of the recent meeting of the Commerce Secretaries and the renewal of the Trade Agreement by three years. They agreed that both sides should similarly extend the validity of the Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade.

10. Both sides called for more vigorous efforts to upgrade border infrastructure, including Land Customs Stations and Integrated Check Posts, and removal of non-tariff barriers on both sides. The Ministers welcomed the inauguration of a second border haat on the Bangladesh - Meghalaya border and the establishment of four border haats on the Bangladesh - Tripura border. They noted that both sides had succeeded in arriving at an understanding on the Mutual Cooperation Agreement between Bureau of Indian Standards and the Bangladesh Standards Institute and stressed that it should be concluded at an early date.

11. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the inauguration in the presence of the Finance Ministers of the two countries of a Car Pass System at Petrapole-Benapole in January 2012, for movement of cargo vehicles to the Land Custom Station of each other's countries. The Ministers welcomed the agreement to commence a bus service on the Dhaka-Shillong-Guwahati sector. It was agreed to expeditiously conclude the Motor Vehicles Agreement for regulation of passenger and cargo traffic.

12. Both sides reiterated their commitment to the early finalization of the MoU for construction of the Akhaura-Agartala railway link, to be built with grant-in-aid assistance from India. They directed that infrastructure development works and land acquisition activities be taken up urgently.

13. The two sides agreed that necessary formalities for use of Chittagong and Mongla seaports for movement of goods to and from India through water, rail and road would be completed urgently.

Development Cooperation

14. The Ministers reviewed the status of implementation of projects under the \$1 billion Indian Line of Credit. They noted that projects amounting to US \$ 810.46 million had been agreed upon and were under implementation. They directed the concerned Ministries to expedite procedures and finalise the preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for new projects so that the benefits could reach the people. Bangladesh welcome the announcement made by India during the visit of Finance Minister to Bangladesh on May 5-6, 2012, to convert an amount of USD 200 million from credit to grants-in-aid for projects of priority to Bangladesh.

15. The two sides agreed to expedite the implementation of development projects including construction of a Cultural Centre, undertaking feasibility study for upgradation of Dhaka - Chittagong railway line, setting up of IT labs in 64 model schools and IT centres at Military Institute for Science & Technology, Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre and Bangladesh Police Academy and provision of solar lamps to 2800 families affected by the Sidr Cyclone.

16. The Ministers noted with satisfaction that preparatory activities for the construction of a bridge across Feni River were underway and directed its implementation as early as possible.

17. The Ministers agreed to develop the inland container terminal at Ashuganj with Indian assistance and to commence transshipments at Ashuganj port.

Bilateral Cooperation in Water Resources and Power

18. Both sides welcomed the recent exchange of data on the flow of the

Teesta River at the technical level. They reiterated their commitment to the early finalization of agreements for water-sharing of Teesta and Feni rivers. The Indian side reiterated its commitment that it would not take any unilateral decision on the Himalayan component of the proposed River Interlinking Project which may affect Bangladesh. Both sides agreed to constitute a sub-group under the Joint River Commission (JRC) that would go into all aspects of the Tipaimukh Hydroelectric Project.

19. The Ministers welcomed the Power Purchase Agreement signed between BPDB and NVVN for purchase of 250MW power from India by Bangladesh as well as the decision of the Government of Bangladesh to shortly invite tenders for the purchase of an additional 250MW power from India. Both sides agreed to complete the pending administrative formalities for commissioning the inter-grid connectivity by July 2013. They also welcomed the establishment of a Joint Venture between NTPC and BPDB to set up a 1320MW thermal power plant in Bagerhat and directed them to complete its installation expeditiously. They also directed the Joint Venture to speed up the conclusion of a feasibility report for a similar power plant in Chittagong. Both sides welcomed the constitution of a Technical Team to conduct feasibility study for transmission of power from India to the Eastern part of Bangladesh and options for interconnection for evacuation of power.

20. India welcomed the participation of Bangladesh in power projects in India, particularly in the North-Eastern states of India.

21. Both sides called for an early implementation of the MoU for Cooperation in Renewable Energy and the MoU on the Conservation of the Sunderbans along with the signing of a Protocol on Conservation of Royal Bengal Tigers of the Sunderban.

Sub-Regional Cooperation

22. The two Ministers welcomed the formation of technical-level teams for sub-regional cooperation in Water & Power and Connectivity & Transit by both the countries and looked forward to the convening of the meetings at an early date.

People to -People Exchanges

23. Both sides expressed great satisfaction at the successful hosting of the year-long festivities of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore in each other's countries. Both sides looked forward to jointly marking the 90th anniversary of the publication of Bidrohi by Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam.

24. The two Ministers agreed to expand steps to increase people to people exchanges between the two countries and directed that the Revised Travel Arrangements be finalized at an early date.

25. The Ministers noted with satisfaction that the Joint Empowered Group on Maitree Express would meet on 9 May, 2012 to improve passenger comfort and reduce travel time.

26. Both sides agreed to hold the next meeting of the Joint Consultative Commission in



228. Information supplied by the Ministry of Home Affairs to the Rajya Sabha on the fencing of the India-Bangladesh Border.

New Delhi, May 9, 2012.

Out of total of 2579 km of fencing sanctioned under Phase-II project along Indo-Bangladesh Border (IBB), 1871 km fencing has been completed. In addition, work in 160 km is in progress. Further, under Phase-III, replacement of entire fencing (861 km) constructed under Phase-I project was sanctioned. 771 km of replacement work has been completed and work in 21 km is in progress. As per the present approval, the above works were targeted to be completed by March, 2012. However, the balance works have been spilled over primarily due to on-ground constraints i.e. pending land acquisition, forest/wildlife clearance, undemarcated border/ adverse possession issues with Bangladesh, habitation up to zero line in some cases, nature of terrain in some places - riverine, low lying etc. The balance works are likely to be completed on resolution of above constraints.

Out of 77.72 km. (Assam), 272.17 km (Meghalaya) and 856.00 km (Tripura) sanctioned fencing under Phase-II Project, fencing to the extent of 73.38 km (Assam), 126.07 km (Meghalaya) and 746.70 km (Tripura) has been completed. In addition, work is in progress in 0.84 km (Assam), 62.92 km (Meghalaya) and 31.31 km (Tripura).

An amount of Rs.2195.67 crore has been spent till March 31,2012 on fencing works along Indo-Bangladesh border.

Whenever damage to the barbed wire fencing along Indo-Bangladesh border is reported, Central Public Works Department (CPWD), takes up the maintenance/repairs of the works.



229. Opening Remarks by Foreign Secretary at the India-Bangladesh Foreign Office Consultations held in New Delhi.

New Delhi, July 24, 2012.

Your Excellency, Foreign Secretary Mijarul Quayes;

High Commissioner Tariq Karim; and

Members of the Bangladesh delegation

At the outset, let me extend to you a warm welcome and wish you a pleasant stay in India.

Our two sides have held substantive interactions at the first meeting of the Joint Consultative Commission (JCC) held in May in New Delhi. We agreed on some important initiatives with the objective of developing and strengthening our cooperation in various areas. I am glad that as envisaged at the JCC our annual Foreign Office Consultations are being held with a view to further intensifying our bilateral engagement.

Some notable developments have taken place since the JCC meeting. The Sub-Group on Infrastructure met in June to examine the infrastructure at the Land Customs Stations and the proposed 'Border Haats' along the Tripura-Bangladesh border. A review meeting of the Line of Credit was held in June in New Delhi with the objective of fast tracking implementation of the projects. Our Shipping Secretaries have met and agreed to renew the 'Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade' by a further two years. The two sides are cooperating in facilitating the return of mortal remains of freedom fighters of 1971 and a delegation from Bangladesh was in India recently to discuss modalities with the concerned Ministries and state governments. The Joint Technical Committee set up to explore the possibility of power exchanges between eastern side of Bangladesh and India and to recommend associate transmission systems on both sides of border met recently. A number of high level visits at Ministerial level have also taken place during this period adding to momentum to our bilateral relations. All these are very positive developments in a short time.

Excellency,

India attaches the highest importance to its relations with Bangladesh and seeks a deeper and a more dynamic bilateral partnership. We approach our relations with the utmost sincerity and believe that our destinies are interlinked.

You would agree that we are witnessing a qualitative transformation in virtually all areas of bilateral cooperation making our relationship a truly multi-faceted one. The Joint Communiqué of 2010 and the Joint Statement of 2011 provide us

with a blue print for comprehensive partnership based on a mutuality of interests. I am happy to note that we have already made considerable progress in the implementation of the decisions taken by the Prime Ministers of our two countries following the landmark visit of Sheikh Hasina to India in 2010 and Dr. Manmohan Singh to Bangladesh in 2011.

I understand there are three documents that are at the final stages of consideration by our two sides. These are the 'Protocol to amend the Double Taxation Avoidance Convention' (DTAC), a comprehensive 'MOU on Health Cooperation' and a MOU on implementation of 'Small Development Projects'. I would seek your intervention to have these signed as early as possible.

I am confident that today's discussions would provide fresh impetus and direction to the ever-expanding and multifaceted cooperation between our two countries.

If the agenda before us meets with your approval, I would suggest we consider the issues on our agenda item-wise.



229-A Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson on India – Bangladesh Foreign Office Consultations.

New Delhi, July 24, 2012.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Syed Akbaruddin):the Foreign Secretary had Foreign Office Consultations with his counterpart from Bangladesh. These were held in a very cordial, warm and constructive atmosphere. The two sides had comprehensive discussions on the entire gamut of bilateral relations. This includes security related matters, border management, counterterrorism, trade and investment, water resources, power cooperation including renewable energy, connectivity, development cooperation, and increasing people-to-people ties.

That is what I have in terms of formal announcements. I am willing to take a few questions if any of you have any.

Question: Was it held in Delhi?

Official Spokesperson: Yes, it was held in Delhi this morning.

Question: You said water resources was also discussed. Was Teesta problem also discussed and has anything come up?

Official Spokesperson: When we mentioned all aspects I am certain that it includes the issue that you refer to. Yes, it was raised. You are aware of our position on this that we are in the process of working out an internal consensus on this, and when we are ready, we will take it forward.

* * * *

Question: About Bangladesh, how big was the delegation from our side? Which Departments were represented? Has anything conclusive come out of this meeting? Is there going to be any high level visit between the two countries in the near future?

Official Spokesperson: Yes. Both the Indian and the Bangladeshi delegations were composite ones. That means they were not only from the Ministry of External Affairs but also from other Ministries - the Home Ministry, the Commerce Ministry, the Shipping and Transport Ministry, these are the ones which I can recall off hand. As regards the meeting and its outcome, first of all I would like to mention to you that this meeting is to take forward the policies that are already agreed to by the two Prime Ministers last year and the two Foreign Ministers at the JCM meeting which was held in May. So, it is more a policy implementation meeting than a policy formulation.

You have also asked about likely visits. We are expecting the Commerce Minister

to visit Bangladesh in December for an India Trade Fair. And that will be a major activity that we intend to focus on during the rest of the year. There are also other smaller visits of various officials that are likely to take place. These are just being worked out. The major visit that we have next on the calendar is the visit of the Commerce and Industry Minister.

Question: There have been reports about Border Haats between Bangladesh and India? Was that issue discussed? has there been any expansion in bilateral trade between India and Bangladesh

Official Spokesperson: You are talking about Border Haats I think. These were opened in Meghalaya and both the sides seem to think that they have been very successful. As you are aware, since then we have suggested that these should be opened in other States. And careful attention is being given by both the sides to opening these elsewhere. We hope to have some good news at some stage in the future because the experience of both Bangladesh and India of these Border Haats has been a very happy one.

To respond to your second question, since the agreements came into being we have not completed a year. So, it is difficult to make an assessment of an increase in trade because you can only do it for a comparable period in the previous year. But yes there have been increases in various areas, for example readymade garments. Also there are various other areas where Bangladesh, as you are aware now Bangladesh enjoys duty free access to India in virtually every area except for alcohol and maybe one other thing. Therefore, there is likely to be an increase in trade activity. The figures will be known at the end of the year and we will certainly share them with you.

Question: Bangladesh is setting up a nuclear power plant close to Indian border. First of all, is this with the help of the Chinese? Has this issue been raised? What is the status of that? It is in the plan stage now.

Official Spokesperson: This is not a new story that Bangladesh, like India, is interested in nuclear energy. Nuclear energy we in India feel is a clean form of energy, it is also in the context of requirement of energy security various countries are looking at it. There are thirty countries in the world which have nuclear power plants including India. And Bangladesh has been looking at it. I do not want to get into the detail but my understanding is that they have signed memorandum of understanding with the Russian Federation on this, and perhaps they will be better placed to explain to you what type of reactor, where it is, etc. But I would just like to tell you based on my own experience of such matters that these things take a long gestation period. A nuclear power plant takes anything between six to ten years to come up. So, we are talking of a timeframe which is long, but I would suggest that you may like to address your question about the specifics of that to our colleagues and friends in Bangladesh.

Question: But the site is close to the Indian border.

Official Spokesperson: I think there are IAEA conventions on the location of nuclear sites and trans-boundary issues. We are very familiar with it because India is a very active member in the International Atomic Energy Agency and we understand what are the requirements for these and what countries need to do. At this stage, as I said, ten years in advance of something, let us not jump the gun on that. Let us wait for decisions and there will be discussions if they are required.

Thank you very much.



230. Visit of former President of Bangladesh Lieutenant General (Rtd.) H.M. Ershad to India.

New Delhi, August 14, 2012.

In response to a question, the Official Spokesperson said

"The former President of Bangladesh Lieutenant General (Rtd.) H.M. Ershad is on a visit to India. General Ershad's visit is part of our ongoing engagement with a democratic and multi-party polity in Bangladesh.

General Ershad called on Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh on August 14, 2012. The Prime Minister conveyed the high priority that the Government and people of India attach to developing the friendliest of relations with Bangladesh, which is an important neighbour of India.

General Ershad will also visit Ajmer Sharif on August 15-16, 2012. He is scheduled to call on the President of India on August 17, 2012.

His last visit to India was in 2010 to attend the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the National Defence College of which Gen. Ershad is a distinguished alumnus."



231. Press Release on the Director General level talks between India and Bangladesh to control drug trafficking.

New Delhi, October 4, 2012.

India and Bangladesh have agreed to enhance mutual cooperation through effective sustained steps to control drug trafficking. This was decided at the third Director General level talks between Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) India and Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) Bangladesh held in New Delhi today. Both sides agreed to continue sharing of actionable intelligence and adopt a coordinated strategy to prevent cross border drug trafficking. It was also decided that the best practices in curbing drug trafficking and demand reduction will be shared bilaterally. Both sides expressed their commitment towards their obligations under the different international and bilateral agreements, protocols, conventions, declarations and resolutions in letter and spirit.

It was also agreed to enhance cooperation in capacity building by organizing training programmes as well as sending resource persons in combating drug trafficking.

Both sides shared the concern of the growing menace of Narcotic Drugs. The existing cooperation and information sharing between NCB and DNC was noted with satisfaction. India and Bangladesh also expressed concern over growing menace of synthetic drugs/pharmaceuticals preparations containing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals which are susceptible to misuse and are the fastest growing drugs of abuse today.

Both sides agreed that the Directorate General level talks between NCB, India and DNC, Bangladesh should be held annually and the next meeting would be held in Dhaka sometimes in June next year.

The Indian delegation was led by Shri Ajay Chadha, Director General, NCB, while the Bangladesh Delegation was lead by Mr. Mohammad Iqbal, Director General, DNC, Bangladesh.



232. Press Release issued by the President's Secretariat on the Call by Bangladesh Youth Delegation on the President.

New Delhi, October 8, 2012.

A 100 member delegation of youth from Bangladesh called on the President on October 8, 2012 at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

The President appreciated the initiative taken by the High Commission of India in Dhaka for organizing this visit and pointed out that half of the population in both the countries belongs to the younger generation. He said that human beings from all countries across the world have only one religion, that is, the religion of humanism.

The High Commission of India in Dhaka in co-ordination with the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports organized the visit of the delegation to India and arranged for them to tour to places of historical, educational, technical and industrial interest. The basic objective of the programme is to foster



233. Joint Press Statement on the Home Secretary Level talks between India and Bangladesh.

Dhaka, October 19, 2012.

The 13th meeting of the Home Secretaries of India and Bangladesh was held on 16-17 October 2012 at Dhaka. The Indian delegation was led by Mr. R.K. Singh, Union Home Secretary, Government of India. The Bangladesh delegation was led by Mr. C. Q. K. Mustaq Ahmed, Senior Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of Bangladesh.

The two Home Secretaries recalled the excellent and friendly bilateral relations existing between India and Bangladesh and reiterated their commitment to further take these multi-faceted relations forward. They noted that the exchange of visits by the Prime Ministers of Bangladesh and India in January 2010 and September 2011 respectively had infused a new dynamism in the bilateral relations and opened up new avenues for cooperation between the two countries.

The two Home Secretaries expressed satisfaction at the visit of both delegation to Agartala – Akhaura Integrated Check Post (ICP) to review the existing infrastructure, and noted that this would facilitate trade between Bangladesh and India, particularly North-East. They also welcomed the opening of several Land Ports/Integrated Check Posts for bilateral trade between Bangladesh and India. Both sides agreed to allow developmental work including construction of ICPs/LCSs within 150 yards of zero line. Both sides also agreed to constitute a high-level team to monitor development of border infrastructure.

They took note of the outcome of the 12th JWG meeting on security issues held on 15 October 2012, wherein the two sides discussed issues such as land boundary demarcation, border management, security issues, implementation of agreements, visa and consular related issues and capacity building etc.

Indian Home Secretary conveyed the appreciation of Government of India to Government of Bangladesh for extending cooperation for addressing the security concerns of India, particularly in dealing with the Indian Insurgent Groups. Both sides reiterated their commitment to act against the elements inimical to both countries.

Both sides expressed satisfaction at the smooth operation of Coordinated Border Management Plan (CBMP) and agreed to increase number of joint patrolling with a view to curbing criminal activities along the border.

They noted with satisfaction that the implementation of the Coordinated Border Management Plan has reduced the number of incidents along the border. They expressed confidence that increased number of coordinated patrolling would enhance cooperation between the border guarding forces of the two countries,

and enable them to manage the identified vulnerable areas with a view to preventing criminal activities, illegal movement, acts of violence and loss of lives along the border areas. As an additional measure for better border management, both sides agreed to revive the mechanism for regular consultations between the Deputy Commissioner (DC) District Magistrate (DM) of border districts for resolving local issues.

Both sides agreed to further intensify the activities of the different nodal points in different areas of cooperation such as human trafficking, drugs, INTERPOL, etc. They expressed satisfaction at the regular interaction of different bilateral mechanisms, including BGB-BSF DG level meetings, Narcotics DG level meetings, JWG on Security issues etc. and noted that these regular exchanges helped to enhance understanding and resolve issues for mutual satisfaction.

Both sides agreed to extend cooperation for apprehension of wanted criminals and fugitives and in this regard, Bangladesh Home Secretary once again urged for immediate tracking, arresting, and handing over the killers of the father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The Indian Home Secretary assured that all possible assistance would be extended in this regard.

Both sides welcomed the recent meeting of Directors General of the respective Narcotics Controlling agencies held in New Delhi in the first week of October 2012 and expressed satisfaction at the level of cooperation for the seizure and curbing of drugs particularly Phensydile. It was agreed to expand and strengthen further cooperation in this regard to curb the menace of drugs.

Both sides noted that the implementation of three agreements (Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Persons and Combating Terrorism, organized crime and illicit drug trafficking) signed during the visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to India in 2010 has been satisfactory. Both sides agreed to take immediate measures for repatriation of released prisoners and victims of trafficking.

Both sides agreed to hold a meeting at an early date to discuss liberalization of visa procedures to facilitate people-to-people contact and movement of people on both sides. India has offered and Bangladesh has agreed to avail of training courses for Bangladesh Police Personnel in Indian Institutions.

Both sides discussed the ratification of the LBA-1974 by the Government of India and the protocol signed in 2011 and noted that early ratification of the same would pave the way for implementations of the provisions of the agreement and lay the long pending boundary related issues at rest. Both sides agreed to exchange strip maps already signed in a time bound manner.

The Home Secretary also handed over an invitation letter to his counterpart inviting him to visit India. The Home Secretary also invited the Home Secretary

of Bangladesh for the 14th Home Secretary level talks at a mutually convenient date and time to be held in 2013 in India.



234. Press Release on the meeting between Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office V. Narayanasamy with Advisor to Bangladesh Prime Minister Hossain Toufique Imam.

New Delhi, October 24, 2012.

Shri V. Narayanasamy, Minister of State (PMO & PP), said India attaches highest importance to its relationship with Bangladesh. He welcomed Mr. Hossain Toufique Imam, Adviser to Prime Minister, Bangladesh and appreciated the meeting with him on the sidelines of the Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management (CAPAM) Biennial Conference hosted by India here today.

He mentioned that India attaches highest importance to its relationship with Bangladesh and referred to the visit of Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India to Dhaka on September 6-7, 2011. This meeting had a very fruitful dialogue with Bangladesh that covered commencement of unfettered 24-hour access across the Tin Bigha corridor as well as duty-free import of all items, except 25.

The Minister of State referred to the cultural identity of the people of Bangladesh and India and the age old relationship between the two countries since 1971. He also mentioned on the commonality between the two countries on health, education, and border issues. He referred to commitment of India on co-operation with Bangladesh on all issues including Teesta water.

Mr Hossain Toufique Imam thanked Shri V. Narayanasamy for a warm welcome to India and referred to the resurgence of bilateral relations since 1971 and reminisced about his working relationship with Mr. P. N. Haskar and Mr. D. P. Jha. Mr. Imam referred to the visit of Bangladesh Prime Minister to India in 2010 which improved bilateral relationship between the two countries. This has led to an improvement on all the fronts such as industry, business, power sector, border trade, including demolition of trade barriers which will help in minimising the trade imbalance.

Mr. Imam mentioned that all the district magistrate's offices have a citizen charter prominently displayed. The election manifesto, 2008 promised for a forward looking governance and a futuristic Vision 2021 for promoting good governance, improvement in public sector delivery such as water, health, education, water, computer literacy.

Mr. Imam further mentioned that the Constitution of Bangladesh enshrines the provision of basic services such as housing, education, health, law and order and expressed his concern for further improvement in such services. He further emphasised on e-Governance and IT connectivity facilitating cost-effective services at the door step, providing digital solutions. He referred to the e-

Governance programme of India, including the setting up of large number of Common Service Centres in the rural areas for online delivery of services. He evinced keen interest in sharing of best practices and exchanging notes in the area of public administration and management.

He also referred to the Right of Citizens for Time Bound Delivery of Goods and Services and Redressal of their Grievances Bill, 2011, introduced in the Parliament by the Government of India for ensuring time bound delivery of services and redressal of public grievances.

Shri Narayansamy looked forward to a deeper engagement and interaction with each other on various issues of administrative reforms, pension, and best practices in the area of public administration and governance.



235. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs on the meeting between Minister of State V. Narayanasamy and the Advisor to Bangladesh Prime Minister Hossain Toufique.

New Delhi, October 24, 2012.

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The Minister of State referred to the cultural identity of the people of Bangladesh and India and the age old relationship between the two countries since 1971. He also mentioned on the commonality between the two countries on health, education, and border issues. He referred to commitment of India on co-operation with Bangladesh on all issues including Teesta water.

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Shri Narayansamy looked forward to a deeper engagement and interaction with each other on various issues of administrative reforms, pension, and best practices in the area of public administration and governance.



236. Condolences of Prime Minister at loss of lives in fire tragedy in Bangladesh.

New Delhi, November 25, 2012.

I am deeply saddened at the loss of life resulting from the fire in a garment factory outside Dhaka. On behalf of the government of India, I express to the government and people of Bangladesh our sincerest condolences at this tragedy. Our thoughts and prayers are with the bereaved families.



The condolence message was occasioned by a major fire in a garment factory outside of Bangladesh Capital city, in which at least 112 people were killed.

237. Response of Official Spokesperson to a question on the Visit of Begum Khaleda Zia, Chairperson of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party to India.

New Delhi, October 26, 2012.

In response to a question from the Media on the visit of Leader of the Opposition and Chairperson of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Begum Khaleda Zia, the Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs said:

Begum Khaleda Zia, Leader of the Opposition and Chairperson of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP and former Prime Minister of Bangladesh, would be visiting India at the invitation of the External Affairs Minister from October 28 to November 3, 2012.

During her visit, Begum Khaleda Zia is scheduled to call on the President and the Prime Minister. She would also meet with the External Affairs Minister, Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha, National Security Adviser and Foreign Secretary. She is also expected to visit Ajmer Sharif.

Begum Khaleda Zia's last official visit to India was in 2006 as the then Prime Minister of Bangladesh. The visit is part of our ongoing engagement with a democratic and multiparty polity in Bangladesh. It would provide an opportunity to exchange views on all matters of mutual interest with a view to building upon the positive momentum in India-Bangladesh relations.



238. Extract from the Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson on the visit of Begum Khaleda Zia.

New Delhi, October 30, 2012.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Syed Akbaruddin):

Question: Sir, Begum Khaleda Zia met the External Affairs Minister today and there was a discussion. She met the PM also. What were the issues discussed between the External Affairs Minister and Begum Khaleda Zia and also between her and the PM? Was the issue of terrorism taken up?

Official Spokesperson: You are aware that Begum Khaleda Zia is visiting India at the invitation of the External Affairs Minister and it is obviously normal that she should meet the External Affairs Minister. The visit of Begum Khaleda Zia is part of our ongoing attempts of engagement with a democratic and multiparty polity in Bangladesh. The discussions covered all areas of mutual interest. They were expansive in nature, both with the Prime Minister and with the External Affairs Minister. They were extremely cordial. Perhaps I can best sum it up with what Begum Zia said at the end of her discussion with the External Affairs Minister. She said that this marks a new beginning and let us look forward and not into the rearview mirror. Perhaps that encapsulates the theme of this entire discussion over the last two days. I hope I have answered your question. Or do you want the specifics?

Question: ...(Inaudible)...

Official Spokesperson: I said all issues of mutual interest. I would like to specify for your record that the issue regarding mutual sharing of river waters did come up as did the issue of border management, as did the issue relating to terrorism and insurgent groups, as did the issue of bilateral trade, as did the issue of the immense commonality in terms of people-to-people contacts and cultural relations between the two countries. Every aspect of these issues came up.

Question: I will come back to the issue of Begum Zia's visit. Yesterday in her talks with the hon. Prime Minister she assured that the ground of Bangladesh will not be used for any insurgent acts or terrorism. I understand that the Indian side, especially the Prime Minister also heard this assurance. Is the Government of India assured that if she is voted to power she will keep her commitment? What is the understanding of the Indian side?

Official Spokesperson: I will not get into speculative outcomes of the future. But yes, she did mention yesterday, and she reiterated it today in the meeting with the External Affairs Minister, that the soil of Bangladesh will not be allowed

to be used for violent activities or insurgent activities against India. She did reiterate this again today. As regards the other question, I think it is not fair on my part, I am not a soothsayer to talk about the future. So, I will desist from responding to that.

Question: Going back to Khaleda Zia's visit again and taking a cue from the earlier question, regarding Khaleda Zia's assurance on terrorism and insurgent groups, and given the track record of her Government during 2001 to 2006, how convinced are you this time?

Official Spokesperson: I think the metaphor that she spoke on recently encapsulates it all. 'Do not look into the rearview mirror, look forward'.

Question: What will India think to resolve the problems between Bangladesh and India like border killing, water sharing, and other such problems?

Official Spokesperson: On water sharing I presume you are referring to Teesta. If that is so, Prime Minister as well as the External Affairs Minister have indicated that we are in the process of building a political consensus in India. Our External Affairs Minister also explained to Begum Khaleda Zia the contours of his engagement on this matter, and assured that it is our intention to continue this process. As for the present, water from the Teesta flows into Bangladesh unhindered and uninterrupted.



BHUTAN

239. Press Release of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry on the close economic ties between India and Bhutan.

New Delhi, February 3, 2012.

Bhutan has expressed happiness over acceptance of their request of exemption from application of any export bans on essential commodities. The Minister of Commerce, Industry and Textiles, Shri Anand Sharma, during his meeting with Mr. Lyonpo Khandu Wangchuk, Minister for Economic Affairs of Bhutan, here today, informed that Director General of Foreign trade has issued notification exempting Bhutan from the application of export ban on Milk Powder, Wheat, Edible Oil, Pulses and Non-Basmati Rice with annual limits indicated by the Bhutanese side. "India values the special relationship with Bhutan and we will be happy to expand our multifaceted cooperation which already covers key sectors such as hydropower, health, education, human resource development, media, telecom, ICT and infrastructure" said Shri Anand Sharma.

Both leaders expressed satisfaction that progress in meeting the target of developing 10,000 MW of hydropower capacity in Bhutan by 2020 is on schedule. Bhutan has an estimated hydropower potential of 30,000 MW with a little over 1,472 MW harnessed. Three major hydroelectric power projects (HEPs) have been built with Indian assistance in Bhutan - 336 MW Chukha, 60 MW Kurichhu and 1020 MW Tala HEPs. In July 2006, India and Bhutan signed an Agreement wherein India agreed to develop and import 5000 MW of electricity from Bhutan by 2020. This target was revised to 10,000 MW during PM's visit to Bhutan in May 2008.

Bhutan has been requesting for Ghasuapara and Dalu in Meghalaya on Indo-Bangladesh border as on exit/entry points for Bhutan's trade with Bangladesh. Shri Anand Sharma informed that the Letter of Exchange (LOE) has been signed for allowing LCSs from 1st February, 2012. Similarly, The Letter of Exchange (LoE) to amend the Letter of Guarantee (LoG) under the India-Bhutan Agreement on Trade, Commerce and Transit has been finalised for implementation from 01.02.2012.

Total trade between the two countries has been increasing. Total exports to Bhutan were \$ 176.00 million while total imports from Bhutan were \$ 201.57 million during 2010-11. India's trade balance with Bhutan has turned negative from 2006 i.e. India imports more than it exports to Bhutan. Both the Minister expressed the confidence that the trade can be diversified and also be doubled in less than 5 years.



MALDIVES

Political Developments in Maldives

240. Statement of the Official Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs.

New Delhi, February 7, 2012.

We have noted the decision of President Mohamed Nasheed to resign in favour of Vice President Dr. Mohamed Waheed. This is an internal matter of the Maldives, to be resolved by Maldivians. We hope that all issues will be resolved in a peaceful and democratic manner.

India has traditionally enjoyed close ties of friendship and cooperation with the Maldives. We remain committed to extending the fullest support and cooperation to the Government of Maldives in its endeavour to promote peace and progress in the Maldives and the prosperity and well being of its people.

We continue to closely monitor the situation in the Maldives and understand that the Indian expatriate community there is safe.

Assurance from the Prime Minister to the Maldivian President of continued support and cooperation.

February 8, 2012.

The Prime Minister has assured the new President of Maldives Dr. Mohamed Waheed of continued support to the Maldivian people and cooperation with the Government of Maldives. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in his felicitation letter to President Dr. Waheed said India is committed working with the Government of Maldives for the continued security and prosperity of both the countries.

The text of the Prime Minister's letter is as follows:

"I take this opportunity to extend my warm felicitations to you on your assumption of office as President of the Maldives.

As a close and friendly neighbour, India will, as always, continue to support the Maldivian people's efforts to build a stable, peaceful and prosperous country. Our two countries share a common destiny and have common security interests, India is committed to working with you and the Government in Maldives to further enhance our close, bilateral cooperation to mutual benefit and for the continued security, progress and prosperity of our two countries.'

Press Release of the Prime Minister's Office regarding a telephone call from the Maldivian President.

New Delhi, February 8, 2012.

The President of Maldives Dr. Mohammed Waheed spoke to Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh today after taking office. In a brief telephone call, he reaffirmed the special and close ties that Maldives has with India and said that he was committed to upholding the Constitution of that country and the rule of law. The Prime Minister conveyed his best wishes to the President and said that India as always stood ready to provide any support or assistance that the people of the Maldives might require. The President said that he looked forward to an early opportunity of meeting the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister said that he looked forward to such a meeting which would give both sides an opportunity to discuss the further strengthening of bilateral cooperation. The Prime Minister conveyed his good wishes to the people of Maldives for peace, prosperity and stability in the country.

Foreign Secretary's remarks to Media in Maldives after his meetings in the Maldivian capital.

Male, February 16, 2012.

Good evening.

- I came to Malé yesterday as part of our continued engagement to be of assistance in finding a way forward in these very difficult political circumstances.
- I have called on the President of Maldives and met the leaders of all the main political parties, including Mr. Mohamed Nasheed of the MDP, Mr. Abdulla Yameen of the PPM and Mr. Thasmeen Ali of the DRP. I also met the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the Speaker of the People's Majlis. I reiterated our belief that there is need for a Maldivian led process for reconciliation and resolving political differences through constitutional means.
- There was a degree of convergence on how matters should be taken forward. The Parties also agree to the need for maintenance of constitutional order. The President has come out with a roadmap for an inclusive political process which provides a very good basis for the Parties to resolve their differences.
- Consequent to my discussions, the following formulation was agreed upon by all the parties concerned;

In addition, in the interests of national reconciliation and to encourage harmony between our citizens, the Government of National Unity will hold discussions with all relevant parties to conduct elections by an early date. The Government of National Unity will work towards the conditions that will permit such elections to take place including any necessary constitutional amendments

Our understanding is that elections would be held as early as considered feasible by all concerned. This is to be discussed by the Parties.

- The MDP, on its part, committed itself to encouraging an atmosphere appropriate to the holding of elections. In this context, we understand that their decision to hold a rally tomorrow is being reconsidered.

Statement of Official Spokesperson on the situation in Maldives.

New Delhi, February 17, 2012.

In response to a question on the situation in the Maldives, the Official Spokesperson stated that we have seen the press release on the website of the Office of the President of the Republic of Maldives, H.E. Dr. Mohamed Waheed, welcoming the agreement of all Political Parties “to the blueprint that restores calm to our Islands and sets out the next steps for our nation – Roadmap for a Possible Way Forward”. The Roadmap includes the following paragraph:

“In addition, in the interests of national reconciliation and to encourage harmony between our citizens, the Government of National Unity will hold discussions with all relevant Parties to conduct elections at an early date. The Government of National Unity will work towards the conditions that will permit such elections to take place including any necessary constitutional amendments.”

We welcome the Press Release which is as per the understanding arrived at during the Foreign Secretary’s consultations in Maldives with all concerned Parties. We note that the Attorney General of Maldives had made a public announcement in the news bulletin of the evening of 16th February 2012 on the understanding.

We look forward to all Parties, including the Maldives Democratic Party, to act in accordance with the agreement reached to enable the process to move forward as envisaged.

Foreign Secretary's visit to Maldives

February 29, 2012

Foreign Secretary Shri Ranjan Mathai visited Maldives from 27-29 February, 2012. The objective of his visit was to take forward the political process and continue India's engagement with all parties concerned. In this connection, Foreign Secretary had extensive consultations with all parties individually and collectively. All parties expressed the view that India had played a very useful role in taking the process forward as a facilitator and friend of the Maldivian people.

2. There was a broad measure of agreement in talks with all parties and some important principles were underlined. These include:

- Continued dialogue on the way forward including possible amendment to the Constitution and enactment of legislation for institutional reforms.
- All Parties recognized the need to undertake the necessary amendments and legislation within a quick timeframe in the People's Majlis.
- Broad agreement on the need for early elections and for this purpose the All Party Consultative Committee (APCC) and further consultations among all major Parties would continue.

3. The President of Maldives, while reiterating appreciation for India's assistance and support to the reconciliation process, conveyed in a concluding meeting with the Foreign Secretary that considerable progress had been achieved and that there was optimism on the further potential outcome. It was agreed that India would continue its role of facilitator, as needed.

Situation in Maldives

March 2, 2012

In a reply to a question on developments in the Maldives, the Official Spokesperson urged all parties to maintain calm and to exercise restraint. He encouraged them to exercise their responsibilities to the Maldivian people, and to continue necessary discussions under the All Party Consultative Committee and the People's Majlis to find a peaceful and viable solution as agreed under the Roadmap. He reiterated the Government of India's position that this was an internal matter of the Maldives, to be resolved by Maldivians in a peaceful and democratic manner. India, he said, stood ready to assist the Government and people of Maldives in any manner necessary.

Visit of former President of Maldives Mr. Mohamed Nasheed to India.**April 23, 2012**

In response to questions on the visit of Mr. Mohamed Nasheed, former President of Maldives to India, the Official Spokesperson stated that the former President of Maldives had visited India and interacted with businesses, media, civil society and others in the country. During the visit, the former President paid a call on the Prime Minister and met the National Security Adviser and the Foreign Secretary.

Earlier this month (1-4 April 2012), the Foreign Minister of Maldives, Dr. Abdul Samad Abdullah, visited India at the invitation of the External Affairs Minister and held discussions with EAM. The Defence Minister of Maldives, Mr. Mohamed Nazim, had visited India from 27-30 March 2012 to attend 'DEFEXPO 2012'. The Defence Minister called on Raksha Mantri and had discussions on Indo-Maldives defence cooperation.

India hopes that engagement with all the stakeholders in Maldives will facilitate a constructive dialogue among all the political parties and help in bringing stability to the country in line with the Roadmap of 16 February 2012 drawn up by the President of Maldives.

India and Maldives enjoy very close and cordial relations. We have extensive cooperation in a number of areas, including trade, investments, connectivity, health, tourism, defence, security, human resource and infrastructure development. The Coast Guards from the two countries would be carrying out annual joint exercise named 'DOSTI-XI' later this month. India remains committed to further strengthening and expanding the multifaceted relationship with Maldives.



241. Appeal of the Official Spokesperson to maintain peace and tranquility in Maldives.

New Delhi, July 20, 2012.

In response to a question on the situation in Maldives the official spokesperson said:

“India has been closely monitoring the situation in the Maldives following the transfer of power on 7 February 2012. We have noted that the Government of Maldives has constituted a Commission of National Inquiry, to look into the events surrounding the transfer of power in the Maldives in February 2012, which was later reconfigured by including a retired judge from Singapore as a Co-chair and a nominee of the former President of Maldives, Mr. Mohamed Nasheed.

India and Maldives enjoy close ties of friendship and cooperation. We are concerned at the recent reports indicating increased political tension in the Maldives. The Government of India appeals to all political parties to exercise restraint and to refrain from actions that might adversely impact on the atmosphere of peace and tranquility in the country.

India remains committed to extending the fullest support and cooperation to the Government of Maldives in its endeavour to engage the leaders of various political parties in resolving the current situation for the continued progress and prosperity of the people of Maldives.”



**242. Visit the leader of the Dhivehi Rayyithunge Party in Maldives
Mr. Ahmed Thasmeen Ali to India.**

New Delhi, August 4, 2012.

In response to a question on the visit of Leader of the Dhivehi Rayyithunge Party (DRP) in Maldives to India, the Official Spokesperson said:

“Mr. Ahmed Thasmeen Ali, Leader of the Dhivehi Rayyithunge Party (DRP), accompanied by Dr. Abdulla Mausoom, MP (DRP Parliamentary Group Deputy Leader, President-DRP Commercial Wing), Dr. Asim Ahmed, Minister of Education, Mr. Ali Azim, MP (DRP Council Member) and Mr. Hassan Saeed, Minister of State of Foreign Affairs of Maldives visited India from 31 July to 4 August 2012.

Mr. Ahmed Thasmeen Ali called on the Prime Minister on 4th August 2012. He also met the National Security Adviser and the Foreign Secretary. During the discussions the close ties of friendship and cooperation between India and Maldives were underlined. The Prime Minister conveyed that India was committed to working with Maldives for the economic development and progress of Maldives. In this regard, it was hoped that all the stake holders in Maldives would work together to resolve the current situation in the Maldives and help in maintaining an environment of peace and stability in the country.

Mr. Ahmed Thasmeen Ali addressed an audience at the Observer Research Foundation in New Delhi on the topic of “Challenges and Problems of an Infant Democracy - The Maldives Experience” on 3rd August 2012.”



243. Response of Official Spokesperson on the Report of Commission of National Inquiry in Maldives.

New Delhi, August 29, 2012.

In response to media query on the report of Commission of National Inquiry in Maldives, the Official Spokesperson said:

“It will be recalled that on July 20, India had taken note of the decision of the Government of Maldives to constitute a Commission of National Inquiry (CNI) to look into the events surrounding the transfer of power in the Maldives in February 2012. The CNI had been reconstituted to include a retired judge from Singapore as Co-chair, and also a nominee of the former President of Maldives Mr. Mohamed Nasheed.

2. It is understood that the CNI will release its report shortly. We believe it is essential for all stakeholders to demonstrate a sense of responsibility in respecting the outcome of the Commission's report, and to express views on the report of the CNI with calm and restraint. Actions that might adversely impact on the atmosphere of peace and tranquility in the Maldives need to be avoided. India hopes that all political parties in the Maldives would take up the issues arising out of the CNI report through a peaceful political dialogue, to make a way forward for resolving the political situation in the country.

3. The President of Maldives had visited India in early May. We have also held dialogue with the leaders of main political parties in that country. India remains committed to extending its fullest support and cooperation for the continued stability, peace, progress and prosperity of the Maldives”.



**244. Response of Official Spokesperson to a question on the
“Visit of Mr Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, Leader of the
Progressive Party of Maldives (PPM) to India”**

New Delhi, September 14, 2012.

In response to a question on the visit of Mr Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, Leader of the Progressive Party of Maldives (PPM) to India, the Official Spokesperson said:

“Mr. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, Former President of the Republic of Maldives and Leader of the PPM, met the Prime Minister on 14 September 2012. During the meeting, the Prime Minister referred to the close ties of friendship and cooperation between India and Maldives and conveyed in this regard that India was committed to working with the Government and people of Maldives for the economic development, progress and betterment of the country. The Prime Minister stressed the need for all stake holders in Maldives to take forward the process of political dialogue; to work together to resolve the current political situation; and to maintain an environment of peace and stability in the country. The Prime Minister underlined that India would continue to work towards further strengthening and expanding its multifaceted relationship with Maldives.”



245. Press Release of the Ministry of Defence on the Defence Minister A.K. Antony laying foundation stone of Maritime Training Academy of Maldives.

New Delhi, September 17, 2012.

Continuing with his dialogue on defence cooperation with the top leadership of Maldives, the Defence Minister Mr AK Antony called on the President Mohamed Waheed Hassan Manik In Male' today.

The 30-minute meeting was attended among others by the Vice President Mohamed Waheeduddeen and the Defence Minister Col (Retd) Mohamed Nazim.

The Indian side included Defence Secretary Shashi Kant Sharma, FOC-in-C Western Naval Command Vice Admiral Shekhar Sinha and High Commissioner DN Mulay.

President Waheed appreciated the visit of Mr Antony to the island nation and said that it had 'increased the confidence level in the relations of the two countries'. He also appreciated India's support in facilitating a way forward in the political process in Maldives.

Mr. Antony briefed the President on the discussions he had with his Maldivian counterpart Mohamed Nazim yesterday and the decisions taken to further cement the defence relationship. The President expressed happiness over the developments and assured full cooperation of Maldivian side in implementing the decisions. He said the security of the Indian Ocean Region is of vital importance to both the countries and the two countries should strive to enhance cooperation in myriad ways to thwart any threats. President Waheed noted that there are no inhibitions on either side as each treated the other side as a close and trusted friend.

The meeting ended with the two Defence Ministers exchanging the agreement, in the presence of the President, to station the Indian Coast Guard Advanced Light Helicopter in Maldives for a further period of two years.

Last evening, Mr Antony, accompanied by his Maldivian counterpart Mohamed Nazim, flew down to the picturesque Maafilaafushi island in a sea plane and laid there the foundation stone of the Composite Maritime Training Academy of Maldives. The Academy, to be built in three phases, with assistance from India, will train personnel from Maldives Coast Guard and Marine Police.



246. Joint Statement on the Visit of Defence Minister to Maldives.**Male, September 17, 2012.**

On the invitation of the Defence Minister of Maldives, H.E Col. (ret) Mohamed Nazim, the Defence Minister of India Shri A. K. Antony accompanied by a high level delegation paid a three day official visit from 15th to 17th September 2012 to Maldives. In Male, the Indian Minister held detailed discussions with the Maldivian side led by his Maldivian counterpart. He also called on H.E President of Maldives Dr. Mohamed Waheed.

2. The Maldivian side welcomed the second visit of the Indian Defence Minister since 2009 as a continuation of the tradition of regular exchange of high level visits between India and Maldives. At the formal talks, both the sides reviewed the status of existing bilateral defence relations including the projects being currently executed with the assistance of the Government of India. Noting the entwined destinies of the two countries and the commonalities in the security concerns, both the countries agreed to continue to work closely in the area of defence and security.

3. During the Call on H.E President Dr. Mohamed Waheed, both the sides noted with satisfaction, the enduring close and multi-dimensional relations and deep friendship between the two countries. Maldivian leadership conveyed its profound appreciation to India, its close and trusted friend for its continued support and assistance to Maldives. Indian side was briefed on the present domestic political and economic situation in Maldives and the ongoing initiative to strengthen and consolidate the nascent democracy in the country. It was agreed that both sides would work to step up the bilateral cooperation in all areas.

4. During his visit, the Indian Defence Minister formally inaugurated with H.E Mr. Mohamed Nazim, the MNDF hospital "SENAHIYA" established in Male (Maldives) with the assistance of the Government of India. Indian Defence Minister also laid the Foundation stone for the MNDF Composite Training Center, to be established with the assistance of the Government of India, in Maafilafushi (Lhaviyaani Atoll).

5. Indian Defence Minister thanked the Maldivian leadership and the MNDF for the warm reception and hospitality provided to the delegation during the visit. Shri A. K. Antony invited Defence Minister of Maldives H.E Col. (ret) Mohamed Nazim to visit India. The invitation was accepted with pleasure. On conclusion of the visit, which marked an important milestone in the bilateral relations, the Indian delegation was seen off at the Male Airport by H.E Col. (ret) Mohamed Nazim, High Commissioner of India in Maldives and senior officials of the MNDF.



247. Press Release of the Ministry of External Affairs on the Extension of Budgetary Support to the Government of Maldives.

New Delhi, September 24, 2012.

The Union Cabinet today approved the amendments in the terms of the Standby Credit Facility extended to Maldives in 2011 to extend budgetary support of US\$ 25 million to the Government of Maldives.

The Government of India had signed an agreement with the Government of Maldives in November 2011 to extend a Standby Credit Facility of US\$ 100 million to Maldives. As per the terms of the agreement, US\$ 50 million was earmarked for imports from India and the other US\$ 50 million was to be utilized for budgetary support by the Government of Maldives.

The Cabinet also approved the amendment to increase the amount of budgetary support to Maldives to US\$ 75 million. The amount earmarked for imports from India stands revised to US \$ 25 million.



248. Press Statement of the Ministry of External Affairs on Maldives.**New Delhi, October 4, 2012.**

In response to a question on the situation in Maldives, the Official Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs said: -

Government of India has been closely following the developments in Maldives. As a close and friendly neighbour, we are concerned at the continuing political instability in the country. In our engagements with the Government and political parties in Maldives, we have consistently emphasised that peace and stability are necessary prerequisites to the firm implantation of democracy as well as for the economic growth and prosperity of the people of Maldives.

We call upon all parties in Maldives to continue to work towards facilitating an early and commonly acceptable internal solution to the political impasse in the country. In this context, India urges the Government of Maldives and all political parties to adhere strictly to democratic principles and the rule of law thus paving the way for the holding of free, fair and credible Situation in Maldives



249. Official Spokesperson's Statement in response to a question regarding situation in Maldives.

New Delhi, November 16, 2012.

In response to a question regarding situation in Maldives, the Official Spokesperson stated:We have seen reports related to the arrest of former Secretary General SAARC and other members of the Majlis in the Maldives earlier today. India has maintained regular dialogue with Maldivian authorities. As a close and friendly neighbour, we are concerned at the continuing political instability in the country. There is an urgent need for dialogue and reconciliation among all political parties in Maldives in a peaceful and democratic manner.. India urges the Government of Maldives and all political parties to adhere strictly to democratic principles and the rule of law thus paving the way for the holding of free, fair and credible elections. Violence and coercive measures are not conducive to this end. India has been concerned at the occurrence of anti-India demonstrations and statements by a section in Maldives. A senior official of the Government of India visited Maldives recently and conveyed our concerns in regard to recent developments in the country. The situation is being monitored closely keeping in view the need to ensure safety and security of Indians in Maldives and Indian interests in that country.



250. Cancellation of the AGREEMENT of GMR by the Maldivian Government. Official Spokesperson's response to a question on termination of agreement with the GMR Group in Maldives.

New Delhi, November 27, 2012.

In response to questions on the decision of the Government of Maldives to terminate the agreement with the GMR Group, the official spokesman conveyed the following: -

We have noted the decision by the Government of Maldives to terminate the agreement with the GMR Group to manage the Male International Airport. It would be recalled that the consortium consisting of GMR and MAHB (Malaysian Airport Authority) had been awarded the contract to manage the Male International Airport concession through a global tender conducted by the International Finance Corporation (IFC), Washington, a member of the World Bank. As the Advisor to the Government of Maldives, the IFC has stated that it has complied with Maldivian laws and regulations and followed international best practices at each step of the bidding process to ensure the highest degree of competitiveness, transparency and credibility of the process.

The investment by GMR represents the single largest foreign direct investment in the history of Maldives. The decision to terminate the contract with GMR without due consultation with the company or efforts at arbitration provided for under the agreement sends a very negative signal to foreign investors and the international community. The Government of India would continue to remain engaged with the Government of Maldives on this issue, and would expect that the Government of Maldives would fulfil all legal processes and requirements in accordance with the relevant contracts and agreement it has concluded with GMR in this regard.

We call upon the Government of Maldives and all concerned parties to ensure that Indian interests in Maldives and the security of Indian nationals are fully protected. The Government of India proposes to monitor the situation in Maldives closely and is prepared to take all necessary measures to ensure the safety and security of its interests and its nationals in the Maldives. The Government of India will continue to be seized of the matter.

On December 4, on another occasion the Official Spokesperson said:

“As you are aware, the External Affairs Minister had received a call from the Foreign Minister of Maldives earlier today and discussed among other issues

the GMR case. The Foreign Minister of Maldives had mentioned that Government of Maldives would not allow relations between India and Maldives to be undermined and that there was consensus on this issue. The External Affairs Minister reminded the Foreign Minister of Maldives of his earlier discussions noting that the legal processes involved in the GMR case should be permitted to take their own course based on the contractual obligations of the parties involved. The Maldivian government should not allow the situation to go out of hand.

In this context, it is expected that no arbitrary and coercive measures should be taken pending the outcome of the legal process underway. Resort to any such actions would inevitably have adverse consequences for relations between India and the Maldives.”

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NEPAL

251. Press Release of the Ministry of Home Affairs on Cooperation to curb Cross-Border crimes.

New Delhi, January 16, 2012.

India & Nepal today, discussed cooperation in countering cross-border crimes & terrorist activities during Home Secretary level talks between the two countries. They discussed wide ranging issues including countering circulation of Fake Indian Currency Notes, smuggling of arms/ammunitions, trafficking of narcotics & psychotropic substances and misuse of SIM Cards. Sharing of information/intelligence reports, progress in establishment of Integrated Check Posts and border roads and India's support to training and capacity building of Nepal's security apparatus were also discussed.

The Indian delegation was led by Shri R.K. Singh, Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India and the Nepalese delegation was led by Shri Sushil Jung Bahadur Rana, Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of Nepal. Shri R.K.Singh appreciated the assurance of Nepalese Government for not allowing its territory to be used for activities inimical to India's interest and also assured Nepal of India's commitment to provide all necessary cooperation and assistance.

The meeting was held in a cordial environment and both the countries expressed their satisfaction on the outcome of the issues deliberated during the meeting and hoped it will go a long way in addressing mutual security concerns, enhancing cooperation and friendly relations between the two countries.



252. Press Release of the Ministry of Home Affairs on Nepalese assurance not to allow Anti-Indian Activities from its soil.

New Delhi, January 17, 2012.

The Nepalese Government has assured India that it will not allow its territory to be used for activities inimical to India's interest. During Home Secretary Level Talks between India and Nepal were held on 16-17 January, 2012 at New Delhi, India assured Nepal of its commitment to provide all necessary cooperation and assistance. Minutes of the meeting were signed by the leaders of the delegation today.

The Indian delegation was led by Shri R.K. Singh, Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India and the Nepalese delegation was led by Shri Sushil Jung Bahadur Rana, Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of Nepal.

The two sides discussed wide ranging issues like countering terrorist activities, curbing cross-border crimes, circulation of Fake Indian Currency Notes, smuggling of arms/ammunitions, trafficking of narcotics & psychotropic substances, misuse of SIM Cards, sharing of information/ intelligence reports, progress in establishment of Integrated Check Posts and border roads and India's support to training and capacity building of Nepal's security apparatus.

The meeting was held in a cordial environment and both the countries expressed their satisfaction on the outcome of the issues deliberated during the meeting and hoped it will go a long way in addressing mutual security concerns, enhancing cooperation and friendly relations between the two countries.



253. Press Release of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry expressing the hope that Nepal will fast-track the Karnali and Arun Hydroelectric Projects.

New Delhi, January 18, 2012.

Nepal has assured India of quick resolution of issues pertaining to Indian investment in Nepal. The Industry Minister of Nepal Mr Anil Jha in his meeting with Shri Anand Sharma , Minister of commerce Industry and Textiles, here today, singled out Karnali and Arun power projects for fast-track clearances. Shri Anand Sharma said that “this move on the part of Nepal will send a very positive signal for deepening of economic relations and boosting investor confidence.” Indian firms are the biggest investors in Nepal accounting for about 47.5% of total approved foreign direct investments. There are about 150 operating Indian ventures in Nepal engaged in manufacturing, services (banking, insurance, dry port, education and telecom), power sector and tourism industries. Indian joint ventures in Nepal have contributed significantly to increase in Nepal’s exports to India. They also provide direct employment to around 30,000 Nepali citizens and indirect employment to more than twice that number. As per extant FDI policy there is no restriction for inflows of FDI from Nepal. Both Governments have signed the text of bilateral investment protection and promotion agreement. Shri Anand Sharma assured Mr Jha of continued special relationship with Nepal.

The Nepalese Minister asked the Minister for better concessions for the jute products from Nepal. He also made a strong pitch for further concessions for Nepal imports and more investments from India. The bilateral trade between the two countries has increased from US\$ 1985 mn in 2009-10 to around US\$ 2700 in 2010-11 registering an increase of around 36%. Exports from Nepal to India have also grown from US\$ 452mn in 2009-10 to US\$ 476mn in 2010-11 (an increase of around 5.3%). Our growing mutual cooperation in the development of the hydropower potential of Nepal confirms the special relationship between our two countries. India would like to accelerate such cooperation which would usher in a new era of prosperity for citizens of Nepal. It is estimated that sale of electricity from the 40,000 MW hydropower potential of Nepal can generate revenues of more than 10 billion US\$ per annum. Nepal could also attract a lot of investment in manufacturing/services sector by overcoming its present power shortage.



254. Response of Official Spokesperson to Developments in Nepal.

New Delhi, April 12, 2012.

In response to a media question regarding the recent developments in Nepal the Official Spokesperson stated that:

“We welcome the agreement reached on 10 April 2012 in the constitutionally mandated Army Integration Special Committee (AISC) on taking forward the process of integration and rehabilitation of the former Maoist combatants in consonance with the past Agreements. We congratulate the Nepalese leadership for the wisdom, and spirit of consensus displayed by them to complete the remaining tasks.

2. We hope the Nepali-led and Nepali-driven political processes would be taken to their logical end within the time-frame agreed by the political parties, ushering Nepal into a new era of peace and democracy.”



255. Response of the Official Spokesperson to Recent Developments in Nepal.**New Delhi, May 29, 2012.**

In response to a media query on the recent developments in Nepal, the Official Spokesperson said:

“We are closely monitoring developments in Nepal.

We note the new Constitution could not be promulgated within the extended term of the Constitution Assembly. We have confidence in the democratic commitment and wisdom of the people of Nepal, which has led to considerable progress of the constitution making process. We hope that the political parties of Nepal would continue to be guided by the spirit of consensus and peaceful dialogue in their efforts to transform Nepal into a stable, democratic and prosperous nation.

India stands ready to assist, according to the wishes of the people of Nepal.”



The spokesperson was referring to the dissolution of the Constituent Assembly and decision to go in for new elections to elect a new Constituent Assembly.

PAKISTAN

256. Exchange of List of Nuclear Installations and Facilities between India and Pakistan

New Delhi, January 1, 2012.

India and Pakistan today exchanged, through diplomatic channels simultaneously at New Delhi and Islamabad, the list of nuclear installations and facilities

covered under the 'Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear Installations between India and Pakistan'.

The Agreement, which was signed on December 31, 1988 and entered into force on January 27, 1991, provides, inter alia, that the two countries inform each other of nuclear installations and facilities to be covered under the Agreement on the first of January of every calendar year. This is the twenty first consecutive exchange of such lists between the two countries, the first one having taken place on January 1, 1992.



257. Joint Statement issued by the Fifth meeting of the India-Pakistan Committee on Prisoners held in India.

New Delhi, January 27, 2012.

Members of the India-Pakistan Judicial Committee on Prisoners visited Indian Jails in Delhi, Jaipur and Amritsar from 23-27 January 2012. The members of the Committee, Justice (Retd.) Mr A.S Gill and Justice (Retd) Mr. M.A Khan from the Indian side and Justice (Retd.) Mr. Nasir Aslam Zahid and Justice (Retd.) Mian Muhammad Ajmal from Pakistan side visited the Jails.

2. 46 Pakistani Prisoners at Central Jail Tihar, New Delhi, 98 Pakistani Prisoners at Central Jail, Jaipur and 45 Pakistani Prisoners at Central Jail, Amritsar were presented before the Committee.

3. On the conclusion of the visit, the Committee made following recommendations:

- a) The "Consular Access Agreement" of May 2008 signed between two government must be implemented fully. Consular access must be provided within three months of the arrest and repatriation must take place within one month of confirmation of national status and completion of sentences;
- b) Consular access must be provided at the immediately to all those prisoners who have not been given consular access so far and the process of nationality confirmation should start immediately after consular access is provided;
- c) A mechanism should be developed for compassionate and humanitarian consideration to be given to women, juvenile, mentally challenged, old aged and all those prisoners suffering from serious illness/permanent physical disability;
- d) It was also recommended that serious/terminally and mentally challenged prisoners must be kept in hospitals irrespective of confirmation of their national status and offence;
- e) Prisoners involved in minor offences like violation of Foreigners' Act, visa violation and inadvertent border crossing deserve compassion from both the sides;
- f) The Committee noted that the respective courts must be requested for expeditious trial of all "under trial" prisoners. Provision of legal aid/attorneys to prisoners must be ensured at all stages of their cases;
- g) The Committee also endorsed the recommendations of the Home/Interior

Secretary level talks held on 28-29 March 2011 at New Delhi to task the Pakistani Maritime Security Agency and Coast Guard of India to work on setting up a mechanism for release of inadvertent crossers (fishermen) and their boats, on the same lines as the inadvertent crossers on land; It was recommended that the fishermen should be repatriated by sea lanes along with their boats;

- h) It was suggested that the next visit of the Committee to Pakistani jails be arranged during the second half of April 2012;
- i) The Committee will review the action taken report on the earlier recommendations when the Committee meets next in Pakistan”

Justice (Retd.) A.S. Gill

Justice (Retd.) Nasir Aslam Zahid

Justice (Retd.) M.A. Khan

Justice (Retd.) Mian Muhammad Ajmal



258. India and Pakistan extend agreement on Reducing the Risk from Accidents Relating to Nuclear Weapons

New Delhi, February 21, 2012.

In accordance with Article 8 of the Agreement between the Republic of India and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on Reducing the Risk from Accidents Relating to Nuclear Weapons of 21 February 2007*, both countries have agreed to extend the Agreement for another period of Five years. The existing validity was up to 20 February 2012.



For text of the agreement Please see India's Foreign Relations – 2007, Edited by A.S. Bhasin Doc. No. 272 P.1379.

259. Press Release of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry on Pakistan's Transition from Positive List to Negative List Regime in Bilateral Trade.

New Delhi, February 29, 2012.

India has welcomed the decision of the Government of Pakistan to transition from a Positive List Regime to a small Negative List for trade with India. This development reaffirms the commitment of both Governments for trade normalization as per the roadmap drawn During the Visit of Pakistan Commerce Minister from 26th September to 2nd October, 2011. There is reiteration of commitment that the negative list will be phased out by the end of this year. This will mark a dramatic shift in the lines that can be traded as now almost 90% items can be traded with Pakistan as opposed to 17% earlier. Welcoming the development, the Union Minister of Commerce, Industry and Textiles Shri Anand Sharma said "during my visit to Pakistan earlier this month, Prime Minister Gilani and Trade Minister Makhdoom Amin Fahim, had assured me that a final decision in the matter would be taken by end-February and I am happy that this has been achieved. We believe that strengthening economic engagement between India and Pakistan lies at the heart of building enduring peace and stability in this region. Flourishing trade is the biggest confidence building measure among any two nations. During my visit to Pakistan, I saw considerable enthusiasm in industry leaders and the trading community of both countries for deepening this engagement. We now need to continue the momentum of regular exchanges which we have started since mid-2011."

Shri Sharma's visit to Pakistan from 13th to 16th February 2012 was first ever visit by the Commerce Minister of India for substantive bilateral meetings. Accompanied by more than hundred high power business delegates, this visit marked a historic moment for both the countries, when political leadership and the business communities extended unequivocal support for full normalization and preferential trading arrangements between the two countries. The Joint Statement by the two Ministers at the end of the visit noted "It has been agreed that Pakistan will move from a Positive List to a small Negative List by February 2012. The negative list is to be phased out; the timing for this will be announced in February 2012 at the time the list is notified. It is expected that the phasing out will be completed before the end of 2012."



260. India- Pakistan Joint Statement on Tulbul Navigation/Wullar Barrage Project**New Delhi, March 28, 2012.**

Under the dialogue process between India and Pakistan, the delegations of the two countries met in New Delhi from 27-28 March 2012, to discuss the Tulbul Navigation / Wullar Barrage Project. The Indian delegation was led by Mr. Dhruv Vijai Singh, Secretary Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India and the Pakistan delegation was led by Mr. Imtiaz Kazi, Secretary Ministry of Water and Power, Government of Pakistan. Secretary Kazi and some members of Pakistan delegation called on H.E. Mr. Vincent H. Pala, Minister of State for Water Resources, Government of India

2. The talks were held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere. The two sides reiterated their commitment to bilateral engagement in a spirit of constructive cooperation. They discussed their respective positions on the Project while reaffirming the commitment to the Indus Waters Treaty 1960.

3. Both sides emphasized the need for an early and amicable resolution of the issue within the ambit of the Indus Waters Treaty. In order to address the concerns of both countries, it was agreed that the Indian side will provide additional technical data to Pakistan. The Pakistan side shall examine all the data and furnish its views before the next round of the Talks. Both sides further agreed that, if required, they will explore the way forward for resolving the issue under the provisions of the Treaty.



261. Press Briefing by Foreign Secretary on the meeting between Prime Minister and the President of Pakistan during the latter's halt in New Delhi on way to Ajmer Sharif.

New Delhi, April 8, 2012.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Syed Akbaruddin): Good afternoon everybody and thank you very much for coming on a Sunday afternoon here. I must apologize for the slight delay. We have here with us Foreign Secretary who will make an opening statement and a few remarks.

May I mention that we have only a limited amount of time and so we may not have a long interaction, but we will try to respond to most of the issues that you have in mind. With that, I will now request Foreign Secretary to make his opening remarks.

Foreign Secretary (Shri Ranjan Mathai): Good afternoon. Really the apology for being late is not from him but from me. It is becoming a bit traditional, but this time there were difficulties in my getting here on time.

Let me start by saying the Prime Minister and President Zardari spent about forty minutes before lunch, and they had a friendly and constructive conversation covering all aspects of India-Pakistan bilateral relations, and regional and global issues of common interest. As you know, this is a private visit. President Zardari was kind enough to accept Prime Minister's invitation to lunch in New Delhi on his way to visit Ajmer Sharief, where he is in fact headed just now.

In their discussions, PM and the Pakistani President noted that there had been steady progress in the dialogue process which was restarted last year. The dialogue process will continue as planned in the months to come. PM expressed appreciation of the fact that Pakistan has moved forward on trade-related issues. Both leaders felt that we should tap into the considerable potential of bilateral economic and trade ties. The issue has been discussed by the Commerce Ministers and Commerce Secretaries, and there is a way forward which has already been identified. The leaders discussed the problem of terrorism, which is a major issue by which the Indian people will judge progress in the bilateral relationship.

PM told President Zardari that it was imperative to bring the perpetrators of the Mumbai attack to justice, and prevent activities aimed against India from Pakistani soil. In this context PM also mentioned the activities of Hafiz Saeed. President Zardari said the matter needed to be discussed further between the two Governments. It was noted that the Home Secretaries are due to meet shortly and they would be discussing this issue further.

President Zardari mentioned the need for all issues including the issues of Sir Creek, Siachen, and the issue of Kashmir to be addressed. Both felt that we need to move forward step by step.

The two leaders also discussed developments in the region, and they are determined to use the potential of regional cooperation for the economic development of people of both countries. It was evident from the conversation that both countries consider the dialogue process and the improvement of bilateral relations as being in mutual interest of the people of India and Pakistan.

The leaders also felt that priority needed to be given to issues of people-to-people contacts. In this context, they decided that a liberalized visa agreement which has been worked out should be signed during the next meeting of the Home/Interior Secretaries.

President Zardari invited Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to visit Pakistan. PM accepted the invitation with pleasure and said he would be happy to visit at an appropriate time. The diplomatic channels will be used to work out the mutually acceptable dates and the substantive preparations for that visit.

One issue I forgot to mention is that the PM mentioned that he had heard the news about the avalanche which caused the feared death of a very large number of soldiers and said, if there was something humanitarian that was required of us, we would be happy to be of assistance. The President thanked PM for this and said they would check and if there was any requirement, they would come back to us.

Thank you.

Official Spokesperson: Thank you very much.



262. Statements of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari.

New Delhi, April 8, 2012.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh: President Zardari and I had a very constructive and friendly exchange of views on all bilateral issues which affect the relation between India and Pakistan. President Zardari is on a private visit and I have taken advantage of this visit to discuss with him all bilateral issues and I am very satisfied with the outcome of this visit. President Zardari has also invited me to visit Pakistan. I would be very happy to visit Pakistan on a mutually convenient date. The relation between India and Pakistan should become normal. That's our common desire. We have number of issues and we are willing to find practical and pragmatic solutions to all those issues and that's the message President Zardari and I wish to convey

President Asif Ali Zardari: I would like to wish the people of India Assalam Allaikum from the people of Pakistan and I am grateful to Manmohan Singh, The Prime Minister of India, for inviting me for a lunch although I am on a private visit here. We have had some very fruitful bilateral talks together. India and Pakistan are neighbours. We would like to have better relations with India. We spoke on all topics that we could have spoken about and hope to meet on Pakistan soil very soon. Thank you very much.



263. Press Release of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry on the inauguration of Life Style Exhibition on Pakistan and on the Integrated Check-post at Wagha.

New Delhi, April 12, 2012.

Shri Anand Sharma Union minister of Commerce, Industry & Textiles and Pakistan Commerce Secretary Zafar Mahmood inaugurated the Lifestyle Pakistan 2012, here today. The first 'Lifestyle Pakistan' exhibits designers in various categories like fashion textiles, jewellery, designer furniture and leather goods showcasing high-end items. The exhibition is one of the steps taken by both India and Pakistan to enhance bilateral commerce and open new channels for shipment of goods. Shri Sharma while inaugurating the event said, "It gives me immense pleasure to be in the midst of this distinguished gathering for the inaugural of Lifestyle Exhibition of Pakistan. It is heartening to see 100 exhibitors from all parts of Pakistan participating along with a big delegation of 650 people, in this show, demonstrating the best of Pakistani products". All visitors from Pakistan are always special for all of us as it strikes a unique emotional chord in our hearts, Minister added.

Elaborating on the developments Shri Sharma stated, "if we look back at the last one year, the intensity of our engagement has been truly amazing. Within a span of less than five months, we have had two bilateral meetings at the Commerce Ministers' level and will have a third one tomorrow within less than ten months- four meetings between our commerce secretaries and seven engagements of our Ministries' Joint Secretaries! In addition, there have been many other Joint Working Group meetings relating to customs cooperation, trade infrastructure, possibilities of trade in electricity, visa issues and others. We have held an India Show in Lahore in February and within two months this Pakistan show in New Delhi is indeed heartening."

Emphasizing on his earlier announcement made during the visit last year to Pakistan the Indian Minister said, "I had given a commitment that India would be in a position to open the Integrated Check Post at Wagah, constructed at a cost of US\$ 30 million by April and tomorrow the Home Minister along with Makhdoom Fahim Sahib, me and Chief Minister of Punjab will be opening this Gate for trade between our countries. Imagine the potentiality of free flow of trade and how much benefit would accrue to the people of Punjab on both sides." Normalization of trade is a first step in building an enduring investment partnership. We need to change this and an opportunity lost now may well be lost forever, he emphasized.

The Minister said, "We would like an economic partnership with Pakistan which is enduring and strong, which not only helps in strengthening the industrial activity

on both sides, but also benefits the consumers. We would like to create an India-Pakistan Business Council which provides an institutional framework for regular and sustained dialogue between the business communities. TDAP and ITPO have already inked a Memorandum of Understanding and I have given mandate to the Chairperson of ITPO who is with me for intensifying the engagement with Pakistan. At a governmental level, equally, we need to sustain regularity in our exchanges.”

This is the first collaborative exhibition of Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) and India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO). “There has been lot of movement in trade in the last one year, the (trade) normalisation is going very fast,” Mr. Mahmood said. Mr. Zafar Mehmood, Commerce Secretary of Pakistan, Dr. Rahul Khullar, Commerce Secretary of India, Mr. Tariq Puri, CEO, Trade Development Authority of India, Mrs. Rita Menon, CMD-ITPO and Mr. Shahid Mallick, High Commissioner of Pakistan were also present on the occasion.

It is a fact that the bilateral trade which was barely US\$ 300 million in 2004, now stands at US\$ 2.7 billion, a 9-fold growth in a period of 7 years.



264. Press Release of the Ministry of Home Affairs on the inauguration of the Integrated Check-Post at Attari.

New Delhi, April 13, 2012.

Union Home Minister Shri P. Chidambaram Union Home Minister inaugurated the Integrated Check Post (ICP) at Attari in Punjab this evening in the presence of Chief Minister of Punjab, Shri Parkash Singh Badal, Union Commerce Minister, Shri Anand Sharma, Pakistan Commerce Minister Shri Makdoom Amin Fahim; Chief Minister of Punjab province of Pakistan Shri Shahbaz Sharif; Minister of State Shri Ashwani Kumar and Deputy Chief Minister of Punjab Shri Sukhbir Singh Badal; Ministers of Punjab, diplomats and other dignitaries.

Salient features of ICP Attari are as under:

- ICP Attari has been constructed at a cost of about Rs. 150 crores and is spread over 118 acres.
- Passenger terminal building measures 9600 sq mts
- There are all together 16 Immigration counters and 12 Customs counters on Arrival & Departure side of Passenger terminal building.
- X-ray baggage scanners, DFMD's/HHMD's and modern amenities like health services, child care and prayer room, have been provided for the convenience of passengers. Ramps and wheelchairs for the physically challenged have been provided too.
- Dedicated Cargo Terminal building measuring 4700 sq. mts., import ware house measuring 7400 sq mts. export ware house measuring 3400 sq. mts. and parking of trucks measuring 55000 sq. mts. have also been provided for efficient cargo processing.
- 4 companies of BSF have been deployed for providing 24 X 7 security to this ICP along with 230 CCTV cameras and control and command centre for monitoring of passenger and freight processing.
- ICP Attari also provides associated facilities like, plant quarantine, isolation rooms, fumigation centre, MT room, Weigh Bridge, PA system, boom-barriers & dormitory.
- All the facilities are backed by 1800 KVA substation with 100 % power backup.
- The ICP complex has 99000 sq mts. area for future expansion.
- A helipad has also been provided.

Operationalization of ICP Attari will lead to reduction in passenger and freight processing time paving way for enhanced people to people contact and expansion of trade between the two countries.

It will provide employment and business opportunities for the local population and contribute to area development. It is symbolic of India's desire for progressive, productive and mutually beneficial relationship with its neighbouring countries.

ICPs are being constructed as a Plan scheme with an initial outlay of Rs.635 crore during the 11th Five Year Plan. In the initial phase, 13 ICPs have been envisaged at major designated entry/exit points along India's international land border. 7 ICPs, out of these 13 ICPs are to be constructed in Phase I and 6 ICPs in Phase II. ICP Attari is the first to be completed and 4 ICPs (Raxaul and Jogbani in Bihar, Agartala in Tripura and Petrapole in West Bengal) are in various stages of construction.

A statutory body, the Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI) has been established from 1st March, 2012 as an overarching organization to oversee the construction, management and maintenance of these ICPs. Photographs of ICP Attari are available on PIB site i.e. www.pib.nic.in.



265. Suo Motu Statement in Lok Sabha by Minister of External Affairs S. M. Krishna on the visit of Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari.

New Delhi, April 25, 2012

Hon'ble Madam Speaker,

I rise to inform the House on the visit of His Excellency Mr. Asif Ali Zardari, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on 8th April 2012.

2. His Excellency Mr. Asif Ali Zardari, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan came to India on a private visit on April 8, 2012. The primary purpose of his visit was to pray at the shrine of Khwaja Moinuddin Chisti at Ajmer. However, President Zardari was kind enough to accept Hon'ble Prime Minister's invitation to lunch in New Delhi on his way to visit Ajmer.

3. President Zardari and Hon'ble Prime Minister met before lunch for about forty minutes and had friendly and constructive discussions covering India-Pakistan relations, and regional and global issues of common interest. In their discussions, the two leaders noted that there had been steady progress in the bilateral dialogue process which was resumed last year. The dialogue process will continue as planned in the months to come.

4. Hon'ble Prime Minister expressed appreciation of the fact that Pakistan has moved forward on trade-related issues. Both leaders felt that we should tap into the considerable potential of bilateral economic and trade ties for progress and prosperity of our two peoples. The issue has been discussed by the Commerce Ministers of the two countries, and there is a way forward which has already been identified.

5. Hon'ble Prime Minister and President Zardari discussed the subject of terrorism. Hon'ble Prime Minister told President Zardari that there is need for taking firm action to curb terrorism to enable us to make forward movement in the bilateral relationship. He conveyed that it was imperative to bring the perpetrators of the Mumbai attack to justice, and prevent activities aimed against India from Pakistani soil. In this context, he also mentioned the activities of Hafiz Saeed carried out in public. It would be evident that our concerns on terrorism had to be addressed if the people of India are to support and sustain progress in bilateral relations. President Zardari referred to judicial processes against Saeed and said the matter needed to be discussed further between the two Governments. It was noted that the Home Secretaries are due to meet shortly and they would be discussing this issue further.

6. President Zardari mentioned the need for all issues in the bilateral

relationship including Sir Creek, Siachen, and the issue of Kashmir to be addressed. Both leaders felt that we need to move forward step by step and find pragmatic and mutually acceptable solutions to all those issues.

Madam Speaker,

7. The two leaders also discussed developments in the region. They agreed to use the potential of regional cooperation for the economic development of people of both countries. It was clear from the conversation that both countries consider the dialogue process and the improvement of bilateral relations as being in the mutual interest of the people of India and Pakistan.

8. The two leaders also felt that priority needed to be given to issues of people-to-people contacts. In this context, they decided that a liberalized visa agreement which has been worked out should be signed during the next meeting of the Home/ Interior Secretaries.

9. President Zardari invited Hon'ble Prime Minister to visit Pakistan. Hon'ble Prime Minister accepted the invitation with pleasure and said that he would be happy to visit at an appropriate time. The diplomatic channels will be used to work out mutually acceptable dates and substantive preparations for that visit.



266. Statement in the Lok Sabha by Minister of External Affairs in response to the issue of treatment of minorities in Pakistan raised by Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, MP during Zero Hour on May 2, 2012.

New Delhi, May 9, 2012.

Honb'le Madam Speaker,

I rise to inform this august House that Government has from time to time come across reports on the problems faced by members of the minority communities in Pakistan. Incidents of persecution and intimidation of the minority communities have also been reported. Recently, in separate incidents, three Hindu girls in Sindh province have reportedly been abducted and married against their will to Muslim men, after being forcefully converted to Islam. This issue is a matter of concern to the Government and is being taken up appropriately with the Government of Pakistan.

2. In the past, we have also seen reports of kidnapping and killing of members of the minority communities and desecration/encroachment of their places of religious worship in Pakistan. It is the responsibility of the Government of Pakistan to discharge its constitutional obligations towards its citizens, including those from the minority community.

3. While, the Simla Agreement of 1972 between India and Pakistan specifically provides for non-interference in each other's internal affairs, nevertheless, based on reports of persecution of minority groups in Pakistan, Government has taken up the matter with the Government of Pakistan in the past. The Government of Pakistan stated that it was fully cognizant of the situation and looked after the welfare of all its citizens, particularly the minority community.

4. I also wish to inform this House that according to a Government of Pakistan Press Release, President of Pakistan has taken serious note of the reports of the kidnapping of a Hindu girl from Mirpur Mathelo District Ghotki in Sindh and allegedly being forced by some influential people of the area to convert; and called for a report from the provincial government. The President also called for transparent and expeditious investigations in the matter and to take action in accordance with the law regardless of the influence and status of anyone involved in criminal activity. Several Members of Parliament, NGOs and civil society in Pakistan have also expressed grave concern on the incidents and called for implementation of laws to protect the rights of the minorities in that country.

Madam Speaker,

5. In November 2011, on the killing of three Hindu doctors in Sindh, the President of Pakistan had called for a report on the incident and directed immediate arrest of the people responsible for the killings. He had also said that it was the moral and legal responsibility of the Government to protect members of the minority community against vandalism and atrocities. In August 2011, while speaking on the occasion of the 'Minorities' Day' in Pakistan, Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani said, "Unfortunately some extremist elements with a view to advancing their own narrow and bigoted agendas have targeted the minorities. The Government, however, stands fully committed to foil the designs of these extremist elements. The perpetrators of the crime against the minority community anywhere in Pakistan - must be brought to justice and they will be".

6. While it is our hope that the Government of Pakistan will discharge its constitutional duties towards its minority communities, in view of the purely humanitarian nature of this issue, we appeal to the people and Government of Pakistan to take all possible steps to protect the constitutional rights of their minorities by ensuring their safety, security and well being.



267. Joint Statement issued by India and Pakistan on the Home Secretary level talks held in Islamabad.

Islamabad, May 25, 2012.

Under the resumed bilateral dialogue, the second round of India-Pakistan Home/ Interior Secretary Talks was held in Islamabad on May 24-25, 2012. The Pakistan delegation was led by Mr. K. M. Siddiq Akbar, Interior Secretary, and the Indian Delegation was led by Shri Raj Kumar Singh, Home Secretary of India.

2. The meeting was held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.
3. Both sides exchanged views on the decisions taken in the last round of Home/ Interior Secretary Talks held in New Delhi in March 2011.
4. Both sides agreed that terrorism poses a continuing threat to peace and security and full normalization of bilateral relations. They reiterated the firm and undiluted commitment of the two countries to fight and eliminate this scourge in all its forms and manifestations and bring those responsible for such crimes to justice.
5. The Pakistan side provided an update on the ongoing trial and investigation in Pakistan on the Mumbai Terror Attacks. Both sides discussed Judicial Commission's visit to India from March 14-21, 2012. Pakistan side noted that it had agreed in principle to receive a Judicial Commission from India. In this regard, modalities, mandate and composition of the Commission will be worked out through diplomatic channels. Pakistan side reiterated its commitment to bring all the perpetrators of the Mumbai terror attacks to justice expeditiously in accordance with due process of law.
6. The Home and the Interior Secretaries agreed to enhance cooperation between the NIA of India and the FIA of Pakistan on issues of mutual concern, including Mumbai terror attacks investigation.
7. India provided information on the on-going Samjhauta Express blast case investigation. It was mentioned by the Indian side that investigation in this case is still ongoing and updated information will be shared with the Pakistan authorities concerned when the investigation is completed. The Indian side agreed to forward updated information on the investigation through diplomatic channel.
8. The Pakistan side noted the technical parameters, suggested by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Government of India for establishing a hotline between the Home Secretary of India and the Interior Secretary of Pakistan. Pakistan side would examine the technical parameters and revert.

9. Both sides welcomed the signing of the 'MoU on Drug Demand Reduction and Prevention of Illicit Trafficking in Narcotics Drugs/Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemicals and related matters', during the Eighth Director General level talks between Narcotics Control Bureau of India and Anti Narcotics Force of Pakistan on Drugs Trafficking in September 2011. They expressed the hope that the MoU will help enhance mutual cooperation between India and Pakistan through effective and sustained steps to control the growing menace of drug trafficking. In this context, they also welcomed the outcome of the DG level talks, held at Rawalpindi on September 12-13, 2011, and noted the decision to hold DG level talks on Drugs Trafficking annually.
10. It was decided that CBI and FIA will schedule a meeting at an early date to work out the technical details of moving forward on issues of human trafficking, counterfeit currency, cyber crimes and Red Notices (RNs). Both sides agreed to expeditiously execute all pending RNs. Pakistan side agreed to examine issues pertaining to Letters Rogatory.
11. Both sides welcomed the finalization of the Visa Agreement and agreed to sign it at an early date. The Pakistan side informed that some internal approvals were under process and the Agreement will be signed once they are in place.
12. Both sides welcomed the release of prisoners and fishermen, including those suffering from ailments, since the last round of Home/ Interior Secretary Talks. They noted the need to fully implement the understanding reached during the previous Home/ Interior Secretary Talks in March 2011 so that the fishermen and the civilian prisoners who have completed their sentence, and whose nationality status has been confirmed by the respective Governments and whose travel documents have been received, are released without delay. It was also agreed that those fishermen who have completed their sentences will be released by both sides within three months along with their boats, except where the boats have been lost, damaged or confiscated by the courts. It was decided that those prisoners, whose nationality status could not be confirmed either due to lack of information or due to the physical disabilities of the prisoner concerned, would be transferred to charitable institutions in India and Pakistan pending confirmation of their nationality status.
13. Both sides commended the work done by the Judicial Committee on Prisoners and agreed that their work should continue. They also agreed on the need for implementing the 2008 Consular Agreement in letter and spirit.
14. The Secretaries also exchanged views on the issue of inadvertent crossing of fishermen from both sides. The Pakistan side noted the invitation extended by the Indian Coast Guards for a meeting with the Pakistan Maritime Agency in June 2012 in New Delhi.

15. In order to strengthen mutual cooperation in criminal matters, the two sides agreed in principle to initiate negotiations on a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT). In this regard, it was agreed that Pakistan side would examine the draft of the MLAT handed over by the Indian side and revert with comments.

16. The Home Secretary of India thanked the Interior Secretary of Pakistan for the warm hospitality extended to the Indian delegation and the arrangements made for the visit. He invited the Interior Secretary of Pakistan to visit India for the next Home / Interior Secretary level Talks. The invitation was accepted.



268. Joint Statement on India-Pakistan Defence Secretary Level talks on Siachen.

Rawalpindi, June 12, 2012.

The Defence Secretary level talks between Pakistan and India on Siachen were held at the Ministry of Defence, Rawalpindi from 11 – 12 June 2012. The Pakistan delegation was headed by Ms. Nargis Sethi, Secretary Defence. The Indian delegation was headed by Mr. Shashi Kant Sharma, Defence Secretary of India.

2. The Defence Secretary of India called on the Minister for Defence Syed Naveed Qamar.

3. The talks were held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere. Both sides reaffirmed their resolve to make serious, sustained and result oriented efforts for seeking an amicable resolution of Siachen. It was agreed to continue dialogue on Siachen in keeping with the desire of the leaders of both countries for early resolution of all outstanding issues. Both sides acknowledged that the ceasefire was holding since 2003.

4. It was agreed that the next round of talks on Siachen will be held in New Delhi on mutually convenient dates, to be fixed through diplomatic channels.



**269. Joint Statement on India-Pakistan Talks on Sir Creek Issue.
New Delhi, June 19, 2012.**

Under the resumed dialogue process between India and Pakistan, talks on Sir Creek issue were held in New Delhi on June 18-19, 2012. The Indian delegation was led by Surveyor General of India Dr Swarna Subba Rao. The Pakistan delegation was led by Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Defence Rear Admiral Farrokh Ahmad. The Pakistan delegation met Shri Shekhar Agarwal, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Defence.

2. The talks were held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere.
3. The two sides discussed the land boundary in the Sir Creek area and also delimitation of International Maritime Boundary between India and Pakistan. They reiterated their desire to find an amicable solution of the Sir Creek issue through sustained and result oriented dialogue.
4. They agreed to hold the next round of the talks on Sir Creek issue in Pakistan at mutually convenient dates, to be determined through diplomatic channels.



270. Congratulations from Prime Minister of India to Pakistan Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf on his appointment as the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

New Delhi, June 22, 2012.

"I would like to extend to you my heartiest congratulations on your appointment as Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. On behalf of the people and Government of India and also on my own behalf, I convey to you our best wishes for success in your new assignment as well as for the peace, prosperity and well-being of the people of Pakistan under your leadership.

I am confident, Excellency, that during your term as Prime Minister, our two countries will continue to make progress in their bilateral dialogue on all issues and build good neighbourly relations by strengthening their cooperation in all areas for the benefit of the peoples of both countries. I look forward to working closely with Your Excellency in this regard.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration."



271. Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson on the Meeting between Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan.

New Delhi, June 26, 2012.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Syed Akbaruddin): Good afternoon

.....Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan will meet in New Delhi on July 4th and 5th to discuss peace and security including CBMs, Jammu and Kashmir, and promotion of friendly exchanges.

Question: Sir, my question is regarding Abu Hamza the terrorist who was deported from Saudi Arabia. Kindly tell us something about how Indian agencies succeeded in getting Abu Hamza into the country. What is the role of yours? Also, there is a report that MEA was not aware about the whole process that the MHA and IB were following in this regard.

Official Spokesperson: Thank you very much, that is an important question. I understand that it is a legitimate question that you have asked in the circumstances. That said, I think you have to also give us a little bit of space to operate in. If there are questions of an operational nature which involve intelligence issues, you would not expect us to share this openly in a public platform. These are matters which are of a sensitive nature. These are matters which we operate in a manner where we do not publicly stand upon trees and shout about it. So, please understand that the achievement is of India as a country. Which element of the Government of India worked on this, which elements cooperated with which other elements, is not a matter on which we need to openly discuss. But that said, we are all happy that this is an achievement for the country.

Question: How does this incident reflect on the changing nature of Saudi-India security relationship? They were not very warm since the 1950s, and 1980s particularly. How do you define this change? How do you see this as?

Official Spokesperson: In the 1950s there was a visit of the King of Saudi Arabia to India for a month or more. So, that is reflective of the warm relationship we had during that time. So, I beg to differ with you in terms of what the relationship was then.

That said, I take your point that issues of this nature are rather new in the relationship between the two countries. I would like to share with you that our relationship with Saudi Arabia is expanding in a variety of ways. You would recollect there was a visit by our Defence Minister. That again you would say was a path-breaking thing. You would like to characterize the developments recently also in a similar way. This is for you to describe and analyze. But what

we feel is we have always had very cordial relations with Saudi Arabia. There are a large number of Indian nationals there – two million on last count. So, obviously a country with which we have such strong bonds we can only describe our relationship as excellent.

Question: It looks like the talks between Foreign Ministers of India and Pakistan have been postponed. What are the new dates we are looking at? And what is the trigger for this postponement?

Official Spokesperson: I do not know what it looks to you but it looks to me slightly different. Let me try and explain the situation.

We should not try and merge substance with process, because process is focused in terms of trying and setting a schedule, and scheduling always has issues. For example, we have never indicated a specific date for the visit of the External Affairs Minister. But it is obvious that at the end of the round of the dialogue there has to be a meeting of the Foreign Minister of Pakistan and the External Affairs Minister of India. And with that in mind we were working on a date.

It just happened that while we were working on the date where we had indicated a possibility of that date being suitable to us, other developments have intervened since then because when the date was being mentioned, there was no reference to an election for the President and with a specific date of polling on that date. Since that has become the date on which the polling for the President is involved, and the External Affairs Minister of India is part of the electoral college for an important election in India, obviously we seek to reschedule these dates. And this rescheduling again has issues in terms of what is suitable to us and what is suitable to the authorities in Pakistan. We are trying to work out dates because as you know, after 22nd of July Parliament is in session. And you are aware of the sensitivities and sensibilities of External Affairs Minister himself of traveling outside India during Parliament being in session. With that in mind he has mentioned that we are looking at dates sometime in August at the earliest on this.

We will try and get back to you once it is finalized. But please do not think that the scheduling issue is reflective of substantive problems. There are none and so do not look for them.

Question: Just want to add to that question that Manish has just put forward. How much of an important factor is the political situation inside Pakistan as of now to postponing of these talks further?

Official Spokesperson: As regards the issue of the present change of the dates, it is purely a scheduling issue because of conflict of another engagement.

So, again please do not mix it with the substance of the relationship. That said, since the original date was fixed, there have been changes that we are all aware of in Pakistan, and these of course will be factored in both by their side and by our side while finalizing on a new date.

Question: New Delhi is going to host the Afghanistan Investment Summit. Could you share some details on that and the objective?

Official Spokesperson: Yes, we will have plenty of details on that. Just give me some time because we will schedule a special briefing on that. So, I do not want to preempt what is going to be told to you on that shortly. We have invited about 40 countries and there are huge number of responses. We will provide you those details shortly. I just wanted to bring to your attention that this must be amongst the first or the only time where India is holding an investment conference for promoting investment in another country on our soil.

We hope that this will be useful both for providing peace and stability in Afghanistan because we do not see the Afghan issue purely as a security issue. In addition we also feel that Indian businessmen will use the opportunity provided by this forum to see if there are options that they can benefit from in Afghanistan. That said, I will leave it for the present because we will have a separate and detailed briefing on that very specific issue shortly.

Question: What has been Pakistan's reaction to the arrest of Abu Hamza? It came out with the very clichéd response that Pakistan has renewed its offer of cooperation in counterterrorism. It seems to be a very casual kind of attitude. Has it been taken to official channel? What has been the reaction to the whole issue of the arrest and the revelations made by this man?

Official Spokesperson: As I told you at the beginning of this briefing, such issues require some space in which we need to operate. Also it requires a certain degree of depth for us to work without being asked to give you a ball-by-ball commentary on this. So, please do understand. We will at a certain stage when we are ready for this, provide information on this. But please do not expect us to say, well this morning this happened, and afternoon this further thing happened. I do understand we are great connoisseurs and interested in very rapid commentary including on T20, but this certainly is not that sort of a match.

With that I thank you very much.



272. Statement by the External Affairs Minister to media on the release of Sarabjit Singh.

New Delhi, June 27, 2012.

I have seen media reports about the impending release from imprisonment in Pakistan of Surjeet Singh son of Sucha Singh

I welcome this decision and further renew our request to the President of Pakistan to release Sarabjit Singh who has been in custody for well over 2 decades and is serving a death sentence.

As you are aware, the Government of India has consistently urged the Government of Pakistan, on several occasions, to take a sympathetic and humanitarian view in the case of Shri Sarabjit Singh.

I also appeal to the Government of Pakistan to release all Indian nationals who have completed their prison terms and request the release of all other Indians who are serving jail sentences in Pakistani prisons for petty crimes.



The statement was made by EAM in the context of confusion created by Pakistan which first announced the release of Sarabjit Singh and then clarified to say that the release was for Surjit Singh, who had already been pardoned and his death sentence condoned to that of life imprisonment, who was now being released after he had completed his term in prison.

273. Press Statement by Official Spokesperson on India-Pakistan Foreign Secretary level talks.

New Delhi, July 4, 2012.

The Foreign Secretary of India, Shri Ranjan Mathai and the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan Mr Jalil Abbas Jilani began their talks this morning at the Hyderabad House in New Delhi.

As is customary on such occasions, they were assisted by senior officials of both sides, including the Indian High Commissioner to Pakistan, Shri Sharat Sabharwal and Pakistan's High Commissioner- designate to India, Mr Salman Bashir.

The Foreign Secretaries along with their respective delegations have had two full sessions of detailed discussions covering all aspects of the agenda under the items Peace and Security as well as Jammu and Kashmir. The talks started at 10.30 am and spread until a short time earlier, with a brief working lunch. The Foreign Secretaries also utilized the opportunity of the working lunch to cover a wide variety of issues.

At the end of the two sessions today the Foreign Secretaries have agreed to resume the talks tomorrow, 5th July, in the morning with a view to completing all the items scheduled for consideration.

The talks tomorrow will be followed by a Joint Media Interaction. Subsequently, the visiting Pakistani Foreign Secretary will call upon the External Affairs Minister Shri S.M. Krishna at his office in South Block. At the culmination of the official engagements of the Pakistani Foreign Secretary in India a Joint Statement will be issued.

I am aware that many of you have numerous questions and queries on the discussions. However, since the discussions are ongoing, I am not at liberty to respond to your legitimate questions today.

You will surely be provided an opportunity tomorrow morning to pose questions to the two Foreign Secretaries who have graciously agreed to respond to a few questions. I therefore request you to kindly wait till tomorrow for the media interaction and the issuance of the Joint Statement. Thank you very much.



274. Joint Media Interaction of Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan.

New Delhi, July 5, 2012.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Syed Akbaruddin): Good afternoon friends. I welcome you to this media interaction with the Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan. As is usual on such occasions, we will begin with opening remarks.

I now request the Foreign Secretary of India Shri Ranjan Mathai to make his opening remarks.

Foreign Secretary of India (Shri Ranjan Mathai): Foreign Secretary Jilil Abbas Jilani and I have held detailed discussions over three sessions yesterday and today on peace and security including confidence building measures, Jammu and Kashmir and the promotion of friendly exchanges. We have also taken stock of the current state of our bilateral relations and reviewed progress in the various Secretary-level meetings held on different issues in the second round of our resumed dialogue.

We have had a frank and constructive discussion on the issues in the agenda. We have exchanged our respective views on areas of mutual interest and concern. This dialogue has contributed to a better understanding of each other's positions. While we might not agree on all issues, we do agree that relations between our two countries have to be normalized. There is a determination on both sides to take forward our dialogue with an open mind and a constructive spirit.

You have with you a Joint Statement that has been agreed by both sides which reflects our common position. I will only make a reference to three issues in this Joint Statement. We said: The issue of peace and security including CBMs was discussed in a comprehensive manner. Both sides emphasized the need to promote greater trust and mutual understanding through constructive dialogue. The Foreign Secretaries noted that both countries recognize that terrorism poses a continuing threat to peace and security. They reaffirmed the strong commitment of the two countries to fight and eliminate terrorism in an effective and comprehensive manner. The Foreign Secretaries had a comprehensive exchange of views on the issue of Jammu & Kashmir and agreed to continue discussions in a purposeful and forward looking manner with the view to finding a peaceful solution by narrowing divergences and building convergences. And finally, I draw your attention, both sides underlined the importance of greater people to people contacts and friendly exchanges in building a relationship of trust and friendship between the two countries. Thank you.

Official Spokesperson: I now request the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan to make his opening remarks.

Foreign Secretary of Pakistan (Mr. Jalil Abbas Jilani): Excellency Mr. Ranjan Mathai, Foreign Secretary of India, my very dear friends from the press corps, ladies and gentlemen.

It is a great pleasure for me to be back in this historic city. I am delighted to meet my old friends and colleagues. I would like to thank His Excellency Mr. Ranjan Mathai, the Foreign Secretary of India, for the gracious hospitality extended to me and my delegation ever since our arrival in New Delhi. I bring to the people and the Government of India message of goodwill, peace and cooperation from the people and Government of Pakistan.

My talks with Foreign Secretary Mr. Ranjan Mathai on peace and security including CBMs, Jammu and Kashmir and promotion of friendly exchanges have been substantive. We discussed these issues in detail in a cordial atmosphere. We held separate meetings for each segment which are part of Pakistan-India dialogue process.

We reviewed progress on peace and security and agreed to convene separate meetings of the expert-level Working Group on Nuclear and Conventional CBMs. We also discussed in detail Jammu and Kashmir with a view to finding peaceful resolution. We also reviewed progress on various cross-LoC Intra-Kashmir CBMs. We have agreed to convene a meeting of the Joint Working Group on Cross-LoC CBMs to streamline and strengthen travel and trade arrangements.

We have agreed that friendly exchanges in various fields will help in building trust and resolving all issues. We have agreed that the process dialogue should continue as there is no alternative to dialogue and constructive engagement.

Pakistan and India are two important countries in South Asia. They have a special responsibility to promote stability, peace and prosperity in the region. We are not only close neighbours, we are also partners in SAARC. I have conveyed to Foreign Secretary Mathai that Pakistan seeks friendly, cooperative and good neighbourly relations with India.

We must make sincere and serious efforts towards building mutual trust applying political will in resolving all outstanding issues through peaceful means, and continue to work for promotion of peace, harmony and cooperation.

Let me repeat what I said on my arrival. I have come here with a clear mandate from the leadership of Pakistan to promote bilateral relations. Let me assure you of our sincere desire to make every effort to resolve our differences and move forward.

I wish to thank Foreign Secretary Mathai once again for his invitation and warm hospitality. Thank you.

Official Spokesperson: Ladies and gentlemen of the media, I am aware that many of you have questions, perhaps each of you has a question, but given the paucity of time and other engagements we will limit them to a few.

Question (Ms Ritul Joshi, Aaj Tak): My question is both for Mr. Mathai and Mr. Jilani. Mr. Mathai, now that India has fresh evidence of involvement of Pakistani state actors in 26/11 attacks, was this evidence in terms of the confessional statement of Abu Jundal, his Pakistani ID and Passport, handed over to Pakistan? And what kind of action are you expecting from the Pakistani side?

Mr. Jilani, if you want to answer the question in Urdu we will be very happy, because we work for a Hindi channel.

Even after four years, you still maintain that you have not received proofs of the Mumbai attack from India. Is the new evidence received from Abu Jundal is still insufficient? Or we can now expect some sort of action" (Free translation from Hindi)

Foreign Secretary of India: The Foreign Secretaries are mandated to discuss among other things, as we said, peace and security including CBMs. It is in this context that Foreign Secretary Jilani and I discussed all issues that impact peace and security between our two countries including terrorism. I emphasized that terrorism is the biggest threat to peace and security in the region, and that bringing the guilty to justice in the Mumbai terror attacks would be the biggest confidence building measure of all.

During the Home Secretary-level talks in May 2012 in Islamabad, extensive information on the perpetrators of 26/11 has been provided to the Pakistani side. The arrest and the ongoing interrogation of Abu Jundal has now added urgency to this matter. I did take up the issue with Foreign Secretary Jilani and I have shared information with him.

As you are aware, the investigation is under way and we will continue to pursue this matter with determination to its logical conclusion. The Home Minister, as you are also aware, has already addressed this issue.

Foreign Secretary of Pakistan: *I will attempt to reply in Urdu as you suggested. If I had replied in English, it would have been easier for me. I will try.*

In this connection I will say that we regard terrorism as a common enemy of India and Pakistan. This is because both the countries are facing this menace of terrorism. I will also add that if we blame each other like this, it will serve no purpose, and we shall perhaps not reach anywhere. Me, my government and our people are very serious about it, they think that we need to go from a negative

narrative to a positive one. Terrorism is a very serious issue. For this we need that we are serious in our dialogue to resolve this problem. (Unofficial translation from Urdu)

Having said that, let me say that the issue was extensively discussed between myself and my very dear colleague Mr. Ranjan Mathai. And I assured him that the entire evidence, whatever evidence that India has, should be shared with us, and we will investigate this matter. We will even be willing to offer joint investigation into the whole affair.

For the time being I will say only this in reply, Thank you.

Question (Mr. Manish Chand, IANS): This question is addressed to both Foreign Secretaries.

Sir, the past few months have seen a lot of positive movement on the trade front. Do you think the revelations made by Abu Jundal constitute a setback to the peace process and the so-called peace dividend which was sought to be developed by trade?

Foreign Secretary of India: I think the forward movement on economic and commercial cooperation between India and Pakistan is really a welcome development. And we see it as a win-win proposition for both sides. Enhanced economic cooperation contributes to economic growth and development in our two countries which is the primary objective on both sides. We look forward to making progress on the trade track in accordance with the roadmap which has been agreed already by the two sides.

At the same time we are very conscious terrorism poses a continuing threat to peace and security and the full normalization of bilateral relations. In this regard we have reiterated the firm and undiluted commitment of the two countries to fight and eliminate the scourge in all its forms and manifestations and bring those responsible for such crimes to justice. We expect the realization of this commitment and look forward to its fulfillment.

Foreign Secretary of Pakistan: In response to your question I will say, 'We hope not!' There should be absolutely no setback because setback is something that we cannot afford. I think whenever we are faced with this kind of a situation, and I said earlier that we are both faced with terrorism, we should intensify our cooperation. I have been following this process for a long time and I have every reason to believe that we have certainly made a lot of progress on almost every issue including the issue of terrorism.

As I said, our Home Ministries and the Interior Ministry, they should meet more often. The respective agencies should meet more often and enter into a comprehensive cooperation in order to defeat the forces of terrorism.

Question (Ms Geeta Mohan, Times Now): My question is to both the Foreign Secretaries.

Home Minister P. Chidambaram has said that state actors were involved in the 26/11 attacks. What is Pakistan really doing about it because every time India raises 26/11, Pakistan talks about Samjhauta when India continues to maintain that they are incomparable, that India has taken action and Pakistan has not done much on 26/11? And why weren't the documents on Abu Jundal shared with Pakistan?

Foreign Secretary of Pakistan: I have already said that whenever we both countries are faced with terrorism we need to intensify our cooperation. I would very strongly reject any insinuation of any involvement of any state agency in acts of terrorism in India. Having said that, I would say that we have over the years improved our level of cooperation. And in case there are certain gaps that need to be filled, I think we should fill those gaps in a spirit of cooperation. And that is the only way that we can move forward on this very very important issue.

Foreign Secretary of India: I will just add to that.

Home Minister has already addressed this question in some detail and he drew attention to the scale of the conspiracy and the extent of control. I do not think I need to add anything to that. I did convey information provided to us regarding the outcome of the investigation so far that has been taken on board, as you heard, by the Pakistan Foreign Secretary. And we look forward to them taking action on that information.

Question (Mr Gautam Lahiri, Sangbad Pratidin): Good morning Excellencies. My question is addressed to both the Foreign Secretaries.

It is almost a year since both the countries have started dialogue at different levels. After these Foreign Secretary-level talks, could you give us an assessment of how the trust deficit is reduced? And has it reduced to a level that both India and Pakistan can start a cricket match right now, which has been stopped for quite a long time?

Foreign Secretary of Pakistan: I certainly can tell you that we have positively assessed this dialogue process, the resumed process that we started, and we have made significant progress. With regard to the cricketing ties, again this issue was discussed between myself and His Excellency Mr. Ranjan Mathai. I put forward certain suggestions for the revival of cricketing ties between the two countries, and I think we will continue with this positive trajectory that we have adopted over the years in moving forward in our relations.

Foreign Secretary of India: Pakistan Foreign Secretary Mr. Jilani and I reviewed

the various engagements that have taken place already and we noted that we are now at the culmination of the second round of the resumed dialogue. We have made progress in people-to-people relations and trade. We are cognizant that much more needs to be done on these tracks and on the other tracks and that the path ahead is not going to be an easy one. But the very fact that both sides are determined to sit across the table and resolve all outstanding issues through a dialogue in a peaceful manner is a positive step in the right direction.

As for the resumption of cricketing ties, this is really a matter for the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and the Pakistan Cricket Board. There are issues of security as well which arise. However, as you will see in the Joint Statement which we have circulated, we have both emphasized the need to promote sports and media contacts between the two countries. So, I think we will leave it there for the moment.

Official Spokesperson: Ladies and gentlemen, with that we come to the end of this interaction. Thank you very much.



275. Joint Statement on India Pakistan Foreign Secretaries level talks.**New Delhi, July 5, 2012.**

During the second-round of the resumed dialogue process, the Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan met in New Delhi on July 4-5, 2012 for bilateral talks on Peace and Security including CBMs, Jammu & Kashmir and Promotion of Friendly Exchanges.

2. The talks were held in a frank and constructive atmosphere. Both sides reiterated their desire to carry forward the dialogue process in a purposeful and result-oriented manner.
3. The issue of Peace and Security, including CBMs, was discussed in a comprehensive manner. Both sides emphasized the need to promote greater trust and mutual understanding through constructive dialogue.
4. The Foreign Secretaries reviewed the ongoing implementation of the already adopted Nuclear and Conventional CBMs. It was decided that separate meetings of the Expert Level Groups on Nuclear and Conventional CBMs will be held to discuss implementation and strengthening of the existing CBMs and suggest additional mutually acceptable steps that could build greater trust and confidence between the two countries, thereby contributing to peace and security. The dates for the meetings of Expert Level Groups will be determined through diplomatic channels.
5. The Foreign Secretaries noted that both countries recognize that terrorism poses a continuing threat to peace and security. They reaffirmed the strong commitment of the two countries to fight and eliminate terrorism in an effective and comprehensive manner so as to eliminate the scourge in all its forms and manifestations.
6. The Foreign Secretaries had a comprehensive exchange of views on the issue of Jammu & Kashmir and agreed to continue discussions in a purposeful and forward looking manner with the view to finding a peaceful solution by narrowing divergences and building convergences.
7. Both sides recognized the need to strengthen the existing Cross-LoC CBMs for streamlining the arrangements to facilitate travel and trade across LOC. They decided to convene a meeting of the Working Group on Cross-LoC CBMs on July 19, 2012 in Islamabad to recommend steps for strengthening and streamlining and effectively implementing the existing trade and travel arrangements and propose modalities for introducing additional cross LoC CBMs.
8. Both sides underlined the importance of greater people to people contacts

and friendly exchanges in building a relationship of trust and friendship between the two countries. They noted that the text of a revised bilateral Visa Agreement has already been finalized and decided to work for its early signing. They emphasized the importance of greater parliamentary exchanges; promotion of cooperation in various fields including facilitating visits to Religious Shrines and cessation of hostile propaganda against each other.

9. The Foreign Secretaries also emphasized the need to promote media and sports contacts.

10. During his visit the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan will be calling on Minister of External Affairs of India, H.E. Mr. S.M. Krishna and National Security Adviser HE Mr. Shivshankar Menon.

11. The Foreign Secretaries will meet again in Islamabad, on a date to be decided through diplomatic channels, to prepare for the meeting of the External Affairs / Foreign Ministers in September 2012.



276. Response of External Affairs Minister to a Question on the emergency landing of an Air India flight in Pakistan and on his talks with Foreign Minister of Pakistan in Tokyo.

Phnom Penh, July 10, 2012.

At the outset I would like to convey my thanks for the helpful attitude and the cooperation we received when AI flight had to land in Pakistan. I think the Government of Pakistan went out of their way to make things easy for all those who were inside the aircraft and they provided every possible assistance including food to the passengers who were onboard the aircraft, this certainly is something which India deeply appreciated.

And as far as my meeting with Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar in Tokyo which has been part of the various meetings of confidence building and meetings which would help in bridging the trust deficit has been identified by the leaders of both the countries.

Hina Rabbani Khar after assuming the responsibility of guiding the foreign affairs of Pakistan has been extremely cooperative and as she assured me when she visited Delhi that she comes with a new mindset and that mindset has been the ongoing one. I look forward to my own visit to Islamabad which was due to take place on 19th of this month but now has to be postponed because of our presidential election and also the impeding parliamentary session. So I think we have decided that in the month of September. 7th, 8th and 9th are the dates which we have proposed to Government of Pakistan. We are hoping that they would convey their concurrence.



277. Press Release of the Ministry of Defence on the India – Pakistan joint Working Group for the release of fishermen.

New Delhi, July 12, 2012.

The India-Pakistan Joint Working Group Meeting for working out a mechanism for release of fishermen and their boats who cross maritime borders inadvertently was held here today. The Indian delegation was led by Vice Admiral MP Muralidharan, Director General Indian Coast Guard while the Pakistan delegation was led by Rear Admiral Waseem Akram, Director General, Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA).

The meeting was held in pursuance of the decision taken during the India-Pakistan Home/Interior Secretary Level Talks held on 28-29 Mar 2011, where both sides agreed to task the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and PMSA to work on setting up a mechanism for release of fishermen and their boats who cross maritime borders inadvertently.

The group held preliminary discussions on the issue and recognised the need for addressing the humanitarian aspect of inadvertent crossing of maritime borders by legitimate fishermen. The discussions were fruitful in mutual exchange of ideas and deliberating way ahead in evolving a suitable mechanism for release of such fishermen and their boats. It was also acknowledged that focused approach and sustained efforts of the group needs to be continued.



278. Response of the Official Spokesperson to the OIC Summit Communiqué and some other question on Pakistan.

New Delhi, August 17, 2012.

“We note that there is an erroneous and factually incorrect mention about an integral part of India by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in its Communiqué issued at its Fourth Extraordinary Summit held in Makkah on August 14-15, 2012. This is wrong, unacceptable and we reject it.”

Question: Sir, you would have seen the reports about Sarabjit and his letter. What has the Indian Government done in that matter about following up; whether the Indian High Commission in Islamabad has done anything or the MEA from here? Also, can you tell us about bilaterals in Iran?

Official Spokesperson: Let me answer your first question about Shri Sarabjit Singh. Those of you who have followed this matter are aware of the keen interest that the External Affairs Minister Mr. Krishna takes in this matter. You are also aware that the Government of India has consistently urged the Government of Pakistan on several occasions to take a sympathetic and a humanitarian view of the entire case of Shri Sarabjit Singh.

If I recollect correctly, it was on perhaps 27th of June earlier this year when the External Affairs Minister himself had renewed his request to the President of Pakistan to release Shri Sarabjit Singh who has been in custody for well over two decades. With that background, let me say that what you mentioned in terms of the news reports, we have also seen them. Our High Commission in Islamabad stands ready to assist his lawyer should he require it. But at this stage my understanding is that the lawyer himself has requested the Pakistani authorities. Should he require further assistance on this matter, the High Commission would assist him in terms of consular assistance. If this matter further proceeds, the External Affairs Minister has made assured Sarabjit's family that he would raise it when he meets his opposite number whenever and wherever that is. I hope that answers your question on Sarabjit Singh.

Question: Yesterday Home Secretary announced that the Government of India will consider giving long-term visas to Hindus of Pakistan. Has any such request has come from the Hindus in Pakistan. What is the latest update in the past 24 hours? Also, has there been any direct communication on this issue between us and them?

Official Spokesperson: Let me put it this way. When Pakistani nationals apply for visas in Islamabad, they apply in categories which are covered by the India-Pakistan Bilateral Visa Agreement. That agreement provides for categories which are of a short-term nature. Therefore, when they apply and they are considered

and we do due diligence and due processes are followed, we follow a thorough procedure in granting them those visas. After they come here, as you mentioned there have been news reports of some of them perhaps indicating that they would be interested in a longer stay. This is neither unusual for any visitor to India nor should it be seen in a perspective which is different from previous cases.

We have a process available here. And as the Home Secretary pointed out, in case somebody wants a visa which is beyond the period for which he or she has applied, there is a process. They would do due diligence in that and then take it up from there. At this stage, my information is that there have not been any requests from those who have recently been granted visas in Pakistan and who have crossed here. But then they have just come to India recently and there is still time for their present visa status which is usually for about a month or so. I would leave it at that rather than speculate any further. Should there be any other information, we will then be able to respond to any questions on that at a later stage.



279. Press Release of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry reviewing the Foreign Direct Investment Policy to permit investments from Pakistan.

New Delhi, August 1, 2012.

1.0 Present Position: 1.1 As per paragraph 3.1.1 of *Circular 1 of 2012-Consolidated FDI Policy*, effective from 10.04.2012, investment from a citizen of Pakistan or an entity incorporated in Pakistan is not permitted.

2.0 Revised Position: 2.1 The Government of India has reviewed the policy, as contained in paragraph 3.1.1 of the circular *ibid* and decided to permit a citizen of Pakistan or an entity incorporated in Pakistan to make investments in India, under the Government route, in sectors/activities other than defence, space and atomic energy.

3.0 Amendment to paragraph 3.1.1: 3.1 Accordingly, Paragraph 3.1.1 of Circular 1 of *2012-Consolidated FDI Policy*, effective from 10.4.2012, is amended to read as below: "3.1.1 A non-resident entity can invest in India, subject to the FDI Policy. A citizen of Bangladesh or an entity incorporated in Bangladesh can invest only under the Government route. A citizen of Pakistan or an entity incorporated in Pakistan can invest, only under the Government route, in sectors/activities other than defence, space and atomic energy." 4.0 The above decision will take immediate effect.



280. Media Briefing by Foreign Secretary on Prime Minister's visit to Iran to attend XVI NAM Summit.

New Delhi, August 25, 2012.

Please Document No. 173



281. Media briefing on the visit of External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna to Pakistan.

New Delhi, August 31, 2012.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Syed Akbaruddin): Good evening everybody and thank you very much for coming over this afternoon.

At the invitation of the Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Her Excellency Ms Hina Rabbani Khar, the External Affairs Minister of India Shri S.M. Krishna will visit Islamabad for bilateral talks to be held on September 8, 2012. These talks will be preceded by a meeting of the Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan on September 7. The two Ministers will also co-chair the Plenary Session of the India-Pakistan Joint Commission which will be held in Islamabad on September 8.

Question: Sir, agreement on business visa relaxation was to be signed during the Home Secretaries' meet. But then there was a feeling from the Pakistani that this ought to be done at the political level, not at the official level. What is our sense? Is this agreement going to be signed during this visit?

Official Spokesperson: You are right that we were ready to sign the visa agreement during the visit of the Home Secretary of India to Pakistan. At that stage we were informed that there are certain legal and other requirements which the Pakistani Government has to complete. We have been in touch with them since then including recent discussions. We are still trying to work out to ensure that the agreement can be signed at the earliest. It is possible that one of the possibilities which you are mentioning may be an occasion when that may happen. But we never announce signing of agreements of any kind before a visit is over. I understand many of you are travelling with the External Affairs Minister to Islamabad, and you will have occasion to know what would be the outcome of that visit. We do not want to preclude and announce any outcome prior to the visit. That has not been our usual way of handling these things.

Question: Has your Ministry received evidences regarding SMS messages from Pakistan? Would the Minister be sharing all those evidences during his visit to Islamabad?

Official Spokesperson: I think this is again another favourite of yours which we have been following for some time. At this stage we have not received any evidence on this. But we are aware that evidence is being collated and collected by the concerned authorities in India. Once that is over, obviously there will be inter-Ministerial consultations to see what we can do to take that process further.

Question: Sir, this is regarding the Judicial Commission from Pakistan. Can

you just tell me what the situation is, why again? Is there a change in the view of the Government? Initially it appeared that the Government would not entertain it. Now it appears that there is a different view. Can you tell us what the position is? If there is a change, what is the change and why?

Official Spokesperson: This was raised by the Pakistani Interior Minister during the discussions yesterday when Prime Minister met President Zardari. Pakistan had made a request for the Commission to have permission to interview three persons. These were, my understanding is, two doctors and one Executive Magistrate. Our response was that our Home Ministry is consulting our judicial authorities on this and we would be in a position to respond to them once we get a response from the judicial authorities. As far as the executive branch is concerned, it was also indicated that we take a positive view of this request and we would be able to respond once we complete consultations within India on this. That is what the situation is as of now. I hope I have made myself clear on that.



282. External Affairs Minister's interview to *Hindustan Times* on his visit to Pakistan.

New Delhi, September 5, 2012.

Q: The resumed India-Pakistan dialogue process was aimed at reducing the trust deficit and normalizing the ties between the two countries? As you prepare for your meeting with your counterpart in Islamabad to take stock of the ongoing talks, in your assessment, how fruitful this exercise has been?

Ans: Dialogue is the best way to resolve issues between two sides. We have travelled some distance since our bilateral dialogue was resumed in February 2011. There has been some progress in the area of economic and commercial cooperation and promotion of friendly exchanges, including people-to-people contacts. In other areas like terrorism, much more needs to be done and there are challenges that exist but that shouldn't deter us from talking about how to resolve these difficult issues.

Q: What is next in the dialogue process? Are you upgrading the dialogue process into ministerial levels on more issues and areas of cooperation? Any time-bound targets you have in mind for improving the ties on various spheres?

Ans: I cannot prejudge the outcome of the meeting that I am going to have with my counterpart Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar. However, we remain committed to resolving all issues with Pakistan through a bilateral dialogue in an atmosphere free from terror and violence. At this stage, there is no proposal to raise the structured dialogue process to a ministerial level. In diplomacy, we cannot fix artificial timelines for such important and complex issues between two countries.

Q: The Pakistan leadership has high praise for Prime Minister Manmohan Singh—for his vision for the region, his innovative approach towards dealing with India-Pakistan relationship. Are you hopeful that Prime Minister would be able to visit Pakistan this year? If Pakistan's so keen to host the prime minister, what they should do in terms of deliverables that's makes Indian prime minister to visit Pakistan possible?

Ans: PM has been very clear on this issue. He has accepted the invitation to visit Pakistan at an appropriate time. He would like a well-prepared visit, which may have suitable outcomes.

Q: We hear of so much about "suitable outcomes" that would warrant a PM visit to Pakistan? Why New Delhi insisting on big takeaways,

considering there have been too many Indian PM visits to Pakistan and we are still stuck on all the core issues? Or 26/11 Mumbai attack made things very difficult for when you think of Indian prime minister visiting Pakistan?

Ans: I don't think PM is making his visit conditional on any big takeaways as you call it. All he is saying is that for a visit of such importance the time and atmosphere has to be appropriate, and the visit has to be well prepared keeping outcomes in mind.

Q: Pakistan says don't make the dialogue process conditional. Is the progress on dialogue conditional to Pakistan taking meaningful action in bringing the Mumbai attack plotters and minders to justice? Pakistan says they don't follow a conditional approach like putting J&K issue over all other issues?

Ans: In diplomacy, one does not set pre-conditions for dialogue. We are certainly not doing so ! You may be aware that under the resumed dialogue two rounds of Secretary level talks on various issues have been completed and I am going to Pakistan to review progress in the dialogue process with my Pakistani counterpart. However, we have consistently conveyed to Pakistan that for the dialogue to be meaningful, comprehensive and sustained, Pakistan must address our terrorism-related concerns, including on the Mumbai terror attacks case. This would go a long way in bridging the trust deficit and lead to eventual normalization of relations.

Q: In retrospect, you think India could have allowed the judicial commission to cross-examine the witnesses of the Mumbai terror attack at the first place? The two countries have the same evidence act. It could have been a foregone conclusion that the report of a panel that didn't have the mandate to cross examine would be rejected by a court of law in Pakistan? Why did you then allow a commission at the first place and now Pakistan argues they agreed to send the panel in deference to Indian demands, despite knowing the outcome in advance?

Ans: It is not as simple as you are making it out to be. These are complicated legal issues in which the executive has to work within the confines of law and in consultation with all concerned.

Q: It seems President Asif Ali Zardari is keen on the urgent resolution of the Siachen issue? Is India game on that considering it would be a great "take away" for him? And are you still following a step-by step approach to the dialogue process or do you think time has to come to address the core issues, which many would say, is necessary for restoring the trust between the two countries?

Ans: We are committed to resolving all outstanding issues between the two countries through dialogue. We are convinced that for the normalization of relations between our two countries a step-by-step graduated approach is the most realistic one. Given the complexities of the issues involved, we have to move forward by tackling the 'doables' first and at the same time continuing with our sincere efforts to resolve the more intractable issues.

Q: Are you open to the suggestion from Pakistan interior minister that both countries should step up cooperation on security matters? There were also suggestions on a joint investigation into the Mumbai attack case? Your response to them, Sir?

Ans: Under the Home/Interior Secretary level talks between India and Pakistan there is agreement on cooperation on security matters between our respective agencies. However, the challenge is to realize these agreements on the ground. The declared intention has to be matched by tangible action. In the past, we did not have a very good experience with the Joint Anti-terrorism Mechanism (JATM) that had been set up between the two countries and that is why it was not pursued. As for the Mumbai terror attacks case, we believe that we have given more than adequate evidence to Pakistan to enable them to bring all the perpetrators of the heinous crime to justice.

Q: Sir, you come from a state where the India-Pakistan narrative is quite different from what it is this part of India. Has it helped you in dealing with the issue any different?

Ans: Our relationship with Pakistan is an Indian issue and cannot be looked at from a regional or provincial angle. I look at this issue from an Indian perspective.

Q: How soon we are going to see an India, Pakistan cricket match?

Ans: That answer you should seek from BCCI and PCB.



283. External Affairs Minister's interview to The Express Tribune ahead of his visit to Pakistan**September 7, 2012.**

[India is committed to resolving all outstanding issues with Pakistan through peaceful bilateral dialogue, S.M. Krishna.

Never one to betray unnecessary excitability, India's foreign policy point man, the stoic External Affairs Minister Somanahalli Mallaiah Krishna, has struck some encouraging notes ahead of his visit to Pakistan in an exclusive interview with The Express Tribune.

Among other things, he stressed that India wants Islamabad as a strong and stable "partner" – and pointed out that Pakistan's geographical location puts it in an ideal position to be a bridge between South and Central Asia.

Scheduled to arrive in Pakistan today (Friday) on a three-day visit as a part of the composite dialogue process, Krishna is to hold talks with his Pakistani counterpart Hina Rabbani Khar, as well as other top political leaders on a range of issues.

His visit comes after substantive progress has already been made on the trade and commerce front between Pakistan and India, and could lay the groundwork for an even higher-level visit: that of Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

Krishna spoke to The Express Tribune over email on the eve of his arrival, talking about everything from trade to terrorism, prisoners to politics and from Consulates to Kashmir.]

The following is the text of entire interview, uncut.

Q: Should we expect any major breakthrough on some of the contentious issues hampering improved relations between Pakistan and India when Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh travels to Islamabad later this year?

A: Let me begin by saying that I bring message of goodwill and serious intent for dialogue from the Government and the people of India for the Government and the people of Pakistan. India is desirous of building a relationship of mutually beneficial all-round cooperation with Pakistan. We would wish to see Pakistan as our strong and stable partner in pursuit of peace, progress and prosperity in our region.

During their recent meeting on the sidelines of the NAM Summit in Tehran, Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh thanked President Zardari for his gracious

invitation to visit Pakistan. Dr Singh also said that he attached great importance to normalising relations with Pakistan, and was keen to visit Pakistan. It is also clear that the right atmosphere needs to be created for the visit. It would need to be prepared well to have a substantive outcome, which could strengthen significantly the process of building a constructive relationship with all round co-operation between the two countries. Prime Minister Singh also mentioned to President Zardari that there must be a general feeling that Pakistan was doing all that it can to deal with terrorism directed against India from Pakistan's soil. In keeping with the desire of the two leaders, I shall explore with Her Excellency Hina Rabbani Khar the possibilities of what can be achieved to facilitate a purposeful visit of the Prime Minister.

Q: Why are the two—India and Pakistan—finding it almost impossible to come to some kind of agreement on Siachen and Sir Creek—an agreement based on give and take?

A: India is committed to resolving all outstanding issues with Pakistan through peaceful bilateral dialogue to find practical and pragmatic solutions. Given the complexities of our bilateral relations, we have to be patient as we move forward and build more trust and confidence in each other. There is nothing that cannot be achieved through patience and perseverance. At the same time, we should not lose sight of the considerable progress made by the two countries over the last one year or so in regard to trade and commerce, which has enormous potential to contribute to the progress and well-being of people on both sides; as well as Cross-LoC trade and travel facilities. During my visit, I also hope to conclude a liberalized visa agreement, which will give further boost to people to people contacts.

Q: There has been a lot of talk about cooperation between the two countries to fight terrorism and drug trafficking but very little concrete progress. What are the reasons for this slow motion on these issues, potentially dangerous for the societies of both India and Pakistan?

A: Terrorism is the most serious threat to peace and security in our region. It is in the interest of everyone to co-operate in fighting this menace effectively and comprehensively. You may know that during their last meeting in May 2012, our Home/ Interior Secretaries reached an understanding to enhance cooperation between National Investigation Agency of India and FIA of Pakistan on issues of mutual concern, including Mumbai terror attacks investigation. They also took an in principle decision to initiate negotiations on a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty in order to strengthen mutual cooperation in criminal matters. They further decided to have an early meeting of investigation agencies (Central Bureau of Investigation of India and FIA of Pakistan) of the two countries to work out technical details of moving forward on issues of human trafficking, counterfeit

currency, cyber crimes and Red Notices. However, I would wish to emphasize that to be productive, co-operation against terrorism requires a high degree of trust. We hope that the forward movement from the discussions between our Interior/Home Secretaries and the above mentioned agencies will be able to generate the requisite level of trust and the feeling that India's concerns on this issue are being addressed effectively.

As regards drug trafficking, we hope that a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Narcotics Control Bureau of India and Anti Narcotics Force of Pakistan in September 2011 to combat this menace will help enhance co-operation in this area.

Q: India does not seem to be even partially satisfied with the progress of the case in Pakistan against those (Lakhvi and company) allegedly involved in Mumbai attacks. What in your opinion would Pakistan need to do for India to feel satisfied with the progress?

A: India has repeatedly stressed, including at the highest level, the need for an expeditious and successful conclusion of the trial in Pakistan relating to those involved with the Mumbai terrorist attacks. Prime Minister Dr. Singh has recently mentioned that action in this respect will be a major confidence building measure, help in bridging the trust deficit and also help to build public support in India for the kind of relationship we would like to see between the two countries.

Q: How does India view Hafiz Saeed's claims of his innocence in the Mumbai attacks?

A: Any such claim cannot withstand a case prepared well on the basis of the incontrovertible and undeniable evidence available against him and his well known track record of involvement in acts of terror against India.

Q: There are still many Indians in Pakistani jails and many Pakistanis in Indian jails. Would it not add to confidence building measures (CBMs) if the two immediately released at least those who have served their sentences and also those who are not accused of being involved in proven cases of espionage?

A: I completely agree that all such prisoners who have completed their sentences should be released and repatriated expeditiously. The understanding reached between the Home and Interior Secretaries in this regard needs to be implemented vigorously. I would like to mention that a large number of prisoners and fishermen have been repatriated from both sides over the last year or so. I am happy that efforts of the two governments in ensuring a humane approach in dealing with cases of fishermen and prisoners, especially women, elderly, juvenile, and those terminally ill or suffering from serious illness or physical / mental disability,

have received significant support from the work of the bilateral Judicial Committee and the NGOs engaged in the task of ensuring the well-being and timely release of such individuals.

Q: In the same spirit-CBMs-would it not help if the two decided to allow setting up of their respective consulates in Mumbai and Karachi, so far blocked by Mumbai politics?

A: The significance of Mumbai and Karachi for trade and commerce and as pluralistic megacities is axiomatic. Resumption of work by the Consulate General of India in Karachi and that of Pakistan in Mumbai will undoubtedly help in boosting trade and commerce and people to people contacts. I would not look for simplistic answers to why the re-opening of these consulates has not taken place so far despite a move to that effect some years ago. Suffice it to say that we are in favour of such a move and willing to discuss the necessary modalities with the Government of Pakistan.

Q: Officially the two countries seem to have no reservations about relaxing visa restrictions but when it comes taking a final decision on the matter, the process seems to get stonewalled by some unexplained reasons. Your views on this, please.

A: A new and liberalized Visa Agreement has been finalised. It seeks to introduce or considerably improve visa facilities for tourists, businessmen, elderly and those wishing to visit their relations and friends. I may add that India has unilaterally taken a number of measures, including expediting business visas, grant of non-police reporting visas in deserving cases and introduction of student and medical categories etc.

Q: Now that there seems to be a desire on the part of the two countries to forge closer all round relations, would the two governments consider increasing the frequency of rail, road and air communications as well as removing all restrictions on to and fro movement of media products and media persons?

A: India wishes to build a mutually cooperative and productive relationship with Pakistan. Increased connectivity is both a facilitator and a consequence of such a bilateral engagement. The existing trade and travel links between our countries will need to be expanded as people to people contacts as well as trade and commerce grow. We are willing to consider opening more trade points along the border with Pakistan. We also fully support the theme of the last SAARC Summit, which was very aptly put as "Building Bridges". India has put forward concrete proposals for enhancing regional connectivity not only with Pakistan but within the entire SAARC region. We are cooperating with SAARC countries and other neighbours in developing multi-modal connectivity within

SAARC and beyond and look forward to Pakistan joining these efforts actively. India has also proposed two regional agreements – on Motor Vehicles and Railways in the SAARC framework. Pakistan's geographical location puts it in an ideal position to be a bridge between South and Central Asia. The new trade and energy highways passing through our countries can bring prosperity commonly associated with the Silk Route of the bygone era.

People are at the heart of relations between any two countries, more so between India and Pakistan – countries which share much in their history and culture. Enhanced interaction between our peoples and exchanges in the sphere of media will go a long way in promoting better understanding of each other, and of this shared heritage and the need to preserve it. Our films, music, TV serials, artistes and authors are popular in each other's country. I am happy that many young artistes from Pakistan are finding increasing success in India. We encourage this, for in the success of such people lies the seeds of greater trust and better understanding.

Q: Can you categorically say that the renewed peace process is irreversible? What if another Mumbai like attack happens, will it derail the process?

A: We have all along desired the peace process between India and Pakistan to remain uninterrupted. However, such a process cannot make much progress in an atmosphere of terror and violence. It would be unrealistic to expect that peace and cooperation can coexist with barbaric terrorism of the kind we saw in Mumbai. It is incumbent upon all countries to deal with terrorist forces effectively and comprehensively and to ensure that their territory is not used for acts of terror against others.

Q: Notwithstanding the current stated position of both Pakistan and India on Kashmir, can you realistically say the two countries find an out of box solution to the decades-old problem?

A: It would be recalled that the period between 2004-2008 saw the most fruitful and productive discussions ever between India and Pakistan, including on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir. These discussions were based on the common understanding that while boundaries could not be redrawn, we could work towards making them irrelevant by enabling people on both sides of the Line of Control (LoC) to move freely and trade with each other. We need to carry those discussions forward and build on them. I may add that as a result of Cross-LoC CBMs initiated during the above period, a large number of people from both sides of LoC have been able to visit their families on the other side, and goods worth crores have been traded through two designated points on the LoC. Over the last one year, Her Excellency Hina Rabbani Khar and I have taken some important decisions to improve further the trade and travel facilities along the

LoC. The number of trading days has already gone up from two to four per week. Some other steps to be implemented include improvement of trade infrastructure, introduction of six-month multiple entry permits for travel, introduction of travel for tourism and pilgrimage in addition to visiting relations and introduction of banking facilities for Cross LoC trade. India is willing to open additional points along the LoC for trade and travel.

Q: India has got massive investment in the Southeast of Afghanistan and Pakistani leadership is always skeptical of your country's presence there. How would you assure authorities here in Islamabad that New Delhi's involvement in Kabul should not be seen as threat?

A:- India is engaged in developmental and humanitarian work in Afghanistan, at the request of the Government of Afghanistan, to assist the Afghan people as they build a peaceful, stable, inclusive, democratic and pluralistic Afghanistan. India does not see Afghanistan as a battleground for competing national interests, nor assistance to Afghanistan for reconstruction and development as a zero sum game. Our 2 billion US Dollar assistance programme in Afghanistan is largely aimed at building infrastructure, capacity building in critical areas of governance, health, education, agriculture and generating employment. This has been developed in consultation with the Afghan authorities and is spread across all areas of that country. India's sincere and friendly cooperation with Afghanistan, a country with which we share ties since antiquity, is not directed against any other country. I believe that there is growing realization of this reality in better informed segments of public opinion in Pakistan also. As countries with a vital stake in peace and stability in Afghanistan, we ought to be able to discuss our respective role in contributing towards such peace and stability.

Q: Is it possible that Pakistan and India can be on the same page on the Afghan endgame?

A: As countries in the region, both India and Pakistan naturally have a vital stake in a peaceful, stable, inclusive, democratic and pluralistic Afghanistan. Both the countries, and their peoples, stand to benefit enormously from Afghanistan thriving as a transit hub of trade and energy. This vision has also been endorsed by the international community. Such an Afghanistan can come about only if there is no external interference in its affairs and the people of Afghanistan are left to make choices for their own future. India would respect such choices and expects all other countries to do likewise.

Q: How can you assure authorities in Pakistan that India is not in any way involved in the ongoing unrest in Balochistan?

A: We have said it on many occasions, at the highest level, and I reiterate it for the benefit of your readers, that India wishes to see a stable and prosperous

Pakistan, acting as a bulwark against terrorism in its own interest and in the interest of the region. We are highly disappointed at the allegations made against India from time to time in the context of unrest in Baluchistan, with which India has nothing to do.

[Published in The Express Tribune, September 7th, 2012.]



284. Statement by External Affairs Minister on arrival at Islamabad.

Islamabad, September 7, 2012.

I am very happy to visit Islamabad at the invitation of the Hon'ble Foreign Minister of Pakistan and my esteemed colleague Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar.

I bring a message of goodwill from India for the people of Pakistan.

I wish to reiterate the desire of India to see a stable and prosperous Pakistan living in peace with itself and the world. That would be in the best interest of everyone.

The leadership of India and Pakistan have mandated building of trust and confidence between our two countries. We are committed to finding solutions of all issues that have beset our relationship through peaceful bilateral dialogue, while we look to the future where our two countries are able to live together in an atmosphere of friendliness and all-round cooperation, free from terror and violence.

My endeavour during this visit will be to promote the objectives that I have just mentioned.

Thank you.



285. Remarks by External Affairs Minister at the Joint Media Interaction held in Islamabad during his visit to Pakistan

Islamabad, September 8, 2012.

External Affairs Minister of India (Mr. S.M. Krishna): Excellency Mrs. Hina Rabbani Khar, Foreign Minister of Pakistan; my friends from the media; ladies and gentlemen:

Let me profusely thank the Foreign Minister of Pakistan for inviting me and my delegation to Islamabad. When she came to Delhi last year, we took a decision that the defunct Joint Commission has to be revived in order to further the bilateral relationship between our two countries. And I must commend the efforts, the positive efforts that the Foreign Minister of Pakistan has made in contributing for the revival of the Joint Commission sittings.

Yesterday I arrived here and then I called on the President and the Prime Minister. I had the privilege of calling on both of them and I conveyed to them the best wishes of our leadership and our desire for a peaceful and cooperative relationship with Pakistan. Our discussions today, which were held in very cordial, frank, positive and productive manner, covered the entire spectrum of issues within the framework of the structured dialogue process. We drew inspiration from the commitment of the leadership of our two countries, and the desire of our two peoples to resolve all issues peacefully and build a relationship of trust and mutually beneficial cooperation.

We took stock of the current state of our bilateral relations. Given the complexities of the issues that we face, we are reasonably satisfied at the progress achieved in the last round of the resumed dialogue. We are also cognizant that there is a long way to go and the path ahead will not be easy; but we are committed to moving forward in order to write a new chapter of peace and cooperation in our relationship.

We agreed that terrorism poses a continuing threat to peace and security, and reaffirmed the strong commitment of the two countries to fight terrorism in an effective and comprehensive manner so as to eliminate this scourge in all its forms and manifestations. In this regard, Pakistan side reiterated its commitment to bring all perpetrators of the Mumbai terror attacks to justice expeditiously in accordance with the due process of law.

The positive assessment of the direction and progress in the dialogue process is manifest in some of the following elements. The bilateral Joint Commission held its plenary after a gap of five years. The eight technical-level Working Groups of the Joint Commission held fruitful discussions in exploring mutual cooperation in areas including agriculture, health, education, environment, and science and technology.

Bilateral Visa Agreement was signed by Interior Minister, His Excellency Mr. Rehman Malik, and me today. The Memorandum of Understanding on Cultural Cooperation between the Indian Council of Cultural Relations and Pakistan National Council of the Arts was also signed today. We decided to convene separate meetings of the expert groups on nuclear and conventional confidence-building measures in New Delhi in the second half of December, 2012.

We reviewed the existing cross-LoC CBMs on travel and trade, and endorsed the recommendations made by the Joint Working Group on Cross-LoC CBMs in its meeting in Islamabad on July 19, 2012. We have expressed satisfaction at the progress registered towards the full normalization of bilateral trade and economic relations, and reiterated the need for both sides to strictly adhere to the roadmap drawn by the two Commerce Ministers in this regard.

As people are at the heart of the relationship, we also discussed measures for promoting cooperation in various fields including facilitating visits to religious shrines, media exchanges, holding of sports tournaments, and cessation of hostile propaganda against each other.

On the way forward, we agreed to the launch of the next round of Secretary-level dialogue on all eight segments. Schedule for these meetings will be worked out through diplomatic channels. We further agreed that all these meetings will be held prior to our next review meeting in New Delhi in 2013. I look forward to receiving the Foreign Minister of Pakistan in New Delhi next year.

Let me conclude by expressing my profound thanks to the President of Pakistan, and also His Excellency Rehman Malik, and the Foreign Minister of Pakistan for the wonderful gesture of releasing all the Indian fishermen in Pakistan custody; and I hope their boats and trawlers also will be released simultaneously.

Once again, Your Excellency, I thank you immensely for the courtesies that were extended to me and my Delegation. I was here two years back. I see a positive change in the atmosphere, and I would like to compliment the present leadership of Pakistan and the role played by the Foreign Minister of Pakistan in bringing about that changed atmosphere in Pakistan which augurs well for the relationship between our two countries. Let us not look back, as you have very rightly said, let us not be held hostage to whatever has happened earlier. I think we will have to keep our sights to the future. Let us look to the future. Let us walk the talk together. Let us see that the new chapter which I spoke about is going to be mutually beneficial to both of us. And to this I dedicate myself and India, and I am sure that it will be helpful to both of us.

Thank you.



286. Media Interaction of External Affairs Minister in Islamabad.**Islamabad, September 8, 2012.**

Official Spokesperson (Shri Syed Akbaruddin): Good evening friends. The External Affairs Minister has agreed to take a few questions. He has to go for a dinner, and we are running slightly behind schedule. He will take a few questions on the record. We would not have any opening remarks. You have everything that he has said. You can begin with your questions.

Question: Sir, all this talk about Visa Agreement, at the end of the day Foreign Minister of Pakistan made no reference of terror during that entire long press conference. You were present during that entire ...(Inaudible)... How did that strike you, after these hours of negotiations and all the things that you told her, not a word on terror?

External Affairs Minister (Shri S.M. Krishna): What is material for me is the Joint Statement that has been issued after my talks, and the Joint Statement certainly contains mentions about terror. So, that is what matters for me.

Question: But did it come as a surprise that she did not even mention it?

External Affairs Minister: The Joint Statement is a document and she is a signatory to that statement.

Question: The Joint Statement gives an impression that Pakistan has been able to equate Samjhauta Express incident with 26/11.

External Affairs Minister: These are issues which are being raised every time I come to Pakistan or every time the Pakistan Foreign Minister comes to India. They raise the Samjhauta Express and we raise the 26/11 and in the Joint Statement, both of these aspects are covered.

Question: Sir, there is a lot of confusion over what you said on conditions for the Prime Minister's visit and whether you are linking this to progress on the Mumbai attack.

External Affairs Minister: The Prime Minister's visit needs lot of preparations. It takes months of preparation for the Prime Minister's visit to happen. And Prime Minister has other commitments. His calendar has to be looked into. So, there is no commitment that I could make about the possible visit of the Indian Prime Minister to Pakistan. There is an invitation which has been extended to the Prime Minister, and it is for the Prime Minister to find about the invitation itself per se, to accept the invitation, and then work on the dates. So, that is something which is in the area of speculation.

Question: But is there any condition? You said there would be no conditions on any progress on Mumbai.

External Affairs Minister: The invitation to the Prime Minister, we are at that point. So, the question of any condition does not arise.

Question: Sir, on Sarabjit issue, is there any positive signal from the Pakistan's side?

External Affairs Minister: I think when I mentioned this to the President last night, the President has taken it very seriously and he instructed his office to certainly look into it. And our approach is on humanitarian basis considering the fact that he has spent almost twenty years in a Pakistani jail. And his age, his health, all these are going to be factors which the Government of Pakistan will have to look into.

Question: Sir, you said, "When I go back I will provide an assessment to the Prime Minister", and Ms. Khar said, "His assessment will be positive". Can you give us a little trailer of what your assessment would be?

External Affairs Minister: I think that is between me and the Prime Minister. I cannot convey to my Prime Minister through the media. Don't you think that if you were here you wouldn't do this? Would you?

Question: Sir, during the press conference Pakistan Foreign Minister spoke about the Pakistan's desire to move on on Jammu and Kashmir, Sir Creek, Siachen, and put it in the context of getting on with the relationship. Do you it also as a move, sort of suggestion, that you move on from Mumbai?

External Affairs Minister: Mumbai is very much on the table and they will have to take the follow-up action for bringing to justice the perpetrators of the heinous crime on Mumbai and on India. India is not going back on that, we are insisting on that at every conceivable occasion, and we will continue to do that. Again, you mentioned about Kashmir, you mentioned about Siachen, you mentioned about Sir Creek. These are issues which are there and they cannot be pushed aside. But a step-by-step approach which we have been advocating, which I advocated two years back which was totally rejected, and this time around I think Pakistan has accepted that and they also believe that a step-by-step approach is the most rational one for both the countries to adopt. As again the Prime Minister in one of his press conferences said, we are not afraid of the word Kashmir. We are willing to talk about Kashmir also. But for that, you need the right atmosphere for the issues to be discussed. And I think we are willing to approach Pakistan for a dialogue on any subject that they wish to.

Question: Sir, the Pakistani Foreign Minister said, "Let us not look back in the past". Then you echoed that sentiment that we will not look back in the past, we will not be held hostage to history. That statement can be construed that you are willing to overlook 26/11. Is that exempt from 26/11? Are you not forgetting 26/11?

External Affairs Minister: There is no question of bypassing 26/11. When we said this we mean the wars that were fought and various other developments. But what happened in the immediate past in the last three years, we just cannot forget about it. We cannot gloss over it. It is very much on the table.

Thank you very much, and I hope you have had a good stay here in Islamabad.

Official Spokesperson:

Thank you very much.



287. Joint Statement issued by India and Pakistan during the visit of External Affairs Minister to Pakistan.

Islamabad, September 8, 2012.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan H.E. Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar and the Minister of External Affairs of India H.E. Mr. S.M. Krishna met in Islamabad on September 8, 2012, for a meeting to review progress in the Dialogue process.

2. The Ministerial level talks were preceded by a meeting between the Foreign Secretaries of Pakistan and India on September 7, 2012.
3. The talks were held in a cordial, candid and constructive atmosphere.
4. The Ministers reviewed the status of bilateral relations and expressed satisfaction on the holding of meetings on the issues of Counter-Terrorism (including progress on Mumbai trial) and Narcotics Control; Humanitarian issues; Commercial & Economic cooperation; Wullar Barrage / Tulbul Navigation Project; Sir Creek; Siachen; Peace & Security including CBMs; Jammu & Kashmir; and promotion of Friendly Exchanges.
5. The Ministers noted that the dialogue process is guided by the commitment of leadership of the two countries, expressed at the highest level, to find peaceful and mutually acceptable solutions to all outstanding issues and to build a relationship of trust and all round cooperation between Pakistan and India.
6. The Ministers expressed satisfaction at the increase in high level bilateral exchanges between the two countries since their last meeting in New Delhi in July 2011, namely, leadership level meetings between President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh at New Delhi and Tehran in April and August 2012, the first ever bilateral visit of the Speaker of Lok Sabha to Pakistan at the invitation of the Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan, visit of the Commerce Minister of Pakistan to India, after 35 years, in September 2011, another visit by the Commerce Minister of Pakistan to India in April 2012, and the first ever bilateral visit of the Commerce and Industry Minister of India to Pakistan in February 2012. The Ministers underlined the importance of continued high level exchange between the two countries.
7. The Ministers held substantive discussions on the whole range of issues within the framework of the Dialogue process and expressed satisfaction over the progress achieved since their last review meeting in July 2011.
8. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of carrying forward the dialogue process with a view to resolving peacefully all outstanding issues through constructive and result oriented engagement, and to establish friendly, cooperative and good neighborly relations between Pakistan and India.

9. The Ministers agreed that terrorism poses a continuing threat to peace and security. They reaffirmed the strong commitment of the two countries to fight terrorism in an effective and comprehensive manner so as to eliminate the scourge in all its forms and manifestations.

10. The Ministers noted the commitment given by Pakistan during the Interior/ Home Secretary talks in May 2012 to bring all the perpetrators of the Mumbai terror attacks to justice expeditiously in accordance with due process of law.

11. The Ministers noted that during the Interior/ Home Secretary talks in May 2012 Indian side had conveyed that the investigation in the Samjhauta Express blast case is still ongoing and updated information will be shared with the Pakistan authorities, through diplomatic channels when the investigation is completed.

12. The Ministers welcomed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on "Drug Demand Reduction and Prevention of Illicit Trafficking in Narcotics Drugs/ Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemicals and related matters" between the Anti Narcotics Force of Pakistan and Narcotics Control Bureau of India in September 2011 and expressed the hope that the MoU will help enhance mutual cooperation between Pakistan and India through effective and sustained steps to control the growing menace of drug trafficking.

13. The Ministers welcomed the release of prisoners and fishermen, including those suffering from ailments, in the past year or so. They agreed that the Agreement on Consular Access should be implemented in letter and spirit including immediate notification of arrests by either side, consular access to all persons within three months of arrests, release of prisoners within one month of completion of sentence and confirmation of their national status. The Ministers also welcomed the continued work of the Judicial Committee and agreed with the need to implement its recommendations on various aspects of release and repatriation of prisoners and fishermen of each country by the other and adoption of the humane approach in dealing with cases of fishermen and prisoners, especially women, elderly, juvenile, and those terminally ill or suffering from serious illness or physical/ mental disability.

14. The Ministers noted that talks were held between the Director General of the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency and the Director General of the Indian Coast Guard in New Delhi in July 2012 and agreed to the importance of continuing their meetings. They further directed that the issues relating to fishermen as contained in para-10 of the Joint Statement issued after the Interior/Home Secretaries talks between Pakistan and India in March 2011 would be further examined by the relevant authorities of the two countries.

15. The Ministers welcomed the decision during the last meeting of the Home/ Interior Secretaries of the two countries in May 2012 to initiate discussions in order to strengthen mutual cooperation in criminal matters.

16. The Ministers attached importance to promoting Peace and Security, including Confidence Building Measures, between the two countries and agreed to convene separate meetings of the Expert Groups on Nuclear and Conventional CBMs, in New Delhi in the second half of December 2012.

17. The Ministers held discussions on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir and agreed to the need for continued discussions, in a purposeful and forward looking manner, with a view to finding a peaceful solution by narrowing divergences and building convergences.

18. The Ministers reviewed the existing Cross-LoC CBMs and acknowledged that the ceasefire was holding since 2003. They also reviewed the implementation of the decisions taken regarding travel and trade across the Line of Control (LoC) in their last meeting in July 2011. They expressed satisfaction at the increasing number of people of Jammu and Kashmir who are able to avail of the facility to travel across LoC, and also at the growing Cross-LoC trade benefitting them on both sides of the LoC. They also welcomed the enhancement of the number of days for conducting trade across LoC from two to four per week, as had been agreed by them. Taking note of the recommendations made by the Joint Working Group (JWG) on Cross-LoC CBMs in its meeting in Islamabad on July 19, 2012, the Ministers decided the following: -

Cross-LoC Travel:

- (i) Cross-LoC travel would be expanded on both sides of LoC to include visits for tourism and religious pilgrimage.
- (ii) Tourist and Pilgrimage sites will be designated on both sides of the LoC and information will be available with the designated authorities.
- (iii) Such visits will be conducted by designated Tour Operators in groups not exceeding 15 persons.
- (iv) Permits for such visits will be single entry, non-extendable and valid for up to 15 days.
- (v) Travel for tourism or pilgrimage will be arranged during summer season i.e. April to October.
- (vi) Crossing for such visits will initially be from Chakothei-Uri and Rawalakot-Poonch Crossing points.
- (vii) Both sides will facilitate speedy clearance of applications for travel across LoC. The process time should not be more than 45 days.
- (viii) Both sides will extend necessary assistance to valid entry permit holders to cross the LoC in emergency situation on crossing as well as non-crossing days. This will be facilitated by designated authorities.

Cross-LoC Trade:

- (i) List of 21 products of permissible items for Cross-LoC trade will be respected by both sides.
- (ii) Regular meetings between the traders on monthly basis on both sides will be facilitated.
- (iii) The designated authorities will resolve operational issues concerning Cross-LoC trade through regular meetings.
- (iv) Improvement of roads and bridges for Cross-LoC trade will be facilitated.
- (v) Transportation links on operational crossing points will be upgraded.
- (vi) Both sides agreed to facilitate the exchange of business delegations.

19. It was agreed that the JWG on Cross-LoC CBMs will meet on a bi-annual basis to review existing arrangements and suggest additional CBMs and measures for Cross-LoC travel and trade.

20. Both sides agreed to the need for promoting friendly exchanges between the two countries. They also discussed measures for promoting cooperation in various fields including facilitating visits to religious shrines, media exchanges, holding of sports tournaments and cessation of hostile propaganda against each other.

21. The Ministers welcomed the signing of the new Visa Agreement which liberalises bilateral visa regime and introduces a number of measures aimed at easing travel of business persons, tourists, pilgrims, elderly and children, thereby facilitating contacts between peoples of the two countries, who should remain at the heart of the relationship between Pakistan and India.

22. The Ministers welcomed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of culture between the Pakistan National Council of the Arts and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations.

23. The two sides exchanged views on Siachen, Sir Creek and Wullar Barrage/Tulbul Navigation Project, agreed that there is the need to effectively address these issues by finding mutually acceptable solutions and reiterated their commitment to do so. They also reaffirmed the importance of abiding by the provisions of the Indus Waters Treaty.

24. The Ministers expressed satisfaction at the progress registered towards normalizing bilateral trade and commercial relations. The Ministers firmly reiterated that both sides will scrupulously adhere to the roadmap drawn up by the two Commerce Ministries for full normalization of trade relations. They agreed

that a strong and enhanced economic partnership is in the interest of peoples of both countries.

25. The Ministers welcomed reactivation of the Pakistan-India Joint Commission, in accordance with their decision taken last year. They Co-Chaired the Plenary of the Joint Commission, which met for the first time after 2007. They expressed satisfaction at the meetings of all eight Technical Level Working Groups and noted that these Groups have made a number of suggestions for exploring mutually beneficial cooperation in areas of agriculture, education, environment, health, information and broadcasting, information technology and telecommunication, science and technology and tourism. They took note of and approved the Report by the Foreign Secretaries, which is annexed.

26. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the goals and objectives of SAARC and agreed to make joint efforts to promote cooperation for regional development in the SAARC framework.

27. The Ministers agreed to the launch of the next round of Secretary level dialogue on all eight segments, as contained in para-4 above. Schedule for these meetings will be worked out through diplomatic channels. They further agreed that all these meetings will be held prior to their next review meeting in New Delhi in 2013.

28. The External Affairs Minister of India called on the President and the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

Areas Identified for Cooperation by Technical Level Working Groups of the Pakistan-India Joint Commission

- The Pakistan-India Joint Commission met in Islamabad on 6th September 2012 in pursuance of the decision taken by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan and Minister of External Affairs of India during their last meeting in New Delhi on 27 July 2011. The reactivation of the Joint Commission was welcomed by both sides. The following eight Technical Level Working Groups (TLWG) discussed and identified avenues of mutually beneficial cooperation in the respective fields:
 - ♣ Agriculture
 - ♣ Education
 - ♣ Environment
 - ♣ Health
 - ♣ Information

- ♣ IT & Telecom
- ♣ Science and Technology
- ♣ Tourism
- The working group on Agriculture discussed avenues of cooperation and identified certain areas for collaboration including exchange of experts and training of scientists in the areas of crop improvement through the use of biotechnology, cooperation in seed sector, quarantine related matters, livestock and dairy development sector, high efficiency irrigation system and rain water harvesting.
- The working group on Education explored avenues for furthering cooperation in the fields of school and higher education, non-formal education and adult literacy. It also explored furthering cooperation through institutional linkages between Higher Education Commission of Pakistan and University Grants Commission of India, linkages between National Vocational and Technical Training Commission of Pakistan and All India Council for Technical Education of India and exchange of experiences between National Book Foundation of Pakistan, National Book Trust and National Council of Educational Research and Training of India.
- The working group on Environment discussed various issues relating to environment and agreed to enhance cooperation in the fields of climate change, renewable energy, environmental protection, energy conservation and Clean Development Mechanism, Bio diversity and sustainable forest conservation, solid waste management. It agreed to share experiences and best practices including establishing institutional linkages for knowledge sharing and capacity building.
- The working group on Health agreed to enhance cooperation in polio eradication and increasing immunization coverage, cooperation in women and child health, sharing experience for retaining human resources in rural area exchange of information on regulatory regime and institutional collaboration between Drug Regulatory Agency of Pakistan and Central Drugs Standard Control Organization of India. They also agreed to enhance cooperation in Quality Assurance and Drug Testing laboratories in pharmaceuticals and biological.
- The working group on Information discussed issues concerning Information and Broadcasting. In this context, exchange of journalists and information professionals, organizing film festivals in each other's countries, holding of seminars/workshops, between Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) and suitable Pakistani Institute; and between

Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) and Academies of Pakistan Television Corporation and Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation; news exchange between official news agencies and exchange of TV and Radio programmes were identified for future collaboration. Both sides agreed that media can play a pivotal role in building and enabling environment between the two countries.

- The Working group on IT & Telecom discussed avenues of cooperation. Pakistan invited Indian companies to participate in ICT events in Pakistan. India offered to organize a customized e-governance workshop in India for Pakistan. They also discussed possibilities of collaboration in International Domain Name (IDN), sharing best practices on e-governance. Open Source Technologies and IT Enabled Services. The Group emphasized improved visa facilitation for IT & Telecom professionals. India offered to forward a proposal for establishing telemedicine linkages between the two countries.
- The working group on Science and Technology discussed National Science, Technology Innovation System in Pakistan and India. They agreed to work on common areas of interest by holding joint workshops/seminars and short training programmes. They identified areas of medicinal plants and herbal medicines (in Pakistan), renewable energy (in India) and Standards for such collaboration. Both sides also agreed to participate in each other's science popularization programs / activities.
- The working group on Tourism held discussion on tourism industry and potential in both countries. They explored and identified areas for cooperation particularly in information sharing, Research and Development, human resource development in the field of tourism, Destination management, marketing and promotion, Meetings Incentives Conference and Exhibition (MICE) tourism, travel and hospitality industry.



288. Remarks of External Affairs Minister for the Visitor's Book at Minar-e-Pakistan in Lahore

Lahore, September 9, 2012.

"I am happy to visit Pakistan. I wish the people of Pakistan peace and progress. India would like to see a stable and prosperous Pakistan. I believe that the two sovereign countries – India and Pakistan – can and need to live respectfully and in peace, as good neighbours. Both the countries also need to work closely together to ensure a brighter future for their people. To this end, India remains committed to build a relationship of trust and mutually beneficial all-round cooperation with Pakistan."



289. Joint Communiqué issued on the 7th Round of Indo-Pakistan Talks on Commercial and Economic Cooperation.

Islamabad, September 21, 2012.

The 7th round of India-Pakistan talks on Commercial and Economic Co-operation was held during 20-21 September 2012 at Islamabad between the Commerce Secretaries of India and Pakistan.

2. The Indian delegation was led by Mr. S R Rao, Commerce Secretary and Pakistan's was led by Mr. Munir Qureshi, Secretary, Commerce.

3. Both sides expressed satisfaction with the progress made in the bilateral trade relationship, since last round of talks in New Delhi (14-16 November 2011). The bilateral meetings and discussions of the Trade and Commerce Ministers of both countries (September-2011, February-2012 and April-2012) provided a strong political impetus to enhanced economic engagement. The transition towards full normalization of trade relations with India was initiated by moving from a 'positive list' regime to a 'negative list' regime. Following the visit of Commerce Minister Shri Anand Sharma to Pakistan in February 2012, Pakistan side notified its negative list on 20th March 2012. The understanding at the previous Ministerial level talks has been that after approval by the Cabinet this negative list would be dismantled before the end of 2012.

4. The Commerce Secretaries reviewed with satisfaction that Commerce Ministers of India and Pakistan as well as the Chief Ministers of Punjab on either side of the border had jointly participated (April, 2012) in the Inauguration Ceremony of the new Integrated Check Post (ICP) at Attari. Commerce Secretaries appreciated that better trading opportunities provided through land route would enhance mutual prosperity of the business communities and consumers of both sides of the border. They however, noted that there is need to further strengthen infrastructure on both sides. They directed the customs and the port authorities to resolve all the issues through mutual cooperation, harmonization of customs procedures, provision of laboratory facilities, scanners, weigh bridges, cold houses, containerized services and automation of the business processes. For this purpose, meetings of the Customs Liaison Border Committee would be held on monthly basis. CLBC would also explore the possibilities of organizing meetings between the relevant importers and exporters at Wagah-Attari border. It was decided that this Land Customs Station would operate seven days a week.

5. The need for more trade traffic to be carried through the Railways was emphasized. For this purpose, it was agreed that the Railway Ministries would hold joint coordination meetings on a monthly basis, at the appropriate levels.

Issues on availability of sufficient number of rakes for interchange was also highlighted by the Pakistan Railways. It was noted that the earlier agreed provision of 3-4 interchanges a day has not been adhered to due to current trade patterns. A viable solution is to allow High Capacity Wagons (HCW) from Pakistan which carry three times more load than the regular wagons. The Indian Railways agreed that specifications already provided by the Pakistan Railways for HCW would be examined and conveyed accordingly within two months.

6. On exploring the possibilities of opening new land routes for trade, Pakistan side informed that a working group on Munabhao-Khokhrapar has been constituted. Indian side has already conveyed constitution of working group. It was agreed that meeting of the JWG on Munabhao-Khokhrapar would be held in 4th week of October, 2012 at New Delhi.

7. Both sides appreciated the recent signing (September, 2012) of the new liberalized bilateral visa regime. This fulfils a long pending demand of the business communities of both sides to ensure a better enabling environment for bilateral trade.

8. Pakistan side also appreciated the recent measures which have been taken by India to remove its earlier restrictions on inbound and outbound investments to Pakistan. Pakistan side sought clarifications from Indian authorities on investment through "Government Route" and its implications for investment by Pakistani investors in India. Both sides agreed to encourage two way investment and to enhance investor confidence on both sides, the procedures need to be simplified. It was also decided that outreach programmes may be held with the business communities on both sides, regarding the new investment opportunities, application procedures and regulatory issues.

9. On the issues relating to removal of Non-Tariff Barriers, Secretary Commerce Pakistan highlighted that certifications/ licensing/ lab testing/ are not the only NTBs but issues like delays in customs clearance, non availability of railway wagons for cargo transport, absence of direct flights or any problem which delays the clearance of goods with no end results or change, faced by importer/exporter is an NTB. He reiterated that concrete solutions of all such issues are crucial for ensuring market access in the Indian markets for Pakistani exporters. Commerce Secretary India while noting the views expressed by Commerce Secretary Pakistan, emphasized the need for elimination of such NTBs on both sides. Both sides expressed satisfaction on signing of the three agreements i.e. Redressal of trade grievances agreement, Mutual Recognition Agreement and Customs Cooperation Agreement and directed the relevant authorities to frame rules and procedures to fully implement these agreements. These agreements are expected to substantially facilitate bilateral trade mechanisms. It was agreed that on the same pattern as Mutual Recognition

Agreement between BIS and PSQCA, another agreement between Export Inspection Council of India (EIC) and PSQCA will be signed. Both sides have already exchanged the draft texts and it was agreed to complete the internal approvals before the next meeting of the Commerce Secretaries.

10. The JWG on Customs Matters has held one meeting in August 2011. In order to frame rules and procedures to implement the two agreements signed between the Customs Authorities, it was agreed that JWG on Customs would meet in the following month either at Karachi or Mumbai.

11. It was reiterated that the road map drawn in the earlier Ministerial meetings, for liberalized and preferential trade regimes would be scrupulously adhered to. Pakistan side informed that summary for removal of restrictions on trade through land route has been moved to the Cabinet and assured that decision to this effect is expected to be notified before end of October, 2012.

12. The Pakistan side expressed appreciation of the steps taken by India to reduce its SAFTA sensitive list by 30% from 878 tariff lines to 614 tariff lines as agreed earlier during the 6th Round of Talks. The Indian side explained that out of 264 tariff lines which have been removed from India's SAFTA sensitive list, 155 tariff lines pertain to agricultural commodities and 106 tariff lines relate to textile items. To further deepen the preferential arrangements under SAFTA and to provide level playing field to Pakistani exporters in comparison to concessions allowed by India under SAFTA to rest of the countries in the SAARC region, both sides developed a long term plan. It was noted that Pakistan now has a total of 936 tariff lines at 6 digit under its SAFTA Sensitive List, as against 614 tariff lines at 6 digit of India. It was agreed that after Pakistan has notified its removal of all restrictions on trade by Wagah-Attari land route, the Indian side would bring down its SAFTA sensitive list by 30% before December, 2012 keeping in view Pakistan's export interests . Pakistan would transition fully to MFN (non discriminatory) status for India by December 2012 as agreed earlier. India would thereafter bring down its SAFTA Sensitive List to 100 tariff lines at 6 digit level by April, 2013. As India notifies the reduced Sensitive List, Pakistan, after seeking approval of the Cabinet, will also simultaneously notify its dates of transition to bring down its SAFTA sensitive list to a maximum of 100 tariff lines at 6 digit level within next 5 years. The reductions shall be notified by Pakistan in equal measure for each year so as to complete reduction to 100 lines before end of 2017. Thus, before the end of 2017, both India and Pakistan would have no more than 100 (6 digit) tariff lines in their respective SAFTA sensitive lists. Before the end of year 2020, except for this small number of tariff lines under respective SAFTA sensitive lists, the peak tariff rate for all other tariff lines would not be more than 5%.

13. The Commerce Secretaries also reviewed the progress on other issues

such as enhanced trade for petroleum products, trade in power and reciprocal opening of Bank branches. Based on this review, the Commerce Secretaries exhorted the relevant stakeholders on both sides to speed up the mutual consultations so that concrete progress is achieved within the next six months. During this review, Indian side informed its willingness to consider export of gas up to 5 million cubic metres per day, for an initial period of five years. Pakistan side informed that India's offer has been received and is under active consideration. BHEL (an Indian PSU) made an offer to cooperate with the Pakistan side in setting up 500 – 2000 MW capacity in coal/hydro or Gas power plants, as per their requirements. Indian side indicated its willingness to cooperate with Pakistan in areas of wind and solar energy. Indian side also made an offer for meeting the requirements of Pakistan Railways for up to 100 locomotives.

14. Pakistan side emphasized the importance of taking SMEs along in this trade normalization process. It highlighted that sectors like surgical instruments, cutlery, fans, leather and marble products have a huge potential for trade. It was agreed that an institutional mechanism would be constituted to work out exhibitions of these products in India. Sharing of technology, skill development, training and collaboration in development of designs would also be encouraged. Cooperation in the manufacturing activities of the Gems and Jewellery sector would be actively encouraged.

15. As a part of this round of talks, representatives of the Civil Aviation Authorities of both the countries undertook discussions to ensure better air connectivity between New Delhi and Islamabad. It was noted that against an average of about 23 flights per week between New Delhi and other important national capitals of the SAARC countries, there is as yet no direct air connectivity between New Delhi and Islamabad. It was agreed that a Joint Working Group (JWG) would be formed before 15th November 2012, which would work out a more liberalized regime of reciprocal bilateral rights for commercial flights, to ensure economic viability of this air route. This JWG would also explore mechanisms for more efficient courier services.

16. The two sides noted with satisfaction the business-to-business contact which is steadily growing between both countries. Chambers of Commerce on either side have been supporting business delegations and trade issues in each other's countries. This process would be supported and facilitated by the Commerce Ministries of both the countries, with the active support of the TDAP and ITPO. The Secretaries directed the two organizations to provide better guidance to chambers and business people on customs procedures, import regulations and how to organize exhibitions.

17. The Commerce Secretaries also noted the decision that was taken by the Commerce Ministers to form a Joint Business Council (JBC) as an additional

institutional framework for regular and sustained dialogue between the business communities. Both sides agreed to exchange names of 10 prominent business persons from each country for this JBC within a month. The endeavour would be to have a first meeting of this JBC before December 2012 and its recommendations would be duly considered for taking forward the ongoing trade and investment dialogue. The JBC would, inter-alia, also explore measures for increasing other related activities between the people of both countries.

18. Preliminary discussions were also held on possibilities of better telecommunication linkages keeping in view the requirements of business communities on both sides for international roaming facilities. It was agreed that separate sub-groups on either side would take forward this dialogue. Commerce Secretaries would review thereafter.

19. Both sides also reviewed the earlier discussed possibilities of greater trade cooperation in sectors of agriculture and information technology. Relevant stake-holders would be encouraged to take forward economic cooperation in these areas. Cooperation for increasing cotton yield in Pakistan through trials of suitable Bt cotton seeds, would be given more focused attention

20. The Commerce Secretaries of both countries placed on record appreciation of their predecessors Dr. Rahul Khullar and Mr. Zafar Mahmood, who had very ably steered the trade dialogue from April 2011 onwards. It was resolved to further build upon the foundations laid by them to consolidate and enhance economic engagement.

21. The 8th round of talks would be scheduled to take place in India in April 2013. In the meantime co chairs of the JWG on economic and commercial cooperation, Joint Secretaries of Commerce, India and Pakistan would meet in December, 2012 at Islamabad.

22. The bilateral trade talks were conducted in a very cordial and positive atmosphere.



290. Response of Official Spokesperson to a question on UN Sanctions on Haqqani militant network.

New Delhi, November 7, 2012.

In response to a media query on the UN Security Council, under India's Presidency, having imposed global sanctions against the Haqqani militant Network, the Official Spokesperson said:

"India welcomes the move by the UN Security Council to list the Haqqani Network among the entities that now face an asset freeze, a travel ban and an arms embargo. This Group has also targetted Indian interests in the past. The international community has to be united in its efforts to isolate such terror groups which threaten peace and security in our region, and other parts of the world."



291. Response of the Official Spokesperson to a factually incorrect and misleading references to Indian State of Jammu & Kashmir by the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC).

New Delhi, November 20, 2012.

In response to a question on Resolutions adopted during the 39th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC) held in Djibouti from November 15-17, 2012, the Official Spokesperson said:

“We note with regret that the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has once again made factually incorrect and misleading references to matters internal to India, including the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir, which is an integral part of India. We reject all such references/resolutions.”



292. Interaction of External Affairs Minister with the media on the conviction of Ajmal Kasab.

New Delhi, November 21, 2012.

External Affairs Minister (Shri Salman Khurshid): Good morning.

Question: *Sir, Ajmal Amir Kasab, who has been hanged this morning. What would be your reaction if his family or the Pakistan Government claim his body, which has been buried here? As the Chief Minister of Maharashtra has said, can his body be given to Pakistan?*

External Affairs Minister: *There are two questions. Whatever action has been taken from the very beginning has been taken as per our laws. Whatever there is in the law has been followed. He had all the opportunities that were available from the court to the mercy petition to President. After that whatever was necessary has been done. I can say with full confidence that there is a rule of law in this country and we treat everybody equally before the law. There is no question of depriving anybody of his right, nor of giving any undue advantage. Whatever law was obligatory for everybody, has been applied here without discrimination. After giving all opportunities, whatever was necessary under the laws has been done.*

If any request is received from his family or from the Pakistan Government for his body, the government will consider it. As I said the decision will as per law. Whatever action is necessary will be taken. For the present there is not such request before us.

Question: *In Pakistan, they have raised the question that his confessional statement has not been relied upon and they have raise the issue of cross examination. Could this issue be used as a technical issue as far as the other accused in the Mumbai attack are concerned.*

External Affairs Minister: *As far as the law that operates in our country is concerned, we have honoured it fully and under that law, everything has been done. What is the law or system in other countries, I would not like to comment nor I have right to comment nor it would be proper for me to comment.*

Question: *Sir is it true that Pakistan was sent letters informing them that Kasab has been hanged and they rejected those letters? Is that your information?*

External Affairs Minister: *The information I have is as under the law we are required and in sense of propriety we attempted to convey to Pakistan Foreign Office that this decision had been taken and the execution will be done this morning. Since those missives were not accepted by the Foreign Office, by fax we indicated the information to them. Therefore, our obligation to inform them*

adequately was fulfilled. We also had in our possession a particular address given by Kasab and we did convey to that address as well the decision that had been taken.

Question: *Sir, As far as Kasab's confessional statement is concerned, he said in details his relationship with Hafiz Sayeed; about the relations with Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakvi, As far as confessional statement of Kasab is concerned, he gave details of relations with Hafiz Sayeed and Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakvi. When you are talking to Pakistan on all these issues, what do you expect from them about the progress in all the cases that are in the court.*

External Affairs Minister: It is our understanding that there is not much difference in the laws of our two countries only if they had pursued those cases in the same way as in our case in an unbiased manner. Now let us see, only time will tell what will happen.

Question: Sir, Kasab has been buried as per Prithviraj Chavan, the Chief Minister of Maharashtra. Now you are saying that if the Government of Pakistan or if the family makes a request for his body, that will be considered. Is that the correct understanding of you said?

External Affairs Minister: I would imagine it will have to be considered, as I said, in the light of legal requirements and the light of any other religious dimensions that might have to be considered. But we have no such request and we have no such information. So, this is at present very hypothetical.

Question: Sir, a question on Gaza. The Palestinian side has marked a protest with the Ministry of External Affairs saying that the response by the Indian side is very weak. Are you going to condemn the attack and the killing of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip?

External Affairs Minister: We have stated and I must acknowledge my colleague Mr. E. Ahamed was in touch with media yesterday. And we did say very categorically that disproportionate use of force is unacceptable. This is a very sad and tragic escalation of violence that has caused loss of some innocent lives, particularly of women and children. We consider that completely unacceptable. We urge that peace must be restored immediately and whatever efforts are being made for peace being restored and de-escalation of violence takes place. Our effort is that we support categorically. And we expect and hope that that is what will happen. We also want to make it very clear that our support for the Palestinian cause remains undiluted. We would reconfirm that support. We believe that Palestine deserves an independent sovereign state with East Jerusalem as its capital. We are confirming that position. But at the same time I think what is important right now is that de-escalation take place, peace return, and that the disproportionate use of force that is being inflicted is something that is completely and totally unacceptable.

Question: Sir, back to Kasab. If the missives were rejected by Pakistan, how did we indicate to them about this execution?

External Affairs Minister: We did send a fax message to the Ministry. That is normally what is done when there is no other way of communication. A fax message was sent to the Foreign Ministry in Pakistan. **Question:** Sir, was the result of the Pakistan Interior Minister Rehman Mallik is a postponement of the visit also linked with the entire process leading up to the execution of Kasab?

External Affairs Minister: I do not think that there is any link between these. As you know, we decide everything on merit. And I believe the Home Minister made an assessment, and it was agreed that while Parliament is going to be in session, there will not be ample time and indeed there were other factors were taken into account. But it was decided that there will be another, more appropriate time for a visit of this nature.

Question: Sir, about the closure of the Kasab chapter, how do you want the world to see the event and what sort of expectation do you have from Pakistan at this juncture regarding the 26/11 trials in Pakistan?

External Affairs Minister: Frankly, as I said, we have rule of law to prevail in our country and similarly we hope and expect that rule of law will prevail in Pakistan as well. I think there is not a vast difference between criminal procedures in our country and Pakistan. And if that is upheld, I would imagine that they will be able to say that they have done whatever it takes to reach closure on an extremely unpleasant and unhappy event that caused enormous, enormous distress to our country and indeed a tremendous amount of tragic loss to our people.

Question: Sir by rejecting the message, has Pakistan disowned Kasab and Jaish as they did in ... (Inaudible)...

External Affairs Minister: I am not sure what position they have taken. I think that very clearly he was established as a Pakistani citizen. What Pakistan should have done *vis-a-vis* a citizen who is executed in this country is really for them to take a call on. We did what we were obliged to do which was to inform them and to inform the address that we were given about the inevitable event. Would you like to add something? If you want to add something, please do.

Minister of State for External Affairs (Shri E. Ahamed): As far as Gaza violence is concerned, we have already expressed our anxiety, our concern everything. The violence has to be stopped immediately as early as possible. We also added that disproportionate use of force by Israel which resulted in the death of innocent people including women and children is not only unacceptable, it is in a way contemptuous also. At the very same time we want the peace to

prevail over there, and aspirations of Palestinian people to justice, freedom and a state of their own with demarcated boundary and also a sovereign state with East Jerusalem as the capital is to be realized. That is what we have said. The honourable senior colleague of mine has already stated the stand we have taken to support the Palestinian people in their struggle for freedom and their own state.

External Affairs Minister: Thank you very much.

(The text in italics is free translation from Hindi)



293. Joint Statement on the 6th Round of India-Pakistan Expert Level Talks on Conventional CBMs.

New Delhi, December 27, 2012.

Pursuant to the agreement between the Foreign Ministers of India and Pakistan during their meeting on September 8, 2012 in Islamabad, the Sixth Round of Expert Level Talks on Conventional CBMs between India and Pakistan was held on December 27, 2012 in New Delhi.

The Indian delegation to the talks was led by Mr. Y.K. Sinha, Additional Secretary (PAI), Ministry of External Affairs. Mr. Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Additional Secretary (UN&EC), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, led the Pakistan delegation.

The talks were held in a cordial and constructive atmosphere.

The two sides reviewed the implementation of existing CBMs, including the ceasefire along the LoC, exchanged ideas to further advance the CBM process and reaffirmed their commitment to continue discussions with the aim of strengthening conventional CBMs.

The two sides also agreed to report the progress made during the current round of talks to their respective Foreign Secretaries.



294. Joint Statement on India- Pakistan Expert Level Dialogue on Nuclear CBM's.

New Delhi, December 28, 2012.

Pursuant to the Agreement between the Foreign Ministers of India and Pakistan during their meeting on September 8, 2012 in Islamabad, the Seventh Round of Expert Level Talks on Nuclear CBMs was held in New Delhi on December 28, 2012.

The Pakistani delegation to the talks was led by Additional Secretary (UN & EC), Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr. Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry. The Indian delegation was led by Joint Secretary (Disarmament and International Security Affairs), in the Ministry of External Affairs Mr. D.B. Venkatesh Varma.

The talks, which were held in a cordial and constructive atmosphere, focused on review of implementation and strengthening of existing CBMs in the framework of the Lahore MoU, as well as possibilities for mutually acceptable additional CBMs.

Both sides reviewed working of existing Agreements on Pre-Notification of Flight Tests of Ballistic Missiles and Reducing the Risk from Accidents relating to Nuclear Weapons and expressed satisfaction that the latter was extended for a further five year period from February 2012.

The two sides will report progress made in the talks to their respective Foreign Secretaries.



SRI LANKA

295. Joint Press Statement after the conclusion of 4th India-Sri Lanka Joint Working Group on Fisheries.

Colombo, January 15, 2012.

The 4th meeting of the India-Sri Lanka Joint Working Group on Fisheries was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 13-14 January 2012. The Sri Lankan delegation was led by Ms. Kshenuka Senewiratne, Additional Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs of Sri Lanka and the Indian delegation by Mr. Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs of India. Both sides reviewed the developments since the last meeting of the Joint Working Group which was held on 28-29 March 2011 in New Delhi, India.

2. The two sides noted that the Joint Working Group process on fisheries had a salutary effect. It was acknowledged that the Joint Statement on Fishing Arrangements of 26th October 2008 had since led to a decrease in violent incidents. Both sides reiterated the highest priority accorded by their respective Governments to the well being, safety and security of fishermen from the two countries. Both countries agreed that the use of force could not be justified under any circumstances, and reiterated in this regard the importance of extending humane treatment to all fishermen. Acknowledging that fisheries involved the socio-economic and livelihood dimensions of the fishermen living in coastal areas in India and Sri Lanka, the two sides agreed to enhance cooperation that would allow both countries to pursue their fishing activity in a safe, secure and sustainable manner, including discouraging fishermen from using destructive fishing methods. They also discussed measures for the expeditious release of bonafide fishermen from both countries. The need to respect the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) was stressed by the Sri Lankan side.

3. Both sides noted the importance of an ongoing engagement between fishermen and fishermen's associations in India and Sri Lanka. They agreed to encourage a continued dialogue process between the fishermen's communities of the two countries through regular meetings. In this context, it was agreed that a delegation of fishermen's representatives from Sri Lanka would visit India at the earliest in 2012.

4. Both sides exchanged views on various measures to manage the fishery resources in their respective waters. Emphasizing the need for conservation of marine resources and protection of marine ecology, they agreed to the joint development of fisheries and marine resources in the Palk Bay area and the Gulf of Mannar. The two sides agreed to develop programmes for bilateral exchanges in aquaculture and fishing related activities, including training in

fisheries management, genetic improvement of cultured species, fishing technology, exchange of scientists, etc.

5. The two sides held discussions on a Memorandum of Understanding on Development and Cooperation in the field of Fisheries and agreed to work towards concluding the same at an early date.

6. The Indian delegation thanked the Government of Sri Lanka for its assistance in rescuing Indian fishermen stranded due to cyclonic weather conditions in the Palk Straits area in recent weeks, enabling their speedy repatriation and facilitating the visit of a team from India to salvage the grounded boats. The Indian delegation thanked the Sri Lankan authorities for continuing to facilitate the visit of Indian fishermen and pilgrims to Kachchativu for the festival of St. Anthony.

7. It was agreed that meetings of the Joint Working Group would be held on a regular basis, at least once in six months. The next meeting would be held in New Delhi at mutually convenient dates.



296. Remarks by External Affairs Minister at the joint media interaction with Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka.

Colombo, January 17, 2012.

Hon'ble Prof. G.L. Peiris, Minister of External Affairs,

Distinguished Representatives of the Media,

1. I am pleased to be in Sri Lanka again. At the outset, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Hon'ble Minister Prof. Peiris and the Sri Lankan Government for the warm hospitality extended to me and to my delegation.
2. Earlier, I had the opportunity to call on His Excellency President Mahinda Rajapaksa. We had a useful exchange of views on ways to take the bilateral relationship forward. With Minister Peiris, we had the opportunity to review progress in various areas, including trade, services and investment, development cooperation, science and technology, culture and education. I am satisfied that the projects under our development partnership have progressed well since my last visit.
3. Minister Peiris and I have just signed a MoU specifying the modalities for the next phase of the Housing Project being implemented with India's assistance of about 260 million US Dollars. This MoU involves the construction of 49,000 houses, out of a total of 50,000 houses. As you know, the Pilot Project for construction of the first 1000 houses is in an advanced stage of completion. During my visit to Jaffna tomorrow, I would be handing over the first lot of these houses to the beneficiaries.
4. We also signed MoUs for Cooperation in the Field of Agriculture and for Cooperation between the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India and Telecommunication Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka.
5. Our development assistance projects are entirely based on the priorities set by the government and the people of Sri Lanka. The main themes are connectivity, housing, health, education, livelihood restoration and economic revival. I would be visiting Kilinochchi tomorrow, to handover medical equipment to the District General Hospital, and also reopen schools we had helped repair. As a token gesture, we are also providing 10,000 bicycles to IDPs in the Northern Province.
6. I am happy to note that our bilateral trade in goods would touch the 5 billion US Dollar mark. India is also a leading player in Sri Lanka, as far as investments and tourist arrivals are concerned. To sustain this positive momentum in our trade and economic relations and take it to the next level, it is necessary to finalize a more comprehensive framework of economic cooperation.

7. India is committed to the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka. It is our hope that the vision and leadership that resulted in an end to armed conflict will now be employed in the quest for a genuine political reconciliation. We look forward to progress in the ongoing dialogue process, in order to address this issue in a timely manner. We will continue to work with the Government of Sri Lanka, and help in whatever way we can, to take this process forward, in a spirit of partnership and cooperation.

8. We have noted the many constructive recommendations contained in the recently-released report of the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC). These recommendations, when implemented, would mark a major step forward in the process of genuine national reconciliation, to which the Sri Lankan government is committed. Sri Lanka must seize this opportunity.

9. The Government of Sri Lanka has on many occasions conveyed to us its commitment to move towards a political settlement based on the full implementation of the 13th Amendment to the Sri Lankan Constitution, and building on it, so as to achieve meaningful devolution of powers. We look forward to an expeditious and constructive approach to the dialogue process. We believe that continuation of the dialogue between the Government and the TNA would pave the way for political settlement, including under the rubric of the Parliamentary Select Committee.

10. I discussed this matter with His Excellency the President this morning. The President assured me that he stands by his commitment to pursuing the 13th Amendment plus approach.

11. I also took this opportunity to emphasize that the issue of fishermen is an emotive issue and needs to be handled with care on both sides. As we explore possible solutions, we must ensure that there is no use of force against the fishermen and that they are treated in a humane manner. We were happy to note that the Joint Working Group on Fisheries which met a couple of days ago, was able to look at various options to address this issue.

12. Friends, India and Sri Lanka are bound by ties of history, geography and culture. Our partnership must therefore progress in the spirit of being the closest of neighbours and friends, whose destinies are intertwined.

Thank you.



297. Remarks by External Affairs Minister at the Handing Over of Renovated School and Completed Houses at Ariyalai Nagar I (Kilinochchi).

Colombo, January 18, 2012.

Hon'ble Basil Rajapaksa, Minister of Economic Development,

Hon'ble G.L. Peiris, Minister of External Affairs,

Hon'ble Douglas Devananda, Minister of Traditional Industries and Small Enterprise Development,

Hon'ble Governor of Northern Province

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to participate in this event marking the handing over of the first school under our project for repairs of 79 war-damaged schools in the three districts of Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu and Vavuniya in Northern Province.

The project was conceived with the objective of assisting early restoration of educational activities for children of resettled IDPs and to deliver a facelift to basic educational infrastructure of the region. I am happy to note that as a result of this intervention families will be able to send their children to schools, and students will have a decent learning environment offering them a better future.

Before coming here, in a ceremony at District General Hospital, Kilinochchi, I handed over critical medical equipment to improve the standard of medical care and obviate the need to refer cases for treatment to Jaffna or Colombo via ambulances. Similar equipment has also been provided to the Mullaitivu District General Hospital. We have supported other projects in the area of health-care, like providing emergency medical relief and organizing artificial limbs refitment camps immediately after the end of the war as also by donating medical equipment to the Jaffna Teaching Hospital. The Government of India has also recently approved the proposal for construction of 200 bed ward complex at the District General Hospital, Vavunia. India has been supporting other projects for rehabilitation, resettlement and well-being of displaced persons in the Northern Province.

The houses that you see across the school compound have been constructed in the pilot phase for 1,000 houses under our Housing Project which was launched during my visit in November 2010. I am happy to hand over these houses to beneficiaries of Ariviyal Nagar here and at Ariyalai in Jaffna later in the day. I

am sure that the lessons learnt from this pilot phase will be useful in the implementation of the next phase of the project for 49,000 houses for which Minister Peiris and I signed an MOU yesterday on behalf of our two governments to ensure smooth execution.

I would like to convey our gratitude to various agencies of the Government of Sri Lanka and other local partners who have extended necessary assistance in execution of all our projects. We look forward to their continued support.

India remains fully committed towards the rehabilitation, resettlement and well-being of displaced persons in the Northern Province. We stand ready to do more.

Thank you



298. Remarks by External Affairs Minister at the ceremony for distribution of bicycles and the announcement of completion of wreck removal in the Kankesanthurai Port.

Kankesanthurai, January 18, 2012.

I am extremely pleased to return to Jaffna. It also gives me immense pleasure to be part of this ceremony to mark the distribution of cycles to Internally Displaced Persons from all the five districts of the Northern Province.

I have just come from Ariyalai where I handed over the first lot of houses to beneficiaries under the Indian Housing project. This is truly the flagship project of India's development assistance to Sri Lanka and, one of the largest grant assistance project undertaken by the Government of India in any part of the world. Prime Minister of India, His Excellency Dr. Manmohan Singh made the offer to construct 50,000 houses in Northern and Eastern Sri Lanka during the visit of His Excellency President Mahinda Rajapaksa to India in June 2010.

Yesterday, Minister Peiris and I signed an MOU to construct the remaining 49,000 houses under this Project involving a grant assistance of 260 million US Dollars from India. Both sides will follow the best practices in implementation of this Project, particularly in beneficiary selection and grievance handling.

We thank the Government of Sri Lanka, particularly the Government Agents of the five districts of Northern Province and their team for assistance with critical project requirements in the pilot phase of the Project. We look forward to more such support in the coming months.

The project to distribute 10,000 bicycles to the returning IDPs in the five districts of the Northern Province will enhance and anchor their return. I extend appreciation to Sri Lankan Government for its support as also to UNHCR, which has been associated by us as an implementation partner.

There exists a special relationship between the people of the Northern Province in general and Jaffna Peninsula in particular and those of southern India.

Today, I am happy to announce the completion of wreck removal work at the KKS Harbour at a cost of 19 million US Dollars. This is expected to facilitate marine trade in Jaffna peninsula and revive economic activity in Northern Province. We stand ready to provide further grant assistance for the next phase of the project. We are undertaking rehabilitation of Achuvely Industrial Zone to create employment opportunities in Northern Province and to provide a platform for industrial development of Jaffna.

We hope the Government of Sri Lanka will develop Palaly as a civilian airport and restore its connectivity with India and within Sri Lanka. This will give tremendous fillip to the local economies in our two countries.

To redevelop the sports infrastructure of Jaffna, we have undertaken renovation of Duraiyappah Stadium. We intend to build the Jaffna Cultural Centre next to the Public Library. Last evening, I was shown the design of the proposed Centre. I am confident that this Centre will emerge as a cultural icon and help rejuvenate such activities.

Sri Lanka has emerged from three decades of armed conflict. Now peace has dawned. It is our sincere hope that the vision and leadership that resulted in an end to the armed conflict will now be employed in the quest for a genuine political settlement based on devolution of power resulting in national reconciliation among all the communities of Sri Lanka.

We have noted the constructive recommendations contained in the report of the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC) and look forward to their implementation. It is also our hope that the process of dialogue presently underway will lead to a meaningful devolution package, building upon the 13th Amendment, which would create the necessary conditions for a lasting political settlement. India will do everything possible to assist in this process.

I would like to reiterate that the Government and people of India will stand shoulder to shoulder with the Government of Sri Lanka and the people of the Northern Province all possible assistance in their reconstruction efforts.



299. Remarks by External Affairs Minister at the Handing over of the Galle-Hikkaduwa segment of the Southern Railway Project in Sri Lanka.

Galle, January 19, 2012.

Hon'ble G. L. Peiris, Minister of External Affairs,
Hon'ble Kumar Welgama, Minister of Transport,
Hon'ble Rohan Dissanayake, Deputy Minister of Transport,
High Commissioner of India Mr. Ashok Kantha,
High Commissioner of Sri Lanka Mr. Prasad Kariyawasam,
Distinguished Guests,

I am delighted to be in this wonderful and historic city of Galle, to formally hand over the completed section of the Galle-Hikkaduwa railway track. Today's ceremony marks the timely completion of this section, which is part of the Southern railway line executed by IRCON International Ltd, a leading Indian company in railway infrastructure.

As part of our effort to assist the Government of Sri Lanka in the reconstruction of the Southern Railway coastal project, the Government of India had pledged a line of credit of US\$ 167.4 million. This involves reconstruction of railway lines, training of personnel from Sri Lanka Railways in India, procurement of rolling stock and building of maintenance sheds.

Phase-One of this Project, comprising the Galle-Matara Section, was completed in February 2011. I am glad to note that Phase Two of the project, which involves the section from Galle to Kaluthara, will be completed on schedule, by April this year.

I recall that, during my visit to Sri Lanka in November 2010, I had launched the construction work for the Northern Railway Project. I am happy to note that work is progressing as per schedule. We expect all the projects relating to rehabilitation of the Northern Railway line by IRCON, being funded under an Indian Credit line of US\$ 800 million, to be completed by the end of 2013.

Friends,

Let me assure you that the Government of India remains committed to working with the Government of Sri Lanka for consolidation of peace, prosperity and development and for the further enrichment of our bilateral ties.

I would also like to take this opportunity to share with you today another initiative by the Government of India to assist in developing human resources in Sri

Lanka. I am happy to announce a substantial increase in India's educational assistance, amounting to 2.5 billion Sri Lankan Rupees in grant-funding, to assist meritorious Sri Lankan students.

Under this programme, scholarships and self-financing slots for undergraduate, masters and doctorate-level courses will be increased to nearly 270 per year. This marks a three-fold increase, and includes 120 slots for undergraduate courses, 25 seats for IT engineering, 50 slots for Masters-level courses, and 40 slots for a highly-subsidized self-financing scheme. In addition, support for deserving students pursuing their GCE 'A' level and University degrees in Sri Lankan institutions has been expanded to cover about 500 students every year.

Friends,

This new initiative is being undertaken as part of our commitment under the "India-Sri Lanka Knowledge Initiative" launched by the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and H.E. President Mahinda Rajapaksa, during his visit to India in June, 2010. These schemes would cover various categories of beneficiaries, ranging from school students to university researchers and teachers.

I am confident that the expanded scholarship programme will go a long way in further cementing our educational ties. The reconstruction of transport-related infrastructure will enhance connectivity, in addition to generating and supporting livelihood-related activities, not only within the Southern & Northern Province, but also with the rest of the country.

Before I conclude, I would like to place on record my deep appreciation for the cooperation extended by the Government of Sri Lanka, including the Ministry of Transport and Sri Lanka Railways, in implementing the railways projects. Continued cooperation between our agencies will be crucial for the timely completion of these projects.

Our cooperation in these areas is testimony to the strength of enduring friendship between our countries and peoples.

Thank you.



300. Response of Official Spokesperson to reports of incidents involving stone pelting of some Indian fishing boats in Sri Lankan waters.

New Delhi, January 23, 2012.

In response to a question, the Official Spokesperson said:

“We have seen reports of incidents involving stone pelting of some Indian fishing boats in Sri Lankan waters. We have taken up the matter with the Sri Lankan authorities. Separately, it is also understood that two Indian fishing boats which were stranded off the coast of Sri Lanka due to engine trouble were assisted by the Sri Lankan authorities and taken to Talaimannar on the coast of Sri Lanka. Officials of the Consulate General of India in Jaffna/ High Commission of India in Colombo who have been in touch with the nine fishermen who were on these boats have confirmed that the fishermen and their boats are expected to return to India today. The Sri Lanka Navy have escorted them to the International Maritime Boundary Line and handed them over to the Indian Coast Guard at 1600 hours.”



301. Statement by External Affairs Minister in Lok Sabha on “The Situation in Sri Lanka”.

New Delhi, March 14, 2012.

Hon'ble Madam Speaker,

I rise to inform the House on “The Situation in Sri Lanka”.

At the outset, allow me to convey that I fully share the concerns and sentiments raised by the Hon'ble Members of this august House regarding the welfare of Sri Lankan Tamils.

2. The end of the long period of armed conflict in Sri Lanka in May 2009, left around 3,00,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) living in camps in Northern Sri Lanka and general devastation of infrastructure in the affected areas.
3. Since the end of conflict in Sri Lanka, the focus of Government of India has been on the welfare and well being of the Tamils citizens of Sri Lanka. Their resettlement and rehabilitation have been of the highest and most immediate priority for the Government.
4. The Prime Minister, in June 2009 immediately after the conflict announced a grant of Rs. 500 crores for relief, rehabilitation and resettlement work in Sri Lanka. The Government of India has implemented and continues to implement a wide range of projects covering assistance projects for IDPs in the areas of housing, de-mining, education, connectivity, livelihood restoration, economic revival, etc. We have been informed by representatives of Sri Lankan Tamils that the tractors, seeds and agricultural implements gifted by the Government of India have greatly benefited the people in the area.
5. India also announced the construction of 50,000 houses, mainly for IDPs in Sri Lanka. During my visit to Sri Lanka in January 2012, I handed over first lot of completed houses to the beneficiaries at Ariyalai, Jaffna and Kilinochchi. These houses have been constructed under a pilot project for construction of 1000 houses. As of end-February 2012, a total of 365 houses had been completed, another 370 houses completed up to roof level and 230 houses completed up to lintel level. It may also be kept in mind that construction is taking place in largely inaccessible areas, which in many cases has to be freed of mines and other explosive ordinance and cleared of jungle.
6. In December 2011, the Cabinet approved the modalities for construction and repair of the remaining 49,000 houses. A Memorandum of Understanding for construction of these houses was signed between India and Sri Lanka on 17th January 2012 in Colombo. The project is expected to be completed within three years of commencement of work on the ground.

7. In addition to houses, I also gifted bicycles to IDPs and handed over hospitals and schools rehabilitated under the assistance of the Government of India in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka.

8. I would like to underline that it is mainly as a result of our constructive engagement with the Government of Sri Lanka and our considerable assistance programme that a modicum of normalcy is beginning to return to the Tamil areas in Sri Lanka. There has also been progress given the withdrawal of emergency regulations by the Government of Sri Lanka and the conduct of elections to local bodies in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka.

Madam Speaker,

9. Our primary objective in all that we are doing in Sri Lanka is to ensure the welfare and wellbeing of Sri Lankan Tamils, including IDPs, and to assist in the reconstruction and development of areas affected by the conflict.

Madam Speaker,

10. Several Hon'ble Members of the House have raised the issue of alleged human rights violations during the protracted conflict in Sri Lanka and on the US-initiated draft resolution on 'Promoting Reconciliation and Accountability in Sri Lanka' at the ongoing 19th Session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva.

11. Concerns have been expressed by various quarters on allegations of human rights violations, including as shown in the Channel 4 documentaries; it is the responsibility of the Sri Lankan Government, in the first instance to investigate and inquire into them through a transparent process.

12. We understand that the Government of Sri Lanka has initiated a series of measures, including appointment of a Cabinet Sub-committee to monitor implementation of the proposals in the National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) and reactivating the National Police Commission, in line with the recommendations of the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC) report. Separately, the Sri Lankan defence authorities are reported to have appointed a Court of Inquiry to look into allegations of human rights violations as required by the LLRC report.

13. The Government of India has, nonetheless, emphasised to the Government of Sri Lanka the importance of a genuine process of reconciliation to address the grievances of the Tamil community. In this connection, we have called for implementation of the recommendations in the Report of the LLRC that has been tabled before the Sri Lankan Parliament. These include various constructive measures for healing the wounds of the conflict and fostering a process of lasting peace and reconciliation in Sri Lanka.

14. We have been assured by the Government of Sri Lanka, including during my visit to Sri Lanka in January this year, of its commitment towards pursuit of a political process, through a broader dialogue with all parties, including the Tamil National Alliance, leading to the full implementation of the 13th Amendment to the Sri Lankan Constitution, so as to achieve meaningful devolution of powers and genuine national reconciliation. We hope that the Government of Sri Lanka recognising the critical importance of this issue acts decisively and with vision in this regard. We will remain engaged with them through this process and in the spirit of partnership encourage them to take forward the dialogue with the elected representatives of the Sri Lankan Tamils.

15. Hon'ble Members may be aware that the Sri Lankan authorities had said they would be happy to receive an all party delegation of Members of both Houses of our Parliament. We are working to undertake such a visit at the earliest.

Madam Speaker,

16. Several Members have raised the issue of a draft resolution initiated by USA at the ongoing 19th Session of the UN Human Rights Council at Geneva on the issue of reconciliation and accountability in Sri Lanka.

17. I would like to highlight here that on such sensitive issues we will need to consider the implications of our actions carefully. Any assertions on our part may have implications on our historically friendly relations with a neighbouring country. We would also need to examine whether our actions will actually assist in the process of reconciliation in Sri Lanka, and enhance the current dialogue between the Government of Sri Lanka and Tamil parties, including the Tamil National Alliance.

18. As far as our position on the resolution is concerned, we are engaged with all parties in an effort to achieve a forward looking outcome that is based on reconciliation and accountability rather than deepening confrontation and mistrust between the concerned parties. I may mention that the issue of human rights allegations against Sri Lanka is yet to come up for formal discussion at the 19th Session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva. A view on this issue will be taken as and when the time is finalized for consideration of the draft resolution on Sri Lanka in the UN Human Rights Council.

Madam Speaker,

19. Therefore, I would like to inform this House that our objectives, as always, continue to remain the achievement of a future for the Tamil community in Sri Lanka that is marked by equality, dignity, justice and self-respect.

20. I may assure the House that the Government will bear in mind the views

and sentiments expressed in this House, and once a final view is taken Government will keep the Parliament informed.

Thank you,



302. Explanation of vote at the UNHRC on Promotion, Reconciliation and Accountability in Sri Lanka.

Geneva, March 21, 2012.

India believes that the primary responsibility for the promotion and protection of human rights lies with the States. Consequently resolutions of this nature should fully respect the sovereign rights of states and contribute to Sri Lanka's own efforts in this regard.

2. India had welcomed the recommendations of Sri Lanka's LLRC report. We believe that there is indeed a window of opportunity to forge a consensual way forward towards reconciliation through a political settlement respecting all the ethnic and religious groups inhabiting the nation. This is, in effect, what the Sri Lankan Government had committed to in this Council in 2009. We have noted the commencement of such a dialogue with several parties, including the Tamil National Alliance.

3. The LLRC report recognizes that a political solution is imperative and that the Government of Sri Lanka should provide the leadership to this political process. It further sets out several constructive recommendations including those pertaining to missing persons, detainees, disappearances and abductions, promotion of trilingual policy, reduction of high security zones, curbing activities of illegal armed groups, return of private lands and demilitarization and restoration of civilian administration. This Council has also been briefed by the Government of Sri Lanka in this session on the series of steps taken to implement the report and other measures. We welcome these steps. We are confident that implementation of the report will foster genuine reconciliation.

4. India has been involved in a substantial way in the rehabilitation and resettlement efforts, and the reconstruction process in Northern Sri Lanka. We are happy that our engagement in Sri Lanka in the areas of housing, de-mining, education, public health and connectivity have helped restore a degree of normalcy in the area.

5. In this context, we urge the Sri Lankan Government to take forward the process of broader dialogue and show concrete movement towards a meaningful devolution of powers, including the implementation of the 13th Amendment and beyond. We would also urge that Sri Lanka takes forward the measures for accountability and to promote human rights that it has committed to. It is these steps, more than anything we declare in this Council, which would bring about genuine reconciliation between all the communities of Sri Lanka, including the minority Tamil community.

6. While we subscribe to the broader message of this resolution and the

objectives it promotes, we also underline that any assistance from the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights or visits of UN Special Procedures should be in consultation with and with the concurrence of the Sri Lankan Government. These are norms which all of us in the Council subscribe to. A democratic country like Sri Lanka has to be provided time and space to achieve the objectives of reconciliation and peace. In this Council we have the responsibility to ensure that our conclusions do contribute to this objective rather than hinder it.

7. In conclusion, as a neighbour with thousands of years of cordial relations with Lanka, with deep rooted spiritual and cultural ties, we cannot remain untouched by developments in that country. We have been bound also by a shared quest for freedom and dignity. We will continue to remain engaged with the Government of Sri Lanka to take forward the process of reconciliation to secure for all its citizens a future marked by equality, dignity, justice and self-respect.



303. Letter of Prime Minister to Sri Lankan President regarding the Resolution in the UN Human Rights Council.

New Delhi, March 24, 2012.

The Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh has written to President Mahinda Rajapaksa of Sri Lanka on the resolution in the UN Human Rights Council.

The text of the Prime Minister's letter to the President of Sri Lanka is as follows:

"Thank you for your letter of March 19 regarding the ongoing session of the UN Human Rights Council and the introduction of a resolution therein on the post-conflict situation in Sri Lanka.

As Your Excellency is aware, the Government and the people of India have stood firmly by Sri Lanka in its struggle against terrorism. The end in May 2009 of a long and tragic conflict that had claimed numerous innocent lives, in Sri Lanka and in India, was something that we regarded as providing, at long last, an opportunity for genuine national reconciliation and for addressing the urgent needs of development and reconstruction of all citizens of Sri Lanka. Our two governments have, over the last three years, engaged intensively in the immediate tasks of relief and rehabilitation for those displaced by the conflict, as well as the more long-term effort of reconstruction of national infrastructure. Much important progress has been registered on this front and I wish to record my appreciation of the assistance your Government has provided to various Indian agencies implementing projects of national significance on the ground in Sri Lanka. I was also happy to learn of Your Excellency's intention to continue the process of implementing the recommendations of the LLRC.

We have also had occasion in the past to discuss the way ahead with regard to a political solution that will address all outstanding issues, in particular the grievances of the Tamil community in Sri Lanka, in a spirit of understanding and mutual accommodation. It is our conviction that a meaningful devolution package, building upon the 13th Amendment, would lead towards a lasting political settlement on many of these issues and create conditions in which all citizens of Sri Lanka, irrespective of their ethnicity, can find justice, dignity, equality and self-respect. I would like to reiterate to Your Excellency my Government's commitment to continue to be of assistance in the achievement of this important objective.

With regard to the matter of the resolution in the UN Human Rights Council, I had instructed our delegation to remain in close contact with its Sri Lanka counterparts in an attempt to find a positive way forward. Your Excellency would be aware that we spared no effort and were successful in introducing an element of balance in the language of the resolution.

I wish to assure Your Excellency that, going forward, we will continue our engagement with the shared objective of building a stable, secure and prosperous environment in Sri Lanka in which all communities can flourish and in which India-Sri Lanka relations can continue to grow from strength to strength.”



304. Press Release on the visit of Joint Parliamentary delegation to Sri Lanka.

New Delhi, April 16, 2012.

A Joint Parliamentary delegation led by the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Smt Sushma Swaraj, is visiting Sri Lanka from April 16 to 21, 2012. The delegation consists of Members of Parliament from the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha nominated by various political parties, including the BJD, BJP, CPI (M), INC, JD (U) and SP.

2. The visit is being organised in the context of a commitment made by the External Affairs Minister in Parliament in response to suggestions from Members of the Parliament during Parliamentary debates on the situation in Sri Lanka.

3. The delegation is expected to travel to different parts of Sri Lanka, including its Northern, Eastern, Central and Western Provinces. The primary focus of the delegation will, however, be in the areas recovering from thirty years conflict in the North and East of Sri Lanka where development assistance projects for the resettlement and rehabilitation of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and reconstruction of areas affected by the conflict are being undertaken by the Government of India.

4. The delegation is expected to start its programme in Northern Sri Lanka with a visit to the IDP Camp at Menik Farm. The delegation is scheduled to visit Vavuniya, Mullaitivu, Jaffna, Kankesanthurai, Kalutara, Dickoya, Hatton and Batticaloa where Indian assistance projects, including those related to the development of rail and port infrastructure, connectivity and transportation, education, public health, housing, de-mining, vocational training and economic revival, are under implementation. The delegation is also scheduled to meet a wide cross-section of parliamentarians, Pradesiya Sabha members, civil society and community leaders in the Northern Province.

5. In Colombo, the delegation is scheduled to call on the President of Sri Lanka and meet the Ministers of External Affairs and Economic Development. An interaction with the Leader of the House and Sri Lankan Parliamentarians has also been arranged. The delegation will separately meet the Leader of the Opposition and representatives of the Tamil National Alliance, the Sri Lankan Muslim Congress, the Ceylon Workers Congress and other upcountry political parties.



305. Press Release of the Ministry of External Affairs on the Trilateral Joint Coast Guard Exercises – DOSTI XI.

New Delhi, April 24, 2012.

The five day India-Maldives-Sri Lanka Joint Coast Guard exercise – DOSTI XI is currently being held off the coast of Male (Maldives) from 23-27 April 2012. The bi-annual India-Maldives DOSTI exercises was originally started in 1991 with the objective of strengthening co-operation between Indian and Maldivian Coast Guards with a view to enhancing mutual capabilities for search and rescue operations, combating piracy and armed robbery, damage control and casualty evacuation at sea for safer seas. The present expansion of the Joint training exercises to include Sri Lanka from 2012 onwards marks an important milestone in the evolution of the DOSTI exercises.

2. DOSTI-XI exercises would aim to strengthen the bonds of friendship and enhance the mutual operational capability and cooperation between the forces of the three participating countries and would focus on Maritime Search and Rescue, Marine Pollution Response and Boarding Operations. In this round of exercises, two Indian Coast Guard Ships - ICGS SANKALP and ICGS SUBHADRA and an ICG Dornier Aircraft would take part along with three Maldives National Defense Force (MNDF) Coast Guard vessels - HURAVEE, GHAZEE and SHAHEED ALI from the Maldivian side and an offshore patrol vessel - SLNS SAGARA from the Sri Lankan Navy.



306. Remarks by National Security Adviser Shivshankar Menon at a Media Interaction in Colombo.

Colombo, June 29, 2012.

My visit to Sri Lanka today has been in the context of regular consultations and exchange of views between the Government of India and the Government of Sri Lanka.

- I called on H.E. President Mahinda Rajapaksa this morning. Foreign Minister G.L. Peiris was also present at the meeting. Thereafter, I met Mr. Basil Rajapaksa, Minister of Economic Development and Mr. Gotabaya Rajapaksa, Defence Secretary. I also met the TNA leader Mr. Sampanthan.
- I discussed recent developments, bilateral relations and areas of common concern. I was also briefed about steps being taken by the Government of Sri Lanka on political reconciliation and settlement. While this is a Sri Lankan issue and something that Sri Lanka has to do, we will continue to remain engaged with all concerned and offer any support required in this regard.
- India has always stood for a united Sri Lanka within which all citizens can live in equality, justice, dignity and self-respect. We have worked closely with the Government of Sri Lanka on relief, rehabilitation and resettlement of IDPs. India's assistance was appreciated by the Sri Lankan leadership in all my meetings. We remain committed to continue our cooperation.
- We also discussed the fishermen's issue. It was noted that the practical arrangements of October 2008 should be adhered to until an alternative mechanism was agreed upon. We agreed that fishermen's associations on both sides, which had met in the past and reached some understandings, needed to meet again to work on developing this further. This could then serve as the basis for finding a solution to this humanitarian issue.
- On the bilateral front, we noted that most of the Indian-assisted projects were proceeding well and several projects, particularly those relating to the development of railway infrastructure in the Northern and Southern Provinces, were being implemented well ahead of schedule. In the past two years, India has committed US\$ 750 million under lines of credit and another US\$ 350 million under grants-in-aid. There are a number of other new projects under consideration.
- We also discussed maritime cooperation and other security related issues. It was agreed that we could take this further.

- Sri Lanka is our close neighbour, with whom we enjoy a multifaceted and dynamic relationship. We look forward to strengthening and further developing this engagement.



307. Press Release of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry on promotion of bilateral trade.

New Delhi, August 3, 2012.

The Union Minister of Commerce, Industry & Textiles, Shri Anand Sharma set a target to double the trade turnover between India and Sri Lanka from the existing level to USD 10 billion by the year 2015. Speaking at the inauguration of "The India Show- Land of Limitless Opportunities" today at Colombo, Shri Sharma highlighted India's unbinding commitment to be a friend and a partner of Sri Lanka in meeting its aspirations of growth and development. "We have set the target to double the trade to USD 10 Billion by 2015. Captains of industry have accepted and endorsed it", said the Minister. The Minister along with Mr. Basil Rajapaksa, Minister of Economic Development, Mr. Rishad Bathiudeen, Minister of Industry & Commerce and Mr. Sarath Amunugama, Senior Minister of International Monetary Cooperation, Mr. A.H.M. Fawzie, Senior Minister for Urban Affairs and Mr. Douglas Devananda, Minister of Traditional Industries and Small Enterprise Development of Sri Lanka inaugurated The India Show in Colombo.

Shri Sharma, after his discussions with the Sri Lankan leadership in the morning, announced that India will assist Sri Lanka in the establishment of Engineering and Automobile components SEZ which would be located near Trincomalee and will promote exports to the production chains in India. The proposed Engineering and Automobile components hub will also have a Skill Training Institute. The Minister also announced that India and Sri Lanka will work together towards the establishment of a Pharmaceutical manufacturing hub in Sri Lanka capitalising on the vast strides made by Indian Pharmaceutical industry in meeting the quality drug requirements worldwide at affordable prices. It was also agreed to setup a Joint Task Force which will submit its report within 90 days and would also work on the implementation of establishment of the two SEZs. The composition of the Joint Task Force from India would be finalised during the Minister's visit itself.

Shri Sharma, highlighting the global trend of formation of regional trade blocks and bilateral Economic Agreements, underlined the need for economic integration within South Asia, which could be part of larger Asian trade and economic architecture. The Minister also highlighted that India was not seeking reciprocity in trade and economic relationship with Sri Lanka and assured Sri Lanka of preferential access to the large Indian market. "Accepting the principle of asymmetry, that India has always done as the leading economy of South Asia we are not seeking reciprocity", the Minister added.

The signing of Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) will

make the current economic engagement more comprehensive by bringing more investment and services into Sri Lanka. Shri Sharma said that the two Commerce Secretaries will resume dialogue on CEPA, and resolve all related issues. "India has an abiding commitment in Sri Lanka's Development and FTA has definitely contributed to the increase in trade", said Shri Sharma.

Shri Sharma also appreciated the large infrastructure projects being implemented by the Indian Companies including the PSUs in Sri Lanka such as Railway projects and the Sampur Power plant project. The Minister also highlighted that India has been among the top investors in Sri Lanka, is Sri Lanka's largest trading partner and source of largest number of tourist arrivals into Sri Lanka.

In his remarks Mr. Rishad Bathiudeen called the signing of India Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement in 1998 an historic milestone and underlined the synergy between Indian and Sri Lankan companies as a competitive necessity. Highlighting the resurgent Sri Lankan economy growing at a rate of over 8% during last two years, Mr. Bathiudeen invited Indian corporate sector to be part of Sri Lankan growth story.

Addressing the inaugural session, Senior Minister Dr. Sarath Amunugama conveyed the greetings of the President of Sri Lanka and on his behalf wished India Show all the success.



308. Response of Official Spokesperson to the Travel Advisory issued by Sri Lanka.

New Delhi, September 4, 2012.

In response to a media query on the travel advisory issued by Sri Lanka, the official spokesperson said:

“We have noted the travel advisory that has been issued by the Government of Sri Lanka for its nationals visiting the state of Tamil Nadu.

I wish to convey here that the Government of India, in close consultation with the concerned state governments, has taken and will continue to take all measures to ensure the safety, security and well-being of Sri Lankan dignitaries and visitors to India, including to Tamil Nadu.

In certain instances, it has been noticed that important visits have taken place without prior intimation to the concerned authorities.

I find it important to emphasise here that people-to-people contacts are an integral part of the close historical, cultural, ethnic and civilisational ties between India and Sri Lanka. Our High Commission in Colombo issued visas to nearly 200,000 Sri Lankan nationals to visit India last year, while approximately 175,000 Indian tourists visited Sri Lanka in 2011. It is this perspective that guides all our actions on such matters. “



309. Statement in Rajya Sabha by S.M. Krishan, Minister of External Affairs in response to Calling Attention Notices regarding repeated attacks on Tamil Nadu fisherman by Sri Lankan Navy.

New Delhi, September 6, 2012.

I rise to respond to the House on the Calling Attention Notices regarding the Situation arising out of repeated attacks on Tamil Nadu Fishermen by the Sri Lankan navy.

I would like to reiterate at the outset to this august House that the Government of India attaches the highest importance to the safety, security and welfare of Indian fishermen. The Government of India and the High Commission of India in Sri Lanka have consistently taken up issues relating to incidents of firing on or apprehension of our fishermen with the Government of Sri Lanka to ensure that the Sri Lankan Navy acts with restraint and our fishermen are treated in a humane manner.

I would like to inform the Hon'ble members that as soon as the reports of apprehension of Indian fishermen are received, the Government through diplomatic channels takes up the matter of their expeditious release and repatriation with the Sri Lankan authorities. As a result, the fishermen apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy have been released and repatriated expeditiously. Presently, there are no Indian fishermen in Sri Lankan custody on fisheries related charges. However, some Indian nationals have been arrested in Sri Lankan waters on charges of smuggling narcotics and contrabands. Officials from our High Commission in Colombo and Consulate in Jaffna Lanka are in regular touch with the detained Indian nationals and extending all possible consular and legal assistance to them.

Hon'ble Members would recall that to avoid recurrence of incidents involving our fishermen and keeping in mind the humanitarian and livelihood dimensions of the fishermen's issue, the Government had reached an understanding through a Joint Statement with the Sri Lankan Government on 26th October 2008 to put in place practical arrangements to deal with bonafide Indian and Sri Lankan fishermen crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line. As part of these practical arrangements, it was agreed that there would be no firing on Indian fishing vessels and Indian fishing vessels would not tread into sensitive areas designated by the Government of Sri Lanka along its coastline. Following the October 2008 understanding, the incidents of attack and apprehension of bonafide Indian fishermen by Sri Lankan authorities have significantly come down.

I would like to inform this august House that during my visit to Sri Lanka in

January 2012, I raised the issue of safety and security of Indian fishermen with the Sri Lankan leadership in January 2012. In this context, it was inter-alia noted that at the 4th meeting of the India-Sri Lanka Joint Working Group on Fisheries, held from 13-14 January 2012 in Colombo, both sides reiterated the highest priority accorded by their respective Governments to the well being, safety and security of fishermen from the two countries. Both countries agreed that the use of force could not be justified under any circumstances, and reiterated in this regard the importance of extending humane treatment to all fishermen. Acknowledging that fisheries involved the socio-economic and livelihood dimensions of the fishermen living in coastal areas in India and Sri Lanka, the two sides agreed to enhance cooperation that would allow both countries to pursue their fishing activity in a safe, secure and sustainable manner, including discouraging fishermen from using destructive fishing methods. They also discussed measures for the expeditious release of bonafide fishermen from both countries.

The Government is working with the concerned State Governments keeping in mind that the issues of fishermen affect both countries, and the need to sensitise the Indian fishermen to respect International Maritime Boundary Line and not stray into Sri Lankan waters for their own safety and security. The Government has requested the State Government to finalise the dates for a proposed meeting of the representatives of fishermen association from the two countries early.

I would like to reiterate that Government continues to remain engaged with the Government of Sri Lanka to ensure that fishermen on both sides can continue to pursue their livelihood in a safe, secure and sustainable manner.



310. Statement of Official Spokesperson on the visit of Tamil National Alliance Delegation from Sri Lanka.

New Delhi, October 10, 2012.

In response to a question from the media on the visit of a TNA delegation to India, the Official Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs conveyed the following:

A seven-member delegation of the Tamil National Alliance (TNA), Sri Lanka, led by Mr. R. Sampanthan, would be visiting India from 10-13 October 2012 at the invitation of the External Affairs Minister. The delegation would consist of Mr. Mavai S. Senathirajah, MP; Mr. K. Premachandran, MP; Mr. P. Selvarasa, MP; Mr. A. Vinayagamorthy, MP; Mr. A. Adaikkalanathan, MP; and Mr. M.A. Sumanthiran, MP. A TNA delegation had also visited India in July 2010.

The delegation is expected to call on the Prime Minister and the External Affairs Minister. They would also exchange views with the National Security Adviser and the Foreign Secretary.

India has been involved in a substantial manner in rehabilitation and resettlement efforts of Internally Displaced Persons and the reconstruction process in Northern Sri Lanka. It has been widely acknowledged that our assistance in Sri Lanka in the areas of housing, de-mining, education, public health and connectivity has helped restore a degree of normalcy in the area.

The visit is part of our continuing engagement with the Government and political parties in Sri Lanka in regard to the process of reconciliation and meaningful devolution through which Sri Lanka seeks to secure for all its citizens a future marked by equality, dignity, justice and self-respect.



311. Joint Press Statement on India-Sri Lanka bilateral consultations on Civil Nuclear Cooperation.

New Delhi, October 12, 2012.

The first round of talks between India and Sri Lanka on comprehensive civil nuclear cooperation was held on 12 October 2012 in New Delhi. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and included representatives from the Department of Atomic Energy of India. The Sri Lankan delegation was led by Mr. I. Ansar, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of Sri Lanka and included representatives from the Atomic Energy Authority and the Ministry of Power and Energy of Sri Lanka.

2. Discussions were held in a warm, friendly and cordial manner. Both sides exchanged views on all aspects of civil nuclear cooperation and reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the uses of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes to mutual benefit of the people of the two countries. It was agreed that the two sides would work towards a comprehensive Agreement on Bilateral Civil Nuclear Cooperation. Discussions included, inter alia, training of officials, nuclear safety and response to nuclear accidents.

3. It was agreed that the next meeting would be held in Sri Lanka in the first half of 2013.



**(ii) PACIFIC, SOUTH EAST
AND EAST ASIA**

312. Press release of the Ministry of External Affairs on the Senior Officials Talks between India and Australia.

New Delhi, September 21, 2012.

Mr. Sanjay Singh, Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India visited Canberra for the Senior Officials Talks which were held on the forenoon of September 21, 2012. The Australian delegation was led by Mr. Dennis Richardson, the Secretary in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Government of Australia.

During the talks the two delegations discussed bilateral relations and exchanged views on regional and global issues. Relations between the two countries in the areas of trade and investment, energy and resources, education, science and technology and defence and security were amongst the topics on which there was an exchange of views between the two delegations. The talks explored various proposals and ideas to give concrete content to the Strategic Partnership established between the two countries. Both sides agreed that while bilateral relations had expanded rapidly in recent years, there was considerable potential for a transformation of the relationship through efforts of the two sides.

The two delegations also discussed cooperation between India and Australia in multilateral fora including the G-20 and the East Asia Summit. It was agreed to strengthen cooperation in multilateral fora in areas of mutual interest. The Australian delegation also briefed the Indian delegation on the Oz Fest – a cultural festival which will be held in India from October to December, 2012.



313. Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson and Joint Secretary (South) on the visit of the Australian Prime Minister.

New Delhi, October 11, 2012.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Syed Akbaruddin): Good afternoon friends. Thank you very much for coming today for this interaction.

.....state visit of the Prime Minister of Australia to India. Hon. Ms. Julia Gillard will pay a state visit to India from 15th to 17th October at the invitation of the Prime Minister of India. During her visit she will have bilateral discussions with the Prime Minister. She will also call on the President. The External Affairs Minister will meet her, so will the Leader of the Opposition and the Chairperson of the UPA.

The visit of the Prime Minister of Australia will lead to strengthening of cooperative relations between the two countries and will provide a further impetus for the future development of our strategic partnership.

I have here with me Mr. Sanjay Bhattacharyya, who is Joint Secretary (South) who also deals with Australia. I will request him to provide you a briefing on Australia, and then the floor is open for questions on Australia or on anything else that you would like us to answer.

With that I hand over to Sanjay to speak to you all on the forthcoming visit of the Prime Minister of Australia.

Joint Secretary (South) (Shri Sanjay Bhattacharyya): Thank you Akbar. It is nice being here with lots of old friends.

As has just been announced, the Australian Prime Minister Ms. Julia Gillard will be on her first visit to India as the Prime Minister, from the 15th to the 17th of October. Our Prime Minister has met with Prime Minister Gillard on several occasions in the recent past, in Los Cabos at the G20 Summit a few months ago, in Seoul at the Nuclear Security Summit in March 2012, in Bali at the EAS Summit last year, and in September of 2009 when she had visited India as a Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education.

During her visit she will have talks with the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. She will also call on the President, as the Spokesman has already mentioned, and meet with the External Affairs Minister, Leader of the Opposition, and the Chairperson of UPA. These meetings will take place on the 17th of October. A number of Memoranda of Understanding are expected to be concluded, and we hope that we would be able to make a few announcements on new initiatives.

Our bilateral relations have made rapid strides in strengthening cooperation in

the fields of trade, investment, energy, mining, science and technology, information technology, education and defence cooperation. There have been exchanges of high-level visits in each of these areas, and establishment of institutional structures in these sectors. Our ties were elevated to the level of a strategic partnership during the visit of Prime Minister Kevin Rudd to India in November of 2009.

Australia assumes significance in our external engagement in overcoming our supply side constraints. We obtain resources, educational facilities and skills upgradation. Australia is a major source of mineral resources for the Indian economy and our development efforts particularly in coal, gold, copper, also in diamonds and zinc.

There are about 36,000 Indian students who are currently studying in Australia. We are also working with various Australian institutes in promoting skill training within India. In addition, there are about 450,000 Indians who have made Australia their home. These overseas Indians contribute richly to the economic and social fabric of that country. In fact, the Indian community in Australia is playing a growing role in acting as a bridge between the two countries.

The India-Australia cooperation in the field of education and training is based on an umbrella agreement in the form of an education exchange programme which was concluded in October of 2003.

For our science and technology cooperation we have a five-year Strategic Research Fund which oversees a wide range of cooperative activities. Our trade in goods has grown rapidly and currently stands at about 17.4 billion dollars in 2011-12. Our imports, as I mentioned earlier, are mainly of coal, gold and copper, and are almost US \$ 15 billion, while our exports are just under 2.4 billion dollars.

We also have a fairly sizeable trade in services. Indian investments in Australia, particularly in the mineral sector, have been growing rapidly and about 11 billion dollars were approved last year. About 450 million dollars of Australian investments are currently placed in India.

We are negotiating for a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement which once concluded would enhance trade and investment flows, diversify trade in goods and services, and also address the imbalance in the trade. We have a bilateral CEOs forum which works to enhance business relations between the two countries. This is led by Mr. Naveen Jindal on the Indian side and Mr. Lindsey Fox on the Australian side.

We have a Joint Working Group on Energy and Minerals which was established way back in 1999. We have different subgroups for the different areas, and they have been working to expand our relations in the energy and resource sector.

We are also partners in the fight against international terrorism and have been discussing terrorism-related issues under the umbrella of the senior officials talks, which is the Foreign Ministry talks, the Strategic Dialogue, and the Joint Working Group on Counterterrorism. On the defence side we have an MoU in defence cooperation which was concluded in 2006. And we have exchanges at the Service level.

India and Australia have strengthened collaboration on many issues in multilateral fora such as in the G20, the East Asia Summit, the various ASEAN processes, and in the IOR-ARC. In fact, Australia will take over the Chair of IOR-ARC from us next year. Australia will also assume the Chair of G20 in 2014.

Australia has indicated support for India's candidature for a permanent seat in the expanded UN Security Council. We see Prime Minister Gillard's visit as an opportunity to strengthen our strategic cooperation.

Thank you.

Official Spokesperson: We will open the floor for questions. You could begin with questions related to what Mr. Bhattacharyya has said and then anything else. So, let us begin with questions related to Australia.

Question: During the Prime Minister's visit to India, would the bilateral nuclear cooperation agreement be on the table?

Joint Secretary (South): As you would probably have come across in the media, the Australian Labour Party under Prime Minister Gillard had reversed the earlier policy and had agreed to consider the export of uranium to India under certain conditions. This matter was then to be taken up by the Australian Government, and so we expect that the Australian Government will take this process further.

Question: Sanjay, the Labour Party decision which you talked of took place in December 2011. Ten months have gone by. What is the status of the negotiations between India and Australia over the nuclear deal? When is it going to formally start and what is the timeline for finish?

Joint Secretary (South): Obviously the negotiations will commence once the Government decision has been taken.

Question:...*(Inaudible)*...

Official Spokesperson: I think you will have to wait for the outcomes of the visit. We cannot prejudge those outcomes.

Question: In Australian media there have been quite a few reports that the issue will be on the table, that the Australian PM and the Indian Prime Minister would be discussing this. Do you say that is a correct assessment? That would at least save us the trouble of rehashing Australian media reports.

Joint Secretary (South): We have seen the Australian media reports as well. We are aware that the Government is looking at this issue. We will be in a position to let you know as to what the Government steps are once they are conveyed to us.

Official Spokesperson: Let me just add to it. The last time there was a formal interaction on this was between the External Affairs Minister and Mr. Bob Carr in Phnom Penh. Some of you were there. At that stage, Mr. Bob Carr, the Foreign Affairs Minister of Australia, did indicate that they were still working out their internal processes. Once they communicate to us that their internal processes are complete, which you seem to be indicating based on the reports are coming from Australia, the formal negotiations will start. But at this stage, that is where it rests. And we have told you what was the last formal communication and discussion on this.

Question: In the last discussions on the civil nuclear issue, did Australia insist on or ask for additional safeguards on top of the usual ones?

Official Spokesperson: We have not launched the formal discussions on that. All the Australian Foreign Minister indicated to the External Affairs Minister was that – and this was a few months ago during the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' meet – they are in the process of completing their internal processes. At this stage, anything else would be premature because we have not even launched the formal negotiations on that.

Question: Akbar, are we supporting Australia for a non-permanent seat in the Security Council?

Official Spokesperson: Please do not expect us to tell you who we will vote for in an election which is by secret ballot.

Question: Sanjay, you gave some figures. One was not very sure. Is it 14 billion dollars our companies have invested in Australia?

Joint Secretary (South): Eleven billion US dollars is the amount that has been approved for investments in Australia.

Question: When last time Julia Gillard was here there were some attacks on Indian students in Australia. I think things have piped down a little bit and some people involved in that have been punished and so on. The flow seems to have resumed. More and more Indian students are going back to Australia all over again. Is that a correct impression?

Joint Secretary (South): It is like this. There were several incidents involving violence against Indian students a couple of years ago and the Australian Government did take action on the security front. It also overhauled the

immigration programme that it ran. Also what it did was conduct an in-depth scrutiny of its own colleges. Since then, the number of attacks have declined very dramatically, sharply in recent times owing to a large extent to the remedial measures that were taken by the Australian authorities and the police.

One must mention of course that the problem has not entirely gone away. Therefore, it is necessary for us to continue vigilance and pay attention to this issue. But we are pleased with the cooperation that we have received from the Australian side. As regards the numbers, the numbers are about 36,000 at the moment whereas at the peak they were about close to 48,000.

Question: The figures given by you show that we have an adverse trade balance with Australia. Will there be something on the table during the Prime Minister's visit, something by which Indian exports to Australia can be increased? Will the issue come up?

Joint Secretary (South): You are very correct in that. There is an adverse trade balance both in goods as well as in services. So, this is an issue that we need to address. But I think we should look at it in the totality of the development because what Australian imports into India do is essentially raw materials which feed into our energy and resource requirements. So, they are a part of our development exercise. In other words, all Australian exports into India, our imports from Australia, are actually inputs for our development process. In that case I think you would understand the role that they play. However, we would wish to correct this and diversify the trade basket. It is exactly for that reason that we are engaged in the CECA negotiations with the Australians. The next round is going to take place next month. Those negotiations are ongoing. As CECA generally does, it not only expands trade and provides opportunities for diversification, we expect that this would also bring about a better balance in the trade figures.



314. Press Release issued by the President's Secretariat on the call by the Australian Prime Minister on President Pranab Mukherjee.

New Delhi, October 17, 2012.

The Prime Minister of Australia Ms. Julia Gillard called on the President Shri Pranab Mukherjee this morning and held wide ranging discussions on bilateral and multilateral issues. The discussions covered issues relating to trade and investment, energy, supply of resources for India's economic development, education, and people to people contacts. The two leaders also discussed cooperation in multilateral forums such as G-20 whose summit Australia will host in 2014.

The President congratulated the Prime Minister on the launch of Oz fest in India and described it as a good initiative. He said India is committed to strengthen its strategic partnership with Australia. The President expressed appreciation for Australia's support for India's candidature in an expanded United Nations Security Council and said the two countries should work together in reforming the international financial architecture and equipping institutions like the World Bank with the resources they need.

The Australian Prime Minister informed the President that she was gifting two saplings of Wollemi Pine for the Rashtrapati Bhavan. This tree was discovered in Australia in 1994 and its origins date back to time when the Dinosaurs roamed the earth. She expressed the hope they will flourish in the Rashtrapati Bhavan.



315. Statement by Prime Minister to the media during the State Visit of Prime Minister of Australia to India.

New Delhi, October 17, 2012.

Your Excellency Prime Minister Julia Gillard,

Ladies and Gentlemen of the media,

It is a great honour to welcome Prime Minister Julia Gillard on her first State Visit to India.

Relations between India and Australia are characterized by expanding trade and investment ties, increasing defence cooperation, education and cultural linkages and growing people-to-people interaction. Our strategic partnership is responding well to the significant transformations in our region and to the developmental aspirations of our two peoples.

Prime Minister Gillard and I have had substantive discussions on measures to give greater content to our relations. I am extremely satisfied with our discussions. I have no doubt that our understandings, as reflected also in the agreements that have just been signed, herald a phase of more intense and structured cooperation between our two countries.

In our talks earlier, we have agreed to hold annual meetings at the summit level, either bilaterally or during multilateral events. We have also agreed to launch a Ministerial-level Dialogue on Energy Security, establish a Water Technology Partnership and start negotiations for an Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Persons.

As you are aware, under Prime Minister Gillard, the Australian Labour Party has articulated a new policy on uranium sales to India. This is recognition of India's energy needs as well as of our record and credentials and I have expressed to Prime Minister Gillard India's appreciation of this development. We have agreed to begin negotiations for an Agreement on Civil Nuclear Energy Cooperation, which will precede actual cooperation.

There is great potential to further strengthen India-Australia bilateral trade and investment relations, which continue to show robust growth; our bilateral trade in goods was US\$ 17.4 billion in 2011-12, while India's investments in Australia are at almost US\$ 11 billion. Our negotiators are working towards a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, which will further facilitate trade and investment and make them more broad based and sustainable.

We are also developing wide-ranging cooperation in defence and security issues, including the fight against terrorism, in all of which we regard Australia as an important partner.

Prime Minister Gillard yesterday inaugurated the Australian Festival in India. Culture is an excellent medium to bring our two countries closer together. We are establishing ICCR Chairs of Indian Studies at five Australian Universities. I have also conveyed to Prime Minister Gillard our appreciation of the steps being taken by the Australian government to address the issues affecting Indians and Indian students in Australia, which have had a salutary effect.

This visit by Prime Minister Gillard is bound to open a new chapter in India-Australia relations. We look forward to the further strengthening, deepening and widening of these relations.

Thank you.



316. Joint Press Statement on the State Visit of Prime Minister of Australia to India

New Delhi, October 17, 2012.

The Prime Minister of Australia Ms Julia Gillard paid a State Visit to India from 15-17 October, 2012 at the invitation of Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh.

2. Prime Minister Ms Julia Gillard was accorded a ceremonial welcome at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on 17 October, 2012. She laid a wreath at the memorial to Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat.

3. Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh held delegation level talks with Prime Minister Ms Julia Gillard on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues. Prime Minister Ms Julia Gillard called on President Shri Pranab Mukherjee, received External Affairs Minister Shri S.M. Krishna and Leader of Opposition Smt Sushma Swaraj, and met Chairperson, UPA Smt Sonia Gandhi. Four Memoranda of Understanding were concluded and significant initiatives launched.

4. The Prime Ministers acknowledged the strengthening of ties in recent years and agreed there was great potential for further growth in the relationship. The India-Australia relationship is anchored in shared values as liberal democracies, converging interests and shared opportunities in the Asian Century. The bilateral strategic partnership is given effect through rapidly expanding trade and investment ties, common interest in a stable and outward looking Indian-Pacific region, growing collaboration in multilateral and regional forums, and fast growing people-to-people links.

Bilateral Cooperation

5. The Prime Ministers welcomed the progress made since the relationship was raised to the level of a strategic partnership, in 2009.

6. Noting the considerable potential to develop further this partnership, the Prime Ministers agreed to provide high-level political oversight to this process through annual Prime Ministerial meetings, either bilaterally or in the margins of international meetings.

Trade and investment

7. Trade and investment ties are expanding rapidly. The Prime Ministers noted that trade between both countries had more than doubled in the past six years to over \$20 billion. They noted that trade must expand for mutual benefit and encouraged balanced growth in trade as a long term, sustainable boost to economic growth in both countries.

8. The Prime Ministers welcomed the progress towards a Comprehensive

Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) to facilitate greater trade and investment links. They renewed the commitment of both countries for achieving an equitable, comprehensive and high-quality agreement.

9. The Prime Ministers noted the report of the second India-Australia CEO Forum and welcomed the contribution made by business in broadening and deepening the bilateral economic relationship.

10. Noting the expanding economic links between India and Australia, the Prime Ministers welcomed more regular engagement and dialogue between the two Finance Ministries.

11. The Prime Ministers noted the potential to further develop and diversify commercial relations and that this would be supported by the conclusion of the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation and Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters which would enable effective enforcement of Customs laws and facilitate legitimate trade.

12. The Prime Ministers welcomed the conclusion of the Memorandum of Understanding on Wool, which would further facilitate bilateral trade, and the Memorandum on Cooperation in Civil Space Science, which would create a framework for peaceful space cooperation.

13. Underlining the importance of greater connectivity to support growing commercial and cultural ties, including in the education and tourism sectors, the Prime Ministers welcomed the announcement that Air India would commence direct flights to Australia by the first quarter of 2013.

Energy and resources

14. The Prime Ministers agreed to deepen the cooperation between India and Australia on energy security through an annual Ministerial-level dialogue, to be led by the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission of India and the Australian Minister for Resources and Energy.

15. Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh welcomed the decision of the Australian Government on uranium sales to India, noting that nuclear energy will play an important role in India's future energy needs. The Prime Ministers announced that India and Australia would commence negotiations on a bilateral Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement which, for Australia, is a prerequisite for uranium sales to other countries.

16. Australia's supplies of energy and mineral resources to India have been rising steadily. Indian investment in Australia in the mining and resources sector has been growing rapidly. Australia welcomed the interest of both private and public sector companies from India in the resources sector.

17. The Prime Ministers agreed that India and Australia should collaborate more closely on the common challenge of managing scarce water resources. To give effect to this, they announced a Water Technology Partnership, under which Australia and India would share technologies to build capacity to better manage this vital natural resource. The partnership would include sharing of advanced Australian modelling work on river basin flows.

Regional and international cooperation

18. India and Australia share a common interest in the Indian Ocean and in the maintenance of stability and security through the Indian-Pacific region. As Indian Ocean states both also recognise the importance of the maritime theatre to our future security.

19. India and Australia, as Chair and Vice Chair respectively of the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation, will work closely to strengthen the Association, the apex pan-Indian Ocean multilateral forum, through concrete steps towards more effective practical cooperation in the six priority areas of maritime security and piracy; fisheries management; disaster risk reduction; tourism and cultural exchanges; academic and S&T cooperation; and trade and investment facilitation; which were identified by the member countries in the 11th meeting of Council of Ministers held in Bengaluru, in 2011. Both countries look forward to taking this collaboration within the Association to deeper level during the 12th Council of Ministers meeting in Gurgaon, India on 2 November 2012.

20. The Prime Ministers reaffirmed the positive security and defence ties between both countries, and committed to enhance maritime cooperation further, including through continued joint naval exercises.

21. India and Australia both recognise the importance of the East Asia Summit (EAS) as a crucial regional institution with the mandate to consider a broad range of strategic, political and economic issues. The Prime Ministers reaffirmed the commitment of both countries to work together to strengthen further the agenda of the EAS.

22. The Prime Ministers welcomed ongoing cooperation through other regional bodies such as the ASEAN Regional Forum and the Asia Europe Meeting. Prime Minister Ms Julia Gillard reaffirmed Australia's support for India's membership of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum (APEC).

23. As Australia prepares to chair the G-20 meeting in 2014, the Prime Ministers committed both countries to continue to engage closely in that forum to deliver concrete outcomes that will promote strong, sustainable and balanced growth of the global economy.

24. The two leaders reaffirmed the importance of reform of the UN, including the Security Council, to better reflect contemporary realities. Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh warmly welcomed Australia's continued support for India as a permanent member in a reformed United Nations Security Council. India underlined Australia's continued contribution to international peace and security under the UN charter and, in this context, acknowledged Australia's candidature for a non permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council for the 2013-2014 term.

International security

25. The Prime Ministers underlined the importance of achieving universal nuclear disarmament and of countering the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Prime Minister Ms Julia Gillard noted India's sound non-proliferation record and expressed Australia's recognition of the importance of India's engagement with the four multilateral export control regimes with the objective of full membership. Both Prime Ministers agreed to annual bilateral non-proliferation and disarmament discussions at level of officials.

26. The Prime Ministers noted the ongoing work of the Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism and recommitted both countries to close collaboration against the threat of terrorism.

27. The Prime Ministers committed both countries to continue to work together closely to fight organised crime. They noted these efforts would be supported by the Memorandum of Understanding on Narcotics to be concluded by both countries, and announced the decision to negotiate a Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Persons between India and Australia.

Knowledge partnership

28. India and Australia continue to be enriched by high quality knowledge partnerships in education, skills and research that support mutual efforts towards greater economic and social progress. Central to this progress is fostering academic, scientific and professional links between India and Australia.

29. The Prime Ministers welcomed the success of the Australia-India Strategic Research Fund in bringing together leading scientists from both countries for world-class research and fostering long-term scientific linkages. The Prime Ministers noted the broad range of projects supported by the Fund. They welcomed the Australia-India Fellowship Scheme, which will support Indian and Australian researchers spending time at research institutions in the other country, fostering linkages that will underpin the bilateral science relationship into the future.

30. The Prime Ministers noted the vital role played by the expanding bilateral education and training relationship and its contribution to our national goals for innovation, productivity and growth. They commended the work of the Australia-

India Education Council (AIEC) in providing strategic guidance to advance education, training and research partnerships. Prime Minister Ms Julia Gillard launched the new Endeavour AIEC Research Fellowships, which will support two fellows per year. Under the AIEC, Australia and India agreed to build partnerships between India's Sector Skills Councils and Australia's Industry Skills Councils in key industry areas.

31. Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh expressed appreciation for the continuing efforts of Australian authorities to ensure the welfare and security of Indian students studying in Australia. In support of this objective, the Prime Ministers welcomed the new Memorandum of Understanding on Student Mobility and Welfare which will expand cooperation on student welfare matters.

People to People and cultural Links

32. Rapidly growing people-to-people links between Australia and India underpin our developing partnership and will enable both countries to build even stronger relations into the future. Both Prime Ministers noted with appreciation that the Indian community, which this year was the largest source of skilled migration to Australia and the second largest source of students, is contributing significantly to the economic and social life of Australia.

33. The Prime Ministers agreed to the recommencement of Social Security Agreement negotiations, including consideration of totalisation provisions.

34. Arts and culture can be powerful forces for bringing people together and the two countries are committed to strengthening of bilateral cultural relationship. The Prime Ministers welcomed the staging of Oz Fest, Australia's biggest cultural festival in India, which will see 100 events across 18 Indian cities between October 2012 and January 2013.

35. To give further impetus to expanding personal and cultural links, the Prime Ministers directed officials to pursue an Audio-Visual Agreement which would facilitate greater investment in film making in both countries.

36. Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh announced that India would establish ICCR Chairs of Indian Studies in five Universities in Australia to promote academic and student exchanges. Prime Minister Ms Julia Gillard announced that Australia would provide additional funding of \$1.5 million over three years for the Australia-India Institute, and confirmed a grant to help establish a Nalanda University Chair in Environmental Studies would commence in 2013.

37. The Prime Ministers announced the commencement of negotiations towards a Memorandum of Understanding on the Movement of Persons which will promote dialogue on the regular movement of professional labour and combat irregular migration.

Memoranda of Understanding signed during the visit of Australian Prime Minister.

38. The following bilateral memoranda of understanding were signed in the presence of the two Prime Ministers:

- Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the field of Wool and Woollen Products
- Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Student Mobility and Welfare
- Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Civil Space Science, Technology and Education
- Memorandum of Understanding between Skills DMC and the National Skill Development Corporation

39. Prime Minister Ms Julia Gillard renewed her invitation to Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh to visit Australia. It was agreed that the dates of the visit would be finalized through diplomatic channels.

40. Both sides agreed that the State Visit of the Prime Minister of Australia will lead to strengthening of the cooperative relations between the two countries, and will provide further impetus for the future development of the strategic partnership.

Memoranda of Understanding signed during State Visit of Australian Prime Minister to India

October 17, 2012.

Memoranda of Understanding signed during State Visit of Australian Prime Minister to India

S. No.	Title	Institutions	Signatories	Remarks
1	Memorandum of Understanding in Civil Space Science, Technology and Education	Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education for	Secretary, Department of Space and Chairman, ISRO /	To increase collaboration in civil space science research, technology

- | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|
| | | Australia | Australian High Commissioner to India | and capability development and educational activities for the benefit of the peoples of both countries |
| 2 | Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the field of Wool and Woolen products | Ministry of Textiles and Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, the Government of Australia | Secretary, Ministry of Textiles/
Australian High Commissioner to India | To promote mutually beneficial cooperation in the promotion and development of trade in the area of wool and woolen products and India's desire to enhance the capability of its wool and woolen products. A Joint Working Group will be established. |
| 3 | Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Student Mobility and Welfare | Ministry of Human Resource Development and Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs and Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education and the Department of Immigration and Citizenship, Commonwealth of Australia | Secretary, MHRD/
Australian High Commissioner to India | To clarify roles and responsibilities under which the Parties may cooperate in exchanging information on student welfare matters and also in undertaking regulatory monitoring and compliance of the operations |

- and activities of Education Agents/ Enrolment Agencies in both India and Australia
- 4 Memorandum of Understanding between Australia's Industry Skills Council (ISC) for Mining and National Skill Development Cooperation National Skills and Development Corporation, Australia's Mining Industry Skills Council CEO, National Skills and Development Corporation/ Chair of Skills DMC To recognise the value in industry engagement and in the development of work appropriate standards in the field of skills training, and also the potential for building skilled and productive work forces and greater skills collaboration partnerships between India and Australia



317. Speech of Prime Minister at the banquet hosted in honour of the Australian Prime Minister.

New Delhi, October 17, 2012.

Your Excellency Prime Minister Julia Gillard,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure this evening to extend a very warm welcome to Prime Minister Gillard on her first State Visit to India. Prime Minister Gillard is an ardent advocate of a closer and more vibrant relationship between India and Australia. She has led personally from the front in giving new meaning and direction to our relations. I believe her current visit will set the tone for a much more intensive relationship between our two countries.

Madam Prime Minister, in your previous responsibilities as Australia's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Education, you were instrumental in launching an annual Ministerial Dialogue on Education during your last visit here in 2009. That dialogue and the steps taken by the Australian Government since then have helped redress a number of issues faced by the Indian student community in Australia. The conclusion tonight of an agreement on Student Mobility and Welfare in your presence is therefore a fitting culmination of what you put into motion. It was again under your personal initiative that the Australian Labour Party reviewed its policy on uranium sales to India last year, enabling us to agree tonight on beginning negotiations for a bilateral agreement on civil nuclear cooperation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Prime Minister Gillard personifies the freedom and equality of opportunity that India and Australia stand for. In her focus on education, health and employment policies, we see a reflection of our own priorities at home. She has steered the Australian economy admirably during the turbulence caused by a worldwide recession. Given the momentous shifts taking place in economic and political gravity in our respective regions, it shall be India's endeavour to work together with Australia towards maintaining peace and stability in our regions and bringing development to our peoples.

Excellency,

Relations between India and Australia trace their origins to our colonial period. Even during the Cold War years, Australia remained a visible presence in our popular psyche. A large Indian-origin community of nearly half a million has

made Australia its home. Our shared belief in parliamentary democracy, secularism, multiculturalism and free enterprise provides the basis for our relationship. The linkages of the English language and the Commonwealth bind us together and pave the way for greater cooperation. We can, of course argue about which one of us is more passionate about cricket, but there is little doubt about what this sport has done to bring us closer together.

Excellency,

While we should take satisfaction in the state of our relations, I feel their full potential is yet to be tapped. Trade and investment flows, while growing, need more balance. Energy security should occupy more of our attention. And our own developmental plans should seek to leverage Australia's considerable expertise in skills training, water modeling and environment. I look forward to working with you, Prime Minister, to bringing our dialogue on these issues to early fruition. I have no doubt that, in the years ahead, our two countries will build ever-deeper connections to the benefit of both our peoples.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

May I now request you to join me in a toast to:

- the health and personal well-being of Prime Minister Julia Gillard;
- the progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Australia; and
- ever closer friendship and cooperation between India and Australia.



CAMBODIA

318. Minister of State E. Ahamed expresses profound sorrow and grief at demise of King Sihanouk

New Delhi, October 19, 2012.

Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri E Ahamed signed the condolence book today at the Cambodian Embassy in New Delhi, expressing profound grief and sorrow on the passing away of King Norodom Sihanouk. He noted that King Sihanouk will always be remembered as a great leader and statesman. King Sihanouk was a contemporary of Prime Minister Nehru and a significant voice of the Non Aligned World.



CHINA

319. **Speech by National Security Advisor Shivshankar Menon on “Developments in India-China Relations” at the Chinese Embassy’s function.**

New Delhi, January 9, 2012.

Your Excellency, Ambassador Zhang Yan,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Thank you for inviting me to view the exhibition on the India-China Year of Exchanges in 2011, and to share thoughts on developments in India-China relations.

Today India-China relations attract attention beyond our two countries. International developments and achievements in domestic construction by our peoples in the last few decades have given our relationship wider significance. Relations between India and China and their new equilibrium hold an important key to the emerging economic and strategic landscape of Asia and, to a certain extent, the world.

Let us look briefly at the context within which we conduct our relations and then look at the content of our relations today.

The Context

The basic facts are evident and well known. India and China are the two most populous nations on earth, are the two largest developing countries, and are among the societies and economies in the world that are transforming themselves most rapidly. They are the largest and the third biggest economies in Asia. China has the distinction of being the second largest economy in the world. The two countries are building a strong domestic economic base and rapidly training scientific and technical manpower. When much of the world is reeling under recession or grappling with political turmoil, our two countries have managed to register reasonably healthy rates of growth and maintain stability. We share a common geopolitical space and similar socio-economic aspirations for ourselves.

The future is less certain or evident. Uncertainty in the international system is at unprecedented levels. The economic and security situation facing both India and China has become far more complicated in the last few years. On the positive side, thanks to sustained growth rates, high savings rates and a prudent financial approach, Asia and the developing world have witnessed a greater accretion of relative economic power following the financial crisis of 2008. In

Asia, larger economies like China, Japan, India, South Korea and Indonesia, all members of the G-20, have increased their ability to influence economic outcomes. The BRICS process has also gained ground. These are welcome developments.

At the same time, risks remain for economies which are still developing. An early return to robust growth and spending in the developed world are necessary for world economic recovery. The US, Europe and Japan still account for approximately \$20 trillion of consumption expenditure as against about \$2.5 trillion by China and India together. A re-balancing of economic structures in our countries in the face of such differences could be difficult. More generally speaking, the relatively benign external environment in the last two decades is changing negatively and is threatened by protectionism in the developed world.

World politics also faces new challenges. The balance of power is in flux in Asia and the world. As uncertainty rises, powers follow hedging strategies. The mechanisms of strategic communication and consultation and a common security outlook are evolving slower than the changes in objective reality.

Besides, both India and China are increasingly linked to the rest of the world, through trade, investment and their Diasporas. The impact of changes in West Asia on our energy security, for instance, is an example of how developments further away from our shores also affect India and China more and more profoundly. It is therefore natural for us to take ever greater interest on global issues.

Equally, global issues like climate change, nuclear proliferation and cyber and space security matter more to both India and China in this globalised world as they influence our development, peace and prosperity.

India-China relations

What does this context imply for India-China relations?

Both India and China currently give the highest priority to their domestic transformation, which will take time. A peaceful periphery, a stable and benign world environment and continued prosperity among our economic partners are of utmost importance to both of us. This will remain so for quite some time. It is in our mutual interest to work together, bilaterally and with other partners, to reduce uncertainty and create an international environment that is supportive to our domestic transformation efforts. Economics and development are not zero-sum games.

It is for this reason that we believe that there is enough space for both India and China to realise their development aspirations.

Economically, we are already integrated with each other to an unprecedented extent. Our bilateral trade reached over US\$67 billion in the first 11 months of last year, and China has consistently remained our largest trading partner in goods for several years. However, investment flows between us have not kept pace with trade. Indian investment in China worth a total of US\$ 433 million is spread over 676 projects, while Chinese investment in India is worth nearly US\$ 300 million. There are several opportunities for cooperation in developing infrastructure. India is already one of China's most important markets for project exports, with a cumulative value of contracted projects at US\$ 53.5 billion and turnover realized at US\$ 24.6 billion.

What is less noticed is the range of contact between our two societies. For instance, over 7,000 Indian students are studying in China today. This scale of interaction never occurred before in history.

Naturally, the corollaries of such an intensification of economic and social engagement are issues of trade imbalance, diversifying the trade basket and commercial disputes. The two governments have taken several initiatives to make our trade more balanced and harmonious, and to facilitate and streamline our business engagement. More remains to be done and we will learn by doing. For instance in September last year we held the first Strategic Economic Dialogue between India and China which identified several areas of promise for the future. Equally the business communities and their Chambers need to take advantage of growing opportunities while sharpening competitive edge. I am convinced that our business and economic engagement with each other and with other countries will intensify as we seek to overcome the prospect of sluggish recovery in the traditional engines of growth in the world economy.

Our Governments have common or similar positions on the global development agenda, in WTO and on climate change, which has made it possible for us to work together internationally.

A few vocal experts in our two countries and elsewhere argue that notwithstanding the numerous cooperative elements in our economic relations and approach to international issues, India and China are bound to be strategic adversaries. I find such determinism misplaced. It ignores the successful experience and demonstrated expertise of both governments in managing differences and building on commonalities for over three decades and particularly since the Rajiv Gandhi visit to China in 1988. It also ignores the wisdom of the leaders of the two countries, who have consistently worked to ensure that problems are managed in a mature manner. The issue is whether we can continue to manage the elements of competition within an agreed strategic framework which permits both of us to pursue our core interests. I see no reason why that should not be so. Indeed I would go further and say that the rapid changes in the international

situation today also create an opportunity for India and China to work with others to shape benign international outcomes.

The boundary question remains unresolved, and there is no denying that it is a difficult issue. However, a number of mechanisms have been put in place to ensure that the border stays peaceful while we seek a settlement of the boundary question. On the settlement itself, we are in the second stage of the three stage process of agreeing principles, a framework and finally a boundary line.

Similarly, on other bilateral issues of potential difference there exist mechanisms of dialogue and communication to address them. We appreciate China's assistance to us in tackling floods and natural disasters in the downstream areas of our shared rivers. There is a need to widen the scope and deepen the level of our communication in some areas. These include new challenges and new issues in the changing context of our relations. I am confident that we will do so.

Indeed, some security challenges, especially of the non-traditional variety, are common to India and China, and offer an opportunity to work together. Both India and China face the challenge of terrorism in our shared neighbourhood. It requires common effort by all members of the international community to tackle terrorism.

Energy is the key to domestic transformation in both India and China, which is why both of us have a common stake in energy security, and in the freedom and security of transportation on the global commons. We both have an interest in global public goods like a peaceful order, freedom of the seas and open sea lanes. We similarly need to address issues of piracy with common resolve. As important maritime nations, we can contribute to each other's maritime security by coordinating approaches.

Asia's security is interlinked across this great continent. India has therefore argued for an open, inclusive Asian security architecture. India and China will have key roles to play in forging a new compact for common and collective security for Asia. We should also contribute within our capacity to the global public goods that are increasingly important to our well being.

The robustness of our bilateral relation will depend on dialogue and communication so that the potential for misunderstanding and miscalculation is limited. This dialogue process must not be limited to the two Governments. Today, there are multiple stakeholders in our relations as also multiple determinants of these relations. Each of them, be it businessmen, media or scholars of the two countries, has a responsibility to take our relations to the desired level of equilibrium. It is therefore absolutely essential that they acquire an informed understanding of their neighbour. Today, as both India and China

change fast, our understanding of each other needs to keep pace. Both the quality and the scale of our interactions have also grown so rapidly that we need to learn new ways of dealing with the relationship.

Conclusion

To conclude, India and China have demonstrated an ability to deal with difficult issues and to build a cooperative partnership based on common interests. Its regional and global impact, and its long term significance to our own development, is what makes the India-China relationship strategic in the true sense of the term. I do hope that I have been successful in giving you some idea of why I am confident that by working together India and China will be able to successfully face the challenges that the new geopolitics are throwing up, and would best serve their own national interests by further deepening their strategic cooperative relationship.



320. Press release on the 15th round of talks between the Special Representatives of India and China on the Boundary Question.

New Delhi, January 17, 2012.

The 15th round of talks between the Special Representatives of India and China on the Boundary Question, Shri Shivshankar Menon, National Security Advisor and His Excellency, Mr. Dai Binggou, State Councillor took place in New Delhi on January 16-17, 2012. During this round, the two sides continued their discussions on a framework for a resolution of Boundary Question. The SRs agreed that they would prepare a joint agreed record for their Governments on the progress made so far in the SR Talks on the Boundary Question.

2. An Agreement on the Establishment of a Working Mechanism on Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs was signed in the presence of the two SRs.

3. The SRs also discussed other bilateral, regional and global issues. The discussions were wide ranging, productive, forward-looking and marked by a commonality of views on many issues. Making a positive appraisal of the current state of bilateral relations, the SRs noted the importance of regular high-level exchanges and strengthened cooperation across different areas between the two countries. The SRs agreed that there was scope for greater coordination on regional and global issues. They agreed that the next round of SR talks will be held in China.

4. The Chinese Special Representative called on the Prime Minister on January 17, 2012.



321. India-China Agreement on the Establishment of a Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs

New Delhi, January 17, 2012.

**Agreement between
The Government of the Republic of India
and
The Government of the People's Republic of China
on the
Establishment of a Working Mechanism for Consultation and
Coordination on India-China Border Affairs**

The Government of the Republic of **India** and the Government of the People's Republic of **China** (hereinafter referred to as the "two sides");

Firmly believing that respecting and abiding by the Line of Actual Control pending a resolution of the Boundary Question between the two countries as well as maintaining and strengthening peace and tranquility in the India-China border areas is very significant for enhancing mutual trust and security between the two countries, for resolving the Boundary Question at an early date and for building the India-China Strategic and Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Prosperity;

Desiring to materialize the spirit of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of China on the Maintenance of Peace and Tranquility Along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas signed on 7th September 1993, the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Confidence Building Measures in the Military Field Along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas signed on 29th November 1996 and the Protocol between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Modalities for the Implementation of Confidence Building Measures in the Military Field Along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas signed on 11th April 2005;

Aiming for timely communication of information on the border situation, for appropriately handling border incidents, for earnestly undertaking other cooperation activities in the India-China border areas, have agreed as follows:

Article I

The two sides agree to establish a Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (hereinafter referred to as "the Working Mechanism") to deal with important border affairs related to maintaining peace and tranquility in the India-China border areas.

Article II

The Working Mechanism will be headed by a Joint Secretary level official from the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and a Director General level official from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China and will be composed of diplomatic and military officials of the two sides.

Article III

The Working Mechanism will study ways and means to conduct and strengthen exchanges and cooperation between military personnel and establishments of the two sides in the border areas.

Article IV

The Working Mechanism will explore the possibility of cooperation in the border areas that are agreed upon by the two sides.

Article V

The Working Mechanism will undertake other tasks that are mutually agreed upon by the two sides but will not discuss resolution of the Boundary Question or affect the Special Representatives Mechanism.

Article VI

The Working Mechanism will address issues and situations that may arise in the border areas that affect the maintenance of peace and tranquillity and will work actively towards maintaining the friendly atmosphere between the two countries.

Article VII

The Working Mechanism will hold consultations once or twice every year alternately in India and China. Emergency consultations, if required, may be convened after mutual agreement.

Article VIII

This Agreement shall come into force on the date of its signature. It may be revised, amended, or terminated with the consent of the two sides. Any revision

or amendment, mutually agreed by the two sides, shall form an integral part of this Agreement.

Signed in duplicate in Hindi, Chinese and English languages at New Delhi, on 17th January 2012, all three versions being equally authentic. In case of divergence the English text shall prevail.

For the Government of the Republic of India **For the Government of the People's Republic of China**

322. Remarks by External Affairs Minister at the Inauguration Function of the New Embassy Building Complex in Beijing. Beijing, February 8, 2012.

Ambassador Jaishankar,

Excellency Cheng Guoping, Vice Foreign Minister

Mr. Luo Zhaohui, Director

General of Asia Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very pleased to be in Beijing this evening to inaugurate the new Indian Embassy building complex. Let me congratulate the Ambassador and his staff on the completion of a project that symbolizes a new page in our bilateral relationship with China.

I would also like to extend my appreciation to Mr. Raj Rewal, the Architect who has designed this impressive complex. I am confident that its many facilities would enable the Embassy to be even more productive and render better services.

A modern and expansive Chancery clearly reflects our expectations of ties with China. As a neighbour of China, we have age-old ties, particularly in the field of trade and culture. The maritime routes of the East, the Silk Road or the Tea & Horse Road are some of the more well known examples. Buddhism is a strong cultural bond between us. History is replete with examples of how we have not only influenced each other, but assisted each other's development.

The colonial era distanced our people but could not prevent enormous sympathy for the national aspirations of the other. India's independence and the founding of the People's Republic of China enabled us to forge common approaches to the big questions of the day.

The resumption of active cooperation that followed the period affected by the border dispute has given us an opportunity to once again demonstrate that India and China can not only work together for mutual benefit but for the betterment of the world.

As the only two nations with a population of more than a billion each, the foremost priority for both of us is to raise the quality of life of our people. A stronger India-China economic relationship can make a direct contribution to that goal. Each

of us has capabilities from which the other can greatly benefit. Indeed, as neighbours, the stability and predictability that we provide to the other is itself of great value. The rise of India and China can not only be a parallel process but, with vision and commitment, actually are reinforcing one.

To realize its full potential, the relationship requires diligent tending as well as imaginative initiatives. Our bilateral interface must expand to more sectors, with constant interaction among policymakers and practitioners alike. Our civil societies too must get to know each other better, overcoming language barriers. The larger enabling environment that facilitates more people-to-people contacts also needs constant improvement. We have accomplished much in the last decade, which alone accounts for about half of our total bilateral agreements. But much still remains to be done.

At this stage of growth, our targets should be ambitious. We have certainly boosted our cooperation and contacts through the 60th anniversary celebrations of our diplomatic relations, Festivals of India and of China, and last year, of the Year of Exchange. Let us carry that forward into 2012 that my counterpart, Minister Yang Jiechi and I agreed today to mark as the **“Year of India-China Friendship and Cooperation.”**

India-China relations go well beyond their bilateral aspect. The larger region, indeed the whole world, observes its progress closely. With the future of so many in our hands, there is a heavy responsibility on us. That is all the more so as our choices and policies affect the prospects of developing nations as a whole. An important aspect of our growing cooperation is how closely India and China work together on global issues such as climate change, food security and a more equitable world order. This has been apparent in the last year in the UN Security Council as well.

It is inevitable that our two countries will not always be able to agree on all issues. There are differences inherited from history that still remain to be resolved. But if we are serious about creating a better future, our thinking cannot remain trapped in the past.

We must engage with each other constructively, and where necessary, candidly. Both of us are much better off with a stronger bilateral relationship that captures the vast opportunities for cooperation and mutual benefit. I am confident that the Indian Embassy in Beijing, from its new premises, will contribute to the growth of our ties in that spirit.

Thank you all for joining us today.



323. Opening remarks by External Affairs Minister at media interaction in Beijing.

Beijing, February 9, 2012.

I have had a very productive and busy day meeting the entire spectrum of Chinese leadership handling foreign policy and national security issues.

My discussions were broad ranging and encompassed several bilateral, multilateral and regional issues.

I came with idea of engaging with my Chinese colleagues on how to take the relationship forward in 2012. This was the common theme in all my 4 meetings with H.E. Mr Zhou Yongkang, Member of the Politburo Standing Committee, H.E. Mr Dai Bingguo, State Councillor, H.E. Mr Yang Jeichi, Foreign Minister and H.E. Mr Wang Jiarui, Minister, International Dept.

India and China are two large Asian developing countries which are also neighbours. Hence we have significant opportunities and challenges that we can address. I proposed that we designate 2012 as the 'Year of India-China Friendship and Cooperation'.

I am happy to inform you that all my Chinese interlocutors readily responded positively to this suggestion. We have now requested our officials to work out the modalities for implementation.

In this context I have invited my counterpart Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi to visit India so as to maintain momentum of high level interactions. He has gladly accepted. We hope it will be possible for him to visit India before the BRICS Summit in which President Hu Jintao will participate.

On the bilateral front, we have discussed our growing trade relationship. We are confident in our reaching the goal of 100 billion US dollars by 2015. I have highlighted the need for initiating measures to balance our trade relations. The prowess of Indian companies in software and pharmaceuticals is well known. I expressed the hope that market access will be provided for them to grow in China. Similarly, investment from China in the infrastructure sector in India would be welcome.

We also reviewed the 'outstanding' issues in our bilateral relations and agreed that while we work to resolve them, we should not let them adversely affect our growing cooperation in other areas. Specifically, we have agreed that the newly established working mechanism for consultation and coordination in border affairs will have its first meeting at an early date.

The need for increase in people-to-people interaction was strongly emphasized since the total number of visitors from our two countries with a combined population of more than 2 billion is less than a million.

As our business and people-to-people interaction grow, there will also be issues which need to be attended too. One such instance relates to the two Indian traders who were illegally detained in Yiwu and are currently involved in resolving their commercial dispute with Chinese traders.

This morning they met me and expressed a desire to clear their name and return to India as early as possible. I empathized with them regarding their traumatic experience and have raised the matter with my Chinese counterpart. The Indian Mission will continue to provide all assistance in resolving the issue.

As representatives of the two largest developing countries, we discussed a variety of global issues which have an impact on our development process. These include matters relating to cooperation in the G-20 fora, climate change negotiations, WTO discussions as well as the impact of global economic crisis.

In short, today has been for me a very satisfying day as it is the launch of a process of engagement with our Chinese friends regarding the way forward in 2012 across a variety of issues. The opening of the new Chancery is reflective of the growing positive trajectory of our bilateral engagement with China. I go back with a clear understanding of how India and China intend to proceed ahead during the year. Today's heavy schedule was satisfying not only for the accomplishment of a day's work but also on account of the setting of the agenda for India-China relations for the year ahead.



324. Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson on the visit of Minister of Foreign Affairs of China.

New Delhi, March 1, 2012.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Syed Akbaruddin): Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen and thank you for coming. We thought we will try and explain to you the events of the last 24 hours regarding the visit of the Chinese Foreign Minister to Delhi.

As you know, the External Affairs Minister Mr. Krishna has had broad-ranging and expansive discussions with the visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Mr. Yang Jiechi. These discussions were part of the mechanism of annual meetings of Foreign Ministers and they spanned the entire spectrum of issues in India-China relations. In addition, there was also a detailed exchange of views on the forthcoming BRICS Summit both relating to the substantive outcome of the summit and the logistical arrangements for the summit.

You are aware that India and China are working towards ensuring that 2012 is the year of India-China friendship and cooperation. We hope to announce in due course a schedule of activities for this year. Of broad interest to you would be exchanges of journalists and the possible establishment of a Media Forum which will facilitate regular interaction between media of both countries. In addition it is also expected that the Spokespersons of the two Foreign Ministries will have regular exchange of visits. And here comes the more interesting part. The Chinese Foreign Minister conveyed that China will be willing to provide landing rights for ZeeTV in China.

Issues related to bilateral trade and mutual desire to expand trade with the goal of touching a \$ 100 billion in 2015 were raised. In this context the External Affairs Minister said that there was a need to balance bilateral trade, and he suggested that information technology and pharmaceuticals are major areas where Indian companies could benefit from a level-playing field. The Chinese Foreign Minister took serious note of this and assured that it is their desire to work hard to increase imports of competitive Indian goods to China. In this context he suggested greater Indian participation in trade fairs in China. In order to provide impetus to fast-expanding economic cooperation between India and China, the two Ministers agreed that the CEO's Forum will meet at an early date.

Foreign Minister Yang requested participation by the Government of India and business persons in the BOAO Forum for Asia which will take place in April 2012 in Hainan. External Affairs Minister conveyed that the Government of India will be represented by the Deputy Chairperson of the Planning Commission Mr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia.

While discussing India-China boundary questions it was agreed that the Working Mechanism on Consultation and Cooperation on India-China Border Affairs, which was established during the 15th meeting of the Special Representatives, would have its first meeting in Beijing next week.

There is already growing interaction at the State Government level with Chief Ministers of various Indian States undertaking visits to China and Provincial Leaders from China visiting India. The desire to enhance cooperation to local Governments was expressed, that is at the level of cities; and both sides expressed the desire to carry this forward. It was agreed to negotiate and conclude an agreement to this effect between the Ministry of External Affairs of India and the China International Friendship Cities Association. In the first instance, it will aim at promoting exchanges between Mumbai and Shanghai and Bengaluru and Kunming.

India and China have agreed to establish and institutionalize a maritime dialogue between the two countries. Both India and China are maritime nations with long coastlines and active navies. The dialogue will aim at promoting cooperation and coordination between the two countries. It is expected to be led by the Ministry of External Affairs on the Indian side and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the Chinese side. The details are to be worked out.

And finally on the BRICS Summit, as you know India and China have similar views on many financial and economic issues and it was agreed that our officials would be in touch to flesh these out and reflect them in the forthcoming outcome document of the summit.

That is all that I have in terms of opening remarks. I have here with me Joint Secretary (East Asia) Mr. Gautam Bambawale who will answer any question that you may have on specific issues which are covered in this statement or any other issues that you may like to ask. Thank you very much.

Question: *Sir, Would you like to say something in Hindi about the Zee TV being available in China. (free translation from the Hindi text)*

Joint Secretary (East Asia) (Shri Gautam Bambawale): *In the talks held between our EAM and the Chinese Foreign Minister this morning, the latter said that the long pending question of landing rights for the Zee TV which was pending for quite sometime, have been accorded to Zee TV and this channel will now be available to the people in China. (Free translation from the Hindi text)*

Question: Do you have any more details on what is discussed regarding the BRICS summit? Also, how much of an issue is Euro zone crisis like (Inaudible)... and was there discussion of a South Bank among the common ground on financial and economic issues?

Official Spokesperson: On the BRICS Summit, basically this was only a discussion which China, although we are also discussing separately with various other countries. There are several suggestions like joint economic reports, and there was also talk about a possible South-South Bank, etc. These are all issues which are being considered right now. What I would suggest is that we would have perhaps next week a much more detailed presentation to you on the issues that the BRICS Summit is confronting both logistical and substantive, and that would give you a broader idea of where we stand in terms of all our partners in the BRICS rather than with one country or the other.

Question: Mr. Bambawale, can you give us some details of what has happened so far as the border talks are concerned till now? Secondly, what is going to happen in the next week's meeting in Beijing?

Joint Secretary (East Asia): The two Ministers discussed for a brief while the boundary question between India and China. As you know, this issue was mainly discussed in the framework of the Special Representatives of India and China. The 15th Meeting of the Special Representatives took place in Delhi in middle of January. During that meeting of course there was an agreement signed for establishing a Working Mechanism. As my colleague just mentioned to you, the first meeting of this Working Mechanism will take place in Beijing next week. The main objectives of the Working Mechanism will be to ensure that peace and tranquility will continue to be maintained in the India-China border areas, and that the two countries will move forward in this question of the maintenance of peace and tranquility.

Question: I believe the India-China Joint Working Group on Counterterrorism is also meeting today. Is that right?

Joint Secretary (East Asia): Yes, that is absolutely correct, it is meeting today. In fact the meeting will continue in a few minutes from now. So we do not really have a read-out on what happened in that meeting right now.

Question: What are the agencies or who is it that is involved in these discussions?

Joint Secretary (East Asia): I can tell you that it is an inter-governmental meeting on both sides. It is led on the Indian side by Additional Secretary for Counterterrorism and Political Affairs in the Ministry of External Affairs of India and on the Chinese side it is led by their Director-General for External Security in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China.

Question: Talking about the idea of a South-South Bank, did the proposal emanate from Indian side? And what did China bring to the table as far as the BRICS Summit is concerned?

Official Spokesperson: As I said, let us wait on this till we discuss this in the context of the BRICS briefing and we will try and explain to you what the contours of this discussion are.

Question: The Chinese President is coming for the BRICS Summit. Will he stay back? Will there be a bilateral also?

Official Spokesperson: Our understanding is that all those who are coming for the BRICS Summit will also have bilateral interactions with our Prime Minister.

Question: Can you tell us something more about this Maritime Dialogue which you have mentioned?

Joint Secretary (East Asia): Let me just say that it was a suggestion from the Chinese side. As you know and as the Joint Secretary (External Publicity) mentioned, both India and China are major maritime nations, we have long coastlines, we have active navies. So, both of us felt that it would be useful to have a dialogue on maritime issues. I am afraid I do not have any more details about what will be discussed, who will lead it, who will participate in it. That is still to be worked out. But we are hoping that it will be worked out fairly soon.

Question: Sir, as far as the Tibetan question is concerned, did it come up during the discussions today, especially regarding security for Hu Jintao when he comes here later this month? What kind of apprehensions do they have and what kind of assurances have we given them, if we have?

Official Spokesperson: Let me try and tell you for the BRICS Summit we had a discussion maybe a few days ago on logistical arrangements and on that occasion there was a discussion on all aspects including security for all participants not only from China but from other countries as well. We have already explained to all the participants the arrangements that are being put in place. As regards today, there was a discussion not on the specifics of security arrangements but on the need to ensure that the BRICS Summit is a success in the sense that there would not be any untoward incident there, and that is a normal concern of all participants in any summit meeting. With regard to Tibet, I cannot recollect any major discussion on that.

Question: Actually there are reports from Arunachal Pradesh today that the Brahmaputra river has dried up there and there are apprehensions that it might be due to diversion of water by China.

Joint Secretary (East Asia): On the question of diversion of water let me say that India and China have had many exchanges on this subject including at the highest levels, between the Prime Ministers of the two countries. The Chinese side has on many occasions told us that they will not do anything on trans-border rivers which will hurt the interests of the lower riparian countries like

India. Our own look into this whole question has also led us to believe that what the Chinese are telling us is correct. So, we have not just taken them at face value, we have also tried to verify this fact.

Question: There has been some talk of BRICS putting up a consensus candidate for the President ship of the World Bank when the American retires in June this year, and the Chinese Foreign Minister was supposed to discuss it with our Foreign Minister. Did that figure in today's talks?

Official Spokesperson: I have not heard of this discussion figuring today in our talks. The talks were only on the outcome document of the BRICS. As I said, this is only a bilateral discussion between China and India, but this is a multilateral forum. And let me again reiterate, we will try and give you a perspective of how all other countries are approaching the BRICS Summit. That will give you perhaps a better flavor of where we are on the substance of it.

Question: I have a slightly different question. There was this report today I think in the Indian Express about this Chinese youth delegation which is in town and apparently the Government fixed up a meeting with the Chief Election Commissioner and with the NHRC for them. Is that true that they did not want to meet either of them? Why were those meetings fixed? This is China. Elections! Human rights!

Joint Secretary (East Asia): Let me just say that the exchange of youth delegations between India and China flows of course from an agreement that took place in December 2010 when Premier Wen Jiabao of China visited India. But the specifics of it are not dealt with by us; they are dealt with by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. So, maybe you could direct your questions to them or to the Chinese Embassy. I am afraid I do not know anything about this.

Question: This exchange between Mumbai and Shanghai, and Bengaluru and Kunming you are talking about, is it under this Sister City concept or what is it exactly?

Joint Secretary (East Asia): One of the problems we are facing is that the Chinese have a very active system of Sister Cities and even Sister Provinces or States. But many of our cities, especially the smaller ones, do not have the financial resources to implement such agreements. So, what we are trying to do is to encourage such agreements and such exchanges at a decentralized level. The Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India will enter into an agreement with this organization from China that we spoke about to put in place the wherewithal for having such sister city exchanges between India and China. That is what we are trying to do.

Question: Two days ago there was a report that was released by a group of

independent experts in which one of the suggestions, proposals that was made was India should react aggressively to insurgency in China in case of a major offensive by China. It was released in the presence of the National Security Advisor and two former National Security Advisors. I would like a comment whether the Indian Government endorses this view, and if not then why was the Cabinet Minister rank official Mr. Nandan Nilekani ... *(Inaudible)*...

Official Spokesperson: The question that you ask is way above my pay grade, I must say that. You may like to ask this question to those who were present rather than to us because I do not know whether there was anybody associated with the Ministry of External Affairs who was on the dais there. So, I would suggest that there are avenues available for all of you to ask these questions to the people concerned.

Question: Was Arunachal Pradesh raised at all? And also Chinese have been talking about evidence that they have that the Dalai Lama and the Tibet Youth Congress are involved in instigating self-immolation in Tibet? Was that discussed at all?

Joint Secretary (East Asia): A very short and sweet answer, no.

Question: We are at a time when two Italian Marines are in the dock and are accused of murdering two Indian fishermen. Today it was the second item on the agenda. The Union Cabinet has cleared an agreement between India and Italy for cultural cooperation. So, tell me is it the right time to have done such a thing?

Official Spokesperson: Again I think the wrong question addressed to the wrong person on this.

Question: Sir it is related to the ... *(Inaudible)*... Maldives. ... *(Inaudible)*...

Official Spokesperson: I do not have the read-out on the developments which are perhaps under way there. But let me try and provide to you the context of our engagement with Maldives. Foreign Secretary, as you know, was there and the idea was to facilitate among Maldivian parties their next steps in trying to resolve the current crisis. My understanding is that the issues that remain contentious on the table at this stage are the dates of the election. There are some who wanted a date announced prior to the meeting of the Majlis and there were others who insist that this should be discussed in the Majlis. On all other points there has been by and large agreement among the parties involved. As far as we as India are concerned, we are okay if this is discussed inside the Majlis or in any other forum that they want to discuss. That is the contentious issue and that is what is resulting in perhaps the stalemate regarding the Majlis..

Question: On the Indian fishermen apprehended by the Maldives Naval Force.

Official Spokesperson: Yes, we have received information that there were eleven Indian fishermen who are supposedly detained by the Maldivian Navy. Our High Commission has taken this up with the Maldivian authorities. We will try and have a swift and quick resolution to this issue.

Thank you very much.

(Text in italics is free translation from Hindi)



325. Response of the Official Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs to recent developments in South China Sea.

New Delhi, May 10, 2012.

In response to a media query on recent developments in South China Sea the Official Spokesperson said:

“We have been following with concern recent developments involving China and the Philippines in the South China Sea. Maintenance of peace and security in the region is of vital interest to the international community. India urges both countries to exercise restraint and resolve the issue diplomatically according to principles of international law.”

(The spokesperson was referring to certain territorial claims and counter claims by China on the one hand and Philippines and Vietnam on the other in the South China Sea.)

The answers given by Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas in the Rajya Sabha on May 15, 2012 to a question regarding Postponement of Production of Crude oil by OVL from South China sea are relevant:

The Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Shri R.P.N. Singh informed the Rajya Sabha in written reply today that efforts of ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL) to drill a well in Block 128 in Vietnam was not successful due to severe logistic constraints in anchoring the rig on a hard sea bottom at the proposed drilling location. OVL had acquired two offshore exploration Blocks (i.e. 127 & 128) Vietnam as Operator with 100 % PI under Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) with effect from 16th June 2006. A well was drilled in Block 127 in 2009 and no hydrocarbon was found. After fulfillment of PSC obligations, the Block was relinquished.

He also said that OVL acquired Block 6.1 in Vietnam offshore in May, 1988 and holds 45% Participating Interest (PI). OVL's share of production in financial year 2011-12 was 2.023 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) of gas and 0.036 MMT of Condensate.

In reply to another query, the Minister explained that sovereignty over areas of the South China Sea is disputed between many countries in the region. India is not a party to this dispute. As two developing countries with growing energy needs, India and Vietnam have been cooperating in the oil and gas sector to enhance their energy security. China, which is a party to the South China Sea

dispute, has raised its concerns on India's hydrocarbon exploration projects in the South China Sea off the coast of Vietnam. Government of India has clearly conveyed that such activity by Indian companies is purely commercial in nature and that sovereignty issues must be resolved peacefully by the countries which are parties to the dispute in accordance with the international law and practice.



326. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions regarding: “India-China cooperation in Civil Services, Personnel Management & Public Administration”.

New Delhi, May 16, 2012.

India and China today held discussions and shared their experiences in the areas of civil services, capacity building, health care of Central Government employees, public service delivery, pension benefits and public sector reforms. Both the sides also adopted the Plan of Action for exchange of cooperation. A five member Chinese delegation headed by Mr Yin Weimin, Minister of Human Resources and Social Security met the Minister of State in the Prime Minister’s Office and Minister of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Shri V. Narayanasamy here and exchanged the views on relevant subjects.

Earlier, both India and China had signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation in the field of Civil Services, Personnel Management and Public Administration on 27th May, 2010. Under the MoU, the following areas of interest have been identified for cooperation like capacity building and skills upgradation, Improved systems of Public Service Delivery, Human Resource Development-civil services, Human Resource Management in Public Sector and Public Sector reform. An Indian delegation headed by Joint Secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances visited China in February this year to discuss implementation of the MoU. The Chinese side invited Shri Narayanasamy to visit China in the latter half of this year to carry forward the areas of cooperation.



327. Press Interaction of External Affairs Minister on SCO Summit and his meeting with Chinese Vice Premier.

Beijing, June 6, 2012.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Syed Akbaruddin): Good afternoon friends. I welcome you to this interaction with the External Affairs Minister, Shri S.M. Krishna. The External Affairs Minister will make opening remarks and then he will be willing to answer a few questions from you.

With that, I invite the External Affairs Minister to make his opening remarks.

External Affairs Minister (Shri S.M. Krishna): Thank you, friends.

I have come to Beijing to participate in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's meeting. I utilized this opportunity of calling on Vice Premier Li Keqiang who, as you all know, is set to assume higher responsibilities. The primary focus of our discussions was the future of our growing bilateral relations.

I conveyed to Vice Premier Li that India attaches the utmost importance and high priority in our foreign policy formulations, our cooperative partnership with China. We have a strategic relationship with this country. And it is the desire of the Government of India and the people of India that we would like to forge this relationship, the bonds much stronger.

I indicated India's desire to be a full-fledged member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. And it was indeed very heartening to hear from Vice Premier Li that the modalities of admitting new members are being worked out, the process is on.

I also indicated to Vice Premier Li, considering the fact that he is going to be one of the most important persons who is going to decide the economic destiny of this country once he assumes the mantle which he is supposed to, and as a result of that I conveyed to him that India's continued interest in China's bilateral relationship and our economic relationship.

I conveyed to him that India is going through for a massive expansion of our infrastructure development. And we were willing to create a level-playing field and total transparency in terms of international bidding evaluation, and then ultimately decision-making. This was to convey to Vice Premier Li that the whole process is open, fair and that it could be very beneficial for all Chinese companies to participate in this.

As economic and trade relationship has been a driver of our relationship over the past decade, we discussed our growing economic relations. I conveyed our desire for greater trade and investment with China. At the same time I did

convey to Vice Premier Li that there has to be a balanced growth of trade, and our concern regarding the trade deficit was given ample expression to.

Vice Premier Li was positive in his response. He said that the Chinese Government is encouraging Chinese companies to invest in India, especially in infrastructure. He agreed that for trade to be sustainable it has to be balanced. While the Government-to-Government interaction on the political front, on the economic front, on the cultural front is robust, both of us agreed that we need to continue our efforts. You know that 2012 is the Year of Friendship and Cooperation between our two countries.

India will encourage greater tourist flows and student exchanges. Following my meeting today with Vice Premier Li, I am confident that India-China relations will continue their current upward trajectory under the ...*(Inaudible)*... leadership of China which will be in place later this year and early next year.

Thank you.

Official Spokesperson: Any of you have any questions?

Question: You mentioned that modalities are being worked out in terms of membership. Was there any timeframe discussed? Earlier the Chinese Vice Foreign Minister said that they wanted Observer countries to work hard. So, ...*(Inaudible)*... what it is that needs to be done.

External Affairs Minister: We have been coming to SCO since 2005 as Observers, and we have made known our seriousness in our association with this very important grouping. And India's track record, when we discussed this with reference to other groupings is well-known. As a result of that, from my position of evolving a consensus, I think we have moved in a more positive direction of finalizing the modalities, the terms and conditions under which new members could be entertained. And we are looking forward to that, we are waiting.

Question: I think the Chinese Vice Foreign Minister who briefed the media said that actually the onus is on the Observer states. The words that he used were that these states need to work hard to comply with these modalities. That is you are talking about.

External Affairs Minister: We are working indeed very hard to comply with the modalities. We have shown our seriousness. Otherwise, nobody would be coming to attend these meetings since 2005. And this is my third meeting as Foreign Minister of a huge country like India. And when India comes into an association or a grouping, it comes with a lot of strength, a lot of positives on its side. I think that will have to be evaluated.

Question: Isn't it something that despite the fact that the Russian Foreign

Minister went on record several times, even in the Foreign Ministers' meeting that was held last month, that India, of course he was naming Pakistan as well should be the members, the sense one gets is that it is China that has reservations about it.

External Affairs Minister: Today I spoke to the Vice Premier who is going to assume greater responsibilities, as all of us know, and I think what I say is the latest position of the Chinese side.

Question: Just a clarification. Did we express our willingness to join the SCO this year or have we been asking for it for some years now?

External Affairs Minister: We are prepared, we are ready, we have been asking for it. Well, sometimes things move slowly. But I am glad I get the total sense that it is moving.

Question: I think in 2009 or 2010, Russia almost publicly said that it wanted India. So, why is it taking such a long time?

External Affairs Minister: I could not answer that particular question.

Question: Sir, this was your first meeting with China's future Premier, and you say that after talks with him your sense is that the trajectory of India-China relations is going to be on an upstream. My questions is, what did he convey to you about India-China relations, what is his assessment and what is the way forward according to India? Secondly, were global issues like Iran and Afghanistan discussed in your talks?

External Affairs Minister: We discussed on the bigger picture, the vision that the Vice Premier has for India-China relationship, and what he feels and what he believes to be the agenda for the next decade. I think it was something like a peep into the future with the Vice Premier being the Head of the Government here in the policy-making process. That way I feel very encouraged. I invited him to come to India. He was telling me that he was in India in 1985 perhaps as a youth communist activist, and he has not been in India since 1985. Well, India is not the same as it was in 1985. So, I am looking forward to his visit to India at a time convenient to him.

Question: So, none of the global issues were discussed.

External Affairs Minister: No, we did not. We looked at the bigger picture, we looked at the vision, we looked at the future of the relationship.

Question: Sir, have the family or the traders gotten in touch with you recently during this current trip seeking help, and was that raised? And, did India raise any concerns on human rights issues vis-à-vis the Tibetan self immolations?

External Affairs Minister: I had a good meeting with the two traders. They conveyed the position as they see it. Then I did tell them that tomorrow I am going to be meeting the distinguished Foreign Minister and I certainly will take up this issue with him. As regards your second question, I said that we looked at the larger picture. We did not talk about other issues.

Question: There is a report that India and US are going to find the remains of the World War II personnel in the North-East region. Is it true?

Official Spokesperson: If I can answer that, this is a request that has been made previously. The US Government has in 2006 and onwards made this request. They sent teams there and at that stage they did not find anything. They have since then raised this again. This is a humanitarian issue, and we have agreed to deal with it in a humanitarian measure. This is being done not only in India. These are remains of World War II pilots who may have lost their lives there. This is their perception and we welcome this and we are willing to assist in any way. This is not a new request, so let us not take it as a new request.

Question: There is a lot of interest on the US's pivot to Asia, especially after the announcement in Singapore that they are boosting their deployments in the Pacific vis-à-vis the Atlantic, there is a lot of interest in China on what role India would or would not play in this US's pivot to Asia. So, what would be your message to the Chinese at a time when this has become of an issue of concern to Beijing, in terms of India's role in this?

External Affairs Minister: India's position is I think very clear that these are all international waterways to increase trade amongst nations, and hence we will have to look at it from that angle. We have to strengthen that angle, and India is willing to do with other countries so that the trade relations will get a boost through these waterways.

Official Spokesperson: Thank you very much.



328. Statement by Foreign Secretary on Prime Minister's Meeting with Chinese Prime Minister in Rio de Janeiro on sidelines of Rio+20 Summit.

Rio de Janeiro, June 21, 2012.

Foreign Secretary (Shri Ranjan Mathai): I thought I will just tell you that PM and Prime Minister Wen Jiabao of China had a good meeting for over 40 minutes during which they reviewed bilateral relations and also the cooperation we have in multilateral fora, this particular conference being an example of that.

The Conference comes after the G20 Conference where again both in the conference itself as well as in the BRICS format India and China have had a high degree of collaboration in arriving at joint positions and in advancing our common agenda.

Prime Minister Wen Jiabao in fact noted that this meeting with PM was the thirteenth the two Prime Ministers are having, and that their meetings have in fact taken forward the agenda both bilaterally and in terms of the international cooperation that we have.

On the bilateral relations, it was agreed that the two sides would continue close political dialogue at the political level as well as among the sectoral level among officials.

As far as the boundary question is concerned there was a reference made to it, and it was decided that the Special Representatives would work for preparing the joint record of their work so far, which was already announced in January, and also give directions for the future coordination between us.

Both sides agreed that the joint mechanism which has been set up for handling boundary related issues, its first meeting which took place in Beijing a few weeks ago was a very positive step. PM recalled that in fact the joint mechanism was set up at the suggestion of Prime Minister Wen Jiabao in December 2010 when he had come to India.

The two Prime Ministers also said that the Defence and Strategic Dialogue between our two countries should be continued and maintained at the level it is, and stepped up. PM noted that our Naval ships were in fact in China just a few days ago and this is another example of our continuing cooperation.

As far as bilateral trade and economic relations are concerned, both Prime Ministers agreed that the target of 100 billion dollars in trade by 2015, which was set up a few years ago, is in fact on track, and in fact we are moving in that direction.

Prime Minister raised the issue of Indian trade deficit and the Chinese agreed to work with India in addressing the fact that India has a large trade deficit. They mentioned in fact specifically that they are arranging trade missions to India to improve access of Indian exports into the Chinese market. They are organizing commodity fairs. And they noted for example one of the changes which has happened recently is that rice exports from India to China will now be commencing.

Both sides also felt that improving investment would be one way of dealing with the trade deficit issue, particularly if there were a large flow of Chinese investments into India. Prime Minister mentioned in particular that Chinese investment in the infrastructure sector would be particularly welcome. And Prime Minister Wen Jiabao mentioned that we both have complementary strengths and certainly infrastructure is one of those areas where Chinese companies would be able to do good business in India. Both sides also welcomed the CEOs' Forum which has been set up between the two countries.

Prime Minister raised also the issue of trans-border rivers and mentioned it saying that as a lower riparian we appreciate the fact that the Chinese have agreed to set up the mechanism for transfer of information, and we would like this to continue so that there is a greater confidence in our country. The Chinese agreed, and in fact they said they would agree to strengthen the communication with the Indian side on this issue as well as on the trade issue.

Finally the two Prime Minister's also emphasized the importance of people-to-people contacts. The Chinese, as you know, had received a very large Youth Delegation from India, and we have similarly opened up access to Youth Delegations. But in addition it was felt there was scope for academics, media and other sections of civil society to engage with each other between India and China.

So, broadly this was the theme. It was a long meeting, very very constructive, held in a very cordial atmosphere, and as I said, dealt with all the issues.



329. Press Release of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry on the 9th Session of India-China Joint Economic Group.

New Delhi, August 25, 2012.

The Union Minister of Commerce, Industry and Textiles Shri Anand Sharma, will meet Chinese Commerce Minister Mr. Chen Deming here on Monday for the 9th session of India-China Joint Economic Group (JEG).

The Indian side led by Minister Shri Sharma is likely to raise the issue of growing trade deficit. The issues related to market access in IT and ITES and Indian agricultural products are also likely to be raised. Export of pharmaceutical products, diamonds and export of sea food to China are also likely to be discussed. Investment related issues and import of Indian films by Chinese side are also likely to come up for discussion. The Chinese side is likely to bring to the fore the ways to strengthen cooperation in trade remedies and service trade. The border trade issues between India and China, and modes to improve investment and operation environment for Chinese enterprises in India are also likely to be put to discussion.

The Indian side led by Shri Sharma would include Commerce Secretary Shri S R Rao, Shri Saurabh Chandra, Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion and senior officers from various departments of the government. On the other hand, the Chinese side led by Mr. Deming would include Chinese Ambassador to India, Mr. Zhang Yan, and other senior members from Chinese government.

It was in December 1988 during the visit of the then Prime Minister of India Shri Rajiv Gandhi to Beijing, that a Joint Group on Economic Relations, Trade, Science & Technology (JEG) with the Commerce Ministers as the Chairman on the Indian side and the Minister for Foreign Economic Relations and Trade as the Chairman on the Chinese side was formed. The first meeting of the JEG was held in New Delhi from September 18-20, 1989. The eighth session of India-China JEG was held in Beijing on January 19, 2010.

The total bilateral trade between India and China for the financial year 2011-12, stood at USD 75457.42 million as compared to USD 59000.36 million during 2010-11. During FY 2011-12, the exports stood at USD 17902.98 million while the imports stood at USD 57554.44 million. The provisional trade deficit for 2011-12 stood at USD 39,651.46 million.



330. Press Release on Cooperation between India and China on strengthening of Tourism.**New Delhi, September 2, 2012.**

India and China have expressed their willingness to strengthen bilateral tourism cooperation. This was decided at a meeting between Mr. Zhu Shanzhong, Vice Chairman of China National Tourism Administration and Shri Girish Shankar, Addl. Secretary, Ministry of Tourism in New Delhi today.

It was also decided that exchange visit of students and faculty from Hotel Management Institutes between the two countries which started in September 2007 may be continued on regular basis. Both the sides were of the opinion that Faculty exchange programmes should be organized between the Human Resource Development Institutes in India and China . It was also decided that a special programme can be organized wherein the HRD experts from India and China can visit some of the Institutes in both countries and interact with the teaching faculty through conferences and seminars. Tour Operators and Travel Agents of both the countries may interact with each other in order to promote two way tourism between India and China. The possibilities for promoting more package tours in either of the countries could also be explored by the travel trade of the two countries. Both the countries would like to exchange relevant information/statistics with regard to tourist arrivals, targets and projection, infrastructure facilities, etc. Now that Hotels and Tourism sector has been opened for Foreign Direct Investment up to 100% on automatic routes, Chinese investment in tourism infrastructure in India could be one of the major areas of cooperation.

It may be recalled that a MoU was signed on December 08, 2002 between the Ministry of Tourism and National Tourism Administration of the People's Republic of China on the implementation plan for organized group travel by Chinese citizens to India. In addition, China has accorded 'Approved Destination Status' to India to enable Chinese Travel Agencies to organize the outbound travel groups of Chinese citizens to India.

The Chinese delegation is on a visit to India under Ministry of External Affairs Distinguished Visitor's Programme (DVP) for China. Under this programme MEA invites provincial leaders and influential opinion makers from China to visit India and get firsthand experience of recent developments in India.



331. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Defence on India – China Defence Cooperation.

New Delhi, September 4, 2012.

India and China today reached consensus on a wide range of issues relating to defence and military exchanges and cooperation to be conducted this year and beyond. At the 90 minute delegation level meeting between the Defence Minister Shri AK Antony and the visiting Defence Minister of China General Liang Guanglie here in South Block, it was agreed by the two sides to conduct the next round of Joint Military Exercises at the earliest.

They also agreed to strengthen border security cooperation between the border troops of the two sides so as to enhance and maintain peace and tranquility in the India-China border areas.

The two sides proclaimed their decision to work together to maintain peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific region, promote port calls by naval ships of the two sides and conduct joint maritime search and rescue exercises. The two sides decided to further enhance and strengthen cooperation between the naval forces of both sides in counter piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden and off the coast of Somalia.

The Chinese side invited the Shri Antony to visit China in 2013. Shri Antony thanked General Liang for the invitation and conveyed that the timing of his visit could be settled through diplomatic channels. The two sides decided to strengthen the high level exchanges between the two defence ministries and Armed Forces of both sides. They also decided to promote exchange visits by personnel at different levels and in various fields. The two countries will strengthen exchanges in personnel training, academic research and cooperation between educational institutions of the Armed Forces of both sides.

The two sides also discussed the regional security situation and international issues of common interests and concern. Both Ministers agreed that expanding bilateral cooperation between the defence ministries and armed forces of India and China helps enhance mutual trust, deepens friendship and promotes comprehensive development of the India-China Strategic and Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Prosperity. The two defence ministers agreed to work together to enhance mutual trust in the security field and continue to maintain peace and tranquility in the India-China border areas. They noted that the leaders of India and China have designated 2012 as the year of India-China friendship and cooperation.

General Liang inspected an Inter-services Guard of Honour in the forecourt of South Block.



332. Joint Press Communiqué issued at the end of the visit of Chinese Defence Minister.**New Delhi, September 5, 2012.**

At the invitation of Defence Minister, Shri A. K. Antony, General Liang Guanglie, State Councillor and Minister of National Defence of the People's Republic of China is on an official visit to the Republic of India from 02 to 06 September, 2012.

Defence Minister Liang and his delegation visited Mumbai and Delhi. He inspected a Guard of Honour at South Block, New Delhi.

The two Defence Ministers had an extensive exchange of views on defence and military exchanges and cooperation between the two countries. They also discussed the regional security situation and international issues of common interest and concern. Both Ministers agreed that expanding bilateral cooperation between the Defence Ministries and Armed Forces of India and China helps enhance mutual trust, deepens friendship and promotes comprehensive development of the India-China Strategic and Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Prosperity. The two Defence Ministers agreed to work together to enhance mutual trust in the security field and continue to maintain peace and tranquility in the India-China border areas. They noted that the leaders of India and China have designated 2012 as the Year of India-China Friendship and Cooperation.

The two Ministers reached the following consensus on defence and military exchanges and cooperation to be conducted in 2012 and beyond:

- (a) Strengthen high level exchanges between the two Defence Ministries and the Armed Forces of both sides. The Chinese side invited the Defence Minister of India to visit China in 2013. RakshaMantri thanked the Chinese Defence Minister for the invitation and conveyed that the timing of his visit could be settled through diplomatic channels.
- (b) Promote exchange of visits by personnel at different levels and in various fields.
- (c) Establish a mechanism for exchange of visits by young officers from the Armed Forces of both sides.
- (d) Conduct the next round of joint military exercises at the earliest.
- (e) Strengthen border security cooperation between the border troops of the two sides so as to enhance and maintain peace and tranquility in the India-China border areas.
- (f) Strengthen exchanges in personnel training, academic research and between educational institutions of the Armed Forces of both sides.

- (g) Promote port calls by naval ships of the two sides and conduct joint maritime search and rescue exercises.
- (h) Further enhance and strengthen cooperation between the Naval forces of both sides, in counter-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden and off the coast of Somalia.
- (i) Work together to maintain peace and stability of the Asia- Pacific region.

The Chinese Defence Minister General Liang Guanglie called on Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh.

The Minister of National Defence, People's Republic of China, General Liang expressed appreciation for the gracious hospitality extended by the Ministry of Defence, Republic of India during the visit.



**333. Speech by Foreign Secretary at the inauguration of the new Chancery Building of Consulate General of India, Hong Kong
Hong Kong, October 24, 2012.**

Ambassador Jaishankar,
Consul General Dharmendra,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

1. I am very happy to be with all of you today to inaugurate the new Chancery premises of the Consulate General of India in Hong Kong. Doing so on the auspicious occasion of Vijaya Dashmi or Dussehra makes this occasion even more rewarding. For me this is the first visit. I have taken advantage of the opportunity of this inauguration to come to this great city and Special Administrative Region of China; but my presence underlines the importance we attach to putting in place proper infrastructure for our Missions abroad which now number over 175. This also reflects the priority to our engagement with the world which is increasingly important for our national development.

2. I am happy our new Chancery in Hong Kong reflects the India of the 21st Century. We have designed it to be aesthetic but functional, environmentally friendly but efficient. The refurbished Consular section has been constructed with particular care, so as to ensure that our services are more streamlined. We look forward to your feedback on this aspect of these new premises. I know that the Consulate has a lot of work, as Missions are usually judged first of all by the efficiency of Consular services.

3. Ladies and gentlemen, the Indian community in Hong Kong is one of the oldest in the world. Our links to Hong Kong date back 150 years. In 1845, the Indian population in Hong Kong numbered 362 persons. Today that figure has touched 40,000. You have also been instrumental in the emergence of Hong Kong as a global hub of finance and trade. You are part of a larger diaspora of 25 million which is important for India as you provide our country a national global network. This is of significance for our position in the world, our trade and economy and above all for culture. Many of you are citizens of India while some have adopted this place as your home. You are well integrated and live up to Nehru's exhortation to persons of Indian origin to be loyal to the country of adoption, but to keep a place in their hearts for India! I am delighted that four of you received the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman last year. Since so many of our PIOs are high achievers, selecting the awardees is no easy task. I am proud that the choice last year reflected India's unity in diversity, with Mr. Harilela, Mr. Shroff, Mr. Arunachalam and Mr. Banga being selected.

4. India places importance on its ties with Hong Kong, which is one of our most important trade partners. The then Chief Executive of Hong Kong visited us in India last year to further enhance our relations. In turn, I was keen to visit this Special Administrative Region of China to signal our desire to expand and deepen this partnership. I am here to a place connected with our past, important for our present and I believe critical for our future. Hong Kong University, the Ruttonji hospital, and the Star Ferry, started in the past, but are the living present.

5. And what of the future. We are growing even with slowdown, one of the fastest in the world. And our integration is intensifying India's engagement with the rest of the world. This process has moved into a higher gear over the past few years. From 20% of a GDP of \$ 400 billion two decades ago, to 45% of a GDP of 2 trillion today. Doubtlessly, this interaction is aimed at furthering our basic national goal of rapid and inclusive economic growth. And we will continue to grow and expand our presence and our influence. And obviously we will continue to look to placed like HK SAR, and to you in this process. I know many of you are impatient with our pace. But things are on track, reforms are continuing. I am confident that Hong Kong will play an important role in achieving our economic objectives. That is why we are keen to further upgrade our interaction with the place many of you call home. Our bilateral trade grew 23% last year to reach \$ 23 billion and there is more to come. I am happy to hear that work on a DTAA is at an advanced stage.

6. We meet at a time of some tension – but we feel that we can contribute to an architecture of stability in Asia. An architecture which enables all of us to grow and in which India and China can take forward complementarity in our relationship. We maintain the closest possible relations with Japan, Korea and China and want to see peace and progress in East Asia. Hong Kong with its extraordinary infrastructure is a model for creating an economic future in which all can benefit. We cannot produce as many millionaires as Hong Kong but you are an example of what prosperity looks like – even in a crowded, ancient land!

7. As Indians and people of Indian origin residing here in Hong Kong I urge all of you to continue contributing to the India-Hong Kong relationship so that it flowers and grows. I am sure these new premises of the Indian Consulate General in Hong Kong will also aid in this effort.

8. Thank you for being here this evening. Jai Hind and long live the friendship between HKSAR and India and between China and India.



334. Media Briefing by Foreign Secretary on Prime Minister's meeting with the Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao on the sideline of the ASEAN Summit.

Phnom Penh, November 19, 2012.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Syed Akbaruddin): Good afternoon friends and thank you very much for coming. As you are aware, Prime Minister met this morning with Prime Minister Wen Jiabao of China, and I have requested Foreign Secretary to brief you about that meeting.

We will separately have a briefing in the afternoon at 6 pm on the Indo-ASEAN Summit and the bilateral meetings in the afternoon.

With that I request the Foreign Secretary to make his opening remarks on the meeting between Prime Minister and the Prime Minister of China.

Foreign Secretary (Shri Ranjan Mathai): Prime Minister and Prime Minister Wen Jiabao had a very fruitful and detailed meeting this morning. Prime Minister was accompanied by Commerce and Industries Minister Shri Anand Sharma, who I think has briefed you while we were heading here on the plane, and National Security Advisor, Principal Secretary to PM, and other senior officials including myself.

Prime Minister Wen Jiabao had with him both Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi and the Commerce Minister, and a large number of senior officials. In his remarks, the Prime Minister of China said that in eight years this was his fourteenth meeting with the Prime Minister, and that he was very happy that the two Prime Ministers had been able to develop an equation and a system of working together. He said it was probably the last time he would be meeting PM during his tenure.

Prime Minister Wen Jiabao said it was a remarkable fact that two ancient civilizations and countries with large populations, countries like India and China were set on the path of revitalization at the same time.

Speaking on the bilateral relationship he said, reflecting on these eight years and what had been done, that we have built up strategic and cooperative partnership. On the boundary question we have continued an active dialogue between the Special Representatives. And meanwhile, even though the dialogue has not resolved all our differences, we have set in place a joint mechanism to ensure peace and tranquillity on the border.

In terms of trade, there had been a very rapid build up in the relationship between the two countries. He also referred to people-to-people contacts and said that overall these important achievements in the bilateral relations had brought benefits to our peoples bilaterally and added to global peace and prosperity. He again

said that it was a memorable experience to work with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. He concluded that the new leadership of China will give great importance to the relationship with India and it is recognized that it is important for us to work together.

The overall perspective of the discussions between the two Prime Ministers was that there is enough space for both China and India to develop and side by side they can expand cooperation and build new areas of cooperation. Prime Minister Wen Jiabao mentioned this and said these were the guiding principles which led his country in its approach to India.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh endorsed the views of the Prime Minister of China. He referred to the large number of meetings which he had had with Prime Minister Wen Jiabao. Then he noted that in this year, over the last one year, the Foreign Ministers of the two countries have met four times. He also noted that we had received the Commerce Minister of China in India in August, and the Defence Minister in the month of September. He referred to this as part of the elaborate dialogue architecture which is in existence between our two countries.

Further, PM added that this dialogue architecture has now taken into its ambit new areas. For example, in the foreign affairs domain we are holding a large number of regional dialogues including on areas like West Asia and Central Asia. We are also engaging in a dialogue on maritime security.

The economic engagement was given a great deal of importance by the Prime Minister in his remarks. He noted that we would be having the Strategic Economic Dialogue at the end of November. This is a dialogue which is between two teams led by the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission on our side and the Head of the National Development and Reform Commission on the Chinese side. The Chinese Prime Minister noted that a very large delegation, including business persons and others, economic specialists, would be accompanying the leader of their delegation on their visit to India.

It was also noted by the two Prime Ministers that on global issues there had been a great deal of dialogue and working together in international fora. Our Prime Minister mentioned in particular the extent of our convergence in fora like the G20, the BRICS, and on the issue of climate change. Subsequently Prime Minister spoke further on the bilateral economic cooperation, which he said he is committed to working to achieve its full potential.

As regards Indian exports, Prime Minister emphasized the need for greater market access for Indian exports particularly in areas such as services, IT and pharma. Prime Minister also welcomed Chinese investment in the infrastructure sector, which he said would help to create employment and would also help in bridging the trade deficit between our two countries.

In reference to people-to-people contacts, emphasis was placed on science and technology, the Chinese contribution to the Nalanda University revival and on the encyclopedia of culture which is an ongoing work between the two countries.

The two leaders also shared views on the East Asia Summit which is coming up in front of us. They shared the importance of using the EAS as a forum for accelerating economic development and enhancing economic interests of all the countries. In this spirit they felt the leaders can address all issues and build bridges of cooperation.

Question: Both India and China are large importers of commodities like crude oil and fertilizers. Our import itself has a significant impact on global prices of these commodities which adversely affect both the countries. So, was there any discussion on the timing of both the countries entering the world markets so that we do not disturb the prices to our own detriment?

Foreign Secretary: No, this was not discussed specifically during this dialogue between the two Prime Ministers. But the subject of energy is one of the issues in the Strategic Economic Dialogue at the end of the month. It was not discussed today.

Question: Just to understand one issue about this market access, there are some specific issues like this clinical trial which China does not accept for medicines which are done elsewhere and IT as well. Why is it taking so long to get into the issue and address specifics? Every time we hear this kind of issues and greater market access.

Foreign Secretary: This is being discussed, as you know, between the concerned experts and officials in the Commerce Ministries and in the dialogue between our two countries. The Prime Minister of China did say that he was looking forward to a gradual balancing of trade as a group and that they were cognizant of India's particular interests in these areas. But on the specifics of where the dialogue is now and what we need to do, that was actually not discussed today. That is part of an ongoing dialogue between us. But he did recognize the need for balance in trade, and he said this would be developed gradually.

Question: Was South China Sea or the code of conduct that the ASEAN nations and China are discussing for South China Sea come for discussion? Did East China Sea issue between China and Japan come up for discussion?

Foreign Secretary: Not in today's meeting between the two countries.

Question: Any measures discussed on increasing the exports to China?

Foreign Secretary: Yes. As I have been saying, Prime Minister mentioned the need for actions and this was the previous question also. This has been the

subject of many discussions in the past. So, it is recognized that this is a very high priority for India. Prime Minister mentioned specifically, as I said, the area of services and pharmaceuticals but spoke in terms of the need for greater market access for Indian companies. He highlighted these two areas but spoke in terms of a need for accelerating Indian exports to China.

Question: A related question, Sir. The BRICS report on a single currency has been sort of prepared and India was chairing that task force. Did this come up at all? Is that something that we can see being discussed in the Strategic Economic Dialogue?

Foreign Secretary: No, this did not come up specifically today. BRICS was mentioned as one of those fora which help highlight the degree of commonality of interest between India and China on certain global issues. That was the framework in which it was mentioned. The specific issues under BRICS Programme of Action, which were decided during the Delhi Summit in March, were not discussed today. That will continue through a series of meetings which are being arranged. Of course, the Strategic Economic Dialogue would be one area because there would be experts in that particular field participating in it. But the BRICS itself, the mechanism, has a series of steps and dialogue mechanisms under which this subject would be discussed.

Question: Could we, therefore, say that there is progress on deciding on what happens to the single currency formulation?

Foreign Secretary: I would not like to characterize anything on that since I am not actually addressing the BRICS issue just now.

Question: Did they touch upon the possibility of Mr. Menon visiting Beijing for one last border talks? Could you refresh us about what happened to the hotline proposal between the two PMs?

Foreign Secretary: I would start with the second because that was not actually discussed today, that is being worked upon by the two Governments. Yes, the subject of the NSA visiting Beijing very soon was mentioned at the end. He mentioned it in the context of the ongoing dialogues between the two countries and immediately after the Strategic Economic Dialogue, which would be end of November sometime. We would be finalizing the dates for the NSA visit to Beijing.

Question: Will the Strategic Economic Dialogue end of November be in New Delhi?

Foreign Secretary: Yes, in New Delhi.

Question: What are the new areas of cooperation that the two countries are looking at? There is room for new areas of cooperation. So, what are those new areas?

Foreign Secretary: There is a whole mechanism under which we have been talking about cooperation. I mentioned a few. Those are in science and technology, there are also areas of opening up dialogues like in maritime security which we have not done before. We are having a series of youth exchanges. Right now in fact there is a group of a hundred Chinese young people who have come to India for a visit. So, in a number of such areas we are exploring cooperation which has not been tried out at this level before. We also have a regular programme now, which is not new but it is being expanded, of having visits from regional leaders. For example, we have had Provincial Heads of Government from China visit India. And as you are aware, we have had Chief Ministers of all Indian States going to China. It is a joint enterprise. This was not discussed today but what they emphasized was that the kinds of areas which are identified by the officials in various Ministries that these must be taken forward.

Question : You have mentioned that there was discussion on Central Asia and West Asia. Did the two leaders take cognizance of the latest strikes in Ghaza by Israel?

Foreign Secretary: Let me just clarify. What the Prime Ministers were referring to was really a reflection on the previous question, the new areas of cooperation that we have started building up between the Governments as a whole. The dialogues on Central Asia, West Asia which I had referred to in my opening remarks are at the level of the two Foreign Ministries. We have the specialists who deal with them either in Beijing or in Delhi. We set up these dialogues for a greater exchange of our perspectives. That is the level at which these dialogues are taking place. Within that framework, of course we would be discussing issues like the current situation in West Asia. But the two Prime Ministers just endorsed the need for pursuing these various frameworks of conversations between us.

Question: My paper also comes out from Patna. Can you just enlighten me on the status of the Nalanda University?

Foreign Secretary: That would require a briefing of its own because it is a very large project. But just let me put it this way that a number of countries have expressed their interest in collaborating with us. The main task of developing the university of course will be for us in India to handle. We have in fact in the Ministry of External Affairs right now an officer who deals with specifically the Nalanda University project. And we are collaborating very closely with the Government of Bihar in the development. The foreign participation has come from China, from Singapore, from Japan, and Cambodia. There is some interest being expressed by other countries which are not specifically members of the Nalanda Project but are interested in the idea including Sri Lanka and Myanmar.

Question: Sir, with the developments in Gaza fast turning into a major international crisis, could you tell us how India responds to the developments?

Foreign Secretary: I think we have issued a statement which clarifies the response. I think that was issued by my colleague last night. I think that sums up our position. As you are aware, a few days ago, since we are currently holding the Presidency of the Security Council, our Permanent Representative had convened a meeting of the Security Council to focus attention on the issue, on the need for prevention of any escalation of the dispute, and a resumption of dialogue. I think that is really the immediate task we are faced with.

Question: Sir, my question is once again on the South China Sea issue which seems to have completely overshadowed the talks here at ASEAN. What is the expectation that India has in terms of this issue coming up at the Summit-level talks or the Retreat where the leaders will meet tomorrow?

Foreign Secretary: The leaders can discuss any issue they wish, that is typical of any Retreat. I think from our perspective on the East Asia Summit, PM has emphasized that the East Asia Summit is important as a forum for accelerating economic development and enhancing the economic interests of both of our countries. Obviously when the leaders meet they would take up issues which are of immediate concern. But these issues should be discussed in the light of the need for EAS to have this overriding priority of building up bridges of cooperation among the various countries. That is what was actually discussed. Now what will happen at the EAS is in the realm of speculation. I would not like to go there, but just would remind you that our position always has been that we support the efforts to arrive at the code of conduct and to firm up measures by which the South China Sea would be an area of cooperation.

Question: Was there any mention of defence exchanges between the two countries?

Foreign Secretary: Not beyond the fact that the PM referred to the visit of the Defence Minister of China, and he also added that in that context there had been a number of defence exchanges between our two countries which are very important for maintaining the sense of tranquility and cooperation between the two countries. That was it.

Question : Was the issue of launching RCEP discussed by our Prime Minister with Wen Jiabao?

Foreign Secretary: No, that did not come up specifically.

Official Spokesperson: Thank you very much. We come to the end of this briefing.



335. Remarks by Foreign Secretary at the Second India-China Strategic Economic Dialogue.**New Delhi, November 26, 2012.**

Your Excellency Mr. Zhang Ping, Chairman, National Development and Reform Commission of China,

Your Excellency Mr. Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission of India,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am extremely happy to represent the Ministry of External Affairs of India at this 2nd meeting of the Strategic Economic Dialogue between India and China. Let me reiterate the importance that the Government of India places on this channel of communication between our two countries. We are of the view that our discussions in this format will lead to many collaborative projects in the economic sphere.

India places priority on its relations with China. We have established a Strategic and Cooperative Partnership between our two countries. More importantly, our relations have transcended the purely bilateral aspects and taken on a global nature. When Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh made an official visit to China in January 2008, our two Governments issued a Shared Vision for the 21st Century which states that "both India and China bear a significant historical responsibility to ensure comprehensive, balanced and sustainable economic and social development of the two countries and to promote peace and development in Asia and the world as a whole". Prime Minister has stated on several occasions that there is sufficient space in the world for the simultaneous development of India and China, as well as other developing nations. Premier Wen has added that as we advance economically, there is great scope for cooperation between our countries. We, in India, are confident that this Strategic Economic Dialogue will be significant in enabling both our Governments to identify these areas of joint activity.

I have been tasked with looking at some aspects of our global and regional cooperation. So let me address these themes briefly.

Your Excellency Chairman of NDRC referred to our cooperation on global governance. Over the past two years while India has been a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, we have seen that our approaches to many international issues are broadly similar. This has led to excellent interaction between our representatives at the UN in New York. We do feel that this experience would reinforce the Chinese support for a larger role for India in the UN and we expect Chinese support for India's Permanent Membership of the UN Security Council.

India and China have worked closely together in global climate change negotiations, both bilaterally as well as within the BASIC framework. Our common positions made a difference at the 2009 Copenhagen Summit and our effective cooperation continues till this date.

The BRICS framework has emerged as a significant grouping of which both India and China are important members. We were delighted to host the 4th BRICS Summit earlier this year at New Delhi which was attended by President Hu Jintao. Multilaterally, India and China also work together within the G-20, in world trade negotiations and in the reform of international financial institutions. The Deputy Chairman has given us the broad outline of what has been done already in these forums by our two countries.

India and China work together within the East Asia Summit process. Our Prime Ministers had an excellent meeting at Phnom Penh late last week where they discussed issues covering bilateral cooperation and also issues at the most recent East Asia Summit meeting. I avail of this opportunity to reiterate the importance that India attaches to its Look East Policy of which China is an integral part.

We are also happy that we have commenced dialogues between our capitals on regional subjects such as West Asia, Central Asia, Africa and on United Nations issues. We believe the time is right for India and China to commence an exchange of views on other regions including Afghanistan which is in a stage of transition.

As our economies continue to grow and our geopolitical significance increases, we in India look forward to further expanding our exchanges with China on the entire gamut of global issues. I am particularly happy we have detailed exchanges on energy – This has both bilateral and global aspects. Just to mention one possibility. Let us note that Chinese oil production stands at 6 times that of India. One oil field Daiqing produces more than all Indian oil fields put together. It is time for us to “learn from Daiqing”.

We in the Ministry of External Affairs are happy to provide the Indian Secretariat for this SED. We look forward to hearing of productive interaction in the economic relationship which sustains our overall bilateral ties.

I thank you for your attention.



336. Agreed Minutes of the 2nd India-China Strategic Economic Dialogue.

New Delhi, November 26, 2012.

1. The 2nd India-China Strategic Economic Dialogue (hereinafter referred to as 'the Dialogue') took place in New Delhi on 26 November, 2012. The Indian side was led by H.E. Mr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Republic of India and the Chinese side was led by H.E. Mr. Zhang Ping, Chairman, National Development and Reform Commission, People's Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as the 'two sides').
2. Established during the visit to India of H.E. Mr. Wen Jiabao, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China in December 2010, the Dialogue is aimed at improving macro-economic policy coordination, promoting exchanges on economic issues and enhancing India-China economic cooperation. The 1st Dialogue had been successfully held at Beijing in September 2011 where the two sides agreed to constitute five Working Groups on policy coordination, infrastructure, energy, environment protection and high-technology. A working level delegation from China visited New Delhi in March 2012 following which the five Working Groups met in Beijing in the months of August and September 2012. This preparatory work has contributed immensely to the successful deliberations in and outcomes of the 2nd Dialogue.
3. During the 2nd meeting of the Dialogue, the two sides discussed a wide range of topics including greater cooperation at the global level, strengthening communication on macro-economic policies, deepening and expanding trade and investment and promoting bilateral cooperation in the financial and infrastructure sectors. The proposals and recommendations made by the five Working Groups were considered during the 2nd Dialogue and directions given for their future activities.
 1. The two sides agreed that in the current global economic situation it was important to raise the level of economic engagement between India and China. The two sides agreed on the following:
 - (i) **Cooperation at the global level:** Exchanging views on current global economic and developmental challenges, the two sides recognized that as major developing economies, they needed to maintain close coordination and communication to pursue their common interests. Among them is the reform of international monetary and financial systems, stabilizing the volatility in global commodity markets, working towards sustainable development and climate change goals, and ensuring food and energy security. Both sides believe that the ongoing and future

cooperation on existing and upcoming issues will greatly enhance mutual trust and expand common interests.

- (ii) **Strengthening communication on macroeconomic policies:** Following detailed discussions on the global and national economic situations, the two sides agreed that development growth trends globally have weakened as a result of a number of factors since the onset of the global financial crisis. This included weakening demand in the developed markets, the ongoing Eurozone crisis, lower business confidence, and growing inflationary trends. Both sides seek to maintain continued economic growth while adjusting manufacturing and services, upgrading levels of technologies and skills, while developing the hard and soft infrastructure for encouraging economic growth. The two sides agreed that they would regularly conduct joint studies on issues of mutual interest, focusing on benefits of best practices and information exchanges.
 - (iii) **Deepening and expanding trade and investment:** With a view to promoting greater economic and commercial engagement, both sides recognized the need to explore potential synergies in areas where the two sides have mutual complementarities, improve trade and investment environments, work towards removing market barriers, enhance cooperation in project contracting, deepen business to business exchanges, improve transportation links, encourage greater bilateral investment and work towards achieving a more balanced and sustainable bilateral trade.
 - (iv) **Expanding cooperation in the financial and infrastructure sectors:** Both sides have agreed to intensify the cooperation in the financial sector by encouraging financial institutions of the two countries to set up operations in either country to support enterprises of the two countries to establish / expand commercial operations. Both sides agree to undertake studies in related areas including innovative financial methods to support the requirements of priority sectors particularly the infrastructure sector having significant scope for furthering economic development.
2. The main outcomes of the five Working Groups are as follows:
- (a) In the **Policy Coordination Working Group**, both sides discussed plan priorities and ways and means of achieving plan targets recently unveiled in their 12th Five Year Plans. They exchanged views on skills development and industrial park development. The two sides also submitted assessment reports on the investment environments in each other's country based on the experiences of the enterprises of the two countries and discussed possible solutions to improve the investment environment.

The two sides have also agreed to carry out joint studies on planning cooperation and skills development for employability, and entered into related MoUs.

- (b) In the **Infrastructure Working Group**, with its focus on enhancing railway cooperation, both sides exchanged views on the broad policies and plans for railway development in each other's country. The two sides also discussed high-speed rail development programme, heavy haul and station development and entered into an MoU to exchange views and other related information in these areas.
 - (c) In the **Energy Working Group**, both sides briefed each other on the development of the power sector in the two countries, the ongoing cooperation in the power equipment sector, opportunities and challenges in the wind energy sector, the possibility of Chinese power equipment manufacturers setting up service centres in India and relevant policy environment to support the ongoing cooperation, and reviewed the small hydro power workshop that was successfully held in Beijing in October 2012.
 - (d) In the **Environmental Protection Working Group**, the two sides agreed to enhance cooperation in the implementation of energy efficiency projects through energy service companies (ESCOs), encouraging visits to industrial and manufacturing centres excelling in energy efficient initiatives, cooperate and jointly develop testing protocols and standards and have entered into a related MoU. The two sides also exchanged views on enhancing cooperation in water-saving technologies covering the areas of waste water recycling and water-efficient irrigation systems.
 - (e) In the **Hi-Technology Working Group**, the two sides agreed to enhance cooperation in the Information Technology and Information Technology Enabled Services (IT/ITES). Both sides also agreed to carry out / support joint studies to better understand the IT/ITES markets of each country and have entered into a related MoU in this area. The two sides also reached a consensus to explore the possibility of working together for developing common standards for digital TV, audio and video codec standards and mobile communication technology.
4. The following Memorandums of Understanding were signed by the two sides in the presence of the delegation leaders:
- (a) Memorandum of Understanding between the Planning Commission of the Government of the Republic of India and National Development and Reform Commission of the Government of the People's Republic of China on Undertaking Joint Studies.

- (b) Memorandum of Understanding between the Bureau of Energy Efficiency, Ministry of Power, Government of the Republic of India and National Development and Reform Commission of the Government of the People's Republic of China on Enhancing Cooperation in the Field of Energy Efficiency.
- (c) Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Railways of the Government of the Republic of India and Ministry of Railways of the Government of the People's Republic of China on enhancing technical cooperation in the railway sector.
- (d) Memorandum of Understanding between the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM), India and the China Software Industry Association (CSIA) on Enhancing Cooperation in the IT/ITES Sector.
5. The two sides agreed that the 3rd India-China Strategic Economic Dialogue will be convened in China in 2013. They also agreed that prior to the 3rd Dialogue, the Working Groups would meet to implement the consensus and decisions agreed to by the two sides at the 2nd Strategic Economic Dialogue.

Done at New Delhi on 26 November 2012 in two originals.

(Montek Singh Ahluwalia)
Deputy Chairman,
Planning Commission of the
Republic of India

(Zhang Ping)
Chairman, National
Commission of the
People's Republic of China



**List of MoUs signed during 2nd India-China Strategic
Economic Dialogue**

November 26, 2012

S. No.	Name of Document	Indian Signatory	Chinese Signatory
1.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Planning Commission of the Government of the Republic of India and National Development and Reform Commission of the	Dr. S. Jaishankar, Ambassador of India,	Mr. Zhang Ping, Chairman, National

	Government of the People's Republic of China on Undertaking Joint Studies	Beijing	Development and Reform Commission
2.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Bureau of Energy Efficiency, Ministry of Power, Government of the Republic of India and National Development and Reform Commission of the Government of the People's Republic of China on Enhancing Cooperation in the Field of Energy Efficiency	Dr. S. Jaishankar, Ambassador of India, Beijing	Mr. Zhang Ping, Chairman, National Development and Reform Commission
3.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Railways of the Government of the Republic of India and Ministry of Railways of the Government of the People's Republic of China on enhancing technical cooperation in the railway sector	Mr. Vinay Mittal, Chairman, Railway Board	Mr. Wang Zhiguo, Vice Minister, Ministry of Railways
4.	Memorandum of Understanding between the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM), India and the China Software Industry Association (CSIA) on Enhancing Cooperation in the IT/ITES Sector	Mr. Ameet Nivsarkar, Vice President, NASSCOM	Mr. Zhao Xiaofan, President, China Software Industry Association



337. Second Meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs.

New Delhi, November 30, 2012.

1. The 2nd meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs was held at New Delhi on 29-30 November, 2012. The Indian delegation was lead by Shri Gautam Bambawale, Joint Secretary (East Asia) and comprised of representatives of the Ministries of External Affairs, Defence and Home Affairs as well as members of the Indian Army and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police. The Chinese delegation was lead by Ambassador Ms. Wang Xiaodu, Special Representative, Department of Boundary and Oceanic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and comprised of representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and National Defence of the People's Republic of China. The Chinese delegation called on Foreign Secretary Shri Ranjan Mathai.
2. The discussions took place in a cordial, constructive and cooperative atmosphere. The two delegations reviewed developments in the India-China border areas since the 1st meeting of the Mechanism and acknowledged with satisfaction that peace and tranquillity continued to be maintained due to the efforts of both sides. The two delegations also exchanged ideas on additional measures for maintaining peace and tranquillity as well as further steps to build greater trust and confidence between the two sides.
3. The two delegations welcomed the recent liberalization of border trade across Nathu La, which has led to a significant increase in the volume of trade. They continued their discussions on introducing additional routes for the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra.
4. The 3rd meeting of the Working Mechanism will be held in China at a mutually convenient time.



COOK ISLANDS

338. Press Release of the Ministry of External Affairs on the establishment of Diplomatic Relations with Niue, a Pacific Island country.

New Delhi, September 4, 2012.

Minister of State for External Affairs Shri E Ahamed, and Prime Minister of Niue H. E. Toke Talagi signed a Joint Communiqué on the establishment of Diplomatic Relations between India and Niue, at Cook Islands, on 30 August, 2012.

Niue is a Pacific island country, which is a member of regional bodies such as the Pacific Island Forum and the Pacific Community and also of UNESCO, WTO and FAO.

India has been closely engaged in assisting in the development aspirations of the island countries of the Pacific. India's participation as a Dialogue Partner of the Pacific Island Forum (a regional grouping of Pacific Island countries), since 2002, has deepened our cooperative relations with all countries in the region.



INDONESIA

339. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Defence after a week-long joint exercises between Indian and Indonesian troops to combat terrorism.

New Delhi, March 1, 2012.

The Armies of India and Indonesia concluded a week-long joint military exercise today. The operational part of the first-ever platoon-level joint training exercise, Exercise 'Garuda Shakti', was conducted at the Indian Army's elite 'Counter Insurgency and Jungle Warfare School' (CIJWS), Vairengte in Mizoram.

Training together to counter the scourge of insurgency in various contemporary scenarios including jungle warfare, Chakravyuh, the three-day outdoor validation exercise, tested the weeklong training, imparted at various Counter Insurgency (CI) modules and at the plethora of firing ranges in the guerrilla warfare school. Chakravyuh ended with the busting of a simulated insurgent hideout in Mizoram's Lushai Hills, in the wee hours today, after a grueling nightlong march.

The Indonesian National Army (Tentara Nasional Indonesia-Angkatan Darat, TNI-AD, in short) troops led by Lt Col Gatot Heru Puana of KOSTRAD (Indonesian Army's Strategic Reserve Command) belonging to the 13th Infantry Brigade comprised of five officers, six Non-Commissioned Officers and 14 Privates. Troops from the 19th Madras Infantry Battalion, of 21 Mountain Division under Eastern Command, currently deployed in CI operations in the northeast sector, comprised the Indian side.

"They are very sincere, devoted, well-prepared and eager to learn," said CIJWS Commandant, Maj Gen AK Sen, talking about the Indonesian troops while observing from close quarters the 'slithering' and 'special heliborne operations' from an IAF Mi-17 flown in from nearby Kumbhirgram airbase in Silchar, Assam. "The visiting troops were put through a rigorous initiation process, and they fared as good as their Indian counterparts," he added.

The exercise which began on February 20, is aimed at building closer military-to-military ties, among its many other objectives. "This training has actually helped us to know each other's procedure and drills including firing tactics," said Gen Sen, adding that the firing ranges at CIJWS particularly interested the Indonesian troops, just as they did to the Bangladeshi, Polish and Israeli troops who trained here in the recent past.

CIJWS Vairengte has over 13 different types of firing ranges catering to every conceivable indoor and outdoor scenario, ranging from urban, semi-urban to rural settings. Bringing in realism in training, Infantry Weapons Effect Simulation

System (IWESS) and Small Arms Training Simulators (SATS) are also extensively used. The landscape and the inimitable replicated settings here in CIJW make it the most preferred destination to train for several armies of the world.

For proper assimilation of the nuances in CIJW operations for the Indonesian troops, all training and attack drills were coordinated by having two mixed platoons (comprising around 30 soldiers each) of KOSTRAD soldiers and the Indian Infantry troops, overseen by senior military observers.

Praising the professionalism of the Indian Infantry soldiers, the leader of the Indonesian troops, Col Gatot observed that the Indian troops are very well equipped to fight the insurgents. While finding some of the training tactics very similar, he said that the concept of 'Buddy' system was something they would like to emulate. "Back home we operate in big groups," he says.

A conglomeration of more than 17,500 islands on either side of the equator, the Indonesian Republic whose national fabric represents 'Unity in Diversity' as much as it is avowed here in India, has also been besieged with terror-related attacks in recent times. "Our counter-insurgency related operations are mostly in the border areas," the Colonel apprised, adding that the training would come in good stead upon their return.

(The formal closing of 'Ex-Garuda Shakti' took place the next day, with both sides exchanging feedback and mementoes, and rounding off with a military-style campfire with gourmet meals, comprising both Indian and Indonesian delicacies, including cultural exchanges.)



340. Joint Media Interaction of External Affairs Minister of India and Foreign Minister of Indonesia.

New Delhi, July 27, 2012.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Syed Akbaruddin): Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen of the media. I welcome you to this interaction.

As is usual, we will begin with brief opening remarks by the two Ministers. I will now request the External Affairs Minister of India to make his opening remarks.

External Affairs Minister of India (Shri S.M. Krishna): Your Excellency Dr. Marty Natalegawa, Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, friends from media:

Today Foreign Minister Dr. Marty and I co-chaired the fourth meeting of the India-Indonesia Joint Commission. Prior to the Joint Commission Meeting, Foreign Minister Dr. Marty and I had very useful discussions on the current status of our bilateral relations and exchanged views on regional and international issues.

The Joint Commission meeting today enabled us to review the progress made on various areas of cooperation agreed during its last meeting and also those identified during the State visit of President Yudhoyono to India in January 2011. We have also identified specific areas in which both countries would be working together to take the relationship to the next high level. The deliberations took place in a constructive and friendly atmosphere reflecting the state of our bilateral relationship.

India and Indonesia enjoy an excellent relationship which rests on the solid foundation of our historical and cultural linkages. We have much in common as two developing countries facing quite similar challenges.

We became strategic partners in 2005. Indonesia is an important partner for us in our pursuit of 'Look East policy'. Our trade has expanded rapidly and has now touched 20 billion US Dollars. We are confident of achieving the target of 25 billion US dollars by 2015. Indian investment in Indonesia is rising. We are also cooperating in several other sectors including energy, oil and gas, coal, marine and fisheries, agriculture, science and technology, education, culture, defence and counterterrorism.

As large pluralistic democracies we have a stake in each other's progress and prosperity. We would like our relationship to be reflective of the strategic nature of our partnership. Dr. Marty and I have agreed to work towards this objective.

I have conveyed to Foreign Minister Dr. Marty that we look forward to the visit of

his Excellency Mr. Yudhoyono, President of Indonesia to India in December this year for the India-ASEAN Commemorative Summit.

Thank you.

Official Spokesperson: I would now request the Foreign Minister of Indonesia to make his opening remarks.

Foreign Minister of Indonesia (Dr. R.M. Marty M. Natalegawa): Thank you very much. Once again on behalf of all my delegation and before distinguished members of the media I would like to put on record how delighted we are, how pleased we are, and how thankful we are that today we have been able to have this fourth meeting of the Joint Commission between India and Indonesia.

Excellency the Minister has described how I will describe the state of Indonesia-India relations. They are robust, they are strong, they are very friendly and very positive as well. But most of all, during the discussion that we have had throughout this morning and just now, we resolved, we reiterated to really translate and reflect the fact that our two countries now, ever since 2005, have announced that we have a strategic relationship between our two countries.

Just now during the course of our discussion within the Joint Commission, we reviewed where we are in our bilateral relations, trade and investment, people-to-people relations, education, research and development, food security, energy security and many other areas, to ensure that we are where we should be in terms of our bilateral relations. I must say that having gone through that exercise both ourselves and before hand our senior officials, it is quite fair to say that we are on track to further deliver strengthening of bilateral relations.

This is going to be another special year in India-Indonesia relations coming from the special one that we had last year when President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono was of course in India last January 2011. This year, as the Minister has said, President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono will once again be in India on the occasion of the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit reflecting once again how strong and how solid our bilateral relations are.

What I would like to further add to what the Minister has said is what we have discussed throughout, it is quite clear that the importance of our relations is not only bilateral but because of its impact on the region and indeed beyond. India and Indonesia have enjoyed close relations practically ever since our Independence, even before our respective independence. That is how far our relations go back. Yet, in the decades every since, whatever international issues that we face - whether it be colonial ... (*Inaudible*)..., whether it be development challenges - India and Indonesia are always speaking with one voice.

As India prospers, as India develops, as also Indonesia prospers and develops,

we find ourselves now not only fellow members of important organizations and forums such as the Non-Aligned Movement, the United Nations, but also the G20 group of nations. So, this is evidence of how our all respective national developments be made stronger through bilateral cooperation, is finding its expressions and many other forums regionally and globally.

I am so delighted that today we are able to inject further momentum in the promotion of our bilateral relations. Of course, Indonesia will have the honour of hosting the next Joint Commission between Indonesia and India, and I look forward to working closely with my colleague to find when is the most appropriate time for that to take place.

Until then, we resolved just now to have a regular and more systematic way of measuring progress in our two countries' relations, some kind of a scorecard where we can regularly in a very clear way identify progress and even not least identify where challenges remain so we can address those challenges and allow our relations to fully blossom and develop.

Thank you once again, Excellency, for your hospitality for your delegation's cooperation on behalf of all my delegates who are here in Delhi.

Thank you very much.

Official Spokesperson: The two Ministers have agreed to take a couple of questions.

Question (Ms Parul Chandra, *The Asian Age*): My question is for both the Ministers. First to the Indonesian Foreign Minister. There is growing assertiveness by China in the South China Sea. Do you think that ASEAN can play any role in checking this growing assertiveness given that its member countries themselves are divided on the issue?

And to Mr. Krishna, there is a lot of ...(*Unclear*)... among Southeast Asian nations again on the South China Sea, particularly because China has been needling many countries including India. Your comments on that.

Foreign Minister of Indonesia: Thank you very much for that question. If I may just a little bit broaden the nature of the issue beyond the South China Sea, it is a fact of life, a fact of the region, that we have countries in the region that are rising, that are emerging - your China, your India, ASEAN itself, and others. So, change and dynamism is inherent. It is a fact of life and it is something that we must not fight over or try to deny.

What we need and what we have been doing over the years through an ASEAN led, ASEAN centrality architecture-building, is to ensure that such dynamics and such developments materialize in a manner that is at the same time conducive

to the region's peace and stability. In other words there is absolutely nothing inevitable about some kind of a return to cold war type of divisions for our region. So, I think that is the kind of mindset that we are approaching the entire regional architecture situation in our neighbourhood.

It is possible to have common security, common stability, and common prosperity, a win-win type of outlook. Within that context of course we have the specific challenge of the South China Sea. This is again a fact of life. It is a fact that there are countries in the region, some in ASEAN and some outside ASEAN, that have conflicting issues and jurisdictional claims on the South China Sea. Yet, even on this very difficult issue we have actually a diplomatic track to resolve them, to manage it. We have the ASEAN-China track to address the issues, and we have made actually significant progress over the recent years. Last year, after some eight years of negotiations, we have concluded the so-called guidelines to the declaration of conduct. Now we are very much intensively involved in the formulation of what is called the Code of Conduct on the South China Sea.

Yes, the last ASEAN Foreign Ministers' meeting was especially difficult because we were not able to come to a consensus on how to describe certain developments that have recently taken place. But that notwithstanding, insofar as the approach is concerned we remain one, viz., we need to quickly get the Code of Conduct legalised. As you may be aware, over the past week or so Indonesia has been engaged in an intensive round of diplomatic efforts to regroup ASEAN to ensure that we are back to where we should be and that we are now in a position to once again press on for the legalization of the Code of Conduct.

If anything, the most recent episodes simply provide a reminder that we do actually need a Code of Conduct for the South China Sea, some kind of a rule of the road type of regime so that the potential for conflict in the region can be managed, and better still the potential for conflict can be resolved and that the countries of the region can continue to enjoy and continue to enjoy the peace dividend that all of us have enjoyed for many decades now, thanks to the Asia-Pacific's benign environment that allows all of us to concentrate on economic development rather than any other lesser pursuits.

External Affairs Minister: India has made its position very clear on South China Sea on several occasions in the recent past. We did discuss the South China Sea issue and we have been following developments in respect of South China Sea. India supports freedom of navigation and access to resources in accordance with principles of international law. It is our earnest desire that these principles should be respected by all. We urge the parties concerned to engage in discussions to address this issue and hope that progress would be made on this important matter with respect to implementation of guidelines to the 2002 declaration of the Code of Conduct on South China Sea.

Question (Ms Devirupa Mitra): This question is for Mr. Krishna. Sir, the Government of India has been repeatedly asking Colombo for the release of the 23 Indian fishermen. But five days later, there is still no sign of their coming back. Can you give any assurance that they will be returning to India soon?

External Affairs Minister: I am happy to inform you that the 23 Indian fishermen have been released a short while back. I thank the Sri Lankan Government for this humanitarian gesture. I have instructed our High Commissioner in Colombo to make all necessary arrangements for the fishermen to be brought back to India and to their respective places.

Official Spokesperson: Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen. We come to the end of this interaction.



List of documents signed during the visit of Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia

July 27, 2012

S. No.	Name of the MoU/Agreement/ Treaty/Protocol	Indonesian Signatory	Indian Signatory
1.	Avoidance of Double Taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income	Dr. R. M. Marty Natalegawa, Minister for Foreign Affairs	Shri S. M. Krishna, External Affairs Minister
2.	Agreed Minutes of the 4th Joint Commission Meeting between Republic of India and Republic of Indonesia	Dr. R. M. Marty Natalegawa, Minister for Foreign Affairs	Shri S. M. Krishna, External Affairs Minister



JAPAN

341. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Defence on the Indo-Japan Coast Guard Meeting and the conclusion of Combined Exercises.

New Delhi, January 30, 2012.

The visit of a high level Japanese delegation led by Admiral Hisayasu Suzuki, the Commandant, Japan Coast Guard (JCG), for the XI High Level Meeting and Combined Exercises with the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) concluded today. The five-day visit, was in pursuance of the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC), signed between the two Coast Guards on 24 November 2006, which stipulates that the heads of the two organizations meet alternately in India and Japan, to discuss maritime issues of mutual concerns and formulate a cooperative approach to address these.

The Memorandum of Cooperation between the two Coast Guards encompasses issues of maritime search and rescue, combating marine pollution, technical assistance for responding to natural disasters and exchange of information regarding crimes at sea, including smuggling and illicit trafficking.

The first ICG-JCG combined exercises were carried out in November 2000 off Chennai, in which one JCG ship participated and was overseen by a high level delegation of JCG, led by the then Commandant of JCG. This also laid the foundation for development of close interaction between the two organisations that included regular visits and exercises, sharing of information and expertise and training visits.

During the 11th ICG-JCG High Level discussions, it was mutually agreed to strengthen the cooperation on evolving collaborative approach, in addressing a spectrum of maritime issues concerning safety and security. The visit was also very significant in providing renewed impetus to strong ties that exist between the two Coast Guards as the Japan Coast Guard Ship has visited India, after a gap of six years, for the combined exercises with the ICG off Chennai.

A delegation from the Information Sharing Centre, Singapore established under the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) also participated in the exercise. This was significant in furthering the interaction among the participating agencies on anti-piracy issues.



342. Press Releases of the Ministry of External Affairs on India - Japan Foreign Office Consultations.

New Delhi, February 24, 2012.

Foreign Office Consultations between India and Japan were held in New Delhi on 24 February 2012. The Indian side was led by Foreign Secretary Shri Ranjan Mathai and the Japanese side by Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Koro Bessho. The Consultations were held in a friendly and forward-looking manner, in keeping with the India-Japan Strategic and Global Partnership.

2. The two sides reviewed recent developments in bilateral relations since the last Annual Summit held in New Delhi on 28 December 2011 and expressed satisfaction with the further strengthening of India-Japan relations. Discussions on bilateral relations covered areas of cooperation in the political, strategic, security, economic and cultural fields.

3. The Japanese side looked forward to PM's visit to Japan this year for the Annual Summit. The Indian side invited the Japanese Foreign Minister to visit India for the India-Japan Strategic Dialogue and the newly-established Ministerial-level Economic Dialogue. The dates for these visits will be worked out through diplomatic channels.

4. Both sides reviewed the progress of flagship projects, including the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor, the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor and the new Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor. They also discussed the calendar of commemorative events being held in both India and Japan throughout this year to mark the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Japan.

5. There was an extensive exchange of views on regional and global issues of shared interest and concern, including UN reform, climate change, the East Asia Summit, the situation in Afghanistan, Iran, Middle East, and the Maldives, among others.

6. Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Koro Bessho also called on the National Security Adviser.



343. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry on the Trilateral Talks with the delegations from Japan and the United States.

New Delhi, March 2, 2012.

Shri Anand Sharma met with the delegates of the United States & Japan on a trilateral dialogue, here today. Addressing the delegated Shri Sharma said, "It is indeed befitting that such a dialogue should take place given that the three countries are vibrant democracies and leading economies in the Asia- Pacific region. The changing contours of global economic architecture have made such a dialogue even more opportune & necessary." In the emerging paradigm, India views its relationship with both US & Japan that transcends trade related relationship to a long term technology, innovation & investment relationship."

The Indian Commerce Minister while addressing the delegates said, Ensuing long term energy security and development of green and sustainable technologies for the future should be an area of high priority. Minister later added that collaboration in agro- processing, pharmaceuticals would be essential for the larger objective of ensuring global food security and health security.

Minister Sharma while commenting on the Pakistan initiative to shift to negative list said, "Our immediate neighborhoods have given a positive movement on the economic side with Pakistan." The delegation expressed appreciation for normalization process in the economic relations of the two neighbors.

Delegation comprised of Mr. Richard Armitage, President, Armitage International LC (Co-Chair), Mr. Tim Adams, Managing Director, The Lindsey Group, Mr. Michael Green, Senior Advisor and Japan chair, CSIS, Mr Karl Inderfurth, Mr. Roger Rose, Lockheed Martin, Mr. Torkel Patterson, President, US- Japan MAGLEV, LLC & Nicholas Szechenyi, Senior Fellow & Deputy Director, Japan chair, CSIS.

The Japan delegation comprised of Mr. Yoshiyuki Kasai, Chairman, Central Japan Railway Company (CO-Chair), Mr. Yorihiro Kojima, Chairman, Mitsubishi Corporation, Teruaki Masumoto, Executive Advisor, Tokyo Electric Power Company, Mr. Kazuo Tsukuda, Chairman Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Mr. Tomohiko Taniguchi, Senior Advisor, Central Japan Railway Company. From India side the Dialogue is Co-Chaired by Shri Tarun Das.



344. Statement of the External Affairs Minister at the Joint Press Interaction during the Visit of Foreign Minister of Japan.

New Delhi, April 30, 2012.

Your Excellency Foreign Minister Gemba

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Media.

Foreign Minister Gemba and I have held the 6th India – Japan Strategic Dialogue earlier this morning. We have also had discussions, along with our distinguished delegations, in the 1st Ministerial-level Economic Dialogue between our countries.

In the course of the Strategic Dialogue, we reviewed political and security cooperation between our nations. We expressed satisfaction that the India – Japan Strategic & Global Partnership is stronger than ever before.

We agreed to launch two new dialogue mechanisms between the two Foreign Ministries. The first is a cyber security dialogue; the second a maritime dialogue, both of which will be at the level of officials. They will further deepen our relations.

We look forward to the first naval exercise later this year between the Indian Navy and the Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force.

We discussed ways of furthering our cooperation in the field of rare earths. After today's discussions, I am convinced that we are close to take-off stage in this important area of our bilateral cooperation.

We also discussed the possibility of civil nuclear cooperation between our countries. We have instructed our negotiators on the way forward.

In our Economic Dialogue, which will continue after this press interaction, we discussed the entire gamut of issues in which our two countries cooperate. In particular, we agreed on how to accelerate cooperation in the flagship DMIC or Delhi – Mumbai Industrial Corridor project.

We also had a preliminary exchange of ideas on the Chennai – Bengaluru Corridor which had been initiated by our Prime Ministers at their meeting last December. We have agreed that Japan will assist in chalking out a Comprehensive Master Plan for the project.

We also discussed cooperation in the railways sector including the ongoing Dedicated Freight Corridor project as well as the possibility of India obtaining High Speed Rail technology from Japan.

Overall, we have had excellent discussions during the course of the morning which we are confident will take the India – Japan Strategic Partnership forward. I thank you for your attention.



345. Joint Press Release issued after talks between Minister of Commerce and Industry Anand Sharma, and Japanese Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Yukio Edano at the 2nd India-Japan Ministerial Business-Government Policy Dialogue.

New Delhi, April 30, 2012.

The 2nd India-Japan Ministerial Business-Government Policy Dialogue was held in New Delhi, India on 30th April 2012 and was co-chaired by H.E. Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Textiles of India and H.E. Yukio Edano, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan. The Policy Dialogue was attended by senior government officials and leaders of business organizations from both the countries. The dialogue discussed issues for moving forward on investments and sustainable development with a thrust on innovation and introduction of cutting edge technology in manufacturing and infrastructure development in the country.

Based on the leaders' summit last year, H.E. Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce and Industry of India and H.E. Yukio Edano, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan acknowledged the progress of discussion on the equity participation in DMIC Development Corporation to the extent of 26% subject to the approval of the Government of India. Minister Sharma confirmed that the GOI will initiate required procedures for necessary approvals. The two Ministers welcomed the cooperation of the government and private sectors of the two countries to realize the vision of DMIC.

In this context, the two Ministers shared the importance of the relaxation of capital regulations in the course of implementation of the DMIC project. Further, the two Ministers expressed their satisfaction at the progress made in the seawater desalination project at Dahej, Gujarat. Both Ministers also shared the importance of implementing NEDO's demonstration of the technologies for stable power supply based on a combined use of large-scale photovoltaic power generation and micro-grid in Neemrana Industrial Park in Rajasthan. The two Ministers set up Smart Community Working Group under Indo – Japan Task Force on DMIC to accelerate the implementation of the smart community projects. They also recognized to need to promote smart community pilot projects and the early bird projects for demonstration of the cutting-edge technologies. In addition to these projects, both Ministers welcomed the formulation of a list of projects by JICA to be jointly developed by both countries by the next leaders' summit scheduled in this fall.

The two Ministers confirmed the importance of cooperating in infrastructure development in the areas along the Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial

Corridor including the preparation of a Comprehensive Integrated Master Plan of this region which was decided between the two Prime Ministers in December 2011. The two Ministers shared the views on the importance of further promoting investments and supporting industries in the region through improving infrastructure such as ports, industrial parks and their surrounding facilities in Ennore, Chennai and the adjoining areas and stable power supply.

The two Ministers welcomed the measures taken by the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) for assisting Japanese companies in investing in India. These include establishment of a Business Support Center in Chennai and support for Japanese companies to start business activities in special industrial parks for Japanese companies engaged in manufacturing in Neemrana in the state of Rajasthan and in the state of Gujarat.

H.E. Yukio Edano, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan appreciated the efforts of the Government of India in formulating the "National Manufacturing Policy" in the context of the comprehensive and inclusive development of Indian economy, creation and development of innovation ecosystems, introduction of cutting edge technology, creation of employment opportunities and improvement of infrastructure in India. Minister Edano proposed to set up working group, in cooperation with JETRO, to discuss cooperation in implementation of the National Manufacturing Policy and the establishment of National Investment and Manufacturing Zone with a thrust on skill development.

The two Ministers confirmed that both countries would hold discussions to facilitate investment and to address various issues raised in this policy dialogue by the annual Summit meeting to be scheduled this year, by utilizing forums such as DMIC Task Force at the vice ministerial level, the Working Group between the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan and the Ministry of Industry of Tamil Nadu, and Smart Community Working Group. The two Ministers confirmed that the 3rd Ministerial India-Japan Ministerial Business-Government Policy Dialogue would be held in Tokyo on a date mutually convenient to both sides.



**346. Joint Statement on the Fifth India-Japan Energy Dialogue.
New Delhi, April 30, 2012.**

H.E. Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission of India and H.E. Mr. Yukio Edano, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan held the 5th meeting of the India-Japan Energy Dialogue on April 30, 2012 in New Delhi. Senior officials of the relevant ministries and departments of both countries participated in the discussions. The two sides welcomed the progress achieved so far in the four previous rounds of the Energy Dialogue and in the deliberations of the various Working Groups. They appreciated the sector-specific discussions by experts of both India and Japan and the progress made in various areas of cooperation.

2. The two sides reached a common recognition that it is important for the two countries to cooperate with each other in the energy efficiency and conservation sector, and welcomed that the meeting of "Energy Efficiency and Conservation Working Group" under the India-Japan Energy Dialogue was held in India in January 2012.

3. The two sides decided at this meeting to intensify cooperation in energy efficiency and conservation sector as well as environmental issues. They welcomed the ongoing cooperation for energy conservation by the Energy Conservation Center, Japan (ECCJ) with the Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) and Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE). They appreciated the development and dissemination of energy conservation audit manual for high energy-consuming industries such as the textile industry and the iron and steel industry through dispatch of experts and training of accepted trainees. Furthermore, they confirmed the need to expand the process of consultation between the public and private sectors to strengthen the bilateral cooperation in the energy sector, mainly in energy efficiency and conservation as well as environmental issues. They also confirmed the need to continue the study that was conducted in 2011 concerning the list of Japan's energy-saving and environmental technologies to be supported for enhanced use of energy-saving technologies in the Indian iron and steel industry.

4. The two sides decided to consider the possibility of further cooperation in the establishment of statistics database in the sector concerned, including high energy-consuming industries where energy consumption have been growing in India in recent years. Additionally, taking into consideration that the energy demand in the transport sector is increasing in proportion to the economic growth in India, they decided that they will discuss the possibility of cooperation in the said sector. They also decided to cooperate for promotion of energy conservation in local and small-to-medium businesses. They also reconfirmed the importance

of the Regional Energy Efficiency Center (REEC) projects in promoting working-level energy conservation in India. They decided to explore the possibility of establishment of a 2nd REEC in India.

5. The two ministers welcomed that the coke dry quenching equipment (CDQ) demonstration project and diesel generator fuel-switching demonstration project equipment by New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO) were completed in 2011.

6. The two sides shared the recognition that it is important and useful to closely cooperate in the development of infrastructure in the sector of electricity and energy such as deployment of highly efficient coal-fired power generation, pumped-storage power generation and power transmission systems, in order to cope with a rapid increase of electricity demand in India and promote sustainable economic growth with consideration given to environmental issues. They welcomed the progress of the project for advising the renovation of equipment and facilities of thermal power plants, which includes surveys that have been done at four sites to date with the aim of efficiency improvement of coal-fired power plants and environmental improvement in India. They also welcomed the training activities for transfer of Clean Coal Technology (CCT) which have continued since the year 2001, and that a total of 136 Indian trainees had been trained in Japan by 2011.

7. The two sides welcomed that the model project by NEDO to reduce ash content in Indian coal by using efficient coal preparation technology is advancing well on a commercial scale. They expressed the hope that the model project will be completed by 2012 and this technology will come into wider use based on the outcome of the project.

8. The two sides confirmed that it is important for the two countries to cooperate with each other in the renewable energy sector, and welcomed that the meeting of "Renewable Energy Working Group" under the India-Japan Energy Dialogue was held in India in January 2012.

9. The two sides welcomed the progress of the "Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor Smart Community Initiative" to develop next-generation energy infrastructure in an integrated manner by making use of Japan's environmental and IT technologies such as photovoltaic power generation, smart grid, smart urban traffic system, water control, recycling and treatment and others which are also important from an energy point of view. The two sides will explore possibilities of making these technologies come into wide use in India. They also welcomed the "National Solar Mission" that is mainly aimed at establishing photovoltaic power generation facilities with a total capacity of 22 GW by 2022, and decided they will discuss the possibility of contribution by Japan's technologies and products.

10. Considering the big share of India and Japan in the world's demand of LNG, the two sides confirmed that the two countries could play an important role in expanding the market in the future, while ensuring the stability and transparency of the market. They confirmed they will work on methane hydrates.

11. The two sides reiterated the importance of civil nuclear cooperation between the two countries. They affirmed the need to cooperate to enhance nuclear safety based on the experience and the lessons learned from the accident at TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station.

12. The two sides confirmed the need to promote industrial cooperation between the two countries to expand bilateral energy cooperation on a commercial basis. From this point of view, they welcomed that the 4th India-Japan Energy Forum was held in India in January 2012.

13. The two sides recognized that the reinforcement of energy security in the East Asian region is the highest priority issue in this region. Based on this recognition, they decided that it is important to promote measures for reinforcement of energy cooperation in East Asia with the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) as the central organisation as decided at the East Asia Summit (EAS) Energy Ministers' Meeting held in September 2011. They confirmed that the two countries will exercise leadership in the East Asian region and positively support ERIA to encourage the introduction of clean coal technology (CCT) in India and have ERIA start research activities to create East Asian electricity networks.

14. The two sides stressed that the bilateral cooperation in the framework of India-Japan Energy Dialogue should not be limited to the above-mentioned activities, and such cooperation should be further deepened. They decided to hold the sixth India-Japan Energy Dialogue in Japan in the latter part of 2012.



347. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry on the meeting between Minister Anand Sharma and the Japanese Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry.

New Delhi, August 30, 2012.

ASEAN Plus FTA Partners Discuss Roadmap for Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership

Shri Anand Sharma, Union Minister of Commerce, Industry & Textiles today met Mr Yukio Edano, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) of Japan on the sidelines of 44th ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) meeting and related meetings at Siem Reap, Cambodia. The issues of Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor project and the preliminary study for the Chennai-Bangalore Industrial Corridor were discussed. Shri Sharma briefed his counterpart on the National Investment & Manufacturing Zones and sought Japan's support for creating the infrastructure in the notified zones. The modalities of release of fund of USD 4.5 billion were also deliberated upon. The Japanese concern on relaxation of capital regulations was also discussed and Shri Sharma conveyed the significant progress made on the issue. Both the leaders took note of the growing bilateral trade and hoped to achieve trade target of USD 25 billion by 2015. Japan thanked India for support in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership.

The Indian Minister also attended ASEAN plus FTA Partners Consultations. After detailed deliberations it was decided to recommend the guiding principles and objectives for negotiating the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) for considerations of leaders during the East Asia Summit in November 2012. RCEP envisages comprehensive economic cooperation amongst ASEAN member states and FTA partners. The roadmap to RCEP negotiations and guiding approaches for the organization of negotiations were also discussed during the meeting. The meeting took note of the progress in the RCEP working groups. Shri Sharma requested for expeditious work in the working groups on trade in services and investments to ensure finalization of templates and modalities before launching the RCEP as a single undertaking.

Minister Sharma attended the East Asia Summit (EAS) Economic Ministers Meeting. Updates of Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) activities and current regional and global developments were discussed during the meeting. Shri Sharma called upon all the members for early conclusion of Doha Round of negotiations in WTO. He explained that early conclusion of Doha Round would greatly assist in bringing out the world economy out of recession and will help in a balanced economic development across the world.

Shri Sharma also had a bilateral meeting with South Korean Trade Minister Mr

Bark Tae Ho. Issues of Korean investments in India, bilateral trade and national manufacturing policy of India were discussed. Shri Sharma requested his counterpart to explore the possibilities of investment in infrastructure projects in India and assured all necessary support for the same. Shri Sharma also invited Korea to participate in establishment of electronics hardware industry in India, particularly Chip manufacturing units. The details of the proposed visit of Shri Sharma to Korea in November 2012 were also discussed. Shri Sharma informed Korean Minister that he would come with a high level business delegation and officials dealing with certification of export of agricultural products.

The Indian Minister also had bilateral meeting with his counterpart from Cambodia in the evening and discussed various issues of mutual interest. There is considerable potential to increase bilateral trade and investment between both countries. Shri Sharma expressed India's willingness to assist Cambodia in the fields of agro-processing, textiles, silk and skill-development.



348. Joint Statement issued on the occasion of the 6th India-Japan Energy Dialogue between the Planning Commission of India and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan.

Tokyo, October 10, 2012.

- H.E. Mr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission of India and H.E. Mr. Yukio Edano, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan held the 6th meeting of the India-Japan Energy Dialogue on October 10, 2012 in Tokyo.
- Senior officials of the relevant ministries and departments of both sides participated in the discussions. Both sides welcomed the progress achieved so far in the previous five rounds of the Energy Dialogue and in the deliberations of the various Working Groups. They appreciated the sector-specific discussions by experts of both sides and the progress made in various areas of cooperation.
- During the dialogue, both sides reaffirmed that it is important to hold the ministerial-level India-Japan Energy Dialogues annually, and shared the recognition that the issues of energy security and global environment are high priority challenges requiring continuous and effective action. In particular, to overcome challenges such as the global-scale changes in the energy demand structure seen in recent years and soaring energy prices, both sides confirmed to strengthen consumer-producer dialogue on LNG and deepen cooperation in energy conservation and renewable energy sectors. In addition, both sides decided to strengthen programs to further disseminate and expand model business projects that have thus far been implemented by the two sides, and to enhance cooperation in upstream development of petroleum and natural gas.
- The two sides recognized the need to promote industrial cooperation to expand bilateral energy cooperation on a commercial basis. From this point of view, they reiterated the importance of India-Japan Energy Forum and regular inputs from the forum to the dialogue. Both sides discussed to explore way forward to showcase Japanese technology in energy sector for wider dissemination in India.
- The two sides engaged in discussions in the following areas:

Cooperation in energy efficiency and conservation

- Both sides reached a common recognition that it is important for them to cooperate with each other in the energy efficiency and conservation sector, and welcomed that the meeting of Energy Efficiency and Conservation Working Group under the India-Japan Energy Dialogue was held in Japan on October 9, 2012.

- Both sides decided to strengthen their cooperation concerning energy conservation and environmental issues. Progress in cooperation among the Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA), the Bureau of Energy Efficiency and the Energy Conservation Centre of Japan (ECCJ) was welcomed. Both sides welcomed the enhancement of the capabilities of regional State-Designated Agencies (SDA) to execute the Energy Conservation Act, and the development of guides for dissemination of the Total Energy Management Systems in small-to-medium enterprises (SMEs) through the dispatch of experts and the acceptance of trainees. They also welcomed the implementation of cooperation to develop and spread the energy conservation audit manual in the textile industry, as well as of cooperation toward developing similar manuals for use by other industries that consume large amounts of energy. Both sides confirmed to continue the training and capacity building program further for SDAs, SMEs and energy managers and energy auditors.
- The two sides reconfirmed the importance of the projects carried out by the Regional Energy Efficiency Center (REEC) set up in Chennai with technical assistance from the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) in promoting energy conservation at the working level in India. In addition, they welcomed the training of trainers at the Dr. Ambedkar Institute of Productivity for hands-on training of energy-using equipment such as furnaces, motors, compressors, etc. which is being implemented as part of the capacity-building project by New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO). They also welcomed the fact that the facility continues to be utilized, with the Government of India taking the lead in implementing training for over 120 people. The Indian side sought Japan's further technical support for other REECs to be established by India.
- Both sides welcomed the progress made in the demonstration project for a sinter cooler waste heat recovery system, currently being implemented by NEDO based on the energy conservation cooperation of industries that consume large amounts of energy. They also welcomed the achievements of the demonstration project utilizing a coke dry quenching facility, and the demonstration project for fuel conversion using a diesel generator facility, both of which were implemented by NEDO, and confirmed their continued cooperation in promoting those projects. Moreover, recognizing the need to strengthen bilateral relationship in the energy sector, focusing on energy conservation and environmental issues, and to expand the consultation process between the government and the private sector, both sides confirmed continued cooperation.
- Both sides decided to study the possibility of further cooperation in establishing statistics in the sectors in India where consumption of energy has been growing in recent years, including SMEs. In addition, based on the fact that demand for energy is increasing in the transport sector in line with India's

economic growth, both sides decided to explore the possibility of cooperation in this area.

- Based on the Joint Statement issued at the 2nd India-Japan Energy Dialogue, both sides welcomed the fact that The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and the Institute of Energy Economics, Japan (IEEJ) have implemented joint surveys and studies relating to the possibility of energy conservation centering on India's industrial sector, as well as the establishment of necessary statistical data and the establishment of energy conservation goals. The Indian side sought finalization of work program under TERI-IEEJ cooperative project through discussion on specific terms of reference (ToR) or report which defines the basis and benefits of the study. The Indian side also sought further details about the design and implementation process of the Bilateral Offset Credit Mechanism (BOCM) which was earlier proposed by METI.
- Both sides confirmed the need for expanding the consultation process involving both the private and public sectors in order to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the energy sector focusing on energy conservation. Moreover, they welcomed continuation of the studies in 2012 regarding creation of a list of Japan's energy-saving and environmental technologies for enhancement of energy-saving in the Indian iron and steel industry that started in 2011.
- Japan commended India's initiatives to promote energy conservation such as the introduction of Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT) scheme. To realize the effective and efficient implementation and management of these initiatives, both sides recognized the importance of mutual cooperation, and confirmed to share information and exchange views on a regular basis through such measures as Energy Efficiency and Conservation Working Group and various research projects.
- Both sides confirmed the importance of conducting vigorous activities under the International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC) framework. In this light, they praised the activities of Global Superior Energy Performance Partnership (GSEP) with the aim of promoting best practices and spreading high-efficient and low-carbon technologies in the industrial sectors (steel, cement and power) under public-private partnership. Both sides will continue to collaborate and aim to further expand its activities.

Cooperation in renewable energy

- Both sides concluded that bilateral cooperation is important in the renewable energy sector. They welcomed the fact that a meeting of the Working Group on Renewable Energy, established under the India-Japan Energy Dialogue framework, was held on October 9, 2012 in Tokyo.
- Both sides welcomed the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) Smart Community Project that utilizes Japan's environmental system technologies

and IT technologies such as solar power, smart grids, smart urban transportation, as well as water management, recycling and treatment, to uniformly develop next-generation energy infrastructure, noting that it is important from an energy perspective. Both sides welcomed the MoU for demonstration of large-scale photovoltaic power generation using state-of-art photovoltaic modules and of micro-grid system for providing clean and stable electricity and minimizing diesel consumption in Neemrana Industrial Park in the state of Rajasthan signed among the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (DMICDC) and NEDO following which a 5 MW solar Photovoltaic plant under NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Limited (NVTN) has been allotted for development. They confirmed that they would implement further cooperation, so that the demonstration project of 6MW in total to be implemented by NEDO could be initiated smoothly. The two sides will study ways to disseminate these technologies widely throughout India. Both sides confirmed that they would cooperate with each other for the preparation of NEDO's demonstration project for introducing a photovoltaic system, lithium ion batteries and energy management system into telecommunication towers in India. Both sides welcomed the National Solar Mission launched by the Government of India, focusing on building a system for generating 22GW of solar energy by the year 2022, and decided to study the possibility of contribution to be made by technologies and products from Japan. Both sides also welcomed the feasibility study in the form of joint study program towards electrification of non-electrified areas by introducing micro hydroelectric generation facilities, which will be conducted in states such as Uttarakhand.

Cooperation in electricity

- Both sides concluded that bilateral cooperation is important in the electricity sector. They welcomed the fact that a meeting of the Working Group on Electricity, established under the India-Japan Energy Dialogue framework, was held on October 9, 2012 in Tokyo.
- Both sides shared a common recognition that it is important and beneficial to closely collaborate in the development of infrastructure in the electricity and energy sector such as deployment of high-efficiency coal-fired power generation and development of pumped-storage power generation, as well as electrical power transmission and distribution systems in order to meet the rapid increase in power demand, and promote sustainable economic growth taking environmental issues into consideration. Both sides welcomed the satisfactory progress of the project by JCOAL for advising the renovation of equipment and facilities of coal fired-power plants, of which three sites (Wanakbori, Gujarat, Dr. Narla Tata Rao, Andhra Pradesh and Kahalgaon, Bihar) have been completed and four more sites (Badarpur, NCT Delhi, Unchahar, Uttar Pradesh, Durgapur, West Bengal

and Dr. Narla Tata Rao, Andhra Pradesh) will be done before the end of this fiscal year, in order to improve the efficiency of the plants and environment in India. Both sides also welcomed the mutual cooperative efforts for the transfer of clean coal technology, which has been continuously under way since the fiscal year 2001, through the invitation of Indian experts to Japan and the dispatch of Japanese experts to India. Both sides confirmed to consider the possibility of cooperation for the development of an integrated gasification combined cycle (IGCC) in India.

Cooperation in coal

- Both sides concluded that bilateral cooperation is important in the coal sector. They welcomed the fact that a meeting of the Working Group on Coal, established under the India-Japan Energy Dialogue framework, was held on October 9, 2012 in Tokyo.
- Both sides expressed their strong expectation that the commercial-scale demonstration project by NEDO aiming to reduce ash content of coal in India using high-efficient coal washery technology at Angul, Talcher, Odisha would be completed by early 2013, and the technology would be widely deployed in India. Both sides welcomed the efforts for renewal of the MOU among Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Coal, India, NEDO and M/s Monnet Ispat Ltd. for the project.
- Both sides welcomed the launch of a feasibility study by NEDO concerning a project that combines Upgraded Brown Coal (UBC) technologies using Indian lignite with Ultra Super Critical (USC) coal power generation technologies.

Cooperation in petroleum and natural gas

- Both sides concluded that bilateral cooperation is important in the petroleum and natural gas sectors, and welcomed the fact that a meeting of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Working Group, established under the India-Japan Energy Dialogue framework, was held on October 9, 2012 in Tokyo.
- Both sides confirmed that Japan, the world's largest consumer of LNG, and India, a country where large increases in consumption are anticipated in the future, would cooperate inter alia, through participation in LNG Producer-Consumer Conference, to ensure the stable and low-cost supply of LNG. In addition, they confirmed that they would start a joint study on "Pricing of LNG in the Asia Pacific market."
- Both sides confirmed that they would strengthen their cooperative relationship relating to upstream development of petroleum and natural gas. Both sides confirmed to explore possibilities of collaboration in exploration and production activities in India and in third countries.
- Both sides also confirmed to continue cooperation in the study of Indian

off-shore seismic data and delineation of gas hydrates area, and to explore further cooperation in gas hydrate research and development. Both sides confirmed to continue to collaborate and jointly work in the field of fuel conservation. In this regard, both sides also confirmed to consider the extension of the existing MoU between PCRA and ECCJ. Regarding the continuation of the existing collaboration between PPAC and IEEJ, the Indian side proposed a joint study on "Unbundling of gas markets in India." Cooperation in nuclear energy

- Both sides concluded that bilateral cooperation is important in the nuclear power sector, and welcomed the fact that a meeting of the Nuclear Energy Working Group, established under the India-Japan Energy Dialogue framework, was held on October 9, 2012 in Tokyo. The Indian side made a presentation on India's plan for expanding nuclear energy generation in the coming years.
- Both sides reconfirmed the importance of civil nuclear cooperation between the two countries. Based on the experience of the accident at the Fukushima Nuclear Power Station of Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) and the lessons learned from it, both sides confirmed the need to cooperate in enhancing the safety of nuclear power plants.

Cooperation in other areas

- Both sides recognized that the reinforcement of energy security in East Asia is one of the highest priority issues in the region. In this context, they welcomed the outcome of the Sixth East Asian Summit Energy Ministers Meeting in September 2012, including commencement of new studies by Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) on energy outlooks for medium-to-long term and strategic usage of coal through Clean Coal Technologies. They confirmed that the two sides will exercise leadership in achieving secure and sustainable energy future in East Asian region.
- Both sides stressed that the bilateral cooperation in the framework of India-Japan Energy Dialogue should not be limited to the above-mentioned activities, and such cooperation should be further deepened. They decided to hold the 7th India-Japan Energy Dialogue in India at a mutually convenient time in 2013.

Tokyo

October 10, 2012

(For the Planning Commission of India) (For the Ministry of Economy, Trade

Montek Singh Ahluwalia and Industry of Japan)

(Deputy Chairman of the Planning
Commission of India)

Yukio Edano
(Minister of Economy, Trade and
Industry of Japan)



349. Press Release of the Ministry of External Affairs on the 2nd India-Japan 2+2 Dialogue.

New Delhi, October 22, 2012.

The 2nd India-Japan 2+2 Dialogue was held in Tokyo on October 22, 2012. The Indian delegation was led by Foreign Secretary Shri Ranjan Mathai and Defence Secretary Shri Shashi Kant Sharma. The Japanese delegation was led by Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Akitaka Saiki and Administrative Vice Defence Minister Mr. Hironori Kanazawa.

These 2+2 consultations at Senior Official level are mandated by the Action Plan to Advance Security Cooperation concluded between the two countries in December 2009. These consultations build on the last round of the 2+2 Dialogue held at New Delhi in June 2010.

The two sides briefed the other on their respective defence and security policies in the background of each country's security environment.

In this context, they reviewed bilateral security and defence cooperation and discussed ways of further expanding such ties. The two delegations also exchanged views on maritime, cyber and outer space security. They agreed to an early meeting of the new India – Japan Cyber Security Dialogue.

They also discussed the regional and international security situation.

The next round of the India – Japan 2+2 Dialogue will be held at New Delhi at a mutually convenient date.



350. Telephone conversation of Prime Minister of Japan with Prime Minister of India.**New Delhi, November 15, 2012.**

Japanese Prime Minister H. E. Mr. Yoshihiko Noda telephoned Prime Minister earlier today in the context of the fast paced political developments in Japan. The two Prime Ministers welcomed the fact that the India-Japan Strategic and Global Partnership is stronger than ever before. Keeping in view that the dissolution of the Japanese Lower House of Parliament would be announced on November 16, 2012, it was felt that the visit to Japan of the Prime Minister of India can take place at a later date.

Reviewing bilateral relations, the two Prime Ministers also welcomed the conclusion of the Agreement between India and Japan on Social Security as well as the Memorandum on Cooperation in the Rare Earths Industry in India and looked forward to early signing of these two documents.

The two Prime Ministers reiterated their desire to maintain the schedule of Annual Summits and agreed that fresh dates for the visit of Prime Minister to Japan will be discussed through diplomatic channels.



351. The Governments of India and Japan Signed the following two Agreements in Tokyo.

Tokyo, November 16, 2012.

The Governments of India and Japan signed the following two agreements in Tokyo:

S. No.	Name of Document	Indian Signatory	Japanese Signatory
1.	Agreement between India and Japan on Social Security	Smt Deepa Gopalan Wadhwa, Ambassador of India to Japan	Mr. Koichiro Gamba, Foreign Minister
2.	Memorandum between the Department of Atomic Energy of India and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan on Cooperation in the Rare Earths Industry in India	Smt Deepa Gopalan Wadhwa, Ambassador of India to Japan	Mr. Nobuhiko Sasaki, Vice Minister for International Affairs, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry

The conclusion and signing of these agreements will further enhance and strengthen the India-Japan Strategic and Global Partnership.



352. Inaugural Address by External Affairs Minister at the International Conference on the Changing Paradigm of India-Japan Relations organized by ICRIER.

New Delhi, December 17, 2012.

Good morning to all of you

It's good to be here for the 60th anniversary of India-Japan diplomatic relations and be here as democracy reaffirms itself after the general elections in Japan. We hope that the bipartisan support will take India-Japan relationship to even greater heights.

It's an honor to be here this morning with the ICRIER Chairperson Dr. Isher Judge Ahluwalia, Mr. Yuji Takagi, President of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, H.E. Mr. Takeshi Yagi, Ambassador of Japan to India, and all of you distinguished ladies and gentlemen.

Many years ago I read a novel that some of you must have come across, though I haven't seen this novel for a long time. The novel was called *The Wind Cannot Read* and had a little Japanese poem. It was translated as - on the board it said do not pluck flowers but the wind cannot read. It was a very poignant tale about a Japanese girl who goes through a traumatic experience during the war, on personal relationships. I heard his Excellency speak and I thought that perhaps the biggest challenge in today's 60th anniversary on our relations is to get the wind to read.

We have to understand the signals emerging in our region, in our relationship between Japan and India and indeed the signals that are being given by the whole world. I think a gathering as distinguished as this has great expertise in studying our relationship. I am familiar with statistics but will not try to impress you with statistics at any length. But to actually look at the conceptual understanding of where we are and where we can go in India-Japan relations.

Your conference on the changing paradigm of India-Japan relations intrigues me. I think the paradigm has already changed, now the important thing is to take advantage of the changed paradigm and take it to the logical conclusion. I think the paradigm has changed over the past half a century several times over. We had a paradigm at the time of our independence, in particular immediately after our independence when we strove to give Japan a place in the post war community of nations. In Japan's ability to reassert its sovereign authority and independence, I believe, a significant signal to that effect was given by the judgment of the Indian Judge, Justice Pal, at the military tribunal. Justice Pal, in a very dramatic manner dissented with the version of all the other judges to stand by a spirited defense of Japan's right to reassert itself and to claim its place under the sun.

And, I think the paradigm shifted again, when Mr. Rajiv Gandhi visited Japan and sought to reach out in a very special sort of way in the emerging global scenario.

It changed once again when we decided to go for the nuclear program and the steps that we took were unacceptable to Japan at that time and for good reason because of Japan's own traumatic experience and its principled position on nuclear policy.

The paradigm shifted again, and I believe the paradigm finally shifted once more, when the emerging reality of the world beyond the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union gave countries a new opportunity to rediscover each other and so did Japan and India.

Sometimes people think that this new paradigm is only a temporary unstable paradigm which will change with changing power situations and political situations vis-à-vis China. The emergence of China in the 21st century and the reality of an assertive China in South and Southeast Asia, I think, are matters which have already been factored in the changing paradigm of relations between India and Japan.

Undoubtedly the world is a dynamic and things will change from time to time, challenges will arise time to time, but the emerging stable paradigm that we have become familiar with in contemporary India-Japan relations will be able to withstand these.

If I am not wrong India was the first recipient of Japan's ODA, and that's been a very significant engagement. Not just between the governments. Rather the projects have led to a greater understanding and association between the peoples of Japan and India.

Moving on to trade and investment, and I do believe, there wouldn't be a greater assertion of success of how we can work together, than the study of the arrival in India of Suzuki with Maruti and how with that partnership has evolved the India-Japan relationship itself. How that car became for India and Japan a milestone in itself. The point really is that there was so much that we have learnt about each other, when we worked together on that car that it will remain, I believe, a symbol of something special that we have shared with each other. What we have shared with each other is not simply a new little attractive car on the streets of our cities in India, but I think it was also symbol of the emerging middle class in India. The Maruti car became the beginning of a revolution that you see today in the streets of our country.

I do believe that statistics alone do not define our relationship but actual symbols of our substantial relationship are what show the evolving growth towards the new paradigm in India-Japan relations.

Today once again the one thing that we should flag for the future is our collaboration in the Delhi-Mumbai industrial corridor, the western dedicated freight corridor and the Chennai-Bengaluru corridor.

Most people see these projects in economic terms - the intricacies of insurance, finance and various other dimensions of the comprehensive economic partnership agreement that we entered into in 2011. But, I believe, one very significant dimension that we haven't fully realized yet and that is the dimension which will come with greater interface between the people of India and Japan.

With these projects we will have many more institutions where people from both the countries will contribute, discover each other and add value to each other's life. It would be perhaps music or would be performing arts, it would perhaps be in terms of education perhaps at the level of schools and not just the level of universities and in areas we can't even imagine. But with these interactions will emerge and evolve a new understanding.

Looking at our relationship I am reminded of your Kurosawas' famous film *The Third Man* where the same facts can be seen by different people with different perceptions differently. The important thing therefore is that we must be willing to understand things that the dynamics of our relationship will be perceived from different point of views from time to time. So long the convergent cohesive picture is intact this should not be a point of concern.

And, this is really what, I believe, you conference will attempt to do. To understand the strands and see if we can bring them together more effectively.

We have just been told about the vast investment of Japan in our country but I believe it is only 1 percent of the outward flow from Japan. We are looking at something greater and more substantive as we make a FDI friendly atmosphere in our country. Many years ago, one used to hear a lot about Japanese cities, and I say this as we have among us Dr. Isher Ahluwalia, whose interest in modern cities and modern urban spaces is legendary. I am looking forward to the day when her book on how to reorganize modern spaces, make them effective, make them creative, make them user friendly and make them participatory and yet get rid of all the unwholesome attributes that we have become accustomed to in recent times. And, that's where there is a great potential to develop relations vis-à-vis Japan.

I would certainly advocate strongly a Japanese city. You know, we have traditionally known China towns in our country but we have not yet known Japanese cities in our country and I think we'll be enriched greatly if we have something like this in our country. There are other countries in the ASEAN region doing this. Indian Prime Minister went to Malaysia, a little more than a year ago, and inaugurated little India. Similarly it would be wonderful if we had a Japanese city where you could lose yourself in the ambience of Japanese culture

and presence of Japan without really having to get on to a plane and take a long flight to get to Japan.

I know there were some important issues related to municipal laws, labor laws in this regard and Japan had difficulty negotiating it, but all that would fall in place. If I may be allowed to give you a tip on how to succeed in India - we have learnt a lot from Japan but the way to succeed in India is to not expect answers to all the questions in one meeting. But to take a few answers and move forward. The others just follow naturally without one even having to ask those questions.

I go back to Maruti-Suzuki and say that we have learnt a lot about Japanese management styles which is akin to our understanding of equality in dealing with people. We took it from the historical Indian way of life and combined them with some modern socialistic theories and we try to bring about equal behavior and outreach in our management techniques. These may be different from the management techniques that you see in the West but between India and Japan, I think, we have some remarkable uncanny similarities in our management techniques and this is why we get along very well with Japanese technicians and managers. It's just a matter of keeping these two things together to bring about a successful formula.

We would like to re-emphasize that our look east policy is in its third phase now. We started to emphasize on our look east policy in the early 1990s. We went into our second phase in the latter half of 1990s and now we are into the 3rd phase and we are full dialogue partners and make fully participative contribution to ASEAN, to the East Asia Summit as well as many other multilateral forums. I think greater significance of Japan comes with the further linkage we look forward to the Asia Pacific. I think that's the linkage that our closer collaboration will throw up to us and I think that will be very promising.

I think we are developing an interesting defense collaboration and cooperation, a joint exercise for our navy for instance and exchanges that we have done will continue to grow. I do believe that this is a very valuable relationship, a very valuable friendship which has historical strands, disagreements which we were able to overcome because of the strong bonds that we have and there are features in our relationship that be cannot have preconceived notions of what relationships will be between two sovereign countries. I think there are many-many features of our relationship that defy standard features of good relations and there are many features that prove that we can overcome difficult times and there are many-many dimensions of our relationship that point to India and Japan having a very significant role and a significant take away from the concept of Asia as the focal point of 21st century.

I believe our relationship with Japan, is a relationship that stands by itself, a relationship that contributes in a major way to how Asia of the 21st century will be.

With these few words, ladies and gentlemen I hope you have a very- very good time at this interesting conference and I look forward to a record of your deliberations as a take away from the convergence of so many experienced minds.

Thank you very much.



353. D.P.R. KOREA

Expression of concern by Government of India on the launch of rocket by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

New Delhi, April 13, 2012.

India notes with serious concern the attempted launch of a rocket by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) which violates United Nations Security Council Resolution 1874 and adversely impacts peace and stability in the Korean peninsula. India calls on DPRK not to undertake actions in violation of UNSC Resolutions



354. Statement by the Ministry of External Affairs expressing concern at the launch of rocket by Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

New Delhi, December 12, 2012.

India expresses its concern at the launch of a rocket by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) in violation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1874. This unwarranted action by the Government of DPRK has adversely impacted peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula. India calls on DPRK to refrain from such actions.



The Spokesman was referring to the launch of a rocket by North Korea which was regarded as a major setback in international relations. Thought to be a thinly veiled ballistic missile test, the rocket was trotted out soon after a food aid deal was announced, and immediately put this deal in jeopardy. In general, the ability for a country to launch a satellite into space is regarded a clear sign that it could deliver a nuclear payload to any country on the planet. Previously, it was thought that North Korea's best rockets might only be able to reach states such as California, Oregon, and Washington, but a rocket capable of orbiting a satellite indicates a much longer range for other payloads. South Korea and Japan vowed to shoot down any rockets that go over their territory, and the launch might also serve as a real-time test of US ballistic missile defense capabilities. In the past, North Korea had launched rockets as tests of short and medium range missiles, and to provoke its neighbors. Simultaneously with this launch, there are indications that a nuclear test was being planned.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

355. Extract relevant to Prime Minister's visit to Republic of Korea from the Media Briefing by the Foreign Secretary and Secretary (East) on P. M's visit to Seoul for an Official Visit and to attend the Nuclear Security Summit.

New Delhi, March 21, 2012.

(For briefing on Nuclear Security Summit Please see Document No. 061)

Official Spokesperson (Shri Syed Akbaruddin): Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, and thank you for being present at this briefing.

As we have informed you, this briefing will be related to the Prime Minister's visit to South Korea. Foreign Secretary will make his opening remarks. Along with him is Secretary (East) on his right. In case you have any questions related to that visit, Secretary (East) will handle it.

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Foreign Secretary (Shri Ranjan Mathai): Thank you. Sorry for being a little late. We had not realized that like many buildings this one is also in a permanent state of repair and we had to find our way around from a very complicated route back here. That is just by way of apology for being a few minutes late.

The Prime Minister will be visiting the Republic of Korea from March 24th to 27th. This will encompass two important engagements. Prime Minister will, at the invitation of President Lee Myung-bak, be on an official visit to South Korea on the 24th and the 25th. He will then attend the second Nuclear Security Summit in Seoul on the 26th and 27th of March 2012.

The visit to South Korea is the second bilateral visit by a Prime Minister of India, the last being in 1993 when Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao had gone to South Korea. President Lee Myung-bak had visited India on a State visit as the Chief Guest for the Republic Day in 2010, and our President had visited ROK in July 2011.

The elements of the official programme include a wreath laying ceremony at the Memorial Tower in the morning of March 25. This will be followed by an official welcoming ceremony at the Blue House, which is the official residence of the President of the ROK. PM will hold discussions with President Lee both in restricted and delegation-level formats. A bilateral agreement on Simplification of Visas will be signed, and thereafter a Joint Statement will be issued. On March 26, in the morning, there will be an interaction with leading CEOs of Korean corporations. At least that has been scheduled.

India and South Korea have a Strategic Partnership since 2010. The architecture of bilateral political discussions is well established. The two Foreign Ministers co-chair a Joint Commission. The last meeting of this Joint Commission was held in June 2010. The next is expected later this year. There is also a Foreign Policy and Security Dialogue, which is handled by my colleague Secretary (East) and the Vice Foreign Minister of ROK, in which they discuss overarching regional matters as well as economic and security issues.

Our economic relationship anchors our strong ties. Bilateral trade has picked up considerably since the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between India and ROK came into effect in January 2010. In the last two years, bilateral trade has grown 65 per cent to reach 20.5 billion dollars last year. We have established a target of 30 billion dollars by 2014, which we believe is achievable. Over 300 South Korean companies are present in India, with actual investments worth 2.3 billion dollars. Indian investment in Korea is also substantial with Tata Motors and the Mahindra Group having made important strategic investments in that country.

Bilateral cooperation in other spheres continues to move ahead. A joint fund for science and technology collaboration amounting to US\$ 10 million has been established to finance joint research between our scientists. An MoU for cooperation in space activities was concluded in 2010. The agreement on civil nuclear cooperation is progressing steadily. The Republic of Korea is active in India's defence equipment market. Later this year, we expect a visit by the Defence Minister of ROK to India.

Parliamentary exchanges have also been robust. The Speaker of the Lok Sabha and the Speaker of the Korean National assembly have exchanged visits in 2011. Cultural exchanges are progressing well. The ICCR established an Indian Cultural Center in Seoul in 2011, and a Korean Cultural Center is expected to be inaugurated later this year in our country.

The Prime Minister's visit aims to give depth and greater meaning to our Strategic Partnership and to the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, strengthen people-to-people contacts between our two countries, strengthen cooperation in the field of science and technology, and also coordinate our thinking on matters relating to regional security and international events.

Following the bilateral component of the visit, PM will attend the Second Nuclear Security Summit on the 26th and 27th of March. (For briefing Nuclear Security Summit please see Document No. 0.61)

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Question: Is there a proposal for having an annual dialogue with South Korea on the lines that we have with Japan, Russia and others? Also, what explains

the long interregnum between the two visits of the Prime Minister to Seoul? This is happening after almost two decades.

Secretary (East): We have a very strong institutional mechanism of dialogue with Korea. This covers meeting at the Ministerial level between the Foreign Ministers, between the Defence Ministers, between the Commerce and Industry Ministers. It is also at official level on various subjects, and this takes place all through the year. We have a very strong multifaceted relationship with South Korea. We have had regular high-level visits from both sides. We have had President's of Korea visiting India. Their three Presidents have come to India and our two Presidents have visited Korea, both President Kalam and President Patil. And PM had visited Korea in 1993 and is now visiting again.

Question: What is this annual dialogue?

Secretary (East): For all practical purposes we have an annual dialogue. There is a dialogue at the level of the Foreign Office, which is at the Joint Secretary level. There is a dialogue at the level of Secretary. There is a Joint Commission at the level of the Minister.

Question: But there is no proposal to convert it into an institutionalized mechanism.

Secretary (East): This is an institutionalized mechanism. Foreign Office Cooperation Dialogue, Foreign Office Consultations, the Strategic Dialogue, and the Joint Commission are institutional mechanisms.

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Question: I would like to ask about North Korea. Will the North Korea issue be discussed by our Prime Minister with the South Korean President? What is Indian Government's position on the North Korean plan to launch a satellite?

Foreign Secretary: I will ask my colleague here to answer that because he deals with the two Koreas. But I would just like to underline the very great importance India attaches to issues of security and disarmament.

Secretary (East): The issue of the satellite launch has come to our notice. We feel that nothing should be done which increases tension in the region and goes against UNSC resolutions, especially UNSC 1874.

Question: So far the focus is only on highly enriched uranium and plutonium. Other radioactive substances like radioisotopes, will they also be covered?

Foreign Secretary: They are covered as part of the discussions but the focus, as I said, is on the threat from nuclear terrorism and what is assessed as the principal source of danger. But the question of isotopes and their use is a part of the discussion. In fact even in Delhi there was a fairly robust discussion on this

and on one particular paragraph there was some disagreement. That has been sorted out. I think there is not going to be very much discussion on the isotope issue in Korea. But one does not know. When we will reach there we will know. But it has been discussed.



356. Statement by the Prime Minister prior to his departure for the Republic of Korea for an Official visit and to attend the Nuclear Security Summit.

New Delhi, March 23, 2012.

At the invitation of President Lee Myung-bak of the Republic of Korea, I leave tomorrow for Seoul to attend the 2012 Seoul Nuclear Security Summit and to pay an Official Visit to the Republic of Korea.

The Seoul Nuclear Security Summit follows the first Nuclear Security Summit convened by President Barack Obama in Washington in April 2010 to focus attention of countries with considerable nuclear capabilities on the threat posed by nuclear terrorism. This remains a continuing concern. India has been an active participant in carrying forward the Nuclear Security Summit initiative, and has also hosted a Sherpa meeting in January 2012 in New Delhi.

India is expanding its nuclear power programme to diversify its energy mix and enhance energy security. In order to retain public support for harnessing the benefits of nuclear energy, we must be able to assure them of the highest levels of nuclear security and safety. This is even more important after the Fukushima accident in Japan last year.

I expect the Seoul Summit to review actions that countries have taken to strengthen nuclear security since we last met in Washington, and recommend further steps to enhance the global nuclear security architecture. India has prepared a national report which will be shared during the Summit. I will highlight the high priority we attach to nuclear security, safety and non-proliferation, and our impeccable record in this regard. I also intend to underline India's continuing support for a world free of nuclear weapons.

In addition, my visit will provide the opportunity to exchange views with a number of world leaders who will be attending the Nuclear Security Summit.

I look forward to my bilateral meeting with President Lee to undertake a comprehensive review of our relations with the Republic of Korea, and identify new steps for the future. The Republic of Korea is a Strategic Partner and an important pillar of our "Look East" policy. We have a vibrant trade and investment relationship. Our partnership in science & technology, education and energy holds enormous promise.

As members of various multilateral forums such as the East Asia Summit and G-20, our two countries have shared interests on a range of emerging political, security and economic issues. I will use my meeting with President Lee to exchange views on important regional and international developments. I also

look forward to meeting leading Korean business leaders, who play a key role in bringing our two countries together.



357. Interview of the Prime Minister to a Korean Daily, JoongAng Ilbo.

Seoul, March 23, 2012.

[Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh (80) described his own country as an elephant. The Indus civilization, continent-sized country with the population of 1.2 billion had been sleeping. With his long experience as an economist and his personal stature, it was Manmohan Singh who awakened the sleeping elephant. On 19 March 2012, at the official residence of the Prime Minister in New Delhi, Singh said "India is an elephant, which is slow to move. But when it moves, you cannot stop".

India had adopted the socialist pattern of economy after getting independence. It finally opened the doors to its huge market in 1991 when Singh became the Finance Minister and by doing so strengthened the competitiveness of the nation. Since 2004, as the Prime Minister of India, Singh has been crafting the economic development policy of the country with a human face. India, in the last decade, has been one of the fastest-growing economies in the world after China, with average annual growth rates of 6%. Inspired by his leadership, the JoongAng Ilbo requested an interview with Manmohan Singh who is visiting Seoul on 24-27 March 2012 for the Nuclear Security Summit and bilateral Summit.]

JoongAng Ilbo: You must have faced strong resistance when you tried to carry out economic reforms. How could you break through the resistance and what was the toughest?

Prime Minister: In human affairs, the status quo has a great appeal because it is rooted in reality. Therefore, whenever you want to change things, move away from status quo, there is resistance. But I have great faith in the people of our country. It is because of the support of the people that we were able to get the country out of a deep economic crisis that it was in 1991. And since 1991, there are several parties which have ruled our country and it is a tribute to our leadership that this change in political leadership has not affected the process of economic reform so that underlying there is a great national consensus in favour of the reform, in favour of the liberalization process.

(Congress is the ruling party in the parliamentary system of India with a coalition government of many parties. Manmohan Singh belongs to the Congress party. He has a Master's degree and doctorate in economics from Cambridge and Oxford University respectively.)

JoongAng Ilbo: Sonia Gandhi (66) heads the Congress party. How do you maintain such cordial relations with the one from different religion and region and gender for 8 years?

Prime Minister: "Our historical experience has forged a national narrative that is marked by a respect for plurality and diversity. We regard these as strengths rather than limitations. The founding fathers of our nation laid down certain fundamental principles which made us seek our economic and social salvation within the framework of a pluralistic democracy wedded to the rule of law".

JoongAng Ilbo: What is your image of the past, present and future of Korea?

Prime Minister: The Republic of Korea's transformation and its emergence as a vibrant democracy, one of the fastest growing economies in the world and a powerhouse of innovation in just two generations is an inspiration for the whole of Asia. I am aware of the odds you fought against and the sacrifice you made in the early years of building your nation to gain your prestige and position you enjoy today. It is a reflection of your enlightened leadership and the resolve of the South Korean people. The Republic of Korea is a factor for peace, stability and prosperity in East Asia.

(The editor conveyed the message of President Lee Myung Bak to the Prime Minister before starting the interview. PM Singh said "I have great admiration for President Lee. We had the privilege of having the President as our Chief Guest on our Republic Day in 2010.)

JoongAng Ilbo: What would be the topic that you would like to bring up the most when you meet President Lee at the Nuclear Security Summit in Seoul?

Prime Minister: We will talk about giving depth and greater meaning to our Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, strengthen people-to-people contacts between our two countries, strengthen cooperation in the field of science and technology, and also coordinate our thinking in matters relating to regional security, international events, and since this is an occasion which coincides with Nuclear Security Summit, we can work together to promote nuclear security and safety in this world that we live in.

JoongAng Ilbo: Do you think that USA is keeping China in check? Have you faced situations where you were forced to choose between China and USA?

Prime Minister: China is our largest neighbor with which we share a long border. It is also our biggest trading partner in goods. With USA, our relations have been transformed in 2005. Three million people of Indian origin live and work in the US. The country is also India's largest business partner. Our aim is to have cooperative ties with both China and USA. It is not zero-sum game. I do not think that large and dynamic countries like China can be contained.

JoongAng Ilbo: Recently, Wall Street Journal opined that India's bureaucratic red tape and corruption have been discouraging foreign investment. Korean steel company POSCO's project in Orissa is still pending.

Prime Minister: Outside observers often tend to take a narrow view of our economic policies. India is a far more open economy today than it was earlier. We are governed by the rule of law, and as a functioning democracy, we need to be mindful of the concerns and sensitivities of all sections and stakeholders and take their interests into account. It is my sincere hope that the issues pertaining to the POSCO project would be resolved soon to the satisfaction of all parties. Over 300 South Korean companies are present in India. We plan to invest one trillion dollars in infrastructure development in areas like highways, airports, power plants, mass transport systems and so on in next five years. We would like to see more South Korean companies come to India and take advantage of our youthful and skilled labor force. Opportunities in India are wide open.

(Indian government officials point out that the country has a 300 million middle class with excellent purchasing power in its 1.2 billion population. As such India is a big market though the rich-poor gap exists. 50-70% of home appliances market in India is dominated by Samsung and LG. Hyundai occupies 20% of small car market, after Suzuki which has 50% share.

Our editor found Dr. Singh a humble man, who described himself as an "extinguished economist". He is a statesman who has gone through all kinds of ups and downs. His eyes, visible through the horn-rimmed glasses were gentle and the light of wisdom was shining.)

Editor in Chief - Chun



358. Statement by the Prime Minister to the media during his official bilateral visit to Republic of Korea.

Seoul, March 25, 2012.

"I am delighted to be on an official bilateral visit to the Republic of Korea. President Lee and I have just concluded our talks aimed at adding momentum and substance to our Strategic Partnership. Ours is a partnership built on shared values that provide a firm foundation for further development. President Lee has made an outstanding contribution to give added meaning and substance to our strategic partnership and I thank H.E. President Lee for that contribution.

In our discussions today, President Lee and I agreed that our strong economic ties are fundamental to our growing interaction. Bilateral trade has risen by 65% over the past two years since the implementation of our Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. We have therefore set a new target of US\$ 40 billion by 2015. We also agreed to accelerate work in progress to upgrade the Agreement and make it more ambitious.

I invited Korean firms to invest in India in a big way. Companies such as LG, Hyundai and Samsung are already household names in India. We would like to see small and medium sized Korean companies also making India a base for their manufacturing. I informed President Lee that India is making a huge effort in upgrading our physical infrastructure. We want Korean companies to help us realize this objective and benefit from the opportunities provided by this.

The Agreement just signed on simplifying visa procedures will make travel easier for business persons.

I felicitated President Lee and the people of the Republic of Korea for hosting yet another important multilateral meeting, the Nuclear Security Summit, here in Seoul. I requested him for Korea's support to India's quest to join international regimes such as the Nuclear Suppliers Group, the Missile Technology Control Group, the Australia Group and the Wassenaar Arrangement.

We agreed to expand our political and security cooperation. With this objective in mind, I informed President Lee of India's decision to position a Defence Attaché at our Embassy here in Seoul before the end of the year.

We discussed ways and means to enhance cooperation between our scientists and technicians, including how to operationalize a joint Science and Technology Fund of US\$ 10 million. India has also offered to launch Korean satellites on Indian space launch vehicles.

2013 will mark the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations

between India and the Republic of Korea. We agreed to celebrate this year in a befitting manner.

On regional issues, we agreed to enhance our cooperation and coordination, including in the East Asia Summit process. I informed President Lee of the developments in the re-establishment of the Nalanda University and looked forward to Korean participation in this effort.

We also discussed ways to increase our coordination on global issues including in the G-20 and at the United Nations.

I am extremely pleased with the outcome of my discussions with President Lee this morning. I believe we have laid the foundation for a firm partnership for the coming years between our two great countries.

I have invited President Lee to visit India. Thank you very much."



359. India - Republic of Korea Joint Statement issued at the conclusion of Prime Minister's visit to Seoul: "Deepening the Strategic Partnership"

Seoul, March 25, 2012.

1. The Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh paid an Official Visit to the Republic of Korea (ROK), at the invitation of President Lee Myung-bak, on 25 March 2012. The Prime Minister of India, his spouse Shrimati Gursharan Kaur and the accompanying delegation were received with great warmth and accorded a ceremonial welcome at the Blue House. Prime Minister Singh held a restricted summit meeting with President Lee, followed by delegation level talks. Thereafter, a luncheon banquet was hosted by President Lee in honour of the visiting dignitary and his delegation.

2. During the summit meeting, Prime Minister Singh and President Lee conducted a thorough review of and hailed the multifaceted bilateral relationship, which has rapidly acquired greater depth and vitality since its elevation to a Strategic Partnership during the landmark State visit to India of President Lee in January 2010. They agreed that the State visit of President Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil to the Republic of Korea in July 2011, had imparted further momentum to the engagement and dialogue process between the two countries. The two leaders expressed satisfaction at regular high-level exchanges, steadily growing economic, trade, security and cultural ties, as well as robust people-to-people exchanges. They examined ways to further enhance ties, underscoring the mutual convergence of interests and outlook between these two democracies of Asia.

3. The two leaders also held wide-ranging discussions on regional, international and multilateral issues. It was noted that India - Republic of Korea relations were of mutual advantage and were conducive to peace, progress and stability in our respective regions, in the whole of Asia and even beyond.

Strengthening Political and Security Cooperation

4. Prime Minister Singh and President Lee, appreciating the role of the India-ROK Joint Commission (JCM) co-chaired by the Foreign Minister and External Affairs Minister of the two countries, reaffirmed that the Commission meet every year, alternately in Seoul and New Delhi. It was also decided that the seventh meeting of the Joint Commission will be held in New Delhi at the earliest date this year.

5. The two leaders shared the view that the Foreign Policy & Security Dialogue (FPSD) at the level of Vice Foreign Minister, MOFAT and Secretary (East),

MEA was a useful instrument to exchange views and harmonize positions on a vast variety of bilateral, regional and international issues. It was agreed to hold the next meeting of the FPSD soon within this year in New Delhi.

6. The two leaders expressed satisfaction at the strengthening bilateral cooperation in the areas of defense and security. Prime Minister Singh conveyed India's decision to set up a defense wing at the Embassy of India, Seoul within this year, which was welcomed by President Lee.

7. The two sides exchanged views on the prevailing complex security situation and underlined the need to actively pursue consultations and cooperation in the field of maritime safety and security both bilaterally and in association with other countries of the region.

8. The ROK side recalled the timely and useful visit of Defense Minister A K Antony in September 2010, which provided an excellent opportunity for both sides to exchange views on the entire range of defense and security issues. It was agreed that the Defense Minister of ROK would pay a return visit to India later this year.

9. Prime Minister Singh and President Lee also agreed to continue high-level exchanges between the defense establishments of both sides, undertake activities as mutually agreed for deepening bilateral defense relations and to explore the possibilities of joint ventures in research & development and manufacture of military equipment, including through the transfer of technology and co-production. President Lee underscored that the ROK side wanted to increase cooperation with India in military and defense industry including, inter alia, naval ships, aircrafts, and ship-building.

Expanding Economic and Trade Cooperation

10. Prime Minister Singh and President Lee noted with satisfaction that bilateral trade had increased by around 70 percent in two years since the entry into force of the India - ROK Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) on 1 January, 2010, crossing the \$ 20 billion mark in 2011. A Joint Committee has already been instituted at the level of Trade/Commerce Ministers to regularly review the working of CEPA and upgrade it as and when required. The first meeting of the Joint Committee had taken place in New Delhi on 20th January 2011. It was agreed to have the second Ministerial Committee meeting in Seoul this year.

11. The two leaders agreed to set a new bilateral trade target of US\$ 40 billion by 2015. Prime Minister Singh underlined the desirability of balanced trade relations, which would facilitate a robust growth rate in the long term. It was agreed that both sides would explore constructive and forward looking ways to

facilitate greater market access to each other's products and services. Prime Minister Singh reiterated that the Indian side was hopeful of providing ROK with pharmaceutical and agricultural products, as well as, IT enabled services.

12. Prime Minister Singh apprised his host of India's efforts to strengthen the national infrastructure and plans to invest \$ 1 trillion in infrastructure development between 2012-17. Noting the enviable track record of Korean companies in successfully executing infrastructure projects all over the globe, Prime Minister Singh invited them to actively participate in the construction projects for highways, ports, airports, metros and power plants being regularly launched in India. Prime Minister Singh pointed out that India followed a transparent and competitive bidding process, which was open to qualified companies from all countries.

13. Prime Minister Singh and President Lee welcomed the growing presence and investments of Korean companies in India and those of Indian companies in ROK, which had been stimulated by the bilateral CEPA. They also agreed to explore new possibilities for joint investment in third countries. The two leaders also reaffirmed the importance of implementing the POSCO project in the State of Odisha.

14. The two leaders welcomed the steady growth in travel between the two countries, reflective of enhanced business and people to people exchanges. They agreed to increase mutual efforts to further improve air connectivity between the two countries. It was also agreed to hold the next round of civil aviation talks at an early date, to examine various proposals on the table, including the increase of the capacity entitlements for the air carriers of the two countries, in a constructive and forward-looking spirit.

Enhancing Science and Technology Cooperation

15. Prime Minister Singh and President Lee welcomed the upgrading of the Joint Committee on Science and Technology to the ministerial level as a foundation for common growth. They noted that the \$ 10 million joint R&D fund is being actively utilized for joint research projects, human resources exchanges, workshops, and other science and technology cooperation programs.

16. Both leaders pledged to enhance cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space as envisaged in the MOU on cooperation between the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and the Korea Aerospace Research Institute (KARI). The leaders noted that the technical experts from both sides met in Bangalore, India, in March 2011 and identified priority areas of cooperation. The Korean side welcomed India's participation in the RoK's international open bidding for launching Korean satellites. The two leaders proposed that the concerned agencies of both countries study the possible cooperation in future space activities including launching a nano-satellite developed by Korean students on an Indian launch vehicle.

17. Both leaders expressed satisfaction at the conclusion of a bilateral civil nuclear cooperation agreement during the State visit of the President of India to ROK in July 2011. Recognizing the criticality of non-polluting nuclear energy in the economic development of countries, they agreed to discuss specific items of cooperation with the ongoing review of the safety and security aspects of operating nuclear plants. President Lee requested that the Indian Government allocate a site for Korean nuclear reactors.

Promoting Culture, Education and People-to-People Exchanges

18. The two leaders expressed satisfaction at the successful organization of reciprocal year long cultural festivals in both countries during 2011. Prime Minister Singh and President Lee, decided that the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between ROK and India in 2013, be celebrated in a befitting manner. Both sides will consult each other in developing a suitable calendar of events. President Lee welcomed the opening of an Indian Cultural Centre in Seoul in July 2011 and conveyed that the Korean Cultural Centre would be operational in New Delhi in the course of the year. Prime Minister Singh noted that the initiative would help the Indian people become more interested in the rich Korean culture and tradition.

19. The two leaders welcomed the growing educational and academic exchanges between the two countries. They agreed to promote tie-ups and exchanges between educational institutions of the two countries, with a view to increasing student exchanges in various areas including language, information technology, and science.

20. Prime Minister Singh and President Lee expressed a strong desire to see greater parliamentary exchanges between the two countries, which are amongst the two most vibrant democracies in the world.

21. Recognizing the critical role of the media in informing and shaping public opinion in democratic nations, Prime Minister Singh and President Lee also welcomed the MOU on media exchanges, concluded in July 2011 in Seoul. It was noted that the two countries would exchange media delegation in the second half of this year. They also agreed to facilitate institutional tie ups between media organizations of both countries to promote further exchange of content and journalists.

Furthering Cooperation in the International Arena

22. Prime Minister Singh and President Lee exchanged views on the global economic and financial situation, which continues to be very difficult. They reiterated the pressing need for all countries and international financial institutions to work in tandem in order to overcome the crisis affecting each and every

nation. They agreed to step up consultations including those in the G20 process to enhance transparency and cooperation in both regional and global economic structures.

23. The two leaders also recognized the need for comprehensive UN reforms including Security Council expansion to make the body even more representative and effective. Prime Minister Singh emphasized India's aspirations for a greater role in the reformed UN Security Council. Both sides commended each other's roles and constructive contributions in promoting global peace, security and prosperity.

24. The two leaders exchanged views on the situation in their respective regions, as well as the Gulf, West Asia and North Africa, expressing concern at a number of flashpoints that could endanger peace and security in Asia and beyond. They underlined their strong commitment to the peaceful settlement of issues, without resorting to force or the threat of use of force.

25. The two leaders shared their views on the importance of maintaining peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula including its denuclearization. Noting North Korea's announcement made on March 16, 2012 that it plans to launch the so-called "application satellite", they urged that nothing should be done which increases tensions in the region and violates the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

26. Prime Minister Singh and President Lee and expressed grave concern about the continued threat of terrorism and piracy, emanating from various quarters. The two leaders expressed the hope that the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism, which was under consideration at the UN, would be adopted soon. The two leaders pledged to enhance mutual cooperation including through information sharing.

27. The two leaders reiterated their common commitment to nuclear disarmament and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. They attached importance to the Seoul Nuclear Security Summit in strengthening international efforts to address the challenge of nuclear terrorism. The Republic of Korea welcomed India's intention for future membership and active participation in the multilateral export control regimes with the objective of strengthening the international non-proliferation regime.

28. The two leaders agreed to expand cooperation and coordination between their countries within the East Asia Summit (EAS), which they acknowledged should continue to remain an ASEAN-led, open, transparent and inclusive structure. They welcomed the inclusion of the United States and the Russian Federation in the EAS.

29. The two leaders welcomed the commencement of a Trilateral India-ROK-

Japan dialogue amongst think-tanks of the three countries, the first of which will be held in Delhi in 2012.

30. Prime Minister Singh informed President Lee of the rapid progress in the establishment of the new Nalanda University as a symbol of excellence in learning in a resurgent Asia. President Lee stated that ROK welcomed the progress in re-establishing this premier educational institution and would examine possible ways to contribute.

31. The two leaders welcomed the signing of the following agreement and MOU:

- (i) Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedures
- (ii) MOU on Cooperation between KNDA (Korea National Diplomatic Academy) and FSI (Foreign Service Institute)

32. The two leaders welcomed regular bilateral high level visits, which have become a hallmark of the relationship and observed that the Official visit of the Prime Minister of India to the Republic of Korea would contribute immeasurably to deepening and expanding the Strategic Partnership between the two countries.

33. On behalf of the Government and the people of India, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh expressed gratitude to President Mr. Lee Myung-bak and the friendly people of the Republic of Korea for the warm and gracious hospitality accorded to him and his delegation. Prime Minister Singh extended a cordial invitation to the President of ROK to visit India at a mutually convenient time. The invitation was accepted with appreciation.



360. Media Briefing by Secretary (East) on Prime Minister's ongoing visit to Republic of Korea**Seoul, March 25, 2012.**

Official Spokesperson (Shri Syed Akbaruddin): The briefing will cover the events of this morning, that is, basically the bilateral part of the visit so far.

We have here with us Secretary (East) Mr. Sanjay Singh, who will make some opening remarks. In case you have any questions or clarifications after that, we have a team of other colleagues who will assist the Secretary in his responses. I do not need to perhaps introduce the gentleman on my left. All of you are aware of Ambassador Vishnu Prakash.

You know him much better than I do because you have worked with him for several years. To Secretary (East)'s left is Mr. Pankaj Pachauri, Communications Advisor to the Prime Minister. To his left is Mr. Gautam Bambawale, Joint Secretary (East Asia).

Without further ado, I will ask Secretary (East) to make his brief opening remarks, and then we will follow up with responses to any questions that you may have.

Secretary (East) (Shri Sanjay Singh): Good afternoon everybody.

We have already given you a pretty extensive briefing in Delhi. Today, PM's statement to the press was very extensive. I suppose all of you have got that. You will get the Joint Statement. What I would be doing is basically going over the ground which has already been trodden. But I think it will be useful for those who have not been there in the morning session or have missed out one or the other part of the proceedings of the morning. We will go through it and then we will try and field questions, as the case may be, if there are any.

Let us just put it in context. Prime Minister arrived, you have all arrived with him in the same plane, on a three-day bilateral visit to South Korea from 24th to 26th March. He had earlier visited Korea in November 2010, for the G20 Summit. President Lee was the Chief Guest at the Republic Day in January 2010 during which visit our bilateral partnership was elevated to a strategic relationship. Hon. President visited Korea in July 2011. To put it in context, we have had a number of bilateral visits in a very short space of time which is indicative of the growing strength of our bilateral relations.

Today, Prime Minister had his summit meeting with President Lee. Most of you were in the Blue House to attend the media event and have got a flavor of the conversation and the feel for the atmospherics. To give you a quick overview, Prime Minister paid homage at the Memorial Tower along with Shrimati Gursharan

Kaur and members of the delegation in the morning. He was next accorded a warm ceremonial welcome at the Blue House and presented with a Guard of Honour. It was a very colourful ceremony in true Korean style. Large number of Korean and Indian children were present during the ceremony. They greeted and cheered both leaders who spent a few minutes conversing with them. Our Korean friends very thoughtfully arranged a short tour for the Indian kids of the Blue House.

The two leaders held a restricted meeting which was followed by delegation-level talks. The talks were wide-ranging and covered the whole gamut of bilateral, regional and international issues of common interest. PM and President expressed great satisfaction at the momentum in bilateral relations in recent years and their all-round expansion including in areas like trade investment, S&T, space, education, defence, security, culture, and people-to-people relations.

Consequent to the operationalisation of Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) in January, 2010, bilateral trade has grown over 65 per cent in the last two years crossing the 20 billion mark by the end of 2011. There is considerable untapped potential given that Republic of Korea is among the fastest growing OECD countries, and India is the second fastest growing major economy in the world. The two leaders agreed to enhance the trade target to 40 billion dollars by 2015. Considerable investments have been flowing in both directions. South Korean companies have obtained success in India and so have Indian companies in Korea.

Prime Minister said he would like to see a bigger presence of Korean companies in India including in the area of infrastructure development. The Korean companies have known strength in infrastructure and in specific areas of manufacturing, as you know. PM will be interacting with Korean CEOs tomorrow with this objective.

An important agreement on visa simplification was signed in the presence of both leaders. It envisages long-term multiple entry visas and other visas which would spur greater contacts, travel and engagement.

Both sides also agreed to continue regular high-level exchanges in the coming months. We expect the visits of Republic of Korea's Defence and Foreign Ministers to India. When the Foreign Minister would visit India, we would also have the meeting of the Joint Commission. The Commerce and Industry Minister of India is also expected to visit Korea for the next round of the Joint Committee Meeting to review implementation of the CEPA.

While close to about a 100,000 Indians and Koreans each traveled in both directions last year, India and Korea would work towards enhancing air connectivity to boost business and tourist traffic. Presently some 2,000 Korean students including school-going students study in India and an increasing number of Indian scholars are heading to South Korea to study science subjects. Both

sides have pledged to promote educational exchange and explore more institutional tie-ups. We also have considerable cooperation in the sector of science and technology for which a fund of ten million dollars has been earmarked by both countries.

An MoU on cooperation between the Foreign Service Institute and Korean National Diplomatic Academy to explore possibilities of exchanging faculty, trainee, and best practices was concluded. The Ambassadors signed the MoU day before yesterday. For the first time we would be sending some young diplomats for an exposure to RoK later this year.

President Lee and Prime Minister noted a marked convergence of outlook on a variety of issues. They agreed that both countries would keep in close touch bilaterally as well as at international fora to regularly exchange views and coordinate positions. Both countries are welcoming of the positive role and contribution made by each other in promoting peace, stability and prosperity in our respective regions, Asia and beyond.

Prime Minister was received with exceptional warmth and courtesy, which is reflective of our excellent ties and the esteem that Prime Minister has been personally held here in the Republic of Korea. His visit has been instrumental in greatly consolidating the process of bilateral engagement and in deepening our strategic partnership. I thank you.

Question: Prime Minister in his opening address said that he has requested South Korean President to support India in the NSG, MTCR, and Australia Group. What was South Korean President's response to that?

Secretary (East): Prime Minister's request was noted. This is a process, as you know, which is ongoing and India is making considerable progress in that.

Question: South Korean President referred to India's concerns about North Korea launching its rocket or rather satellite on April 15th. Could you cast some light on that? Secondly, when you talk about the strategic relations with South Korea, is China a factor in the equation? The reason why you want better strategic relations with South Korea?

Secretary (East): Firstly, we had already pointed out that nothing should be done which increases tensions in this region and goes against UNSC resolutions. We have already made that statement. I think that is what perhaps the President was referring to. I must emphasise that our relations with every country stand on their own merit and are not predicated on our relations with any other country. We have excellent relations with both, our neighbor China, and with South Korea.

Question: Did the South Korean side enquire about the POSCO project? Did POSCO project come up for discussion?

Secretary (East): Not extensively. We expressed that there is progress in the implementation of the POSCO project. Both sides attach importance to it. A number of governmental clearances, etc., have been done. The State Government of Odisha is making progress in acquiring the land. There are certain legal issues involved. These are being attended to. We hope that there is progress in the near future.

Question: I will like to know two things. There has been reports in South Korean Papers Since Korea has advanced technology in shipbuilding... and also possible that India may need South Korean help in technology in civil nuclear reactors safety. I would like to know if there has been any discussion about this. The other thing is that in the Joint Statement the Korean President has said that since the signing of the CEPA there has been an increase of 65 % in trade. Our Prime Minister has said 70%. What is the correct figure. (unofficial translation from the Hindi text)

Secretary (East): It is a question of statistics. A point here and there makes all the difference. PM said it has increased more than 65 %. Whether it is 65 % or 70%, there has been substantial increase. It is a question of understanding. The increase is about that. Both are correct. There has been substantial increase and it is due to CEPA.

South Korea has made substantial progress in civil nuclear field. As far as I know they get 45 percent power from nuclear energy. They have a particular reactor with a capacity of 14MWe, which is one of the most advanced in the world. We want to increase cooperation with them. Last year in July when the Hon'ble President visited New Delhi, we had entered into a cooperation agreement with them, which had many elements. (unofficial translation from Hindi text)

Question: The Prime Minister has invited South Korea to use Indian launch vehicles for launch of their satellites. Is there anything specific on the agenda? Have they approached us with any specific launch request now?

Secretary (East): South Korea has a programme to launch satellites. We have a launch vehicle. I think it is a win-win, it is in mutual interest that we have cooperation in this sector and I think we can both use our capabilities to mutual advantage.

Question: Any specific launch the South Koreans have approached us with?

Secretary (East): We have cooperation in the sector of space. We signed this agreement in 2010 when President Lee visited India as a Chief Guest at the Republic Day. And this has all these areas of cooperation.

Question: The Prime Minister announced that a Defence Attache will be

positioned in Seoul shortly. You have also talked about the possibility of the Defence Minister visiting India. How do you see this increased cooperation panning out? Are you going to see more exercises, more visits, more cooperation maybe at the manufacturing level during the new DPP we have? How is that procedure spanning out?

Secretary (East): Cooperation in the

field of defence and security covers various aspects. One is personnel, that is human resources, capacity-building, training, exchanges of views and doctrines. The second aspect is defence production. South Korea has developed considerable prowess in defence production. We too have our own domestic strengths. I think we feel that time has come that we can cooperate with each other towards fulfilling our own requirements. And I think again this is another area with the new economic cooperation that is going on with us knowing more about South Korean companies and South Korea knowing more about Indian companies, this is a natural outcome of the process and creation of the strategic partnership.

Question: Did President Lee share his assessment of how DPRK will handle its transition under its new ruler Kim? Was this a topic for discussion at all?

Secretary (East): There were discussions regarding various regional countries. He did mention that there has been a change in the leadership in DPRK and that they would be watching how it performs in due course.

Question: Are South Korean nuclear power companies showing interest in investing in India's nuclear power sector?

Secretary (East): I would not know specifically but I hope they do.

Would you like to say a few words before we close the thing, Ambassador sahib, for old time sake?

Ambassador to ROK (Shri Vishnu Prakash): Good afternoon. It is such a delight to be talking to you again in my new incarnation. As the Secretary mentioned, this has been an excellent visit. Both sides have recognized that this establishes a new landmark in expanding our relations. The relationship is becoming truly multifaceted because it is anchored on the economic and commercial relationship which is blossoming. But also the other facets of the relationship are acquiring great salience, some of which the Secretary alluded to. They include, as he said, given the fact that we have a broad convergence of interests and outlook in respect of our respective regions, in Asia and beyond. We have been working well together at the international fora. Specifically when we talk of bilateral relationship, when we talk of security, when we talk of defence, when we talk of people-to-people, energy, civil aviation.

For example the President mentioned that last year 15 million Koreans had travelled abroad. It is a small country geographically speaking and population wise of 49 million people. Given the fact that India is seen as a spiritual home by something like 25 per cent of the Buddhist population of this country, and given the fact that we are two large and two ancient civilizations with a very robust economic and commercial relationship, I think we are really scratching the surface at the moment when we talk of say 100,000 people travelling in both directions.

I think we have attained a critical mass. I think that there is tremendous goodwill and genuine interest towards each other which is factored on realities. As the Secretary mentioned, we are two fast-growing economies in the world. Today we are the third and the fourth largest economies in Asia. They are very enamoured of the fact that India offers a huge market of something like 300 million strong middle class. So, I guess we have genuine synergy. Prime Minister mentioned to President Lee Myung-bak that India and Korea are natural partners. I think that said it all. Thank you.

Official Spokesperson: Thank you.



361. Address by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to the Chief Executives of the Korean Business and Industry.

Seoul, March 26, 2012.

"It is a great pleasure for me to meet with you this morning. I would like to thank the leading Korean chambers of commerce and industry for organizing this interaction during my official visit to this beautiful country.

We in India admire the Korean people for the great economic and social progress they have registered. Despite the downturn in the global economy, Korea has sustained one of the highest growth rates among the OECD countries. These achievements are due to the determination, solid hard work and spirit of enterprise of the Korean people.

India too is one of the fastest growing major economies of the world. Despite the adverse international environment, we have managed to maintain a growth rate of 7% per annum in the last few years. I am confident that the strong fundamentals of our economy will help us return to a sustained growth path of about 8-10% per annum in the coming years.

Firstly, our domestic savings rate is about 33 - 35% of our GDP and growing.

Secondly, India has a very young population and over half of the working population is in its twenties.

Thirdly, over the past few years we have invested heavily in education, health and agriculture to give a new deal to rural India. Our rural markets are now booming and the middle class is growing rapidly.

Fourthly, we have been undertaking a huge expansion in our higher education and skill development infrastructure of ports, airports, railways, energy and roads. India is poised to continue to be a frontline player in the global knowledge economy.

Fifthly, we have very ambitious plans for the development of our physical infrastructure. We are planning to secure investment of almost US Dollar one trillion in the next 5 years in new projects in highways, power plants, mass transport systems, ports and airports. This will be achieved through both public and private investment and Public-Private Partnerships.

Sixthly, we are determined to pursue a strategy of green growth. We are committed to increasing energy efficiency and the share of renewables, including solar and nuclear power, in our energy mix. There will be large business opportunities and I am aware of Korean capabilities in environmentally friendly technologies.

Korean companies have always recognized these strengths and competitive advantages of the Indian economy. They were among the early investors to look at India as a strategic investment destination. Korean giants like LG and Samsung are household names in India. Hyundai has a 25% market share in India's domestic passenger car industry.

I recognize that sometimes our processes can be slow but there are effective mechanisms for resolution of problems and differences and a strong rule of law. The government is keen to move forward with the POSCO project and there is some progress in this regard. I believe that India is a stable and profitable long term investment opportunity.

Investment from Korea is a priority for India. We will take pro-active steps to address investor grievances and improve the business climate in the country. Many States of our Union have been actively encouraging foreign investment and we will support these efforts. I urge Korean industry to have faith in India.

After the implementation of our bilateral Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) on 1 January 2010, our bilateral trade has surged by roughly 65% in two years and reached a turnover of 20.6 billion US Dollars in 2011. However, it is still below its huge untapped potential. Therefore, President Lee and I decided yesterday to revise the bilateral trade target to 40 billion US Dollars by 2015. This is a challenge as well as an opportunity that we must both seize together. I look forward to hearing your views.

Thank you."



362. Speech by the Prime Minister at the Banquet hosted by the President of the Republic of Korea.

Seoul, March 25, 2012.

Your Excellency, President Lee Myung-bak, Madam Kim Yoon-ok,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to express my deep debt to President Lee and the gracious First Lady Madam Kim for hosting us today. I thank you for the warmth of your welcome and the cordiality of your reception.

Excellency,

We in India regard you as a great supporter of a strong India-Korea partnership. It was during your historic visit to India in 2010 that we upgraded our relations to the level of a Strategic Partnership.

We admire the way you have steered the Korean economy through the global economic downturn.

Excellency,

Links between India and Korea go back thousands of years. Lord Buddha's abiding message of peace resonates among both our peoples. We know of the legend that a Princess from Ayodhya traveled here to marry King Kim Suro. I thank you for installing a bust of India's great poet, Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, who called your nation the 'Lamp of the East', in Seoul.

We have watched with great admiration the transformation of Korea into a developed economy. The people of India admire the determination, capacity for hard work and the spirit of enterprise that characterize Korean people.

Korean companies were among the first to respond confidence in India after we opened our economy in 1991. Many Korean brands are household names in India.

There is nevertheless immense potential for further economic cooperation between our two countries.

Excellency, India looks forward to strengthening political and security cooperation with the Republic of Korea. We welcome Korea's growing role in international affairs and we see it as a positive factor for peace and stability. I recall Korea's excellent chairmanship of the Group of 20 Summit last year. We look to Korea's

leadership to strengthen international cooperation on matters of nuclear security at the forthcoming Summit.

I am confident that under your inspiring leadership, Mr. President, relations between India and Korea will blossom even further in the years that lie ahead.

Ladies and gentlemen,

May I invite you to join me in raising a toast:

- To the continued good health and well being of President Lee and Madam Kim,
- To an enhanced and expanded Strategic Partnership between India and the Republic of Korea,
- To everlasting friendship between the Indian and the Korean people.



363. Press Release on the India-Republic of Korea Foreign Policy and Security Dialogue.**New Delhi, June 28, 2012.**

The 2nd India - Republic of Korea (ROK) Foreign Policy and Security Dialogue was held in New Delhi today. The Indian side was led by Shri Sanjay Singh, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs and the Korean side by Mr. Ahn Ho-young, First Vice Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

The Dialogue provided an opportunity for the two sides to evaluate the progress in and expansion of the India - ROK Strategic Partnership over the past year. Both sides agreed that the Official Visit to the ROK by the Prime Minister of India earlier in March had provided greater momentum and thrust to their ties.

The two sides reviewed the status of bilateral relations and exchanged views on regional and global issues of interest including the situation on the Korean Peninsula. The Minister of National Defence and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of ROK are likely to visit India later this year.

India and the ROK will accelerate work on upgrading the India - ROK Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with a view to ensuring that it reflects current realities. It was noted with satisfaction that in the two years since the implementation of CEPA, bilateral trade has surged by 70% to US \$ 20.5 billion in calendar 2011. The two sides welcomed recent progress in the implementation of the POSCO project in eastern India. In view of the large Korean business presence in Tamil Nadu, the ROK expressed interest in opening a new Consulate General in Chennai.

The Korean side welcomed India's decision to open a new Defence Attache's Office at its Embassy in Seoul before the end of the year. Both sides agreed that the joint naval exercises between the Navies of the two countries recently held off the coast of the ROK had proved useful.

Enhancement of cooperation in the field of Science & Technology was also discussed. In this context, the two sides decided to encourage enhanced engagement in civil nuclear energy cooperation as well as space activities including the launch of Korean satellites by India.

The two sides exchanged views on the Asia-Pacific region including enhanced cooperation and coordination between them. They agreed to work closely together in the East Asia Summit as well as in the ASEAN Regional Forum and the ADMM Plus. Both sides held the common view that regional institutions must be open, inclusive and transparent.

The leader of the ROK delegation called on Minister of State for External Affairs Shri E. Ahamed.

The two sides agreed to hold their 3rd Foreign Policy and Security Dialogue in Seoul at a mutually convenient, early date.



LAOS

364. First Foreign Office Consultations between India and Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Vientiane, May 2, 2012.

India and Lao People's Democratic Republic held their First Foreign Office Consultations in Vientiane on May 2, 2012. The Indian side was led by Shri Sanjay Singh, Secretary (East). The Laotian side was led by Mr. Bouonkeut Sangsomsak, Vice Minister in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lao PDR.

2. The Foreign Office Consultations reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations and expressed satisfaction at the strengthening of ties between the two countries, especially cooperation in capacity building and in developmental projects. The two sides also exchanged views on regional and global issues, including India's partnership with ASEAN in the context of India's 'Look East' policy, the 20th anniversary of India's dialogue partnership with ASEAN and 10th anniversary of the Summit level partnership with ASEAN and cooperation in regional and multilateral fora.

3. Shri Sanjay Singh, Secretary (East) called on Dr. Thongloun Sisoulith, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Lao PDR on May 2, 2012 and on the same day met with Mr. Alounkeo Kittikhoun, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, dealing with ASEAN affairs.



MALAYSIA

365. Third Foreign Office Consultations between India and Malaysia.

Kuala Lumpur, March 12, 2012.

The 3rd India-Malaysia Foreign Office Consultations were held today (March 12, 2012) in Putrajaya between Shri Sanjay Singh, Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and Mr. Tan Sri Dato' Mohd. Radzi bin Abdul Rahman, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Malaysia. The two Secretaries held detailed discussions on all aspects of our bilateral relationship, and in particular on the follow up to the understanding and agreements reached at the 5th Joint Commission Meeting between the Foreign Ministers of the two countries which was held in Kuala Lumpur last May. They agreed that the India-Malaysia Strategic Partnership is an important component in the foreign policies of both countries and agreed to work together to deepen the partnership through implementation of the vision outlined by the two Prime Ministers in the Joint Statement issued in Kuala Lumpur on the 27th October, 2010. The two secretaries also discussed bilateral collaboration on India-ASEAN commemorative events.

2. Secretary (East) also called on Hon'ble Senator Kohillan Pillay, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia.

3. At a separate meeting in Putrajaya, Shri. Sanjay Singh, on behalf of India and Tan Sri Abdul Gani Patail, Attorney General of Malaysia, representing Government of Malaysia, signed the Treaty between the Government of Republic of India and the Government of Malaysia on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters.



366. Press Release of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry on bilateral economic relations with Malaysia.

New Delhi, September 26, 2012.

The Union Minister of Commerce, Industry and Textiles, Shri Anand Sharma informed here today that India's bilateral trade with Malaysia stood at nearly USD 13 billion last year registering a growth of 34% over the previous year. Addressing the members of India-Malaysia CEO Forum, Shri Sharma said, "while we had set a trade target of US\$ 15 billion by 2015, I am confident that we will be able to achieve this target definitely by 2013 if not this year. I will be proposing to my counterpart Minister Mustapa Mohamed that we revise this target upwards."

Recalling his visits to Malaysia in July 2010 and February 2011, Shri Sharma said that he had sought investment from Khazanah Nasional Berhad (Government of Malaysia's strategic investment fund) into Indian infrastructure sector through a collaborative venture with IDFC. Shri Sharma informed that a SPV has been created between Khazanah and a subsidiary of IDFC with an equity base of Rs. 830 crores for financing the national highway construction projects.

The Minister said that during his visits, he identified priority sectors of engagement including **Roads & highways, Railways, Airports, IT & ITES, Biotechnology, Tourism, Health Services and JV projects in third countries.** Subsequently, the two countries have entered into a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement which was signed in February 2011. The signing of this Agreement has provided considerable momentum to trade and investment on both sides.

Members and the Minister also expressed happiness on the robust investment front. Malaysian investment in India stands at US\$ 7.8 billion while Indian investments in Malaysia are in the range of USD 3 billion. Indian investments in Malaysia are growing steadily. At present, there are more than 100 Indian companies including 61 Indian joint ventures operating in Malaysia. In the past three years alone, about USD 2 billion have been invested by our companies making it the 7th largest investor in Malaysia.

The India Malaysia CEO forum is co-chaired by Shri Malvinder Mohan Singh from India and Mr Tan Sri Krishnan Tan Boon Seng from Malaysia.



MONGOLIA

367. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the up-gradation and modernization Atal Bihari Vajpayee Centre for Excellence in Information & Communication Technology.

New Delhi, May 18, 2012.

Ministry of External Affairs has just completed a major upgradation and modernization of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Centre for Excellence in Information & Communication Technology at Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. A team of experts from the National Informatics Centre (NIC) recently visited Mongolia for this purpose.

2. It will be recollected that the Centre was established by the Government of India in 2003 with a Grant-in-Aid of USD 1 million. The Centre produces IT experts and helps develop software for Mongolia. It has become an important facilitator of communication between Ulaanbaatar and 21 regional centres. Members of Parliament utilize the Centre extensively to connect with their constituencies.

3. The AB Vajpayee Centre continues to be a shining example of India's assistance to Mongolia.



MYANMAR

368. Press Release on the visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar.

New Delhi, January 24, 2012.

The visiting Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, His Excellency Mr. Wunna Maung Lwin, called on the Prime Minister today. Later, delegation level talks were held between the External Affairs Minister and the Foreign Minister of Myanmar

2. The two sides positively assessed the development in bilateral relations after the landmark State Visit of the President of Myanmar to India in October last year. Both sides discussed measures to enhance mutually beneficial cooperation, including in the areas of trade and commerce, security, agriculture, health, culture, science and technology, human resource development and capacity building. The Indian side reiterated its continued support for infrastructure development and cooperation projects for the benefit of the people of Myanmar. The two Foreign Ministers underlined the significance of such projects which could improve connectivity between India and the other countries of South East Asia through Myanmar.

3. India welcomed the steps being taken by the Government of Myanmar towards national reconciliation and democratic transition. India also expressed its support for Myanmar to continue playing its due role among the comity of nations.

4. The Foreign Minister of Myanmar would be delivering a lecture on the subject "Myanmar: A Country in Transition to Democracy" at the Indian Council of World Affairs on January 25, 2012.



369. Remarks by Minister of State E. Ahamed at the Indian Council of World Affairs before a Lecture by the Foreign Minister of Myanmar.

New Delhi, January 25, 2012.

H.E. Mr. U Wunna Maung Lwin, Hon'ble Foreign Minister of Myanmar

Excellency Mr. UZin Yaw, Ambassador of Myanmar to India

Senior officials of Myanmar and India

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is indeed a great pleasure to be with you today at this session of the Indian Council for World Affairs where His Excellency Mr. Wunna Maung Lwin, Foreign Minister of Myanmar will address us on a most topical issue, not only in India but the world over, relating to Myanmar's transition to democracy.

Myanmar has undergone remarkable changes since general elections were held in November 2010 and a new civilian Government assumed office in March 2011. The Government led by President U Thein Sein has set a remarkable pace in initiating political reform and undertaking structured negotiations both with the opposition democratic groups and the ethnic ceasefire groups. The Government has shown welcome openness in its dialogue with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the National League for Democracy and in undertaking reform and offering amnesty to political prisoners. These steps have facilitated broader and all-inclusive participation in Myanmar politics. Likewise, the flexibility with which negotiations have been undertaken with the ethnic groups has enabled preliminary peace agreements with some of the most intransigent groups. Along with these steps, the Government has also intensified its engagement with the outside world by stepping up the level and frequency of its global interactions. Our congratulations are also due to the Government of Myanmar for Myanmar's assumption of the Chair of ASEAN in 2014.

With the clearing of the political arena, the stage is now set for developmental activity in the remote areas of the country where the ethnic groups are in majority. We in India are hopeful that this will also accelerate the process of development in the areas bordering India, thus benefiting people of both countries. We are doing our part in this exercise through the implementation of projects promoting connectivity and development particularly in the Rakhine and Chin States and the Sagaing Division of Myanmar. The Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project, once complete, will undoubtedly transform trade and commerce in the Rakhine and Chin States as well as the North Eastern States of India. It will

also boost investment and tourism in these States. Similarly, the Rhi-Tiddim project and other small road projects we hope to undertake in the States of Myanmar bordering India should boost the economy of these States through greater connectivity and development.

The new Myanmar leadership has also emphasized the urgent need for economic and monetary policy reform in order to usher in a facilitatory environment for trade, commerce and investment. Indian industry has been studying prospects in Myanmar - we had a resounding response to the Enterprise India Show held in Yangon in November 2011 and many Indian companies have carried out follow-up visits to ascertain investment and business opportunities in a range of sectors. We are also looking at ways of boosting land, air and sea connectivity between our countries. Once these economic and monetary policy reforms are put in place, I have no doubt that Indian companies will invest in a substantial manner to lasting and mutual benefit. We will also be focusing our energies on the mutually agreed target of doubling of bilateral trade to USD 3 billion by 2015.

In sum, the recent positive developments in Myanmar have infused fresh momentum into the already cordial and friendly ties between India and Myanmar. I have no doubt that as Myanmar continues on the new path charted out by its leaders, the political, economic and commercial relations between our two countries will only deepen further.

I now look forward to hearing from the Hon'ble Foreign Minister his views on the developments that have already taken place in Myanmar and his vision for its future.

Thank you.



370. Press Release regarding provision by India of assistance of agricultural machinery and equipment worth \$10 million to Myanmar.

Yangon, March 9, 2012.

Government of India had announced an assistance of US \$10 million for supply of agricultural machinery and implements to Myanmar.

2. Following up on this announcement, 224 state-of-the-art tractors, 26 harvesters, 156 power tillers and related agricultural implements have been handed over to the Government of Myanmar. Totally, 300 tractors, 150 combine harvesters, 288 power tillers and 775 implements have been gifted to Myanmar. These are being distributed to farmers in various regions and states as per the priorities of the Myanmar Government.

3. In a ceremony held in Yangon today, H.E. Mr Ranjan Mathai, Foreign Secretary of India, handed over the machinery to the Ministry of Industry of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. H.E. U Soe Thane, Minister of Industry of Myanmar, H.E. U Myo Aung, Deputy Minister for Industry, and Ministry officials were present on the occasion. H.E. Dr V.S. Seshadri, Ambassador of India to Myanmar and senior officials from the Ministry of External Affairs of India were also present.

4. Agriculture is a priority area of Government of India's assistance programme in Myanmar. Apart from the supply of this machinery and implements, support is being extended by way of education and training in the agricultural as well as livestock and fisheries sector. Setting up of 10 disaster proof rice silos in the cyclone prone delta region was also undertaken under Indian assistance of US\$ 2 million in 2011.



371. Response of the Official Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs to the question on the by-elections in Myanmar.

New Delhi, April 3, 2012.

In response to a media question regarding by-elections in Myanmar the Official Spokesperson said that:

"We welcome the successful conduct of by-elections in Myanmar on April 1, 2012. The results that have been officially announced so far show that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has led the National League of Democracy (NLD) to a landslide victory. The NLD won all 40 of the seats declared so far out of the 45 for which the by elections are being held. We extend our heartiest congratulations to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the National League for Democracy. These elections represent a major milestone in Myanmar's transition towards multiparty democracy.

At the invitation of the Government of Myanmar, India had sent senior officials from the Election Commission and journalists from the official media as observers for the by-elections. Our Ambassador to Myanmar also observed the elections in the Yangon region. We congratulate the Myanmar Election Commission and the Government and people of Myanmar on the peaceful and smooth manner in which elections appear to have been held.

Our relationship with Myanmar has been enhanced in recent months by the visits to India of the President of Myanmar, the Foreign Minister, and a high level Parliamentary delegation led by the Speaker of the Lower House of Myanmar Parliament. As a close and friendly neighbour, India remains committed to extending all possible assistance and support to the process of national reconciliation and the further strengthening of democracy in Myanmar".



372. Media Briefing by Foreign Secretary on Prime Minister's State Visit to Myanmar.

New Delhi, May 25, 2012.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Syed Akbaruddin): Good afternoon friends. Thank you all for coming for this briefing.

As we have announced, Foreign Secretary will brief us on the Prime Minister's visit to Myanmar. He will begin, as usual, with his opening remarks which will be followed by a question and answer session. For the question and answer session I would request you to initially focus all your questions on Myanmar. After they are finished, Foreign Secretary has agreed that he will take a few more questions on any other topic that you may want to focus on.

I just wanted to make a small announcement. Those of you who may want to know, from today onwards all our briefing sessions would also be web cast live, and they are available on You Tube as soon as you go back. So, if you want to check anything, you are always welcome to do so.

With that, we will begin the interaction. Foreign Secretary.

Foreign Secretary (Shri Ranjan Mathai): Thank you.

At the invitation of the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh accompanied by Shrimati Gursharan Kaur will pay a state visit to Myanmar from the 27th to the 29th of May. He will be accompanied by Shri S.M. Krishna, Minister of External Affairs, and senior officials. A delegation of Indian CEOs will also visit Myanmar at the same time.

The visit to Myanmar by the Prime Minister will be the first by an Indian Prime Minister in 25 years. The last visit was by the then Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi in December, 1987.

This visit follows the very successful state visit of the President of Myanmar U Thein Sein to India in October last year. The visit comes at a time when Myanmar is undergoing rapid transformation.

The visit of the Prime Minister will enable us to build on the new foundations of our multifaceted relationship which was laid during the state visit of the President last year. And we seek to leverage this to secure a stronger and mutually beneficial relationship with a neighbouring country that is integral to India's Look East Policy. Considerable progress has been made in implementing decisions and agreements emanating from the President's visit in October, 2011.

This visit will provide us an opportunity to review that progress and to discuss new initiatives that we would be taking in the furtherance of our relations. The

new political environment in Myanmar also provides fresh opportunities to take our bilateral relationship to a new plane.

The visit thus provides an opportunity to enrich the substance of our relations both qualitatively and in scope and lays down a long-term vision and roadmap for a mutually reinforcing bilateral cooperation in a wide range of areas including security, connectivity, infrastructure development, trade and investment promotion, capacity-building and human resource development, culture and people-to-people contacts, and academic exchanges. We hope to sign a number of agreements and MoUs to further strengthen our bilateral cooperation.

Coming to the programme, the main engagements include discussions with President Thein Sein in Nay Pyi Taw on bilateral, regional and other issues of mutual interest, and signing of the various agreements and MoUs, to which I referred. The President will host a banquet in honour of the Prime Minister of India on the 28th.

Apart from the official engagements in Nay Pyi Taw, the Prime Minister will also visit Yangon where he is expected to meet Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the Chairperson of the National League for Democracy, and other prominent personalities.

During his visit, Prime Minister will also deliver a public address on the theme "India and Myanmar: A Partnership for Progress and Regional Development", at a function organized by the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and the Myanmar Development Resource Institute. There will also be interactions between the business delegations of the two sides.

The Prime Minister would also visit the historic Shwedagon Pagoda and the Mazar of the Last Mughal Emperor of India Bahadur Shah Zafar, which is in Yangon. He would also have a separate interaction with the Indian community in Myanmar.

Thank you.

Official Spokesperson: The floor is now open for questions. All questions focused on Myanmar first, please.

Question: Mr. Mathai, the Prime Minister is going to visit Bahadur Shah Zafar's Mazar. I was there a few years ago and it was in a state of neglect. In any case, what is Bahadur Shah's remains doing in Yangon? The ideal place should be the Red Fort in Delhi. And in November this year, it will be 150 years since he was buried there. When he goes to Myanmar, would the Prime Minister consider taking up this question with the President of Myanmar of bringing the remains to India and burying them in the Red Fort?

Secondly, there are half a million stateless Indians in Myanmar. What is the latest about their fate or status?

Foreign Secretary: First let me say that the Mazar and this site where the tomb of the last Mughal Emperor in Yangon has been substantially upgraded. It has been given a major facelift with our assistance over the last few years. We continue to support the maintenance and the upgradation of the facilities for tourists and visitors to come and pay their respects over there. That process is ongoing and we will continue to contribute to the dignified maintenance of the Mazar.

As to the question of whether the remains should be brought back to India or not, that is not an issue which we have put on the agenda right now. It is an interesting suggestion you make and we will certainly take it on board. It would require a certain amount of consultations here before we actually make the suggestion to the Myanmar side.

As regards the people of Indian origin, you are quite right, this is a very large community. A significant number of them were in fact without any kind of citizenship documents. Over the last six or seven years, a large number have started receiving citizenship certificates. I do not have these statistics immediately. I do not know but we can certainly get them for you before we leave.

Joint Secretary (BSM) (Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla): Of course, Foreign Secretary has already clarified on the Mazar and Bahadur Shah Zafar's body being interred there. But the fact of the matter is that he is also regarded in many senses as a Sufi saint in Myanmar and he has a large following and there are many issues associated with this.

With regard to stateless persons, as Foreign Secretary has pointed out, a good majority have received identification cards and citizenship certificates. But obviously there is a certain number that have to be accommodated and we are working on that with the Government of Myanmar.

Question: Mr. Mathai, Myanmar has recently, without informing India, entered into an agreement with the Naga outfit NSCN (K). What is India's reaction to it? Secondly, have we solved the pending issue of Rupee trade? FICCI has also today issued a press release about it. Can you tell us about these two issues?

Foreign Secretary: The agreement with the Naga groups is part of the Government of Myanmar's efforts to sign what they call peace accords with various ethnic groups and communities in its own country. Obviously, any issue involving Indian groups would be discussed with them and we have a forum for discussion of this issue between security officials of both sides, both at the level of the

Home Secretary and his counterpart in Myanmar as also between the two Armies. Very recently we have had a meeting of what is called the Regional Border Committee where this subject was discussed.

As regards the issue of Rupee trade, I am not exactly familiar with the issue you are raising. What I do know is that Myanmar has been undertaking a considerable amount of reforms of its own currency management. On the 1st of April, they introduced what is called a Managed Currency Exchange Rate Regime in which they have fixed the rate of the Myanmar Kyat to the dollar as 820 plus or minus two per cent, which is nearly the same as the market rate. Earlier the difference between the official rate and the market rate was extremely exaggerated. So, this is part of their currency reform process which is under way. But we need to look at it.

Harsh, have you heard from FICCI on this?

Joint Secretary (BSM): On the currency issue we had a Banking Delegation that visited Myanmar. I think both sides are now examining the possibility of trading in each other's currency and trading through the ACU mechanism. I think there are some fairly advanced talks going on about how we can address some of the issues that could come in the way of normal trade, and therefore, facilitate greater trade and economic cooperation and particularly the banking channels. I think this is an important area and perhaps during the visit also this would be something that will be discussed.

Foreign Secretary: In general, there has been a problem regarding the lack of banking channels to facilitate direct trade between India and Myanmar. As a result, a lot of our trade used to be actually serviced through banks in third countries. That is the issue which we have been addressing. In that context the concept of the ACU mechanism as a clearing house for dealing with the trade accounts has now been brought on to the agenda. Perhaps that is what the FICCI was referring to. That would amount to the adjustment between the Reserve Bank of India and the Central Bank of Myanmar. But as I said, this is a matter on which discussions have only just been recently initiated; we are not at any conclusion.

Official Spokesperson: Before I give the floor to the next person, could you please limit your questions to one each because there is a large number on my list?

Question: Are we going to sign the Imphal-Mandalay bus link pact during the talks? And in the area of energy cooperation, what new initiatives are on the agenda?

Foreign Secretary: The Imphal-Mandalay bus service was an initiative which

we took forward, and it was discussed at considerable length. A delegation from our Ministry of Road Transport and Highways along with other Ministries had in fact visited Myanmar earlier this month. An MoU has been finalized for this bus service. We have been told that the procedures on Myanmar side for getting their Cabinet approval are not quite completed yet. So, we are still awaiting the final outcome of that. In the Joint Statement which we are preparing, we would certainly be highlighting the common interest of both countries to introduce this bus service. It is going to be stated as a matter of something which both Governments intend to take forward. Whether the actual MoU will be ready later today or tomorrow, we will have to await the conclusions of their Cabinet.

The second question was about hydrocarbons. I would just like to say, yes, there is a company called Jubilant Energy which has been awarded an onshore block in Central Myanmar on the basis of a global tender in 2011. We will be emphasizing and flagging our interest in our companies getting more opportunities in Myanmar both onshore where there are some blocks which are going to be put out, as well as offshore which is more gas related.

Question: Mr. Mathai, you must have seen reports for years that Myanmar is secretly pursuing its nuclear programme. What are our concerns or what is our position on that? Will this be taken up at all during this meeting? Also, there have been reports that after the A.Q. Khan network was exposed, Pakistan had sent four of its nuclear scientists to Central Myanmar. Can you just give a brief on that?

Foreign Secretary: I am not familiar with the specific report you are referring to, but what I do know is that in the discussions with the Koreans the Myanmar authorities recently did say that they have no intentions of carrying on any programme in the nuclear field. Other than that, it is not on our bilateral agenda. It is not a subject we have discussed with them. We, of course, have been extending cooperation to Myanmar in other fields of technical cooperation and science and technology. But this particular issue, no, we have not discussed it.

Question: Sir, as you mentioned, there have been several political changes in Myanmar recently. How much does India regard the opening up of Myanmar as a vindication of its own engagement policy?

Foreign Secretary: I think it certainly is a vindication of our policy of engagement that we have been able to keep a good dialogue with the Myanmar Government. The President, when he came to India last October, had in fact spelt out his vision for opening up further, and this has now accelerated after the National League for Democracy participated in the elections which were held on the 1st of April. So, this is a welcome trend. Let me just add here that last December the Speaker of the Myanmar Lower House of Parliament - which is called the

Pyithu Hluttaw - Mr. U Shwe Mann came to India after the President's visit and held discussions regarding democratization. The aim of his visit was to study Parliamentary practices and see whether we could cooperate in the field of greater capacity-building, best practices and so on. Those discussions have now concretised in the form of a decision for delegations of the Myanmar Parliament which would include both Parliamentarians and legislative officials to come to India. We are going to get eight batches of ten each starting from July this year. We will be providing that training with the kind courtesy of our Lok Sabha Secretariat and the Rajya Sabha Secretariat.

Question: Sir, what are our concerns about the security matters in the sense that the Myanmar land and other things being used by the insurgents in the North East? What kind of focus would be there so far as the security matters are concerned?

Foreign Secretary: I think the aim would be to strengthen the mechanisms which already exist for security cooperation along our common borders. I mentioned to you the dialogues which we already had, which are at the national level between the Home Secretary and the Deputy Home Minister, between the Army, that is the Myanmar Commander of the North West region and on our side it is the GOC of the 3 Corps based in Dimapur. We have what is called the Regional Border Committee. There are also below that a number of Border Committees between the two armies which do meet. We will be emphasizing once again in our discussions that it is in our common interest to make sure that the border remains peaceful, that the border management is actually taken up on a more professional basis, and that we must ensure that the insurgent groups who had been taking shelter would not be in a position to do so. I think that discussion certainly will be held.

Question: Sir, this is a question regarding the Kaladan Multimodal Project. In 2008 we have signed this project. We believe there is some roadblock. It is not progressing as it should have because some local insurgent groups or some locals in the name of human rights activists are opposing dredging the river or building up this new road. So, what is the status of this project?

Foreign Secretary: This project, in fact, is a project being undertaken in an area where there is very little actual development. So, it has to face a number of logistical and infrastructural challenges. But actually the work on the port and the inland waterway component on the Kaladan river, that is from Sittwe upwards, is in fact progressing as per schedule and we expect it to be completed by June 2013. The road component is the one where, you are quite right, there has been some delay. The real reason for that is the road component now starts further downstream than originally anticipated. Originally the landing point was supposed to be further up the river. Now it has come down a little bit. So, the entire road

alignment, there is a completely new concept of where the road will start and end. A detailed project report is under way. We expect that in six months we should be able to start work on the road itself. This road will come from that landing point in Myanmar to South Mizoram. Just a few weeks ago, I myself went to Mizoram and a team of officials including the Joint Secretary actually flew down to the point in the border where there is no road at the moment, so that the engineering teams of the two sides discuss how the road coming in from Myanmar and the road from southern Mizoram coming up into the rest of the State would be compatible. So, we expect that road component to be completed by 2014. We think it will be on track.

Question: Sir, one clarification. The Imphal-Mandalay bus service, is this a new project or is it an old project being revived? And where will the Prime Minister meet Aung San Suu Kyi?

Foreign Secretary: It is a completely new project. It is an initiative which we took not so long ago, which is why, as I said, there is a lot of inter-Ministerial coordination which had to be done on both sides. That is why on the Myanmar side there has been some consideration of how to bring this all together. So, it is a completely new project and a new idea.

The Prime Minister will be meeting Aung San Suu Kyi in the Sedona Hotel where he will stay, on the 29th.

Question: When the PM meets Aung San Suu Kyi, will there be an attempt to try to explain to her why we turned our back on democracy in Myanmar for so long?

Foreign Secretary: As soon as his meeting is over I will tell you.

Question: You talked about security committees that we have on the border and that is only limited to information exchange. Are we going to take up coordinated action as well?

Foreign Secretary: First of all, it is not just information exchange. Information exchange is very critical. Particularly if you use the word information in a different sense of intelligence, it is quite critical. Yes. But we also do discuss coordinated patrolling, or at least when information exchange takes particular importance when you know when the other side is taking a certain action so that you make sure that there is no slipping across the border at that particular time. So, that is a kind of coordinated action that we do take from time to time.

Question: You have talked about Kaladan project. Could you give us the status of the other important Indian projects?

Foreign Secretary: Thank you. We are working basically on projects related to

connectivity. We have built a road from Tamu to Kaleva some years ago. There is a proposal now that we should extend that road further down to a place called Yargyi. Then this could become a part of what is called the trilateral highway which would link India to Thailand through Myanmar. That is one of the projects which we will be discussing with the Myanmar side. There may be some upgradation of the road which might be required, bridges etc., that we will do. Another set of projects which we will be talking to the Myanmar side about - there is no finality but as soon as the leaders meet and discuss it, we will flesh it out - is for the border regions development projects. We have had such small development projects in other countries and we would support them in these bordering regions also which is building of small bridges, building of schools, building of clinics. That is a second set of projects.

Now if I can leave the border a bit and come to other areas, we are working on a plan to develop the Myanmar Institute of Information Technology (MIIT) and we have had the benefit of the advice of Mr. Ramadorai of TCS in designing this. We will be working on a project for Agricultural Centre and Research Extension (ACARE). That is another one which we are building. We will be setting this up. We plan also separately to set up a Rice Bio Park. These are some of the projects which we will undertake. But the largest I think would be in the general area, which is not a single project but is in the field of capacity-building, training students. We will be expanding our programmes for those. The details will be known as soon as the visit is over.

Question: India's position regarding Myanmar, the consistent Indian engagement with Myanmar has been vindicated that India has taken an independent decision regarding the engagement with the junta of Myanmar. But people start drawing parallels that if India's foreign policy could succeed in Myanmar, cannot it succeed in Iran also?

Foreign Secretary: I will stick with Myanmar, it's easy.

I think we always approached the issue of Myanmar keeping in mind that it is a neighbour. When you are a neighbouring country you do not have the choice of a policy and engagement. You remain engaged irrespective of the situation. We have also always felt that Myanmar is a country with whom we have traditionally had good relations, and we have also felt that the Myanmar Governments right through their history have wanted to maintain a friendly relationship with India. It goes back to the time when Mr. Nehru and Aung San had their exchanges. Even before Independence Aung San stopped in Delhi on the way to the UK when the Independence negotiations were under way. Subsequently with Prime Minister U Nu and Mr. Nehru this relationship was maintained. With General Ne Win, even after the difficulties in the mid 1960s he paid a number of visits to India, maintained close relations with the Government of Mrs. Indira Gandhi.

So, this relationship has continued through history. So, this is a matter on which we were very consistent. We may have had differences but we wanted always to be able to continue a dialogue as friendly, constructive partners. I think that has been vindicated.

Question: Sir, these road projects, do they also include any work on the Stilwell road?

Foreign Secretary: As of now, no.

Question: Any reason why?

Foreign Secretary: Because we are building the roads where the priorities of Myanmar and India both are.

Question: In terms of the counter-insurgency training, India of course had offered seats for training in NDA, and I believe Myanmar also wanted some seats in the Jungle Warfare Centre at Mizoram. Can you just give us an idea about the kind of strength of the soldiers who might already be on board with the counter-insurgency training or what are we looking at?

Foreign Secretary: I do not have the details. We will come back to you on that specifically. But whenever they put forward a request for training we have generally accommodated it. So, I do not think there would be anything pending from our side.

Question: Just how many border trading points exist? Are there plans to open new ones?

Joint Secretary (BSM): Currently there are two border points - one of course is Moreh-Tamu, and the other is Rhi-Zowkhatar in Mizoram. There are plans. We are talking about opening up border haats that would help border communities in trading as well as in increasing their own economic activity, and that is under active examination.

Question: Sir, other than the training aspect, is there any idea of sort of defence collaboration with Myanmar or supplying them with weaponry or any such thing to assist us along the borders and so on?

Foreign Secretary: Training is part of the defence cooperation and it is a part of our capacity-building in Myanmar, and that continues. The supply of some military equipment has been going on, which is not related to the political calendar. That is just continuing at its own level. That is not related to this visit. But yes, there is some military equipment being supplied.

Question: Could you tell me why Prime Minister will meet Aung San Suu Kyi in his hotel instead of visiting her residence?

Foreign Secretary: That was decided by the protocol teams who worked together.

Question: Sir, India has helped in the restoration of the Ananda temple in Myanmar. Is there any cultural cooperation of that kind which will be followed up?

Foreign Secretary: Thank you for mentioning it and I apologise for not mentioning it among the projects which I was asked.

Yes, our Archaeological Survey of India is in fact assisting with the renovation of the Ananda Temple in Bagan. We are going to sign a cultural exchange programme which has a number of components for further cultural cooperation. We are also thinking of moving a little outside the mainstream of the typical cultural programmes to have engagement with the think tanks of Myanmar both with our Indian Council of World Affairs and the IDSA. So, in a number of fields we will be taking initiatives in the field of culture.

Question: Sir, you have said there will be a high-powered delegation of CEOs that will accompany the PM's delegation. I would like to know what the specific areas are in which Myanmar is seeking investments from India, and what are the specific areas in which India wants to invest in Myanmar?

Foreign Secretary: Myanmar economy has so much potential for development that we feel the scope for cooperation is in virtually all fields of industry - agro-based industries, resource-based industries, information technology, communications, hydrocarbons, transport. Let me just tell you some of the CEOs who will be visiting Myanmar. They include the Chairman of Bharti Enterprises Mr. Sunil Bharti Mittal; Mr. Rajyavardhan Kanoria, Chairman and Managing Director of Kanoria Chemicals; Mr. Ravi Ruia, Vice-Chairman of the Essar Group; Mr. T.C.A. Ranganathan, Chairman and Managing Director of Export-Import Bank; Mr. Naveen Jindal, Jindal Steel Power; Mr. Hari Bhartia of Jubilant which I mentioned earlier in the context of oil and gas; Mr. Ajay Khandelwal also of Jubilant Energy; Mr. Sanjay Kirloskar of the Kirloskar Brothers who have been working on pumps and other things like that; Mr. Atul Punj, Chairman of Punj Lloyd, which is in fact undertaking work on a pipeline being built from Myanmar to China; Mr. Shiv Khemka of the Sun Group; Mr. Muthuraman, Chairman of Tata International; Mr. Venu Srinivasan of TVS Motor; Mr. Ravi Kant Ahlawadi of Vihaan Networks Limited. Vihaan Networks Limited is doing solar powered transmission towers for the telecom industry. They have already won a contract of five million from the postal department of Myanmar and there is potential for more. This is the list of the delegation, I would say that in almost all fields of industry.

When I went there earlier in March we handed over some agricultural equipment which we have donated. The Minister for Industry told us that there is huge scope for the export of Indian tractors, Indian power tillers, Indian agricultural

machinery because Myanmar agriculture is in fact in a state now of development and modernization. One of the areas where we expect to be involved is in upgradation of their irrigation systems also, through a line of credit which we had announced last October.

In another sense, just to give you some perspective on the importance of Myanmar's agricultural potential, we buy an enormous quantity of pulses from Myanmar. In fact, it is I think item No.1 or No.2 among the suppliers of this particular commodity to India. As I said, oil and gas they have already proven results. But there are a large number of other minerals in which Myanmar is believed to be extremely rich. We are happy to share our experience and help Myanmar develop them. I think from their perspective they are already selling three times as much as they buy. So, they have not prioritized. The \$ 1.2 billion trade is \$900 million coming to India and \$300 million going from India. So, this is obviously something which the Myanmar side is quite happy with. But they do see prospects of greater exchanges with India particularly along, as I said, in the North East, in the border regions as well as in all these other areas where we have an interest.

Official Spokesperson: We have completed most of the questions on Myanmar. Foreign Secretary has to leave in a few minutes but he has agreed to respond to a few questions on issues other than Myanmar.

Question: Sir, can you give us the status of the missing Indian trader in China?

Foreign Secretary: I was told he is back in India or he should be landing any time now.

Question: Two basic questions on Nepal. How does India see Nepal's current political developments? Nepali parties have just three days to promulgate a new Constitution. If they fail, there are fears of a serious crisis in Nepal. Is India concerned? Though it is an internal matter of Nepal, being a friendly neighbouring country which has a great influence on Nepal polity, do you see some India's role in helping Nepal to avert this crisis?

Foreign Secretary: We are obviously watching the situation with great interest and we receive regular reports on the developments. But India firmly believes that the Constitution-making process for the establishment of a stable, democratic and prosperous Nepal must remain Nepali-led and Nepali-driven. We wish the parties well in the process of completing the negotiations in the two days which are remaining, and we will extend support for the success of the political process in accordance with the wishes of the people of Nepal. For the moment, that is all we are saying.

Question: There are reports from Islamabad that the visa relaxation agreement has been put on hold. Do you have any information on this?

Foreign Secretary: The talks between our Home Secretary and the Pakistan Interior Secretary are still under way. We had gone there prepared to sign this agreement in accordance with what had been decided when President Zardari and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh had met on the 8th of April. We have also received this report that the Pakistani side referred to some delays in their procedures as also the desire of their Interior Minister to have a political level participation at the signing. That is where the situation is. But we had gone there fully prepared to sign this agreement.

Question: There were some reports about the invitation to the Home Minister and because he put on hold that invitation they were not willing to sign the visa agreement.

Foreign Secretary: He had invited our Home Minister to visit Pakistan, and our Home Minister had replied saying that he would come as soon as it was convenient. But the visa agreement had to go ahead because it was ready in any case. It had been negotiated and finalized. And both sides attach great importance to having this visa agreement signed. So, we had gone there fully prepared to sign it.

Question: Sir, there are reports that Iran's Foreign Minister Mr. Salehi is visiting India next week. Just wanted to check on his agenda and the dates of visit.

Foreign Secretary: Mr. Salehi is scheduled to come here on the 31st of May. He is coming as a Special Envoy of President Ahmadinejad to deliver a personal invitation to the Prime Minister to attend the Non-Aligned Summit which will take place in the end of August in Tehran. On the 31st he will have a meeting over lunch with the External Affairs Minister. On the 1st morning he will meet the Prime Minister and then he is leaving immediately thereafter.

Question: Day before yesterday India signed the TAPI agreement. Interestingly it was signed by the Chairperson of GAIL, and though the Oil Minister was present, his signature was not there. So, there are two concerns. The pipeline passes through areas which could be proven hostile to India in some future time. The details are very hazy right now about the actual agreement signed. Can you share with us some details?

Foreign Secretary: What has been signed is a gas sales and purchase agreement, which is why it is signed by the gas companies between themselves. It is a decision on the willingness to purchase gas, and the arrangements for its transit fees and so on. During the course of the negotiations, while discussing this project, the Afghan authorities, the Turkmen authorities and the Pakistani authorities had all addressed this issue of security, and it has been decided jointly by all the countries to go ahead on the basis of what has been decided so far.

As regards the details of the project, we will be happy to give it to you as soon as our team comes back.

Question: Sir, first of all there appears to be continuing support to what remains of the Khalistan militancy because there just appears to be evidence from people here from the Khalistan Zindabad Force who have been arrested, that they were trained in Lahore. Now you will have continuing meetings with your counterparts from across the border. Are you going to bring this up in subsequent meetings? And is there any additional evidence that you are going to give Pakistan on Hafiz Saeed?

Foreign Secretary: The Home Secretaries' discussions have almost concluded and certainly the issues both relating to continuing support to any militants as well as the further evidence on Saeed were actually discussed between the two sides.

Question: Sir, we have been following the story of Kairi Shepherd, a thirty year old woman who was adopted when she was three months old. Just wanted to know what the Government is contemplating on doing in this case. Has our Consul gotten in touch with Kairi? Also, the US Emigration Department Spokesperson has said that the ball is in India's court and that unless and until travel documents are issued by India, she cannot really be sent to India.

Foreign Secretary: I will start with a counter question. Have you been able to speak to her? A number of attempts were made in the United States and we were told that some third parties had been in fact passing on the messages to you. So, if you have, please do give us the telephone number on which you contacted her.

Question: ... (Inaudible) ...

Foreign Secretary: We did make a number of efforts through our Consulate in San Francisco. But we do not wish to comment on the internal judicial processes of other countries. But certainly as EAM has already said it is a tragic humanitarian case which should be treated by the United States where she is resident, with utmost compassion and the spirit of natural justice. If the reports which were mentioned in the media are true, deportation of a person with serious illnesses and who knows no home outside the US would compound the tragedy further.

Let me just add here that our Consul-General in San Francisco has been making strenuous efforts to ascertain the full facts of the case. He has written to the relevant US authorities, that is the State Department's Office of Foreign Missions as well as the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Authorities, for information relating to the case. Neither of these Departments has been able to give him any information so far, nor have they made any request to our side.

Question: Sir, just a correction. We could not speak to her, we could not get in touch with her. It was just a statement.

Foreign Secretary: Thank you for that correction because your colleague was very insistent that it was the other way round.

Official Spokesperson: Thank you very much. With that we come to the end of this interaction.



373. Statement by Prime Minister prior to his departure for Myanmar.

New Delhi, May 27, 2012.

I will be visiting Myanmar from 27 to 29 May 2012 at the invitation of the President of Myanmar, His Excellency U Thein Sein.

This will be my first visit to Myanmar. It will also be the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Myanmar after a gap of 25 years.

India attaches the highest importance to its relations with Myanmar, which is a close friend and neighbour. Recent years have witnessed significant strengthening and expansion of our bilateral relations. My visit to Myanmar will provide an opportunity to review the progress in the implementation of decisions taken during the highly successful State Visit of the President of Myanmar to India in October last year. We will also consider new initiatives and define a roadmap for the further development of our cooperation in the years ahead.

Stronger trade and investment links, development of border areas, improving connectivity between our two countries and building capacity and human resources are areas that I hope to focus on during my visit. We also hope to sign a number of Agreements/MOUs to further strengthen our bilateral cooperation in these areas, besides promoting people-to-people contacts.

India welcomes Myanmar's transition to democratic governance and the steps taken by the Government of Myanmar towards a more broad based and inclusive reconciliation process. We stand ready to share our democratic experiences with Myanmar.

In Yangon, I will have an opportunity to meet Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. I also look forward to addressing a cross-section of Myanmar society and interact with the Indian and Indian-origin community.

Our shared history and culture provides a strong basis for the enhancement of contacts between the people of our two countries. I look forward to visiting the historic Shwedagon Pagoda, a testament to 2600 years of Buddhist heritage, and the Mazar of the last Emperor of India, Bahadur Shah Zafar, in Yangon.

We remain committed to a close, cooperative and mutually beneficial partnership with the Government and people of Myanmar.



374. Joint Statement issued at the end of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's visit to Myanmar.

Nay Pyi Tawq, May 28, 2012.

1. The Prime Minister of the Republic of India, Dr Manmohan Singh, is paying a State visit to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar from May 27 to 29, 2012 at the invitation of the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, U Thein Sein. He is accompanied by his wife Shrimati Gursharan Kaur.
2. The Prime Minister was accorded a ceremonial welcome in Nay Pyi Taw and the President of Myanmar hosted a Banquet in his honour.
3. The visit of the Prime Minister the first after 25 years is a historic milestone in the relations between India and Myanmar.
4. The two leaders held a restricted meeting, followed by delegation level talks on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest. The talks were held in a warm, cordial and constructive atmosphere reflecting the close and friendly relations between the two neighbouring countries and peoples.
5. During the official talks, the Prime Minister of India was assisted by the External Affairs Minister Shri S.M. Krishna, National Security Adviser Shri S Menon, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Shri Pulok Chatterji, Foreign Secretary Shri Ranjan Mathai, Ambassador of India to Myanmar Dr V.S. Seshadri and other senior officials.
6. The President of Myanmar was assisted by U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs and other Union Ministers and the Myanmar Ambassador to India U Zin Zaw and Senior Government Officials.
7. The Prime Minister of India and the President of Myanmar comprehensively reviewed the multifaceted bilateral relationship and took stock of developments since the very successful State visit of President U Thein Sein to India in October 2011. They expressed satisfaction at the ongoing official exchanges and the growing economic, trade and cultural ties, as well as people-to-people exchanges.
8. The two leaders agreed on a vision for the future in the pursuit of the common good - bilaterally, regionally and globally. They agreed to cooperate in the areas such as border area development, transportation, connectivity, agriculture, trade and investment, promotion of friendly exchanges and human resource development. They recognized that peace and stability in the region is necessary for development and well-being of the people of their respective countries. In this context, they emphasized the importance of close cooperation between India and Myanmar and the need to effectively harness their respective resources for the good of the peoples of the two countries.

9. The Prime Minister of India congratulated the President of Myanmar on the path breaking reform measures taken by the Government of Myanmar towards greater democratisation and national reconciliation. He commended the on-going efforts at political, economic and social reform, which included negotiation of preliminary peace agreements with several ethnic groups as well as dialogue with various democratic political parties including the National League for Democracy led by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. He also expressed appreciation for the free, fair and peaceful conduct of the recent by-elections.

10. The Prime Minister of India reiterated India's readiness to extend all necessary assistance in accelerating the country's democratic transition and developing the capacity of democratic institutions such as the Parliament, National Human Rights Commission and the Media. Recalling the very successful visit of a Parliamentary delegation led by Thura U Shwe Mann, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw, to India in December 2011, the Prime Minister conveyed India's readiness to undertake training programmes for Myanmar Parliamentarians and staff.

11. The following instruments for enhancing bilateral cooperation were signed during the visit:

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding regarding US\$ 500 million Line of Credit
- (ii) Air Services Agreement between India and Myanmar
- (iii) Memorandum of Understanding on the India-Myanmar Border Area Development
- (iv) Memorandum of Understanding on Establishment of Joint Trade and Investment Forum
- (v) Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of the Advance Centre for Agriculture Research and Education (ACARE)
- (vi) Memorandum of Understanding on Establishment of Rice Bio Park at the Department of Agricultural Research in Nay Pyi Taw
- (vii) Memorandum of Understanding towards setting up of Myanmar Institute of Information Technology
- (viii) Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between Dagon University and Calcutta University
- (ix) Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies and Indian Council of World Affairs.
- (x) Agreement on Cooperation between Myanmar Institute of Strategic and

International Studies and Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis. (xi)
Cultural Exchange Programme (2012-2015)

- (xii) Memorandum of Understanding on establishing of Border Haats across the border between Myanmar and India.

12. The two leaders underscored that bilateral relations between India and Myanmar are rooted in shared history and geography, culture and civilization. Welcoming that the range and frequency of engagement between the two countries had intensified significantly since Myanmar's transition towards a more democratic form of Government in March 2011, they committed to further enhancing these exchanges so as to take bilateral cooperation to a higher level. The two leaders expressed satisfaction at the recent successful visits from Myanmar including that of the Foreign Minister of Myanmar U Wunna Maung Lwin in January 2012; the Minister of Construction of Myanmar U Khin Maung Myint in February 2012; and from India including the visit of the Minister for Water Resources and Parliamentary Affairs of India Mr. P.K. Bansal to Myanmar in February 2012. The two sides agreed to continue with the frequent exchanges of visits at the leadership level.

13. Both leaders reaffirmed their shared commitment to fight the scourge of terrorism and insurgent activity in all its forms and manifestations. Both of them emphasized the need for enhanced cooperation between security forces and border guarding agencies for securing peace, security and stability in the border areas, which was crucial for overall development. In this context, the two leaders welcomed the holding of the first meeting of the bilateral Regional Border Committee whose deliberations were useful in promoting such cooperation and understanding for better border management. Both leaders reiterated the assurance that territories of either country would not be allowed to be used for activities inimical to the other, including for training, sanctuary and other operations by terrorist and insurgent organisations and their operatives.

14. Both leaders also alluded to the importance of sound border management as an intrinsic part of maintaining border security. In this context, they directed that the respective Survey Departments should inspect and maintain boundary pillars in a systematic manner. They also directed the respective Heads of Survey Department to finalise dates for an early joint inspection of the sectors jointly identified at the 17th National Level Meeting.

Connectivity

15. The two leaders emphasised the importance of enhancing connectivity between the two countries as a means of promoting commercial, cultural, touristic and other exchanges between the peoples of the two countries. They expressed satisfaction at the steady progress being made on the Kaladan Multi-modal Transit Transport Project. They welcomed the finalisation of the site of the Land

Customs Station at Zorinpui (Mizoram) following joint inspection by Indian and Myanmar delegations in April 2012. It was noted that the project would enhance bilateral trade, people to people contact and contribute to the development and prosperity of the people living in the 'land locked' North Eastern region of India.

16. The Prime Minister of India announced that India would undertake the task of repair/ upgradation of 71 bridges on the Tamu- Kalewa friendship Road. The two leaders decided that India would undertake the upgradation of the Kalewa-Yargyi road segment to highway standard while Myanmar would undertake that of upgradation of the Yargyi-Monywa stretch to highway standard by 2016. This project would help in establishing trilateral connectivity from Moreh in India to Mae Sot in Thailand via Myanmar. The two leaders welcomed the revival of the Joint Task Force on the Trilateral Highway between India-Myanmar -Thailand. It was agreed that efforts would be made to establish seamless trilateral connectivity by 2016.

17. Taking into account the importance of enabling people-to-people contacts, the two sides agreed to launch a trans-border bus service from Imphal, India to Mandalay. The two leaders directed the concerned officials from both sides to finalise all modalities to enable its early operationalisation.

18. They also welcomed the signing of the new Air Service agreement which would enhance direct air connectivity and facilitate easy business interaction, tourism and people-to people exchanges.

19. The two leaders decided to constitute a Joint Working Group to determine the technical and commercial feasibility of cross-border rail links and the commercial feasibility of direct shipping links between the two countries.

20. The two sides also discussed the possibility of Indian participation in development of key infrastructure projects, like Dawei port in Myanmar.

Development Cooperation

21. The two leaders expressed satisfaction at the growing dimension of development cooperation between the two countries which is being financed under grants and concessional loans amounting to US\$ 1.2 billion till date. Taking stock of ongoing projects in the areas of infrastructure, agriculture, human resource development, industrial development, power, health etc., the two leaders agreed to identify more projects of benefit to the people of Myanmar in future.

22. Both leaders welcomed the signing of the MoU on the US\$ 500 million Line of Credit extended by India to the Government of Myanmar which would pave the way for its early operationalisation. The Line of Credit will be utilised in the infrastructure development projects, including in the fields of Agriculture and Irrigation, Rail Transportation, and Electric Power in Myanmar.

23. Identifying the need for special focus on the development and prosperity of the people in bordering areas, the two leaders agreed to cooperate to bring about overall socio-economic development in the border areas by undertaking both infrastructure development and micro-economic projects, including upgradation of roads and construction of schools, health centres, bridges, agriculture and related training activities in the area in accordance with the MoU on India-Myanmar Border Area Development that was signed during the visit. The President of Myanmar also welcomed India's offer of assistance in production of large Cardamom in the Naga Self Administered zone.

24. Expressing their commitment to enhance cooperation in Science & Technology, the two leaders noted with satisfaction that the first meeting of the India-Myanmar Joint Working Group on Science and Technology was held on April 3, 2012. The Joint Working Group has identified some priority areas for future cooperation in the fields of agricultural biotechnology, post harvest technology, medical biotechnology, medical research and renewable energy. The two leaders welcomed these decisions and agreed that Myanmar would prepare specific proposals on some of its priority projects so that they can be taken forward for implementation.

25. Under a MoU signed during the visit, the two leaders decided to set up the Myanmar Institute of Information Technology with financial and technical assistance from India. The Indian Prime Minister announced continued technical and financial support for the India-Myanmar Centre for Enhancement of IT Skills in Yangon for a further 5 year period when it will also undergo a technology upgrade. The Indian Prime Minister announced a Fellowship for Myanmar Researchers to work in Indian Universities and Research Institutions, under which 10 slots would be allocated every year. Each Fellowship would be for 4-6 months duration in the areas of Atmospheric and Earth Sciences, Chemical Sciences, Engineering Sciences, Life Sciences, Medical Sciences, Mathematical and Computational Sciences and Physical Sciences.

26. The Prime Minister of India announced that in keeping with India's commitment to developing human resource capacity in Myanmar, the existing number of training slots for Myanmar, including under the Indian Economic and Technical Cooperation (ITEC) Programme, would be doubled from the current 250 to 500. The President of Myanmar welcomed this significant gesture.

27. The Myanmar President thanked the Indian side for its offer to train Myanmar diplomats in conference management and for the assistance in setting up language laboratories and conference rooms in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon and e-research centre in Nay Pyi Taw for the Ministry of Foreign affairs.

28. The two sides also expressed their commitment to enhance cooperation

in the area of Agriculture. The President of Myanmar thanked India for the agricultural machinery that had been gifted to Myanmar under a grant of US\$ 10 million and conveyed that the machinery had been distributed to various locations of Myanmar and is being used for the benefit of Myanmar's farming community. Under the MoU signed during the visit, the two leaders decided to establish the Advanced Centre for Agricultural Research and Education as a Centre for Excellence using cutting edge technology along with traditional knowledge and ecological conservation with financial and technical assistance from India. They also agreed to set up a Rice Bio Park within the Department of Agricultural Research, Yezin in Nay Pyi Taw in order to demonstrate available techniques of sustainable rice biomass utilisation. These two institutions together will provide technological and research inputs to the Myanmar farming, academic and business communities. The President of Myanmar also thanked the Prime Minister for India's support to the construction of a modern cyclone-proof rice silo within the Model Integrated Farm at Nay Pyi Taw.

29. The Myanmar side requested for India's assistance in arranging training programmes/ fellowships in the areas of dairy development, cattle breeding, vaccine technology and assistance in setting up a milk and milk product factory in Shan State. The Indian side agreed to consider the proposal favourably.

Trade and Investment

30. Alluding to the mutually agreed target of doubling the bilateral trade by 2015, both leaders emphasized that there is considerable untapped potential for greater trade and urged the business community to capitalize on this potential. Investments by Indian companies in areas like ports, highways, oil & gas, plantation, manufacturing, hospitality and ICT would be specifically encouraged. In this context, the two leaders underscored the importance of the newly created Trade and Investment Forum in enabling timely and accurate exchange of information and ideas.

31. They assured that both Governments would work to identify and remove various impediments to bilateral trade. In this context, they welcomed the establishment of a representative office of the United Bank of India in Yangon as a first step in facilitating business-friendly banking transactions between the two countries. The Myanmar side welcomed the proposals for the training of Myanmar officials in the Banking sector by Indian banks and for cooperation in the Agriculture Banking sector. Considering the vast potential for promoting trade between the two countries, both sides agreed that the Reserve Bank of India would sign an MoU with the Central Bank of Myanmar on currency arrangements between India and Myanmar in the near future. Further, the Reserve Bank of India would also conclude an MoU with the Central Bank of Myanmar to serve as a platform for an exchange of views on issues of mutual interest. The

two sides agreed upon sharing of banking experiences and technical know-how from State Bank of India or any other bank as mutually agreed.

32. Both leaders urged the business community to enthusiastically participate in each other's trade fairs and also to share information on the prevailing trade and investment policies through organization of seminars and business related events in specific sectors of mutual interest. In this context, they welcomed the organization of the first Enterprise India Show in Yangon in November 2011 by CII and UMFCCI and the decision taken to make it an annual event.

33. Taking into account the needs of communities residing near the border, the two leaders welcomed the decision to set up border haats along the border and the MOU agreed for this purpose. They also noted that the decision to upgrade banking infrastructure at border trade points would also facilitate greater trade between people living in these areas.

34. The two leaders directed that a bilateral Border Trade Committee should be set up to implement the earlier decision that meetings would be held regularly between the border trade officials and businesspersons in Tamu-Moreh and Rhi-Zowkhathar.

Power and Energy

35. The two leaders emphasised the need for closer cooperation to further energy security. In this context, they welcomed the signing of the Production Sharing Contract between the Government of Myanmar and the Jubilant Energy of India. They encouraged investment by Indian companies in Myanmar oil and gas sector, including in available blocks that are being offered for investment which have good prospects. They also agreed to encourage investment by Indian companies in downstream projects in the petroleum industry.

36. The Myanmar President expressed his appreciation to India for undertaking the preparation of Detailed Project Reports of the Tamanthi and Shwezaye hydropower projects. Both leaders directed their respective officials to study the contents of the DPRs and finalise the future course of action, taking into account technical, commercial and socio-environmental considerations.

Culture and People to People Exchanges

37. The two leaders emphasized the centrality of culture in further deepening the close bonds between the peoples of India and Myanmar and expressed satisfaction with the signature of the Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP) for the period 2012-2015. It was noted that the CEP would also promote cultural exchanges between the North Eastern States of India and the bordering areas of Myanmar.

38. They also welcomed the preparations that have been made towards

organizing the International Conference on Buddhist Heritage in Myanmar in December 2012 with the cooperation of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Ministry of Religious Affairs of Myanmar and the Sitagu World Buddhist Association.

39. The Myanmar side thanked India for its decision to gift a 16 feet sand stone replica of the Sarnath Buddha later in the year that will be installed in the precincts of the Shwedagon Pagoda. A smaller replica will be unveiled by the Prime Minister during his visit. The Myanmar side also conveyed its appreciation to India for the facilities and courtesies being extended to Myanmar pilgrims visiting India.

40. The two leaders expressed satisfaction at the ongoing pace of work on the project for conservation and restoration of the Ananda Temple in Bagan, Myanmar by the Archaeological Survey of India which is expected to be completed over the next 2 years.

41. The two leaders also welcomed the formalization of contacts between Indian and Myanmar think tanks and academic institutions and urged scholars to participate actively and exchange views in academic events being held in either country.

42. The President of Myanmar welcomed the announcement made by the Prime Minister regarding the Government of India's support for setting up a school with technical assistance from India.

Regional and Multilateral

43. The two leaders discussed a broad range of regional and international issues of mutual interest. They agreed to continue their coordination on issues of common interest on the international agenda.

44. The two leaders emphasized the importance of close coordination towards the cause of regional cooperation. The Prime Minister of India extended his good wishes to Myanmar for a successful term as BIMSTEC Chair, including its proposal to host the next BIMSTEC Summit meeting. The two leaders looked forward to further intensification of ASEAN-India co-operation under Myanmar's chairmanship of ASEAN in 2014. The Prime Minister of India emphasised that Myanmar holds a significant place both in India's Look East Policy and in its collaboration with ASEAN countries under the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI). The two leaders agreed to cooperate closely on activities related to the forthcoming ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit.

45. The Prime Minister of India thanked the President of Myanmar for the warm and gracious hospitality extended to him and the members of his delegation during their stay in Myanmar.

46. The Prime Minister invited the President of Myanmar to visit India on mutually convenient dates which will be decided through diplomatic channels. The President of Myanmar accepted the invitation.



375. Media Briefing by Foreign Secretary in Nay Pyi Taw on Prime Minister's ongoing visit to Myanmar.

Nay Pyi Taw, May 28, 2012.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Syed Akbaruddin): Good afternoon friends and thank you very much for coming.

Foreign Secretary will make his opening remarks and then the floor will be open to any of you who may like to ask questions. Over to Foreign Secretary.

Foreign Secretary (Shri Ranjan Mathai): Thank you.

I have not got a formal prepared statement. Akbar will be distributing the Joint Statement which the two Governments are issuing on the conclusion of this part of the programme of PM's visit.

This morning, you might say, the official part of the programme starting in Nay Pyi Taw began with a ceremonial welcome. After that there was a Restricted Meeting between PM and President of Myanmar along with some of the Ministers and officials. This was followed by a meeting in larger format with a larger number of Ministers and officials on both sides. The discussions were an occasion for a comprehensive review of bilateral relations. What you will find in the Joint Statement is a plan of action for cooperation in all areas of our bilateral relations. I would mention the language we have used.

The two leaders agreed on a vision for the future in the pursuit of the common good - bilaterally, regionally and globally. They agreed to cooperate in the areas such as border area development, transportation, connectivity, agriculture, trade and investment, promotion of friendly exchanges and human resource development. They recognized that peace and stability in the region is necessary for the development and well-being of the people of their respective countries. In this context, they emphasized the importance of close cooperation between India and Myanmar.

The Prime Minister of India congratulated the President of Myanmar on the path-breaking reform measures taken by the Government of Myanmar towards greater democratisation and national reconciliation. He commended the ongoing efforts at political, economic and social reform, which included negotiation of preliminary peace agreements with several ethnic groups as well as dialogue with various democratic political parties including the National League for Democracy.

The Prime Minister then reiterated India's readiness to extend all necessary assistance in this process. He recalled the successful visit of a Parliamentary

Delegation led by the Speaker of India in December 2011, and India's readiness to undertake training programmes for Myanmar Parliamentarians and staff. I referred to that in my briefing before we came.

We had a number of agreements and memoranda of understanding which were concluded to enhance bilateral cooperation. I will list them. There was a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the operationalisation of the US \$ 500 million Line of Credit. There was a Memorandum of Understanding on the Air Services Agreement between India and Myanmar. There was a Memorandum of Understanding on India-Myanmar Border Area Development. There was a Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of a Joint Trade and Investment Forum. There was an MoU on the establishment of the Advanced Centre for Agricultural Research and Education (ACARE). There was an MoU for establishment of a Rice Bio Park at the Model Integrated Farm here in Nay Pyi Taw, I do not know if any of you had time to go and visit it. There was an MoU on the setting up of Myanmar Institute of Information Technology. There was an MoU on cooperation between Kolkata University and Dagon University, which is also in Yangon. There was an MoU on cooperation between the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies and our ICWA. There was an agreement on cooperation between the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies and our IDSA. There was a cultural exchange programme for the period 2012 to 2015. And there was an MoU on establishment of Border Haats.

Among the subjects discussed, of particular importance was the security and counterterrorism. Both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to fight the scourge of terrorism and insurgent activity in all its forms and manifestations. They also agreed on linking the subject of security with border areas development and, as the Joint Statement says, identifying the need for special focus on the development and prosperity of people in the bordering areas. The two leaders agreed to cooperate by bringing about overall socioeconomic development in the border areas by undertaking both their infrastructure development as well as micro-economic projects, including upgradation of roads, construction of schools, health centres, bridges, agriculture, etc.

The second broad theme of the discussions was connectivity. Here I will refer to four or five different aspects of this broad issue of connectivity. The first was, we had referred to it before coming here, the Kaladan project which is an ongoing project. Both sides emphasized the importance of enhancing connectivity. And we welcome the finalization of the site of the Land Customs Station which will be on the Mizoram-Myanmar border. This project, once it is completed, would enhance bilateral trade, people-to-people contact, and contribute to the development and prosperity of the people living in that part of the Northeastern region which is somewhat land-locked.

There was also a reference to the upgradation of the Tamu-Kaleva-Yargyi road which will be part of the trilateral highway. In this context India is to undertake the repair and upgradation of 71 bridges on the Tamu-Kaleva Friendship Road which we had built some years earlier. The road segment itself would be brought up to highway standard on this stretch up to Yargyi. Beyond Yargyi the Myanmar side would undertake the upgradation of the road to a highway capacity. This will then establish connectivity from Moreh in India to Mae Sot in Thailand. Tentatively it is agreed that the trilateral connectivity should be completed by 2016, the target date.

There was also an agreement that we should launch a trans-border bus service from Imphal to Mandalay. The two leaders directed the concerned officials from both sides to finalize the modalities for its early operationalisation.

We are setting up a Joint Working Group to determine the technical and commercial feasibility of cross-border rail links as well as the feasibility of direct shipping links. This is a matter on which our Shipping Ministry and the shipping companies would get together with their Myanmar counterparts to consider whether there is feasibility for starting such a service.

Immediately there is a welcome of the new Air Services Agreement which is expected to enhance direct air connectivity and thus facilitate easy business interaction, tourism, and people-to-people exchanges.

The third broad theme, if I could mention, would be development cooperation. Here we will start with the Line of Credit. Both leaders, as I said, welcomed the signing of the 500 dollar Line of Credit. We had actually announced this last October. And then we had a further discussion and the Myanmar side wanted a specific template of how this would be actually operationalised. This has been completed. The Line of Credit will be utilized for infrastructure development projects including in the field of agriculture and irrigation. That is the first priority. The second will be rail transportation and electric power, but there would be other priorities which the Myanmar Government will decide.

In addition to this, I could mention the cooperation in the field of science and technology. The Indo-Myanmar Joint Working Group on Science and Technology was held in April, and they have identified priority areas such as agricultural biotech, post-harvest technology, biotechnology, medical research and renewable energy. The two leaders agreed that these decisions now must be taken forward.

One of the MoUs we signed was for setting up the Myanmar Institute of Information Technology. This will come up with financial and technical assistance from India. PM announced continued technical and financial support for the enhancement of IT skills over the next five years. The PM also announced fellowships for Myanmar researchers who work in Indian universities and research

institutions, with ten slots being allocated every year. These fellowships would be in areas such as atmospheric and earth sciences, chemical sciences, engineering, life sciences, mathematics and physical sciences.

Under the rubric of our development cooperation programme, you are all aware we have what is called the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme. PM announced that the number of slots for training for Myanmar candidates would be increased from 250 to 500 per year, and the President of Myanmar welcomed this rather significant gesture.

Another broad area, of course in addition to the research side, would be agriculture. I have already referred to the Rice Bio Park, the Advanced Centre for Agricultural Research and Education, and the training of the scientists. The Myanmar side has also requested that the assistance in this regard be extended to animal husbandry and dairy, dairy in particular. They mentioned their plans for a dairy project in the Shan State which is on the other border, and the Indian side has agreed to consider this proposal favourably.

Coming to the fifth theme, you could say it would be trade and investment. A target has been set to double bilateral trade within the next three years, which we feel is feasible given the potential and the new links which are opening up. In addition, both leaders emphasized that there is considerable untapped potential. There are possibilities for investment by Indian companies in areas such as oil and gas, ports, plantations, manufacturing, hospitality, ICT, and these would be encouraged.

The two leaders underscored the importance of the newly created Trade and Investment Forum which will be led by the Commerce Ministers of the two sides to enable timely and accurate exchange of information and ideas. In this context they also welcomed the establishment of a representative office of the United Bank of India in Yangon which is the first step in establishing business friendly banking arrangements for the two countries.

The Myanmar side also welcomed the proposals for training of Myanmar officials in the banking sector and it was agreed that the RBI would sign an MoU with the Central Bank of Myanmar on currency arrangements between India and Myanmar.

As part of the trade and investment promotion, the activities which have already been undertaken include the Enterprise India show which we held in Yangon in 2011 between CII and the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and it has been decided to make this an annual event.

We have a number of business leaders who are in Nay Pyi Taw right now. They had a joint meeting arranged by, as I said, the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and some Government Departments. Three

agreements were signed during this business meeting. That was for an oil block to be explored by the Jubilant oil company, for setting up of a paper mill by the JK Group, and for setting up of a pump plant by the Kirloskar. Right now, even as we speak, the Indian business leaders are meeting President Thein Sein in the Presidential Palace and they are expected to meet PM a little later.

We mentioned before coming that part of the trade facilitation but more seen as a development of the border region, is the subject of Border Haats. It has been agreed to set up Border Haats along the border. There is an MoU which has been signed to facilitate this. Both leaders also felt that we will later have to upgrade the banking infrastructure along the border to improve trading.

The next big theme, if I could mention, was cooperation in the field of culture. There is a cultural exchange programme for the next three years which has been signed. This CEP would also promote cultural exchanges between the Northern States of India and the bordering areas of Myanmar. The two sides welcomed the preparations that have been made towards organizing the International Conference on Buddhist Heritage in Myanmar in December 2012, with the cooperation of Indian Council for Cultural Relations and the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Myanmar.

The Myanmar side expressed appreciation of India's decision to gift a 16 foot sandstone replica of the Sarnath Buddha later in the year which will be installed in the precincts of the Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon. The Prime Minister will be unveiling a smaller replica, just as a gesture, of the gift.

The Myanmar side also conveyed its appreciation to India for the facilities and courtesies being extended to Myanmar pilgrims when they visit India. We mentioned the ongoing conservation and restoration of the Ananda Temple in Bagan by the Archaeological Survey of India, and this is expected to be completed in the next two years.

There is a plan to set up an Indian school for the first time in Myanmar, first time meaning after a very long time. I do not know whether prior to 1962 there were any exclusive Indian schools, but our Indian community here has been expressing this need from time to time. It has been agreed that we would examine how this school would function. Within the rules of the Ministry of Education they have some other countries which have established schools already. We will work together with Myanmar authorities.

The last theme was the regional and multilateral cooperation. Both sides felt that there is already very close cooperation both regionally and in international fora. PM extended his good wishes to Myanmar for its successful term as the Chair of BIMSTEC, and looked forward to further intensification of the ASEAN-India cooperation. Myanmar takes the Chair of ASEAN from 2014.

PM invited President Thein Sein personally to attend the ASEAN-India Summit which will be held in December in India, and the President has accepted this invitation.

That is where I will stop.

Official Spokesperson: The floor is now open for questions.

Question: Sir, the Joint Statement will probably mention the issue of Imphal-Mandalay bus service, but the fact is that there is no agreement this time. Why do you think this is happening? Is it because of some ordinary delay on the part of Myanmar Cabinet or there is more to it? Also, Sir, could you give some insight into what exactly the talks were like on cooperation between the two countries in oil and natural gas sector? Was there any assurance from the Myanmar side about encouraging investments from Indian companies?

Foreign Secretary: On the bus service, quite frankly there isn't a road which would permit that bus service to operate right now. When I talked about the road development, many of those segments which I was referring to were where there is no all-weather road yet, particularly in the stretch between Kaleva and Monywa. So, this requires first road construction to be completed before it is kept in mind. Further, the Myanmar side felt there were certain modalities which still need to be worked out. On our side we had only broad arrangements in mind, but the finer details of what kind of check-posts, what kind of arrangements on the border. So, they said the officials of the two sides should complete these formalities before the actual launch. The actual launch of the bus service, as I said, would require an all weather road to enable that bus to operate.

As regards oil and gas, yes, certainly the Myanmar President did welcome investment in the oil and gas sector. He said there are a large number of other companies from other countries also seeking to participate in the regular bids put out by the Myanmar authorities, and they would welcome Indian participation.

Question: Sir, is this the first time that an Indian company has gone in for exploration contract in Myanmar?

Foreign Secretary: No, actually the OVL, ONGC's arm, is a partner in one of the fields already. ESSAR Oil and Gas is holding in the A1 and A2 Blocks in the Coastal area. But this Jubilant block is onshore.

Question: Sir, was Aung San Suu Kyi discussed in the meeting with the President? And, would you give more details about this onshore oil programme? What does it mean?

Foreign Secretary: Aung San Suu Kyi was not discussed as such, but the President mentioned that as part of the search for peace and stability in the

country the Government had reached an agreement with the National League for Democracy and Aung San Suu Kyi, and this was part of the all-inclusive political process which the President believed was necessary for the country, and as a result of this inclusive process and this agreement she has been elected to Parliament and the Government looks forward to her participation in the Parliament. That was about it.

On the oil and gas, I will have to come back with little more specifics, but what I will say is that it is not a very major field, from what we understand from Jubilant, but it has a significant potential. It is onshore. They already have one Block in that area, and this addition will add to their capacity to develop the area if they strike oil.

Question: Where is it located?

Foreign Secretary: Can I come back to you later on that?

Question: It is close to Yangon, Sir.

Foreign Secretary: It is between Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw. That is broadly what I have, but we will get you some exact details.

Question: The Government might not say it in as many words, but there are of course a lot of strategists who are talking about the significance of the timing of when India is actively moving into Myanmar and investing, especially given the fact that China is becoming a little bit of a problem for the Government here. How would you respond to those who say that this is India now moving in trying to fill in a little bit of a gap that perhaps China would be forced to vacate because the Government feels that there is a bit of a chokehold there?

Foreign Secretary: I do not think our plans to visit Myanmar or the activities of the Indian business sector are driven by anything but our own considerations. The calendar is set by us based on our own requirements and our discussions with the Myanmar authorities. I do not think any other third party comes into that.

Question: Was the problem of insurgency along the border in the Northeastern States discussed? If so, what other joint plans have been agreed to?

Foreign Secretary: It was discussed in some detail. Prime Minister raised this issue in the context of our own security needs. President of Myanmar spoke of Myanmar's efforts to bring the border regions under complete control. As I said, he gave an exposition on the attempts of the Government to reach what are called peace accords with the various ethnic groups. And he reiterated once again that no Indian insurgent group or any anti-India forces would be allowed on Myanmar territory. He emphasized that Myanmar is engaged, as I said, in these

efforts to reach peace agreements and is also undertaking security action as and when necessary. They have full understanding of our position and our requirements. The border development and security, both sides felt, must go together. But it was also felt that it is necessary to have effective intelligence sharing between the security forces of the two sides, and our armed forces must intensify their cooperation. That was the context in which it came.

Question: Sir, are you satisfied with the final outcome of the Prime Minister's visit, and do you expect something more from Myanmar Government?

Foreign Secretary: We are more than satisfied with the outcome of the visit. In fact, we are thinking that along with this Joint Statement we will prepare a set of what you can call deliverables which you will then be able to see a very successful outcome.

If I can just come back to the question on oil, the block is called PSC-1. It is on the Irrawaddy delta, and it is not far from Yangon. Our Ambassador who has just joined us will tell us the larger significance of this Block.

Indian Ambassador to Myanmar (Dr. Villur Sundararajan Seshadri): These are onshore blocks which were on offer last year. Some of our companies participated in the bidding. Jubilant was successful and they have been awarded this block. We expect that there will be more such blocks coming up in the future. This is what we hear. So, there are opportunities for Indian companies to participate in the oil and gas sector in Myanmar.

Foreign Secretary: I will just answer that question a little more in detail. It is generally believed that Myanmar's potential is under-explored, based on the fact that historically Myanmar was one of the first oil-producing countries in the entire region, from a historical perspective. So, we believe that the potential is very very large. And if you see the number of other countries who are beginning to show interest, and interestingly right through the most difficult days of sanctions, western oil companies did not leave this country. So, that is something to keep in mind. The potential, if it does come through and does emerge, would enable us to revive the ideas of closer energy links. We may recall there was even talk once of having a pipeline if there was enough gas say to be brought on to India. Right now there is a pipeline going to China. But if there are more gas fields which emerge, if there are more oilfields which emerge, some of these ideas could come back into the operational domain.

Question: Foreign Secretary, what is the message Prime Minister will be taking to Aung San Suu Kyi when he meets her tomorrow? Sometime ago Aung San Suu Kyi expressed disappointment in India's approach especially towards pushing for more political freedoms in this country. Is there anything he is going to say to her to make her think that perhaps that was not a ... (Inaudible)...

Foreign Secretary: I think the Prime Minister will say what he has in his mind. After he has finished, of course, I will be able to tell you indeed. But this much I could say that I think he would welcome the fact that she is playing now a larger role in the political life of this country, and we look forward to keeping in touch with her.

Question: Could you elaborate on the Border Haats and border area development programmes?

Foreign Secretary: On the border area development programmes, some months ago our Ambassador was actually taken by the Vice-President of this country to the Naga hills area and he accompanied the Vice-President. It was mentioned that there are large number of areas where there are small villages which are cut off, there are no roads, the road access is missing. When there is a road there is no bridge, when there is a road and a bridge and you reach the village there is no schools. Sometimes there is no clinic. So, some of these areas are where there has been trouble in the past which has now subsided. But the way forward is to develop small development projects in these areas. We felt this is an area in which we could cooperate. We have done it with other countries quite successfully, so, we would like to do this with Myanmar also.

Our armed forces also have a degree of cooperation which is not 100 per cent security-related. For example, they have been providing road-building equipment to the Myanmar Army to complete roads. They have been providing what are called bailey bridges for small spans. These programmes will also carry on together.

As regards the Border Haats, can you give us some details?

Joint Secretary (BSM) (Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla): Actually, the idea of having Border Haats was discussed at the Joint Trade Committee which took place in New Delhi in September last year and both sides agreed on the utility of establishing Border Haats at various locations along the Myanmar border. The sense is that Border Haats at various locations would benefit people living in the area and would function on the lines of Border Haats that we have already established with Bangladesh. As you know, the two Border Haats on the Meghalaya-Bangladesh border are already operational. And the MoU that has been signed just a short while ago by the Foreign Secretary and the Deputy Minister of Commerce on the Myanmar side provides for the setting up of a Border Haat on a pilot basis in Pangsau in Arunachal Pradesh. And it also sets out the modalities for additional Border Haats that the two sides could mutually agree on. And as I said, it is very important for people living in those areas. There has been a long-standing requirement of the Northeastern States, and I think this will fulfill that requirement in terms of benefiting people along the borders.

Foreign Secretary: Just a month ago both of us had gone to Mizoram as part of the exercise to see the point at which the Land Customs station where the road from the Kaladan Project will come in. While I was there I called on the Chief Minister and he mentioned this again to me. He says, why cannot we have Border Haats, there are a lot of tribal areas, areas in the border regions where the people can very conveniently sell and buy local produce. That is generally the idea.

Question: Sir, you talked about cross-border rail links and feasibility of direct shipping links. By when can we expect this become a reality?

Foreign Secretary: This will depend on how the operators actually see the viability of the systems. On the cross-border rail for example, I will just mention some of the issues which come up. We have been using the broad gauge rail whereas they use metre gauge in Myanmar. So, are you going to have gauge conversion? Will you have double tracks? These are the kinds of issues which the two Railways have to sit down and talk to each other about. But the Myanmar Railways has been expressing interest in buying rolling-stock from us, in obtaining technical expertise from us. So, those are the kinds of areas we will be able to start very quickly. But actually building rail lines that link in, might take a longer time.

As far as shipping is concerned, I believe this is a question of someone taking the plunge first. Traditionally, in times gone by, there used to be regular shipping services from both Kolkata and Chennai to Yangon. It was quite a familiar thing. Today the shipping companies say they would like to see the volume of trade increase, whereas the traders say they want the shipping service to increase the trade volumes. So, it has to be broken somewhere, and I think we will. We will get our shipping companies to come and take further studies of this. But I cannot set a timeframe on it.

Question: Sir, while there is positive movement towards increasing and growing relations between India and Myanmar, is there a concern and skepticism with regard to the Junta on whether they are going to stay the course or turn their back again and close down on India? Also, does India keenly monitor the security scenario with regard to Aung San Suu Kyi? Is there any intelligence to that effect?

Foreign Secretary: All I can say is that through the history of our relations with independent Myanmar we have always found that every Government irrespective of its particular formation and its constitution etc., had an interest in keeping a good relationship with India. That has not changed, and I do not think it will change either. The position of Suu Kyi in this country, that is an internal matter of this country.

Question: Sir, could you elaborate on the MoU signed between Kolkata University and the Dagon University? ...(Inaudible)...

Foreign Secretary: I should have got the Vice-Chancellor, who is here, to answer that question.

It is broadly an enabling agreement which enables the two sides. What it says is, it promotes cooperation in the areas of exchange of faculty members, students, administrative managers and coordinators, academic materials and other information, joint research activities, participation in seminars and academic meetings, special short-term academic programmes, joint cultural programmes, and study tours for administrative managers and coordinators.

Question: Mr. Mathai, please correct me if I am wrong. I believe some time ago the Myanmar Army had asked for some hardware from the Indian Army. So far I think we are providing only non lethal equipment. Has there been any talk about that this time?

Foreign Secretary: This was not discussed on this occasion. There was no talk of it. But we have been cooperating with them, more with the Navy we have had regular cooperation.

Question: But this time there is no agreement on defence?

Foreign Secretary: On supplies of defence, no.

Question: I just wanted to find out about the air connectivity. What are the details on that?

Question: Will it be Air India?

Foreign Secretary: The air services agreement generally only lays out the possibilities, and it uses the word designated airline. Once there are permissions for designated airlines to fly, the authority in your country designates which airline has that right. What it does is, it gives the permission to designate more carriers. So, a larger number of airlines including the private sector should be able to come in. It increases the number of destinations. The most critical part is that for the first time it provides for what are called Fifth Freedom Rights, which means that you can land from India in Yangon and go on from there to Bangkok and pick up passengers in Yangon for the Bangkok sector also. The same would apply for the Myanmar airlines. If it were flying through India onwards somewhere, it would be allowed to pick up passengers. According to our airlines and our Civil Aviation Ministry, this for the first time really makes a difference. It makes the sector much more attractive for the private operators also. So, we think that with this the number of services should increase substantially.



376. Speech of Prime Minister at the State Banquet hosted by the President of Myanmar.

Nay Pyi Taw, May 28, 2012.

Your Excellency U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Daw Khin Khin Win,
Distinguished Guests,

I would like to thank President U Thein Sein for his warm words of welcome and the gracious hospitality extended to me and my delegation. We have been deeply touched by the warmth, affection and friendship of the people of Myanmar.

Excellency,

This is my first visit to your beautiful country and to this impressive capital. Our talks earlier today and the agreements that we have signed have put in place a roadmap for the rapid development of our relations in the years ahead. This will build on the firm foundations laid during your highly successful visit to India last year.

Excellency,

India and Myanmar are natural partners, linked by geography and history. Since time immemorial, trade, people and ideas have flowed between our lands. The teachings of Lord Buddha have inspired generations of scholars, monks, pilgrims and common people in both our countries for almost two millennia. I am keenly looking forward to visiting the Shwedagon Pagoda and the mausoleum of Emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar tomorrow to pay my respects to our shared heritage.

Excellency,

There are many areas where our two countries can enhance cooperation to our mutual benefit. With its unique geographic location, Myanmar can be a bridge linking South and South East Asia to East Asia. There is much untapped potential in our economic relationship. We need to promote more exchanges among our parliamentarians, academics, scientists, artists and intellectuals. There is so much we can rediscover and learn from each other's culture and society.

This year is the Twentieth Year of our partnership with ASEAN. We look forward to receiving Your Excellency for the Commemorative India-ASEAN Summit later this year.

Excellency,

The people of Myanmar have shown great vision in embarking on a journey of national reconciliation and transition. This has been made possible largely by

Your Excellency's vision and statesmanship. The people of India stand ready to support your efforts to create a democratic, stable and prosperous Myanmar.

Excellency,

I would like to recall the words of our first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on the occasion of Myanmar's independence in 1948:

"As in the past, so in the future, the people of India will stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of Burma, and whether we have to share good fortune or ill fortune, we shall share it together".

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to invite you to join me in raising a toast:

- To the good health and well being of His Excellency President U Thein Sein and Daw Khin Khin Win,
- To the progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Myanmar, and
- To the eternal bonds of friendship between India and Myanmar.



377. Statements to Media by Prime Minister of India, and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

Yangon, May 29, 2012.

Prime Minister of India (Dr. Manmohan Singh): Ladies and gentlemen, it has been a great honour and great privilege for me to have had this opportunity of interacting and meeting with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. We in India are very proud of our longstanding association with her and members of her family including her parents.

I sincerely hope that she will find it possible to visit India soon. In this context I have handed over to her the invitation letter to deliver the next Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Lecture which is a very prestigious lecture. Mrs. Sonia Gandhi has written an invitation letter to Madam to do us the honour to deliver this lecture in India.

Madam Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's life, her struggle, and her determination have inspired millions of people all over the world. Our sincere belief is that in the Process of National Reconciliation which has been launched by President Thein Sein, Madam Suu Kyi will play a defining role.

I conveyed to her our very best wishes for the success of the noble endeavour in which she and her colleagues are engaged.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi: It has been a great pleasure and a privilege to meet Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, and I very much appreciate the fact that he has made time to see me here in Rangoon in spite of a very heavy programme.

As you all know, India and Burma have been particularly close over the years not just because of our geographical positions but because we have shared deep ties of friendship for many many long years.

The struggle for India's independence took place at the same time as the struggle for Burma's independence. My parents were great admirers of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and other Indian leaders, but we were particularly close to Panditji as I was taught to call him from a very young age.

I am very happy at the prospect of closer ties with India because I think we have much to learn from one another and we have much to contribute to peace and stability in this region, because our goals, our democratic goals, work on the basis of peace and stability, and these are what we shall aim towards.

I am very gratified by the invitation to deliver the Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Lecture, and I hope that I will be able to take up this invitation before too long.

More than that, I hope that there will be greater exchanges between our two

peoples. As I said to the Prime Minister, true friendship between the countries can be based only on friendship between our peoples, and this is what I hope we will be able to achieve.

Thank you.



378. Prime Minister's address to think-tank's and business community at an event organized by Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Myanmar Development Resource Institute in Yangon on India and Myanmar: A Partnership for Progress and Regional Development.

Yangon, May 29, 2012.

Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am extremely grateful to the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Myanmar Development Resource Institute for inviting me to speak to this distinguished gathering.

I bring with me good wishes and greetings from the people of India to the people of Myanmar.

I have come after spending two days in the impressive and beautiful capital city of Naypyitaw. I am very happy with the discussions I have had with the leaders of Myanmar. President Thein Sein's visit to India last year heralded a new era of cooperation between our two countries. I found him to be a man of courage, vision and sincerity. The leadership of Myanmar has a great desire to expand and strengthen the traditionally friendly relations between our two countries. This is a sentiment we fully reciprocate from the Indian side.

Friends,

India and Myanmar share age old cultural and civilizational ties. Merchants, monks and maritime traders carried influences and traditions from one to the other. The large Indian origin community in Myanmar is an enduring bridge of friendship and cultural exchange between our peoples.

Our common Buddhist heritage is an even stronger spiritual bond among our peoples. This year marks the 2600th anniversary of the holy Shwedagon Pagoda. I will offer prayers there later this evening. We will make an offering of a 16 feet replica of the Sarnath Buddha on behalf of the people of India. We are also working with local authorities to help organize an international conference on Buddhist heritage in Myanmar later this year.

During our independence movements, our leaders shared ideas and thoughts on the freedom struggle. Mahatma Gandhi visited Myanmar a number of times and wrote in his autobiography how impressed he was by the freedom and energy of Myanmar women. Great leaders of India like Lokmanya Tilak and

Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose were held for long periods in jails in Myanmar. The Indian National Army received a lot of support from the people of Myanmar.

Our first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, respected and admired General Aung San and pledged India's full support to Myanmar's freedom. In the early years following independence, India and Myanmar were deeply sympathetic and supportive of each other.

Today, we again have an opportunity to work as equal partners to revive the ancient links between our two countries and rediscover the immense possibilities of cooperation that exist between our two Countries.

We need to work with each other and with other countries of our region to build prosperity, promote openness of thought and facilitate trade and movement of goods, people and ideas.

Friends,

Myanmar is a critical partner in India's "Look East" policy and is perfectly situated to play the role of an economic bridge between India and China and between South and South-East Asia.

We should work together to create a regional economy that can become a hub for trade, investment and communication in the region.

Better communication is the best way of promoting economic integration and there is much we can do to revive and build arteries of communication.

Our two Governments have agreed to cooperate in a number of road building projects. I hope that the very symbolic Trilateral Highway that will connect India, Myanmar and Thailand can be fully built by 2016.

India is implementing the Kaladan multimodal transport project that involves upgrading the Sittwe port and constructing a highway to connect the town of Paletwa in Chin state to the Indian border in Mizoram state. This flagship project will revitalize the economy of the area and link it with important commercial and shipping arteries. We hope to complete it by 2015.

Initiatives like BIMSTEC and Mekong Ganga Cooperation provide a platform for enhanced regional cooperation and connectivity.

Our two countries have also agreed to cooperate in the development of the border regions that link us.

The Government of Myanmar has invited us to assist in the development of two areas contiguous to our border, namely the Naga Self Administered Zone of the Sagaing Region and the Chin State. We hope to implement small development projects that have been successful elsewhere.

Yesterday we agreed to set up several border markets, beginning with the one at Pangsau, on the border of Arunachal Pradesh in India and Sagaing in Myanmar. We are working to develop border infrastructure, including the Rhi-Tiddim road that will enable greater cross-border links and trade between Mizoram and Chin state.

These efforts will give a boost to the local economies and provide livelihood opportunities. Trade will expand and be brought within the ambit of the law. These measures will also help curb the activities of insurgent groups and other criminal elements in these areas.

Indian industry is showing increasing interest in Myanmar. In order to exploit the full potential of our economic relationship, we need to facilitate trade and investment. Bilateral banking arrangements need to be established to ease financial transactions. I am glad that United Bank of India is in the process of opening its representative office in Myanmar.

I am confident that we can surpass our total trade target of US \$3 billion by the year 2015. But we need to diversify our trade basket. India can import more agricultural produce, coal and other minerals and export heavy industrial items, chemicals, pharmaceuticals and textiles.

To jumpstart commercial transactions, India has offered a US\$ 500 million Line of Credit to Myanmar for which an MOU was signed yesterday.

The energy sector is an area of great potential for Cooperation. There is a long historical association between the oil sectors of our two countries going back to the days of Burmah Shell. India's known oil reserves in its North-East and the adjacent region of north and western Myanmar belong to the same geological terrain. We should upgrade our cooperation to a comprehensive energy partnership, which would include sharing of Indian expertise and capacity-building.

Human resource development is a vital component of our development programmes. I am happy to announce that we have decided to double the number of training slots for Myanmar under our technical assistance programme from 250 to 500 every year. Yesterday we also signed an agreement on the setting up of the Myanmar Institute of Information Technology, which will boost capacity in the ICT sector in Myanmar.

Friends,

Myanmar is entering a new phase in its nation building. As a close friend and well wisher, we will be happy to see Myanmar join the ranks of the economically dynamic and politically vibrant countries of South-East Asia.

The Government of India is ready to extend a hand of friendship to support Myanmar's long term development priorities.

With this in mind and looking to the future, we are together identifying new areas

of potential cooperation that will reflect our common vision of an expanded and strong multi-faceted partnership.

We could support capacity and institution building in areas relating to public administration. We were privileged to receive a parliamentary delegation from Myanmar led by the Speaker. We should encourage more such exchanges.

We will also expand people to people exchanges. To this end, we are exploring the idea of a Mandalay-Imphal bus service to facilitate travel for tourism, pilgrimage and medical consultation. To this end, we seek to strengthen link with all sections of society.

I am happy that our civil aviation authorities have agreed to enhance direct flights, including by private carriers, and grant fifth freedom rights. We will need a similar initiative to increase shipping links.

We have the responsibility of preserving our common historical heritage and promoting cultural exchanges, particularly among our youth. We are examining the idea of an India-Myanmar Foundation to promote educational, cultural and literary exchanges. I am also glad that the Archaeological Survey of India is restoring the Ananda Temple in Bagan, one of Myanmar's cultural treasures.

We need to develop cooperation in social sectors like health and education. A beginning has been made through the upgradation projects underway in Yangon Children's Hospital and Sittwe General Hospital.

The MoU signed between Calcutta and Dagon universities is a welcome development. In the past we have depended on western sources to learn about each other. We should pro-actively encourage direct intellectual exchanges among our civil societies and academia.

Agricultural cooperation is progressing well. We have yesterday signed an agreement for setting up an Advanced Center for Agricultural Research and Education near Naypyidaw. This center of excellence will focus on crops of interest to both countries including rice, pulses and oilseeds and promote overall food security.

We also need to expand our security cooperation that is vital not only to maintain peace along our land borders but also to protect maritime trade which we hope will open up through the sea route between Kolkata and Sittwe.

Enhanced cooperation in regional forums will be to our mutual benefit. We look forward to Myanmar taking leadership of regional groupings as it hosts the BIMSTEC Summit this year and the ASEAN Summit in 2014. We look forward to the honour of welcoming President Thein Sein in India for the India-ASEAN 20th year Commemorative Summit later this year.

Friends,

This morning, I had the privilege of meeting Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. We in India

admire her for her courage, perseverance and sacrifice. She is a patriot and I hope that she will make important contributions to the processes of change and broader reconciliation that are now underway in this beautiful country. She is also an old friend of India. We are delighted that she has agreed to deliver the prestigious Nehru Memorial Lecture. We look forward to receiving her soon in her old home.

The people of India wish the people of Myanmar well as they undertake the tasks of building a representative democracy, reconciliation with all ethnic groups and economic and political reform. The path to democracy must necessarily evolve in the unique historical and political circumstances of Myanmar and be based on the native genius and traditions of its people.

Our experience in India has been that dialogue and peaceful negotiations are the best ways to bring about genuine reconciliation. I commend the efforts of the Government of Myanmar to achieve peaceful settlements with various ethnic groups. They should now embrace the democratic path fully and become active partners in the country's progress.

Friends,

The path of economic reform is often contentious and rarely painless. In the process of opening up, special measures need to be taken to help disadvantaged sections of society who are not yet empowered to benefit from the fruits of growth and globalization. The needs of local communities and people displaced by the processes of modernization should be taken on board. We should do nothing that threatens the environment or the delicate ecological balance that has sustained us for millennia.

Finally, the success of a nation depends in the end on the energy, creativity and spirit of adventure and enterprise of its people. It is only meaningful political and economic reform that can give each citizen the right and freedom of opportunity to realize his or her potential and seek a life of dignity and social and economic fulfillment. By empowering each individual citizen, we lay the foundations for building a peaceful, prosperous and confident nation.

In conclusion, I wish to say that I am very satisfied with my visit to Myanmar. I see great potential and promise in relations between our two countries and I look forward to working with the leadership and people of Myanmar to build an enduring partnership of friendship, cooperation and common prosperity between our two Countries.

Thank you.



379. Intervention by Foreign Secretary at the Meeting of the Group of Friends of the UN Secretary General on Myanmar.

New York, September 28, 2012.

Thank you, Mr. Secretary General, for convening the Meeting of Group of Friends on Myanmar.

Mr. Secretary General,

We fully share your assessment that the political landscape of Myanmar has been significantly transformed during the last one year. In October last year, we received President Thein Sein and were encouraged to hear of some of the plans of the government. We congratulated the government and people of Myanmar in April this year on the peaceful and smooth manner in which bye-elections were held. When our Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh visited Myanmar in May this year, he again conveyed our felicitations to the President of Myanmar on the reform measures taken by the Myanmar government towards greater democratization and national reconciliation. He also commended the efforts underway on political, economic and social reform that also included peace agreements with several groups and dialogue with various political parties including the National League for Democracy. The participation of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in the Parliamentary process in recent months has made it more inclusive and it is very welcome that she has assumed chairmanship of the Rule of Law Committee of Myanmar Parliament.

As a close and friendly neighbour, India remains committed to extending all possible assistance and support to the process of national reconciliation and the further strengthening of democracy in Myanmar. We are facilitating Parliamentary exchanges between the two countries by sharing our experience. We have begun a program of introduction to and training on Parliamentary practices and procedures for members of the Myanmar Parliament and Parliamentary Secretariat officials. As many as 80 members will be covered by this program.

As Myanmar confronts multifarious challenges ahead the international community as a whole needs to extend all possible support to the efforts of the government in a spirit of trust and cooperation. The UN agencies and international financial institutions have the opportunity now where they could carry out the entire gamut of their developmental activities. We would also urge that unilateral sanctions should be immediately phased out so that Myanmar's economic development can be accelerated. India has consistently emphasized the path of engagement with Myanmar to encourage the advancement of national reconciliation as well socio-economic development.

We are working closely with Myanmar on various infrastructure and other development cooperation projects. We have given particularly attention to capacity building and Human Resource Development. We believe Myanmar could play a great role in expanding our engagement into ASEAN. We look forward to Myanmar's planned Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2014.

In respect of recent developments in Rakhine state, we have noted that the Government of Myanmar has taken steps towards restoration of law and order and ensuring peace and stability in the areas affected by the violence and in meeting the needs of relief and rehabilitation of all the affected communities. The government has also set up a 27 member Investigation Commission comprising people from different walks of life, including members of different religious faiths and political parties, to enquire into the real cause for incidents and to make recommendations. The Government of Myanmar has also demonstrated willingness to cooperate with the international community. We welcome these efforts. The Government of India has also extended assistance of US\$ 200,000 towards immediate relief for all the affected. Representatives of all communities have benefitted from this assistance.

We believe that the Good Offices should continue in a manner that supplements and strengthens Myanmar's own efforts. We will continue to play a constructive role in this process in consultation with other like-minded countries.

Perhaps, time has also come for the Group to consider whether our Meeting should be with the participation of Myanmar. A dialogue on development which will bring in the presence of Myanmar may be the best way forward. I would therefore, join in the sentiments expressed by the Foreign Minister of Indonesia in regard to the annual resolution in the Third Committee.

Thank you.



380. Joint Press Statement on the Twelfth India-Myanmar Foreign Office Consultations.

New Delhi, November 5, 2012.

1. The Twelfth India-Myanmar Foreign Office Consultations were held in New Delhi on 5 November 2012. The Indian delegation was led by Foreign Secretary Shri Ranjan Mathai and the Myanmar delegation was led by Deputy Foreign Minister U Thant Kyaw.
2. The Consultations were held in a warm and cordial atmosphere and both sides reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relationship and discussed regional and international issues of mutual interest. The two sides expressed satisfaction over the deepening of the bilateral relations between India and Myanmar, which has rapidly grown and gained momentum, including though the exchange of high level visits in the past year.
3. The two sides reviewed and positively assessed the implementation of the decisions during the visits of the President of Myanmar to India in October 2011 and that of the Prime Minister of India to Myanmar in May 2012. In this context, it was noted that significant progress has been achieved in taking forward the initiatives related to enhancing connectivity through land, sea and air; promoting bilateral cooperation and exchanges in the areas of security, trade and commerce, banking, agriculture, health, science and technology, information technology, culture; infrastructure development; capacity building and human resource development; organization of training for the Myanmar Parliamentarians and Parliamentary staff in India; and promotion of people to people contacts, among others.
4. It was agreed that the next round of Foreign Office Consultations would be held in Myanmar in 2013 at mutually convenient dates to be decided through diplomatic channels.



381. Response of the Official Spokesperson to a question on the Visit of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Chairperson National League for Democracy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

New Delhi, November 12, 2012.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Chairperson of the National League of Democracy of Myanmar, would be visiting India from November 13-18, 2012. She is scheduled to deliver the Nehru Memorial Lecture on the occasion of the birth Anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on November 14, 2012. It would be recalled Daw Aung San Suu Kyi had accepted the invitation from Smt. Sonia Gandhi in her capacity as Chairperson of Nehru Memorial Fund to deliver the Nehru Memorial Lecture when she met the Prime Minister during his visit to Myanmar in May 2012.

During her visit, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is scheduled to call on the Vice President, Prime Minister, Speaker of the Lok Sabha and External Affairs Minister. She will pay tributes at the Samadhis of Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in New Delhi. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi will visit her alma mater, Lady Sri Ram College, where she will interact with the faculty and students and also visit The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) in Gurgaon. Besides her engagements in Delhi, she will be travelling to Bangalore where she will visit the Indian Institute of Science and the Infosys Campus. She is also scheduled to tour rural areas in Andhra Pradesh to gain a firsthand impression of the rural development and women's empowerment programmes being undertaken in India.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi spent several years in India during her early days when her mother Daw Khin Yi was Ambassador to India. She also spent some time as a Fellow at the Institute of Advanced Study in Shimla in 1987.

The close and friendly relations between India and Myanmar have been strengthened in the recent past through exchanges of high level visits, including the State visits of the President of Myanmar to India in October 2011 and the Prime Minister of India to Myanmar in May 2012. The visit of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi would be part of our ongoing engagement with the democratic and multi-party polity in Myanmar. It would provide opportunity to exchange views on all matters of mutual interest with a view to building upon the positive momentum in India-Myanmar relations



382. Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson on External Affairs Minister's visit to Myanmar.

New Delhi, December 11, 2012.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Syed Akbaruddin): Good afternoon friends and thank you very much for coming to this interaction. I have one announcement to make and then take any questions that you might have.

The External Affairs Minister, Shri Salman Khurshid, is to visit Myanmar from 14th to 16th of December. This is the External Affairs Minister's first bilateral trip abroad.

During his visit to Myanmar he will have discussions with his Myanmarese counterpart U Wunna Maung Lwin. He will also call on the President of Myanmar. As you are perhaps aware, President Thein Sein is likely to visit New Delhi for the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit on the 20th of December. So, External Affairs Minister's visit is a precursor to those discussions. This part will be in Nay Pyi Taw which is the capital. In addition, External Affairs Minister will also visit Yangon where he is scheduled to inaugurate the International Buddhist Conference.

If you would recollect, when Prime Minister visited Myanmar he had indicated that India would present a Sarnath Buddha statue. That statue has now been sent to Myanmar and it would be formally inaugurated at the Shwedagon Pagoda on 16th.

Apart from this, we are still working on his schedule and he is likely to meet various other interlocutors. We hope to finalize that by the time he leaves.

His visit will also include a trip to the Anandi Temple which is being restored with the assistance of the Archaeological Survey of India.

The visit of the External Affairs Minister to our neighbouring country re-emphasizes the importance we place on relations with our neighbours, also that it is located as part of our Look East Policy indicates the importance that we are providing to our Look East Policy.

[That is the only announcement I have. If you have any questions on any issue, I will be willing to provide responses.]

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Question: Is the EAM going to meet Aung San Suu Kyi?

Official Spokesperson: As I said, we are working on his programme in Yangon.

His programme in Yangon is structured around his visit for the opening of the International Buddhist Conference. And it is our intention that a request will be made to meet Daw Aung San Suu Kyi while he is there.



NEW ZEALAND

383. Press Release on the India and New Zealand Foreign Office Consultations.

Wellington, September 24, 2012.

- India and New Zealand held Foreign Office Consultations in Wellington in the forenoon of September 24, 2012. The Indian delegation was led by Mr. Sanjay Singh, Secretary(East) in the Ministry of External Affairs and the New Zealand delegation was led by Mr. John Allen, Chief Executive and Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Government of New Zealand.
- During the talks the two delegations discussed bilateral relations and exchanged views on regional and global issues. Relations between the two countries in the areas of trade and investment, education, science and technology, cultural affairs and people to people cooperation were among the topics on which there was an exchange of views. The discussions explored the potential for enhancing bilateral cooperation and implementing decisions taken during Prime Minister John Key's visit to India in June 2011. They also discussed cooperation between India and New Zealand in multilateral fora.
- Prior to the consultations, Mr Sanjay Singh called on Hon Murray McCully, Minister of Foreign Affairs of New Zealand.



PHILIPPINES

384. Press Release of the Ministry of Tourism on promotion of Tourism between India and the Philippines.

New Delhi, September 7, 2012.

India and the Philippines have decided to enhance mutual cooperation in Tourism Sector. This was decided at the Second meeting of the Joint Working Group on Tourism Cooperation held here today. The Indian delegation was led by Shri R.H. Khwaja, Union Secretary for Tourism and the Philippines delegation by Ms. Maria Victoria V. Jasmin, Secretary, Department of Tourism, Department of Philippines.

It was decided in the meeting that both the countries will identify areas for working together and explore new opportunities in Tourism Sector specially in the field of Research and Development, Education and Training, Promotion and Marketing and destination development and management . Both sides gave an overview of the "Tourism Sector" in their respective countries and re-emphasised on its potential for employment generation and economic growth. It was also agreed that increased in the tourist traffic between the two countries could strengthen the bilateral relations at people to people level. Both sides also exchanged views for establishing mechanism to encourage exchange of information and data related to tourist arrivals and tourism resources to understand the dynamics of tourism sector in each others' country. It was also agreed to continue to exchange tourism data and information at regular intervals.

India and the Philippines emphasised upon the need of exchange of visits of tour operators, media persons related to tourism and opinion makers to promote tourism between the two countries. The importance of interaction between the tour operators and destination managers of the two countries was stressed upon to develop better packages for tourists. It was agreed that the tourism stake-holders from two sides may meet at regular intervals for exchange of views to promote two-way traffic between the two countries. The information about investment of opportunities in the tourism sector in both the countries was also shared. Both the countries agreed that growing opportunities in tourism sector should be showcased to attracts investments from the private stake-holders of the two countries. It was also agreed to explore the possibilities of enhancing air-connectivity between both the countries. It was also agreed to assist each others' country in carrying out promotion and marketing activities to increase the tourist traffic between the two countries. Both sides also agreed to continue the participation in travel fares held in each country, as-well-as regional events such as ASEAN Tourism Forum to showcase its diverse tourism products

and destinations as-well-as allow private sector to interact and network with their counterparts.

Earlier, in his welcome address Union Tourism Secretary Shri Khwaja said that the meeting would be useful in enhancing tourism cooperation between the two-countries. He was also hopeful that the meeting will take tourism cooperation between the two countries to the next level and could be able to produce concrete results. Ms. Maria in her address appreciated the friendly relations between the two countries and emphasised upon the importance of pursuing a closer relationship based on the emerging potential in the tourism sector in the two countries.

An agreement on tourism cooperation was signed between India and the Philippines on February 04, 2006 . The first meeting of the Joint Working Group set up in this regard was held on July 04, 2008 in Manila . The third meeting of the Joint Working Group will be held next year in the Philippines.

Tourist arrival from the Philippines was 17222 in the year 2008 which rose to 21987 and 24534 in the year 2009 and 2010 respectively. The Visa on Arrival (VoA) facility was extended to the tourist from Philippines in January 2011. 1956 VoAs were issued last year for the tourists coming from Philippines. Upto June this year 966 VoAs were issued for the tourists from Philippines.



SINGAPORE

385. Joint Media Interaction of External Affairs Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Singapore.

New Delhi, May 8, 2012.

External Affairs Minister (Shri S.M. Krishna): Your Excellency Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. K Shanmugam, Friends from the Media:

Minister Shanmugam and I jointly co-chaired the Second Meeting of the India-Singapore Joint Ministerial Committee for Bilateral Cooperation.

India-Singapore bilateral relations are broad-based and multi-faceted, underpinned by convergence of political, economic and strategic interests. In the Meeting, both sides expressed the common desire to seek new areas of cooperation that would take the partnership to an even higher level.

We noted that India-Singapore ties were buttressed by a healthy exchange of visits between leaders and officials, who embraced a shared vision of the value and importance of the relationship. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh visited Singapore in November 2011. We look forward to the successful visit of Singapore Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong to India in July 2012.

Both sides expressed satisfaction at the excellent state of bilateral economic relations, including the growing flow of investments between the two countries. We look forward to an early conclusion of the 2nd Review of the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA), which has emerged as a cornerstone of our bilateral economic relationship since its signing in 2005.

We reviewed our bilateral defence cooperation, which is wide and intensive. We discussed cooperation in the areas of science and technology, education including skills development and training, culture, among others. In the field of skills education and training we noted the potential that exist for mutually beneficial cooperation. Our Ministry of Labour and Singapore Ministry of Education have had detailed discussions on specific areas of cooperation. The Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi is also developing specific projects for a world-class skills training centre.

Friends, we discussed India's engagement with the ASEAN, which is one of the cornerstone of our foreign policy and the key pillar of our Look East Policy. Both sides look forward to the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit in New Delhi in December 2012.

We also had detailed discussions on the regional situation and the major developments therein.

The two sides had very fruitful discussions on various aspects of our bilateral relations in today's meeting of the Joint Ministerial Committee.

Thank you.

Minister for Foreign Affairs of Singapore (Mr. K. Shanmugam):

...(Inaudible)... I will just make some brief additional remarks first of course to express our deepest appreciation to Your Excellency and the Ministry of External Affairs of India for hosting us and hosting this Joint Ministerial Committee, the second meeting that we have had, and the excellent hospitality and arrangements that have been made for me and my delegation. This is obviously not my first visit to India but my first visit as Foreign Minister. The JMC is a unique platform for us to discuss a wide range of issues both between our officials and at the Ministerial level. It is a platform very frankly to share views and to deepen and strengthen the relationship and to take it further. And this JMC has been extremely fruitful in that context.

As Your Excellency has remarked, India and Singapore enjoy very longstanding relationship underpinned by strong political relationship, strong economic relationship, strong strategic relationship.

Your Hon. Prime Minister visited us late last year. Our Prime Minister will visit this year. Below the Prime Ministerial level, of course we have had very substantive Ministerial visits. Your Excellency visited us earlier this year, and other Ministers frequently visit each other as well.

On economic ties, as Your Excellency has remarked, after CECA has been signed, really the economic and trade relationship has taken off in a very substantive way. Bilateral trade now stands at something in the order of 35 billion dollars. I think Singapore now is the largest trading partner of India from ASEAN, and India's FDI into Singapore as well as Singapore's FDI into India are both growing very substantively. I think Singapore is now the largest source of FDI into India other than Mauritius, whereas India is the eighth largest source country for us.

So, both sides are benefiting, and in that context I think quick and expeditious conclusion to the review of the CECA that our two countries are undertaking will benefit both sides very substantively.

Your Excellency has mentioned defence, I entirely concur, is a key pillar of our relationship. In terms of the other areas, the JMC explored a number of areas that are of mutual interest and benefit to both of us.

Your Excellency mentioned education. We are very keen to work with India in this area because everyone knows India has a demographic dividend, and that

it will be extremely helpful for India and the world and ASEAN for the young population to have the necessary skills and we will be happy to share our experiences in that context. And we hope that an MoU can be signed when our Prime Minister visits to seal that aspect of the partnership.

If I may in addition mention the technical assistance that we are both hoping to combine together and provide to third countries, Your Excellency mentioned that. We could also I think strengthen even further the very strong connectivity that our two countries have, we talked about that. Today we have close to 200 flights between India and Singapore. And the passenger traffic has been growing very significantly. Grew eight per cent last year, grew forty per cent in the first five months of this year. I think there is more we can do to strengthen that. If we improve further the connectivity, the greater the flow of people between Singapore and India, and that will benefit both sides.

I am looking forward to visiting both Assam and Gujarat. On Assam, as I told Your Excellency, it is part of our own Look East Policy to complement your Look East Policy. I look forward to my visits.

Thank you, Your Excellency.

Official Spokesperson: The two Ministers have agreed to respond to one question each.

Question (Ms. Chhavi, Channel News Asia): My question is to the Singapore Minister. Sir, I would like to know given the recent developments in India, a slowing economy and also retroactive tax proposal, has that impacted the investor confidence in some way in Singapore?

Minister for Foreign Affairs of Singapore: I think if we ever take these things in context, you talk about a slowing economy here, you are talking about slowing from eight per cent to seven per cent or something slightly under seven per cent. But if you compare that with what the rest of the world is doing, I think not many people will consider that a slowing economy. We are talking about a very substantive economy growing at seven per cent or so. There are tremendous opportunities. Singapore's position has always been that we look at the Government as facilitators. We facilitate trade, we facilitate investment. We see plenty of opportunities both ways, which is why we are suggesting that the review of the CECA be expedited. And the results of that, since we signed the CECA in 2005, the growth in trade, the growth in investments, is there for all to see. And both sides have benefited. Of course, investors look for certainty, they look for the right framework because capital can go to many places in the world.

And whether there is a specific legislative framework is accommodative or less

accommodative is a matter for the Indian Government to work out together with the investors. We as friends can offer some pills on the side. But really investors will work out for themselves how best to work in any particular environment.

Question (Mr. Dipanshu, Doordarshan): A question to Mr. Krishna. Sir, it is not related to this. Today the Supreme Court has directed the Centre to eliminate Haj subsidy over a period of ten years. What is your comment on this?

External Affairs Minister: I have just heard about the decision of the Supreme Court. I have not looked into the details of the judgment. Once we get the judgment, then perhaps that would be the time when I can react. I am afraid you will have to wait till I go through the essence of the judgment.

Official Spokesperson: Thank you very much ladies and gentlemen. With that we come to the end of this interaction,



Press Conference of External Affairs Minister at the conclusion of the 2nd India-Singapore Joint Ministerial Committee Meeting.

New Delhi, May 8, 2012.

Your Excellency Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. K Shanmugam,
Friends from Media,

Minister Shanmugam and I jointly co-chaired the Second Meeting of the India-Singapore Joint Ministerial Committee for Bilateral Cooperation.

2. India-Singapore bilateral relations are broad-based and multi-faceted underpinned by convergence of political, economic and strategic interests. In the Meeting, both sides expressed the common desire to seek new areas of cooperation that would take the partnership to an even higher level.

3. We noted that India-Singapore ties were buttressed by a healthy exchange of visits between leaders and officials, who embraced a shared vision of the value and importance of the relationship. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh visited Singapore in November 2011. We look forward to the successful visit of Singapore Prime Minister Mr. Lee Hsien Loong to India in July 2012.

4. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the excellent state of bilateral economic relations, including the growing flow of investments between the two countries. We look forward to an early conclusion of the 2nd Review of the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA), which has emerged as a cornerstone of our bilateral economic relationship since its signing in 2005.

5. We reviewed our bilateral defence cooperation, which is wide and intensive.
6. We discussed cooperation in the areas of S&T, education including skills development & training, culture, among others. In the field of skills education and training we noted the potential that exist for mutually beneficial cooperation. Our Ministry of Labour and Singapore Ministry of Education have had detailed discussions on specific areas of cooperation. The Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi is also developing specific projects for a world-class skills training centre.

Friends,

7. We discussed India's engagement with the ASEAN, which is one of the cornerstone of our foreign policy and the key pillar of our Look East Policy. Both sides look forward to the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit in New Delhi in December 2012.
8. We also had detailed discussions on the regional situation and the major developments therein.
9. The two sides had very fruitful discussions on various aspects of our bilateral relations in today's meeting of the Joint Ministerial Committee.

Thank you.



386. Prime Minister's press statement at the media event during the State visit of Prime Minister of Singapore.

New Delhi, July 11, 2012.

Your Excellency Prime Minister Lee,

Ladies and Gentlemen of the media.

It is indeed an honour for me to welcome Prime Minister Lee to India on his State visit. He had last visited India in 2005, when we had signed the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement, which was the first agreement of its kind that India had signed with any other country.

Singapore is a close friend and valued regional partner for India. Our relations are broad-based and multi-faceted. They are underpinned by a confluence of interests spanning political, economic, cultural, defence and security issues. Apart from regular high-level exchanges of visits and an architecture of productive dialogue mechanisms, our friendship is nourished by a vibrant people-to-people relationship.

Prime Minister Lee and I had very fruitful discussions today on all issues of India-Singapore bilateral relations. We both agreed that while we have made good all-round progress in many areas of our relations, we can and we should do much more together.

Singapore is not only our foremost trading partner in ASEAN, but also a major source of FDI inflows into India. I welcomed additional Singapore investment into India, particularly in the infrastructure sector, where Singapore has great expertise. We agreed to expedite the conclusion of the ongoing second Review of the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement that would further facilitate trade in goods, services and investment.

In this context, I assured Prime Minister Lee of India's commitment to reinforce its status as an investment-friendly country and expressed my hope that Singapore companies would look at India as a valued investment destination in the current scenario.

We discussed cooperation in functional areas, including education and skills development. Singapore is a world leader and has developed excellent institutions in this area. The Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Vocational Education and Skills Development which we signed today would provide the framework for cooperation in this very important field. A specific cooperative project on skills training in Delhi is also getting underway.

Prime Minister Lee and I have decided to step up bilateral cooperation and

exchanges in the fields of defence and security. To this end, we have just signed a Memorandum of Understanding to renew the bilateral arrangement between our Air Forces on joint training and exercises.

Singapore and India share values of democracy, pluralism and secularism and this gives both our countries convergent perspectives on many regional and international developments. We also work closely together in a number of regional mechanisms, such as the East Asia Summit, ASEAN and the ASEAN Regional Forum. We share similar views on building an open and inclusive architecture of regional cooperation in Asia, which enhances trust and confidence. We discussed the global economic situation and agreed on the need for more concerted international action.

Prime Minister Lee's visit is a milestone in our relations. Later this year, India will host the India-ASEAN Commemorative Summit to celebrate the 20th anniversary of our Dialogue Partnership with ASEAN. I am delighted that Prime Minister Lee has agreed to visit us again on that occasion. I thank you for your attention.



387. List of documents signed between India and Singapore during the State visit of Prime Minister of Singapore

July 11, 2012

S. No.	Agreement/MoU	Indian signatory	Singapore signatory	Remarks
1.	Memorandum of Understanding between Ministry of Labour & Employment, Government of India and Ministry of Education, Government of Singapore concerning Cooperation in the field of Vocational Education and Skills Development	H.E. Shri Malikaarjun Kharge, Minister of Labour & Employment	H.E. Mr. Heng Swee Keat, Minister of Education	This MoU will facilitate cooperation in field of Vocational Education and Skills Development.
2.	Expension of the Bilateral Agreement between the Ministry of Defence, Government of India and the Ministry of Defence, Government of Singapore for the Conduct of Joint Military Training & Exercises in India	Shri. Shashi Kant Sharma, Secretary, Dept. of Defence, Ministry of Defence	Mr. Chiang Chie Foo, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence	This Agreement would enable continuation of armed forces joint training and exercises.
3.	Memorandum of Understanding between Department of Training & Technical Education, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi and Institute of Technical Education, Singapore on Cooperation in the field	Shri Praveen Kumar Tripathi, Chief Secretary, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi	Dr. Benjamin Tan, Deputy Chief Executive Officer (Development), Centre in Delhi to provide state of the art facility for skills development.	The Agreement will facilitate the setting up of a Greenfield World Class Skills Development Centre in Delhi to provide state of the art facility for skills development.

of Vocational Education
and Skills Development

New Delhi
July 11, 2012



388. Speech of Prime Minister at the banquet hosted in honour of the Prime Minister of Singapore.

New Delhi, July 11, 2012.

Your Excellency Prime Minister Lee,

Madam Lee,

Distinguished guests from Singapore,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure tonight to extend a very warm welcome to Prime Minister Lee and Mrs. Lee on their State Visit to India. We deeply value Prime Minister Lee's friendship. His personal commitment and contribution to building a strong and enduring relationship between India and Singapore has been truly inspiring.

Our first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, presciently described Singapore in 1946 as a great cosmopolitan city where Asian unity would be forged. It was therefore only fitting that India's quest for a more substantive engagement with South East Asia and East Asia began in Singapore. The support and wise counsel that we received from Singapore's leaders during the initial steps in our Look East Policy is something that we still recall with great warmth.

The first Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement signed by India with any country was with Singapore during Your Excellency's last visit to India. In many ways, India's relationship with Singapore has been an exemplar for our engagement in the region.

Excellency,

The people of India hold you in high esteem as the worthy leader of a nation of competent, industrious and disciplined people. Singapore has been fortunate to have visionary and energetic leaders who have worked against the odds to build a model nation state. By building and preserving social harmony, stability and growth, they have made the Singapore experience into a brand worthy of emulation around the world, especially by developing countries.

Your Excellency,

India's relations with Singapore are rooted in history, driven by the present and inspired by the promise of an even brighter future. Ours is a very special friendship and we are witnessing an extremely dynamic and productive phase in our bilateral relationship. Political and security cooperation, defence ties, economic and financial cooperation and strong cultural linkages underpin our relations. We enjoy convergent perspectives on many international and regional developments.

Singapore has also generously embraced a large Indian community and encouraged them to flourish and prosper as proud citizens of Singapore. Today, India renews its own welcome to Singapore to come to India and take advantage of the many opportunities that our country to offer. I have no doubt that, in the years ahead, our two countries will build ever-deeper connections to the benefit of both our peoples.

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

May I now invite you to join me in a toast:

- to the good health and personal well-being of Prime Minister Lee and Madam Lee;
- to the happiness and prosperity of the people of Singapore; and
- to everlasting friendship between India and Singapore.



389. Address by Minister of State E. Ahamed at the Business Luncheon Meeting by the FICCI during the visit of Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.

New Delhi, July 12, 2012.

Honorable Prime Minister of Singapore Lee Hsien Loong

Honorable Minister of Education of Singapore Heng Swee Keat

Distinguished members of the Singapore Delegation

Distinguished Representatives of trade bodies i.e. Shri Kanoria, President FICCI, Shri Adi Godrej, President CII and Shri Dilip Modi, Vice President ASSOCHAM,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to welcome here our distinguished guest honorable Prime Minister of Singapore Lee Hsien Loong. I would also like to express my thanks to ASSOCHAM, FICCI and CII to give me an opportunity to address this august gathering.

Excellency,

Your visit to India, after a very successful visit of our Prime Minister to your country in November last year, comes at a very important juncture in the development of our bilateral relations. It provides yet another opportunity for the leadership of the two countries to review progress and give new direction to our relations.

India's relations with Singapore over the last two decades have evolved into a strong partnership that is underpinned by a strong convergence of economic, commercial and strategic interests. Since the signing of the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement, CECA, in 2005, bilateral trade and investment have increased substantially. From a level of US\$ 8.7 billion in 2005-2006 the trade turnover has touched US\$ 21.81 billion in 2011-2012. Singapore is not only our leading trade partner in the ASEAN, but also a major source of FDI inflows into India. In fact Singapore is the second largest investor in India. Cumulative FDI from Singapore to India has increased from US\$1.3 billion in 2005-2006 to US\$ 17.15 billion in March 2012. Similarly FDI from India to Singapore has increased from US \$ 3.1 billion to US\$ 23.42 billion between 2004-2005 to 2011-2012. I am also confident that the conclusion of the ongoing 2nd review of CECA would further strengthen the commercial ties between our two countries.

On account of Singapore's strategic location, easy connectivity with many Indian

cities and business friendly environment, Singapore has also emerged as a preferred financial and logistical hub for Indian companies. Aside from language, the two countries share similar legal and contractual systems. This has encouraged not only businesses but many Indian professionals to work in Singapore, both in services and in manufacturing sectors. Today we have presence of more than 3000 Indian companies in Singapore.

Our trade bodies, CII, FICCI and ASSOCHAM have played important role in the growth of India-Singapore trade and commerce. I would urge the representatives of these trade bodies and also other industry associations to work with their Singaporean counterparts to further enhance our bilateral economic ties and Singapore investment into India. This would serve both our economies, particularly as the global economy is passing through a difficult phase presently.

We are also looking to Singapore to participate in major upcoming infrastructure projects in India like the Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor.

Our bilateral relations have many more dimensions than the commercial and economic relations. We have a framework agreement in place for cooperation in the field of Personnel Management and Public Administration and Cooperation in the fields of Arts, Heritage and Archives. We also have a very robust framework for Defence Cooperation under the Defence Cooperation Agreement signed in 2003.

The Community of Indian origin in Singapore comprises about 9% of the total population; out of these about 300,000 are Indian passport holders. The Indian Community has contributed significantly to the growth and development of their adopted home, Singapore. It has also acted as a strong bridge of mutual understanding and friendship. We have also introduced Visa on Arrival facility for the tourists from Singapore since 2010.

Excellency,

Singapore's own transformation in a relatively short span of time has become a model for growth and development of many developing countries. Singapore's experience in urban management and planning provides an excellent model for the growth of Indian cities and metropolis. Singapore is fast emerging as knowledge-based economy driven by its excellent education system including skills development.

An MOU on Cooperation in Vocational Education and Skills Development is being signed today between the Ministry of Labour from the Indian side and the Singapore Ministry of Education. This will provide a very good framework for replicating Singapore's experience in skills development in India by providing an enabling framework of cooperation. Similarly Government of Delhi is concluding

an agreement to set up an International Skills Training Centre in Delhi in cooperation with the Institute of Technical Education and Ministry of Education of Singapore. I would also urge the Indian industry represented here today, ASSOCHAM, CII and FICCI to involve themselves in the curriculum development of this prestigious and ambitious project so that this can become an important input to our own growth story.

Excellency,

The Singapore leadership has played an important role in the evolution of India's Look East Policy. India's engagement with ASEAN is an important pillar of our Look East policy. We greatly value Singapore's support in this engagement. As part of the 20th anniversary of India's engagement with ASEAN, both CII and FICCI are involved in various events connected with the celebrations. We would be holding a Commemorative Summit in December this year and we eagerly look forward to Your Excellency's participation at the Summit.

Thank You.



THAILAND

390. Statement by the Prime Minister to the media during the visit of Prime Minister of Thailand.

New Delhi, January 25, 2012.

Your Excellency Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra,

Ladies and Gentleman of the media.

I am very happy to welcome Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra to India. We are honoured that Prime Shinawatra accepted our invitation to be the Chief Guest at our Republic Day celebrations.

Prime Minister Shinawatra won a triumphant victory in the recent elections in Thailand and has given new hope for democracy in the region and beyond.

Thailand is a close friend and a valued regional partner for India. We share civilizational links with Thailand, and we are maritime neighbours. Developing close relations with Thailand is an important component of our 'Look East' Policy. Strong India-Thailand relations contribute to peace, prosperity and stability in the region.

The Prime Minister and I have had very cordial and purposeful discussions. We are both agreed that while we have made good all-round progress in many areas of our relations, we can and should do much more together. There is political will on both sides, there is cultural affinity and there is also immense goodwill at the people's level.

We have agreed to expedite the conclusion of negotiations on a bilateral Free Trade Agreement that would include goods, services and investment. Today, we have signed the 2nd Protocol to amend the Framework Agreement for Establishing a Free Trade Area. We have also concluded a revised Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement. I conveyed to the Prime Minister that we welcome more Thai investment into India, especially in the manufacturing, infrastructure and services sectors.

We see Thailand as playing a positive role in our efforts to develop our Northeastern States and improve connectivity with the ASEAN region. We have agreed to intensify progress on connectivity projects such as the India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral highway. We have specifically decided to set up a joint working group on infrastructure and connectivity. We have agreed to encourage our energy and infrastructure companies to work together including in third countries.

The Prime Minister and I have decided to step up bilateral cooperation and

exchanges in the fields of defence, counter-terrorism and security. We have signed a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding on Defence Cooperation. I underlined to Prime Minister Shinawatra the need to put in place a bilateral legal framework to deal with non-state actors and subversive elements that pose a common threat to both our societies. In this context we have concluded an Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Persons.

People-to-people exchanges are the foundation of our relations. We have identified areas of cooperation in culture, science and technology, education, renewable energy, water resource management and consular matters to facilitate mutually beneficial interaction between the citizens of India and Thailand.

India and Thailand work together in a number of regional mechanisms such as the East Asia Summit, ASEAN, the ASEAN Regional Forum, BIMSTEC and the Mekong Ganga Cooperation initiative. We share similar views on building an open and inclusive architecture of regional cooperation in Asia which enhances trust and confidence.

I invited Prime Minister Shinawatra for the India-ASEAN Commemorative Summit that we will be hosting for the first time in December this year to celebrate the 20th anniversary of our Dialogue Partnership with the ASEAN.

I am confident that Prime Minister Shinawatra's visit, which coincides with the 65th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Thailand, will be a historic milestone in our relations.

I thank you.



391. Joint Statement by India and Thailand on the State Visit of Prime Minister of Thailand Yingluck Shinawatra to India

New Delhi, January 25, 2012.

1. H.E. Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra, Prime Minister of Thailand, paid a State visit to India from January 24-26, 2012 as the Chief Guest for India's Republic Day celebrations. On her first visit to India, at the invitation of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, she was accompanied by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Defence, Commerce, Industry and Information & Communication Technology; senior government officials, and a business delegation.
2. During the visit, PM Shinawatra called on Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, the President of India, and Shri Hamid Ansari, the Vice-President of India. She also held talks with Dr. Manmohan Singh, who hosted a banquet in her honour. Shri S.M. Krishna, External Affairs Minister called on the Thai PM. PM Shinawatra also attended a business luncheon hosted by (CII/FICCI/ASSOCHAM) chambers of commerce.
3. The two Prime Ministers held wide-ranging discussions on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues, and reviewed the outcome of the 6th Joint Commission Meeting held in New Delhi on December 27, 2011 co-chaired by the Minister of External Affairs of India and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand.
4. Both sides noted that the visit coincides with the 65th anniversary of establishment of bilateral diplomatic relations, as well as 20 years of India's enhanced engagement with ASEAN. They noted with satisfaction that India and Thailand have, over the past decades, developed a strong and mutually beneficial cooperation at both bilateral and regional levels, and have played an important role in fostering regional frameworks which have contributed to peace, social and economic development, and infrastructural linkages between India and Southeast Asia. Given the progress in the relationship, both sides expressed the desire to work together towards elevating the bilateral relations to strategic partnership for mutual benefit.
5. The Prime Minister of India once again conveyed deep condolences to the Thai Prime Minister on losses suffered during the recent devastating floods in Thailand, and offered to support reconstruction and recovery effort as required. The Thai Prime Minister expressed deep appreciation for the financial assistance provided by India. Both sides agreed to explore the possibility of cooperation in water management and flood prevention.

ECONOMIC RELATIONS

6. Both sides noted that South East Asia has grown significantly in terms of

economic influence, and its dynamism continues to play an important role in global economic growth. Both leaders noted that Thailand and India have led efforts to integrate economies of the region.

7. To strengthen economic links between the two countries, both sides reaffirmed their resolve to conclude the bilateral Comprehensive Agreement on Trade in Goods, Services, and Investments by mid-2012, to further enhance economic links and between the two countries. The 2nd Protocol signed during the visit to amend the Framework Agreement for Establishing Free Trade Area would provide further boost to bilateral trade in immediate terms.

8. To further create a supportive atmosphere for the bilateral and regional comprehensive economic cooperation, the two leaders also agreed that ASEAN and India should conclude their regional Trade in Services and Investment Agreements by 2012.

9. The Prime Minister of India welcomed Thai investments into India into sectors such as infrastructure development including ports and highways, computer hardware, automobile components and parts, food processing and power generation, as well as tourism and hospitality facilities in the Buddhist circuit. The Thai Prime Minister invited Indian investments to Thailand in information technology, manufacturing, electronics and automotive industry. Both sides looked forward to the establishment of a forum comprising senior representatives of business enterprises of both countries to promote expansion of bilateral business ties.

10. The two sides agreed to explore possibilities of collaboration between their respective oil and gas companies in Exploration and Production (E&P) opportunities in Thailand and India, as well as in third countries.

SECURITY AND DEFENCE

11. Both sides noted that the increasing menace of terrorists, criminals, arms and drug traffickers trying to use this region for their nefarious activities provided an added urgency to strengthen cooperation in security and intelligence exchange. The 6th meeting of the Joint Working Group on Security Cooperation held in New Delhi on May 25-26, 2011 provided an opportunity to discuss these challenges in a comprehensive manner. It was agreed that a five-year Joint Working Programme on specific elements of cooperation would be finalized urgently.

12. The two leaders unequivocally condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and stressed that there could be no justification whatsoever for any act of terrorism. Recognizing the common threats to national security from transnational crimes, including international terrorism, the two Prime Ministers resolved to significantly enhance bilateral cooperation in combating terrorism,

including in restricting transnational movement and unauthorized stay of known terrorists in each other's countries. The two leaders resolved to commit their countries to improve sharing of intelligence, the development of more effective counter-terrorism policies, enhance liaison between law enforcement agencies, provide assistance in the areas of border and immigration control to stem the flow of terrorist related material, money and people and specific measures against transnational crimes, through the already existing mechanisms between Thailand and India.

13. Such cooperation will also complement regional efforts as declared in the ASEAN-India Joint Declaration for Cooperation in Combating international Terrorism.

14. The two sides shared the view that, Thailand and India being maritime neighbours, defence cooperation would be mutually beneficial in addressing shared challenges and concerns. In this regard, the two sides expressed satisfaction that the inaugural meeting of the bilateral Defence Dialogue held in New Delhi on December 23, 2011, had enabled a comprehensive review of various elements of defence cooperation and its future course. The MoU on Defence Cooperation signed during the visit would help both sides to further streamline and facilitate this process on matters of mutual concern. The two sides noted the ongoing cooperation between both Navies in the conduct of coordinated patrols and agreed that such measures of cooperation should continue.

15. The two sides will also expedite the ongoing negotiations on Bilateral Extradition Treaty and the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty on Civil and Commercial Matters.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

16. Both sides agreed on the need for concerted collaboration in domains of creativity, innovation and research and development, in order to transform their economies into knowledge based ones. In this regard, enhanced cooperation on science and technology, information and communications technology, agricultural science, natural resource management, biotechnology, and marine & space sciences should be further pursued through existing mechanisms and future arrangements to be mutually agreed upon.

CULTURE, EDUCATION, AND PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE EXCHANGES

17. The two leaders agreed to deepen cultural and historical ties between the two countries by promoting diverse cultural exchanges to build a lasting understanding between the peoples of the two countries.

18. In order to accelerate people-to-people contact in cultural and other fields benefiting both societies, both sides agreed to work together towards setting up

an "India-Thailand Foundation". Both sides also agreed to consider possibilities of audio-visual co-production.

19. The two sides welcomed the formation of the India-Thailand Parliamentary Friendship Group in the Indian Parliament that would facilitate parliamentary exchanges with its counterpart group in Thailand's National Assembly and agreed to intensify the exchange of parliamentary delegations between the two countries.

20. Recognizing that education is another important area of cooperation, the two leaders welcomed the progress made towards the revival of the Nalanda University, to be a leading regional academic institution as endorsed during the East Asia Summit. The Prime Minister of India thanked the Prime Minister of Thailand for pledging USD 100,000 to the University, with further contributions to be made by Thai private sector.

21. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the greater flow of tourists and visitors between the two countries. To address issues related to travel, visa facilitation, employment, and safety of tourists, both leaders welcomed the setting up of an ad hoc Joint Working Group on all visa and consular matters which will meet at regular intervals.

22. The Indian side welcomed Thailand's participation as Partner Country in the Surajkund Crafts Mela 2012 at Faridabad between 1 - 15 February 2012 by sending a Thai cultural and crafts demonstration troupe.

REGIONAL COOPERATION AND CONNECTIVITY

23. Both sides expressed their desire to further enhance their valued partnership and cooperation in the context of India - ASEAN relations. Both Prime Ministers supported the formation of the ASEAN Community by 2015 as an important step towards greater integration and prosperity in Southeast Asia. The Thai Prime Minister supported India's engagement with ASEAN, and viewed that India's role will be important for ASEAN's continued dynamism, security, and prosperity beyond 2015.

24. In this connection, the two Prime Ministers reaffirmed their full support for the work of ASEAN-India Eminent Persons Group to take stock and chart the future direction of the Dialogue relations so as to further realize the full potential of ASEAN-India partnership in the next decade.

25. Both leaders underlined the importance of the East Asia Summit as a platform for greater integration and cooperation, and, in the long term, achieving an East Asia Community of peace prosperity, and security.

26. Both leaders looked forward to the India - ASEAN Commemorative Summit in December 2012 hosted by India. In the run up to the Commemorative Summit,

India will host a number of events such as the India-ASEAN Car Rally, a sailing ship expedition along the monsoon trade winds route, the 4th edition of Delhi Dialogue, the ASEAN-India Business Fair, Ministerial level meetings and cultural activities throughout the year. Thailand will support these initiatives and events through its active participation.

27. The two leaders reaffirmed the importance that both countries attached to the BIMSTEC as a link between South and South-East Asia. The two sides also agreed to synergize their development projects and capacity building in lower Mekong region through the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) initiative which could take the lead in reinvigorating this grouping.

28. Both leaders shared the view that the close cooperation on enhancing connectivity was a common theme in existing regional cooperation platforms, and agreed to focus on developing road and shipping infrastructure which will establish in the future, an economic corridor linking India with Thailand and Southeast Asia. To this end, the two sides announced setting up of a joint working group on infrastructure and connectivity to help expedite various development initiatives in these fields in both countries as well as in third countries. They agreed that the work of the Group could also aid regional connectivity efforts such as the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway.

MULTILATERAL COOPERATION

29. The two sides agreed to enhance cooperation in the United Nations and other international fora on matters of mutual interest. The two leaders reiterated strong support for the ongoing reform of the United Nations and its principal organs with a view to making the United Nations more democratic, transparent and efficient so that it can deal more effectively with the myriad challenges of the contemporary world. They emphasized the importance of an early reform of the United Nations Security Council so that it reflects the contemporary realities and functions in a more accountable, representative and effective manner.

30. The Thai side acknowledged India's credentials for permanent membership of the UN Security Council, and commended India's active role and continued constructive contributions in the field of global security.

31. The following agreements were signed during the visit:

- (1) Treaty on Transfer of Sentenced Persons
- (2) Memorandum of Understanding on Defence Cooperation
- (3) The 2nd Protocol to amend the Framework Agreement for Establishing Free Trade Area between Thailand and India
- (4) Programme of Cooperation in Science & Technology

- (5) Cultural Exchange Programme for 2012-14
- (6) MoU between Chulalongkorn University and ICCR for setting up a Chair at the India Studies Centre of the University.

32. The Prime Minister of Thailand expressed her gratitude to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and to the people of India for the warm welcome and hospitality that had been extended to her and to the members of her delegation on her State visit. She extended an invitation to Prime Minister of India to visit Thailand, which he gladly accepted.



392. Banquet Speech by PM during State Visit of Prime Minister of Thailand.

New Delhi, January 25, 2012.

Your Excellency Madame Prime Minister,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my privilege to welcome Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra on her first State visit to India as the Chief Guest for our Republic Day celebrations.

Excellency,

Your struggles and achievements have caught the imagination of the people all over the world. You are a source of inspiration for all freedom loving people. You represent the new dynamic face of Asia, and Asia is fortunate to have a democrat and leader like you.

As Thailand's first woman Prime Minister and one of its youngest you have an onerous responsibility to lead your country at a critical time of its history. Your leadership during the recent floods has earned you admiration among all sections of people. We salute the resolve of the Thai people in combating these floods and their determination to resume normal life again.

Madame Prime Minister,

Your visit coincides with the 65th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries. Yet links between the peoples of India and Thailand go back thousands of years. The abiding message of Lord Buddha inspired generations of scholars, monks, pilgrims and common people in our countries.

Today, as democratic and pluralistic nations, both our countries share common values and aspirations. We aspire for higher growth, an inclusive society, sustainable development and an external environment which facilitates our national development.

We in India admire and applaud Thailand's many strengths. Your success in ensuring food security, establishing a strong and competitive manufacturing industry and in setting global benchmarks in tourism are worthy of emulation.

India sees Thailand as its natural partner. Our complementary strengths provide us with a solid foundation for intensifying economic and commercial links. We welcome Thai companies to take full advantage of opportunities opening up in

India. It is heartening to note the increasing exchanges of students, scholars, academics, and tourists between our two countries.

Excellency,

As maritime neighbours, both India and Thailand face common security threats from emerging non-traditional challenges such as terrorism, security of sea lanes of communication and piracy. We are expanding our cooperation in dealing with them.

Today, Asia is in the midst of an economic resurgence. Both India and Thailand are in a position to play a key role in shaping the future of Asia. India's 'Look East' policy and Thailand's Look West policy compliment and reinforce each other as we both seek to broaden the horizons of our cooperation with our neighbours.

We thank Thailand for supporting the ASEAN's dialogue partnership with India. In the years ahead we will work with Thailand to enhance connectivity over land, sea and air between India and South East Asia and forge a strong partnership between our countries.

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

May I invite you to join me in raising a toast to:

- The good health and well being of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra,
- The prosperity and happiness of the Thai people, and
- The lasting bonds of friendship between India and Thailand.



393. Remarks by Minister of State E. Ahamed at Business Meeting with the Prime Minister of Thailand.

New Delhi, January 25, 2012.

Her Excellency Ms Yingluck Shinawatra, Hon'ble Prime Minister of Thailand

Members of Thai Delegation

Shri Anand Sharma, Honorable Minister of Commerce and Industry, Government of India

Members of CII, FICCI and Assocham

Ladies and gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to be present here today at the business luncheon organized by FICCI, CII & Assocham. We are very happy to have Prime Minister of Thailand, Her Excellency Yingluck Shinawatra, as our honoured Chief Guest for our Republic Day ceremony.

India and Thailand are close friends who enjoy a mutually rewarding and enriching relationship based on multidimensional commonalities, including shared geographical space. We have built a strong structure of cooperation in many spheres of activity, including agriculture, industry, science and technology, education and cultural exchanges.

Excellency

Your visit as Chief Guest for Republic Day celebrations will set a new dimension to our close partnership.

Excellency

Our relations are excellent and stable but we want to do better. We are keen to give contemporary content to our age-old links in all areas of mutual benefit. The presence of large number of Thai and India businesspersons here today is an indication of the strong interest of both countries to explore and exploit the potential that exists for mutually beneficial partnerships.

Economic and commercial linkages form an important aspect of India's partnership with Thailand. I am happy that the business communities of our two nations are looking to expand their trade and investment ties into newer and diversified areas such as food processing, infrastructure, hospitality and manufacturing sectors. We welcome the growing engagement and we are working to build upon it.

Our bilateral trade and investments are growing rapidly. Bilateral trade has multiplied more than six times since 2000 to cross US\$ 8 billion. The year 2011

saw trade rebounding to US\$ 8.19 billion. The India-ASEAN FTA on goods, in force since January 2010 and the comprehensive bilateral FTA being negotiated will further contribute to healthy trade figures. We've set for ourselves the target of doubling it by 2014. There is considerable anticipation among the business communities on both sides to make these Agreements broad-based and to include in its ambit services and investments.

The growing investment by Indian and Thai companies in each others' businesses is another indicator of the realization of the existing and rapidly growing business opportunities. Indian FDI into Thailand is estimated to be around \$US 2 billion since 1970s whereas Thailand's FDI in India is approximately \$US 91.4 million since 2000. Complementary strengths of our industry make us natural partners and the advantages of geography only reinforce this relationship. We are keen to have more Thai companies participate in India's growth story, in particular in infrastructure sector, pharmaceuticals, food processing, automobiles, information technology hospitality sectors, chemicals and allied industry.

The field of infrastructure is an area of high priority for India. India today, along with international partners, is developing its road network, airports, ports, railways and power grids. The challenge of overcoming the bottleneck of infrastructure deficiencies is being turned into a great business opportunity. We look forward to partnership from Thai companies in this sector as the next 5 years will see investments of over US\$ 1 trillion in this critical sector. Investment is also needed in the agro-processing sector to curb post-harvest wastage, which is unacceptably high (30-35% of total produce). Thai investors with their strengths in food processing would be welcome in developing cold-chains, warehouses etc. 100% FDI is allowed in this sector. We expect investments of US\$ 200 billion in this sector and growth of 20% in the next five years.

We emphasize our connectivity with ASEAN in our 'Look East Policy', as we have maritime boundaries with Thailand, which we want to develop in the future. A trilateral highway project linking India, Myanmar and Thailand is also under active consideration. This land connectivity would provide immense boost to India's trade with Thailand and the region.

Excellency

Let me conclude by saying that India is committed to building ever closer links with Thailand which is our extended neighbourhood. We are working closely with Thailand on a bilateral level as also in the context of regional cooperation frameworks. I am confident that the partnership will continue to grow stronger over the coming years and decades.

Thank you.



(iii) CENTRAL AND WEST ASIA

394. Address of Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee at the International Conference on 'Co-Operative Development, Peace and Security in South and Central Asia.

Chandigarh, March 30, 2012.

Please see Document No. 206



395. Key note address by Minister of State E. Ahamed at the 3rd Arab India Partnership Conference .

Abu Dhabi, May 22, 2012.

Her Excellency Sheikha Lubna, Minister of Foreign Trade of the United Arab Emirates,

My colleague Ministers from Arab countries,

His Excellency, Ambassador Ahmed bin Heili, Deputy Secretary General, League of Arab States,

Mr. Mohammed Al Alromaithy, Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce & Industry,

Ms. Naina Lal Kidwai, Senior Vice President of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry,

Mr. Adnan Kassar, President, General Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture,

Mr. Hamdi Al Tabbah, Chairman of the Federation of Arab Businessmen,

Participating industry and business leaders from India and the Arab world, Ambassadors, other representatives and distinguished guests

It is a great pleasure for me to be present at this important and prestigious event, a meeting of friends from India and the Arab world and to sit, discuss and contribute towards mutual development of the people of the whole region through further strengthening of trade and investment opportunities.

The bedrock of India-Arab relations is embedded in antiquity, with evidence of historic, cultural and civilizational ties binding our regions dating back to the early years of recorded history. Legends abound with the adventures of Indian and Arab seafarers in times prior to our emergence as nation states. There is evidence of trade links between the Harappan civilization in India and that of Dilmun in the Gulf. Indian and Arab traders succeeded in building trade and commercial linkages between the two regions which have grown from strength to strength.

It was with the intention to further add momentum to the India-Arab relationship that the Government of India and the League of Arab States established this forum in 2008 to identify the sectors which need investment for development. Through the two editions held in 2008 and 2010 at New Delhi, with the active participation of government and business leaders, trading communities and financial sectors, several projects have already been established. Trade between

India and the Arab world, which stood at US\$114 billion in 2008-09, has steadily increased to reach US\$144 billion in 2010-11. Of this, India-UAE trade alone accounts for US\$67 billion, i.e. more than 46%, and it is, therefore, quite appropriate that Abu Dhabi is host to the third edition of this prestigious conference. I thank the Government of the United Arab Emirates, His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs for this gesture and for his gracious and generous hospitality.

Distinguished guests,

Government of India has always extended the benefits it had achieved through skill and knowledge development to Arab countries through its programme of educational scholarships, manpower training, transfer of technology etc. It has established several development projects in the area of small and medium enterprises. Government of India has also extended concessional financial assistance and grants for utilization for execution of industrial projects.

India is, as you are aware, one of the fastest growing major economies of the world. Despite the adverse international environment, India has managed to maintain a growth rate of over 7% per annum. We are confident that the strong fundamentals of its economy will help India return to a sustained growth path of about 8-10% per annum in the coming years on account of the following reasons:

- We have robust economic indicators including high domestic saving rate; increasing direct and indirect tax revenues; high agricultural growth; a strong manufacturing base and a booming service sector spearheaded by the information and communication technology sector.
- India has a very young population and over half of the working population is in its twenties.
- Over the past few years, we have invested heavily in education, health and agriculture to give a new deal to rural India. Our rural markets are now booming and the middle class is growing rapidly.
- India is poised to continue to be a frontline player in the global knowledge economy.
- We have very ambitious plans for the development of our infrastructure. We are planning to secure investment of almost \$ 1 trillion in the next 5 years in new projects in highways, power plants, mass transport systems, ports and airports. This will be achieved through both public and private investment and Public-Private Partnerships.
- We are determined to pursue a strategy of green growth. We are committed to increasing energy efficiency and the share of renewables, including solar and nuclear power, in our energy mix.

This makes India one of the most attractive destinations for foreign direct investments. India invites our longstanding friends from the Arab world to participate in India's growth story which would be mutually beneficial.

The Arab world has been home to millions of Indians, who have been earning a living and, at the same time, contributing their share through hard work and dedication in developing the respective economies. This is a fine example of mutual growth. We see here business leaders from India who have succeeded in establishing their presence in the Arab world over several decades and who have acted as goodwill envoys between India and the Arab countries. I wish them all well and say India is proud of their achievements, which could be emulated by others. The Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry have made this congregation of Indian and Arab business leaders possible and I must congratulate them for the success of this prestigious event.

In this day of an inter-dependent world, no country can remain unaffected by a crisis in another part of the world, as has been witnessed in the last few years by the global economic downturn. This is true for India as well as the Arab world.

It would be a remiss if I do not mention the recent winds of change which swept through several Arab countries. Continued peace and stability in the region is of interest to all of us. We support addressing of all issues through peaceful dialogue and negotiations with countries being free to determine their own pathways to national development.

Coming back to the Conference, the focus this year is on investment projects which could be identified in the development of Small and Medium Enterprises; infrastructure facilities such as rail, road, airport, ports, power, water etc.; real estate business; healthcare; tourism; transportation; education & human resource development; IT & IT-enabled services; chemicals & petrochemicals; minerals and metals; oil and gas. There is a tremendous need for development of these sectors both in India, with its vast population to cater to and the Arab world.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, we shall have the pleasure of listening to experts from the above fields during the different sessions today and tomorrow and there will be opportunities for business delegations and project companies to interact and identify future projects.

I take this opportunity to wish all success to the participants of this Conference. I am sure India and the Arab world would find the Conference of immense value in devising ways and means to ensure a better tomorrow for our peoples.



396. Keynote address by Minister of State E. Ahamed at the First India-Central Asia Dialogue.

Bishkek, June 12, 2012.

India's 'Connect Central Asia' Policy
Excellency Madame Roza Otunbaeva,
Excellency Madame Dinara Kemelova, Deputy Foreign Minister of Kyrgyz Republic,
Distinguished scholars and academics from Central Asia and India,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is an honour and privilege for me to speak to such a distinguished audience of scholars, experts and business leaders, in the beautiful city of Bishkek. I congratulate the Indian Council of World Affairs on putting together this pioneering dialogue forum and thank our friends in the Kyrgyz Republic for being gracious enough to host this event with so much aplomb and enthusiasm. We have had many events in India where we have welcomed scholars from Central Asia, but this is the first instance, where we have reached out to Central Asia's intellectuals and opinion leaders in their own home, bringing to the table the rich knowledge and experience of India's scholars and business persons.

Today's event is also a fitting celebration of the two decades of India's diplomatic relations with the Kyrgyz Republic, which has been our valued friend in Central Asia, and with which we now share a special bond after the recent bold experiment in parliamentary democracy.

In my remarks, I will dwell upon India's vision of its role in Central Asia. Today, India is reconnecting with this neighbourhood, with which we are bound by the silken bonds of centuries of common history.

Central Asia, over the last two decades in general and recently in particular, is witnessing an unprecedented integration into the global economic and political mainstream. We, in India, rejoice in this trend of the expanding influence of Central Asia, particularly on the world energy scene. We recognise Central Asian countries as close political partners in our 'extended neighbourhood', a precept which has become a key element of our foreign policy.

Our civilisational bonds with Central Asian countries have been translated into warm and friendly relations, with India being among the first countries to open diplomatic missions in all the five capitals. We have had a robust exchange of visits of our leaders, and have signed numerous cooperation agreements. Our policy has been marked by deepening relationships based on political, economic and technical cooperation as a partner, rather than a mere contender for the region's vast oil and gas resources. We have shared our experiences and

expertise, built capacity and focused on training through our ITEC and other assistance programmes.

India's cultural heritage is deeply rooted in the Eurasian past. Indian traders and travelers had actively traded along the Silk Route and Buddhism had flourished across the vast Eurasian steppe. History is full of friendly interactions between India and Central Asia, through movement of people, goods and ideas, including spiritual interfaces that enriched us both. The fondness for Indian culture is expressed in Central Asia's deep interest in Indian cinema, music, and art. This interest intensified further in Soviet times.

However, in the last few decades, we have been struggling to build economic links that match our political and cultural interaction. Our trade with the whole region is at a relatively low level of around 500 million US dollars. We face some natural obstacles like limited land connectivity and the limited size of the Central Asian markets. India has thus not seen the sort of commercial interaction in Central Asia, which we saw in Southeast Asia, East Asia and West Asia. This has led to a joint quest for innovative answers, some of which we look upon this dialogue to throw up.

India is now looking intently at the region through the framework of its 'Connect Central Asia' policy, which is based on pro-active political, economic and people-to-people engagement with Central Asian countries, both individually and collectively.

I believe that India's active presence in the region will contribute to stability and development in the entire Central and South Asia region. In this analysis, we must factor in the regional situation and especially the challenge of rebuilding the Afghan nation. A cooperative approach for embedding Afghanistan into a more meaningful regional economic and security framework, would have benefits for the entire region. One way is to work towards converting Afghanistan into a hub for trade and energy, connecting Central and South Asia. The landmark agreement for the construction of the TAPI (Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India) pipeline has put the spotlight on the importance of Central Asia for India's future energy plans. It would also greatly benefit Afghanistan.

Central Asian countries could also gain from the techno-economic- potential of India, which could be accessed in cooperative, mutually beneficial partnerships. Central Asia's desire for diversifying hydro-power and energy export routes would correspond with India's quest for diversifying imports. India will be keen to invest in setting up downstream production facilities, instead of exporting raw materials out of the region through expensive pipelines. The approach could differ from those seeking exclusively to pump out Central Asia's riches.

It is also important to remember that India has never been prescriptive in its political approach. We represent our unique liberal democratic values, particularly

in the Asian context. We believe in a nation-building model based on participatory democracy, economic growth, building civil societies, pluralistic structures, ethno-religious harmony and the rule of law.

Against this backdrop, let me outline some of the elements of India's 'Connect Central Asia' policy, which is a broad-based approach, including political, security, economic and cultural connections:

1. We will continue to build on our strong political relations through the exchange of high level visits. Our leaders will continue to interact closely both in bilateral and multilateral fora.
2. We will strengthen our strategic and security cooperation. We already have strategic partnerships in place with some Central Asian countries. In focus will be military training, joint research, counter-terrorism coordination and close consultations on Afghanistan.
3. We will step up multilateral engagement with Central Asian partners using the synergy of joint efforts through existing fora like the SCO, Eurasian Economic Community (EEC) and the Custom Union. India has already proposed a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement to integrate its markets with the unifying Eurasian space.
4. India looks to Central Asia as a long term partner in energy, and natural resources. Central Asia possesses large cultivable tracts of land and we see potential for India to cooperate in production of profitable crops with value addition.
5. The medical field is another area that offers huge potential for cooperation. We are ready to extend cooperation by setting up civil hospitals/clinics in Central Asia.
6. India's higher education system delivers at a fraction of the fees charged by Western universities. Keeping this in mind, India would like to assist in the setting up of a Central Asian University in Bishkek that could come up as a centre of excellence to impart world class education in areas like IT, management, philosophy and languages.
7. We are working on setting up a Central Asian e-network with its hub in India, to deliver, tele-education and tele-medicine connectivity, linking all the five Central Asian States.
8. Our companies can showcase India's capability in the construction sector and build world class structures at competitive rates. Central Asian countries, especially Kazakhstan, have almost limitless reserves of iron ore and coal, as well as abundant cheap electricity. India can help set up several medium size steel rolling mills, producing its requirement of specific products.

9. As for land connectivity, we have reactivated the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC). We need to join our efforts to discuss ways to bridge the missing links in the Corridor at the earliest and also work on other connecting spurs along the route.

10. Absence of a viable banking infrastructure in the region is a major barrier to trade and investment. Indian banks can expand their presence if they see a favourable policy environment.

11. We will jointly work to improve air connectivity between our countries. India is one of the biggest markets for outbound travelers estimated at USD 21 billion in 2011. Many countries have opened tourist offices in India to woo Indian tourists. Central Asian countries could emerge as attractive holiday destinations for tourists and even for the Indian film industry which likes to depict exotic foreign locales in its films.

12. Connections between our peoples are the most vital linkages to sustain our deep engagement. I would particularly like to emphasise exchanges between youth and the future leaders of India and Central Asia. We already have a robust exchange of students. We will encourage regular exchanges of scholars, academics, civil society and youth delegations to gain deeper insights into each other's cultures.

India thus stands ready for a deep, meaningful and sustained engagement with Central Asia. We need our Central Asian friends to create favourable visa conditions to accept India's benign presence. Perhaps the governments of all the five states will agree to simplify these procedures.

India's Connect Central Asia Policy will be consonant with our overall policy of deepening engagement in Eurasia, our policy of strengthening relations with China, with Pakistan, and building on our traditional relationship with Russia. We hope that our membership in numerous regional forums including at the SCO, would bolster India's renewed linkages with the region.

Collectively, we must also think about creating a cooperative security structure for maintaining peace in Asia. Our policy of peaceful coexistence and of playing a constructive and meaningful role in the United Nations (now also as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council) will drive us to work with a deep sense of responsibility on all global issues. India's engagement in Central Asia, therefore, must be seen in the context of a quest for a world order which is multi-polar.

With these remarks, I invite the galaxy of experts and thinkers present here to take the stage and deliberate more on some of these ideas. I wish the seminar all success.



397. Statement by Foreign Secretary in the Security Council High-level Meeting on the Situation in the Middle East.

New York, September 26, 2012.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Let me begin by congratulating you on presiding over this High Level Meeting on peace and security in West Asia and North Africa. I also want to thank the UN Secretary General and the Secretary General of the League of States for their valuable statements.

2. Mr. President, developments in West Asia and North Africa have played a major role in shaping the history of the world since ancient times. The region has been the birthplace of major religions of the world and of great civilizations. By virtue of the genius of its peoples, its strategic location and its natural resources, the region has been a focus of considerable interest internationally. It is, therefore, not surprising that the momentous transformation in several countries of the region since late 2010 has been of great interest to the world at large. It has been a general aspiration that these transformations should be peaceful and lead to inclusive and democratic outcomes within these countries.

3. The League of Arab States, as the most important regional organization predating the United Nations, has played a significant role in the unfolding of events in the region, and guided the involvement of the international community in these events. Chapter VIII of the UN Charter recognizes the importance of the regional organizations and their role in matters related to the maintenance of international peace and security. The Charter also provides a broad framework for this Council's cooperation with the regional organizations, while clearly stating the primary responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security.

4. The cooperation between the Arab League and the United Nations started in early 1950's. Both organizations have benefited from the convergence of objectives to maintain international peace and security, despite occasional differences. Enhanced partnership between UN agencies and the Arab League at institutional level in the fields of human development, capacity building, and empowerment of women and youth have been of great benefit for the countries of the region. There is a need now for further strengthening the existing cooperation to help the countries in the region in meeting the aspirations of their people for playing a greater role in shaping their destiny. India stands ready to cooperate in this regard.

5 Mr. President, it is important to underline here that this Council's cooperation with regional organizations, particularly with the League of Arab

States, should avoid selectivity. Also, cooperation with one regional organization should not come at the cost of another. The objective of peaceful resolution of conflicts should determine the actions of the Security Council. All UN activities, including its cooperation with regional organizations, should be consistent with the provisions of the UN Charter.

Both organizations should use all tools of diplomacy to assist the concerned countries in transiting to an inclusive and participatory polity while maintaining social stability and cohesion. The cooperation should encompass all relevant issues related to international peace and security, particularly the fight against terrorism. The principles of national sovereignty, political independence, unity and territorial integrity must be respected. It is also important that peculiarities of each situation are kept in mind.

6. Mr. President, if there is one issue that requires immediate attention of both the United Nations and the League of Arab States, it is the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the Israeli-Palestinian issue. This issue cannot be ignored while we focus on recent developments in the region. There can be no durable peace in West Asia without a just and comprehensive settlement, based on the realization by the Palestinian people of their inalienable right to a state of their own with internationally recognized borders, living side by side and in peace and security with Israel. We, therefore, urge this Council as well as the Arab League to urgently facilitate the resumption of the Middle East Peace Process.

7. Mr. President, the League of Arab States has been playing an important role in resolving the Syrian crisis. We fully support the peaceful resolution of the conflict through a Syrian-led inclusive political process, based on firm rejection of any military intervention. We urge all sides, Syrian and foreign, to cooperate with Joint Special Representative Mr. Lakhdhar Brahimi in good faith so that the Syrian crisis can be resolved without any further bloodshed.

I thank you.



398. Address by the Vice President at the inauguration of the Seminar organized by the Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development (CRRID) on Central Asia.

Chandigarh, October 17, 2012.

"I came to the Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development (CRRID) almost five years back to deliver the Haksar Memorial Lecture. I am therefore happy to be on familiar territory once again, to share my thoughts on a subject of considerable importance.

A gathering of scholars to discuss Central Asia is relevant for more than one reason. The region is in our proximate neighbourhood and is therefore of geopolitical salience. The surprising thing is that we do not know enough about it.

Historically speaking, the geographical term 'Central Asia' came into the vocabulary of European scholars and governments only in the middle of the 19th century. In the year 1900 the famous Russian historian Victor Barthold could find little about the recorded history of the area before the Arab conquest of 7th-8th centuries. A seminar organized by the Embassy of India, Tashkent in March 2000 sought to collate available information, mainly archaeological, on the relations between India and Central Asia in the pre-Islamic period. On the other hand, we do have sufficient evidence of conquerors and conquests, of movement of people, and of trade in the medieval and pre-modern periods. The National Archives of India have recently published an interesting travelogue of Munshi Mohan Lal who accompanied the British envoy Alexander Burns to Turkistan in 1831 on what was called 'a knowledge-gathering' exercise. Burn's own account, of course, remains a classic.

In more recent times, both Czarist Russia and the Soviet Union kept it a virtually 'closed' region. This changed with the demise of the Soviet state and the emergence of the five republics, the so-called 'stans', as independent entities, eager to retrieve their cultural identities, benefit from their economic resources, and play a role on the world stage. By the same token the geo-political space, and its accompanying benefits, vacated by the erstwhile Soviet Union, was sought to be taken by others.

CRRID is therefore to be complemented for undertaking this initiative of seeking perspectives on the potential for cooperation between Central and South Asia for peace, security and development.

My impression is that different aspects of modern Central Asia are being studied in different research institutions in the country and the need of the hour is to enhance coordination and cooperation amongst them to avoid overlapping, ensure better utilization of available resources and, eventually, more meaningful inputs

for our foreign policy objectives. Greater attention also needs to be devoted to language skills and the study of social impulses in individual societies. Diligent field work is essential for both and must be undertaken.

This audience knows well that foreign policy formulation rarely begins with a clean slate. Its building blocks, instead, consist of ground realities. Aspirations and objectives help give it shape; the baggage of the past is sought to be avoided but is rarely achieved comprehensively. Success thus lies, as Henry Kissinger put it, in 'patient accumulation of partial successes.' It is thus evident that the new ground realities in the post-Soviet period called for a redefining of India's strategic interests in the region. Our primary interest was stability in the region. The task of diplomacy was to build new relationships and protect and enhance economic and commercial interests. We were successful in the first and are still struggling with the second.

Culturally, and apart from historical linkages and affinities, the access given to India during Soviet times through the establishment of a consulate general in Tashkent, allowed us to promote educational and commercial exchanges with Uzbekistan.

Over the past two decades and despite being land locked, Central Asia emerged as one of the fastest growing regions in the world, and has displayed considerable development potential. It is resource rich in terms of oil, gas, gold, cotton, rare-earths, has relatively advanced infrastructure and human capital, and enjoys the benefit of a strategic location between Asia and Europe. Many of the Central Asian Republics have embarked on market-oriented economic reforms to boost private sector competitiveness and economic performance. As a result, leading and aspiring powers are active in the region in quest of natural resources, energy pipelines and transit routes leading to wide ranging geopolitical considerations pertaining to security, prevention of drug and arms smuggling, and countering terrorism and fundamentalism.

India's own approach to the region has evolved over these twenty years and has recently been spelt out in its "*Connect Central Asia*" Policy. This is focused on identification and furtherance of mutually beneficial interests, development of access routes and options, sharing of developmental experience in nation building, offering economic and technical assistance, and furtherance of cultural and educational cooperation.

Pursuant to it, we have entered into Strategic Partnership agreements with three of the five Central Asian Republics – Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan and have increased co-operation and dialogue between specialized security agencies and the defence forces.

Furtherance of trade and economic co-operation with the region, beginning with Afghanistan, hinges on connectivity which in turn, is intrinsically dependent on

access-route options and its policy and practical implications. The easiest route, through Pakistan and Afghanistan, appears totally dependent on a good mix of human wisdom and divine intervention; both seem elusive in the foreseeable future! A second point of access, through Iran and Afghanistan, is a real possibility and appears now to take shape through the proposed development of the Chabahar port and the completion of the Zaranj-Delaram highway. A variant of this for Central Asian states, dependent on the upgrading of railway network in Iran, could be the Iran-Turkmenistan route. Both would require fine tuning of policy and longer term financial commitments. Other options, through China or Russia, would be grossly uneconomical.

Other elements of the twelve-point '*Connect Central Asia*' Policy are in various stages of initiative and implementation and have evoked positive responses from the Central Asian States. The emphasis on our political approach being non-prescriptive, while holding on to our own value system, is timely.

No discussion on Central Asia and its immediate neighbourhood would be complete without taking on board the challenges arising out of the situation in Afghanistan. The lesson of history is that hegemonic prescriptions do not sustain themselves and result in greater chaos. The entire region would therefore benefit if realistic alternatives are thought of and Afghanistan drawn into a cooperative regional economic and security framework so that nation-building there could proceed based on economic development, social harmony, rule of law and participatory democracy in consonance with the wishes of the Afghan people. Such an approach should be underwritten by the United Nations and all interested powers.

Though India is not part of any regional grouping so far, our role in regional fora like the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) & Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) would serve to strengthen India's renewed links with the region. India's engagement in Central Asia is also part of our belief in a multi-polar world.

The world of tomorrow cannot and must not be visualized on the patterns of a past that resulted in misery and bloodshed. India wishes to eschew archaic concepts of Great Game and Grand Chessboard and, instead, be a partner for peace, stability and economic development in the region. India also hopes that the people of Central Asia do not give quarter to fundamentalism and religious extremism in their respective societies since these trends are disruptive and hamper progress.

I wish the Seminar success in its deliberations and thank the CRRID for inviting me today."



AZERBAIJAN

399. Press Release of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry on the meeting of the 2nd India-Azerbaijan Inter-Governmental Commission Review of bilateral relations.

New Delhi, April 17, 2002.

The 2nd Session of the India – Azerbaijan Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade (IGC), Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation was held in Baku, was co-chaired by Mr. Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, Government of India and Mr. Huseyngulu Baghirov, Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Republic of Azerbaijan. Shri Scindia stressed necessity of establishing the International North-South transport corridor (INSTC) to improve the connectivity problems between the two nations and called for joint efforts towards identifying issues and impediments in the smooth functioning of the Corridor. The Minister added that the development would lead to saving in transportation costs and time. He also advocated early finalization of a Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPPA) and the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) between the two countries to encourage investment flows and elevate investor's confidence. A Protocol signed at the end of the meeting identified key areas of cooperation such as pharmaceuticals, energy, transport, agriculture and IT sectors and also suggested steps to overcome the existing barriers. It also recommended specific measures like finalisation and implementation of agreements to give a legal basis and provide comfort to the economic and financial relationship.

Shri Scindia emphasized the need to establish closer institutional linkages between investment promotion agencies in Azerbaijan and India in order to promote two way investment which is currently is at a modest level. He specifically enumerated the sectors, such as, Petroleum, Information Technology, Food Processing, Pharmaceuticals, as having the maximum potential.

During his stay in Baku, Shri Scindia called on the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr. Ilham Heydaroglu Aliyev and the two leaders discussed the overall bilateral relations. Both leaders felt that the current economic engagements are not enough to justify the potential that exists between the two countries. The President of Azerbaijan said that his country attaches significant importance to bilateral particularly economic relationship with India, and hoped that within next year or two; there will be substantial increase in bilateral trade and investment. President Aliyev lauded India's achievement in the IT sector and expressed his desire to use Indian expertise in this area. The Azeri President also commended India's achievements in the Space science and identified this

as another hi-tech sector for cooperation. He invited Indian companies and skilled workers for civil construction work being undertaken in Azerbaijan to improve its infrastructure. MoS, in his response, spoke about several complementarities between the two economies and needs to exploit the same for the mutual benefit. He also conveyed to the Azeri President, India's keen desire to participate in the exploration and development of Oil and Gas field in Azerbaijan and usage of BTC pipeline for evacuation of oil to meet India's energy security needs. While emphasizing the need for more people to people contact, the MoS brought to the notice of the Azeri President issues related to Visas for the Indian businesses.

MoS Commerce & Industry also met Mr. Shahin Mustafayev, Minister of Economic Development of the Republic of Azerbaijan and exchanged views on issues for promotion of economic relations between the two countries. Mr. Mustafayev informed the Indian Minister about the steps taken by Azeri Government to step up the growth of its economy and, its efforts to reduce dependence on Petroleum thereby making it broader based which has already started showing the positive results.



BAHRAIN

400. Response of Official Spokesperson to a question on widespread civil disturbances in Bahrain.

New Delhi, April 13, 2012.

In response to a media question regarding an incident in Bahrain the Official Spokesperson said: "We have seen reports in the media of a bomb attack on April 09 at Al Eker in Bahrain resulting in serious injuries. We condemn such acts of violence. Our Embassy in Manama, Bahrain is closely monitoring the situation and has conveyed that all Indians in Bahrain are safe."



The spokesperson was referring to widespread anti-government civil unrest in the wake of pro-democracy protests marches in the capital city of Manama.

401. Press Release of the Ministry of External Affairs on the Official Visit of Crown Prince of Bahrain.**New Delhi, June 1, 2012.**

His Royal Highness Shaikh Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces of Kingdom of Bahrain paid an official visit to India on May 30-31, 2012 at the invitation of Hon'ble Vice-President of India. A high level official and business delegation accompanied the Crown Prince. He visited Mumbai and New Delhi.

2. In Mumbai, the Crown Prince met with the Governor of Maharashtra. He also met with some of the captains of the Indian industry. During his stay in New Delhi, the Crown Prince called on the Hon'ble President and met with the Hon'ble Vice President, the Prime Minister and the Minister for External Affairs. A Banquet dinner was hosted by the Vice-President in honour of the visiting dignitary at the Hyderabad House.

3. Our common civilizational links, close and friendly bilateral ties were recalled during the visit. The need to further strengthen this relationship by developing synergies and integrating the comparative advantages of the two economies with a view to raise the trade to a higher level and enhance Indian investments in Bahrain and Bahraini investments in India was recognized by the two sides. The Crown Prince and the business delegation held business meetings in Mumbai and Delhi which will provide a new impetus to bilateral business ties. The following Agreement/ Memorandum of Understanding were signed.

(i) Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain for Exchange of Information with respect to Taxes.

(ii) Memorandum of Understanding between Government of the Republic of India and Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain on Cooperation in the Field Of Information and Communication Technology.

4. Both sides agreed on the importance of maintaining high-level contacts and increase the frequency of interactions in order to broaden and deepen bilateral ties. The Indian leadership expressed its appreciation to the HRH the Crown Prince and the Kingdom of Bahrain in ensuring the safety and well-being of the Indian community in Bahrain. Issues of mutual concern in the region were discussed and the importance attached by India to peace and stability in the entire region was emphasized. Both sides also underlined the need to resolve all differences through peaceful dialogue and without recourse to violence.

5. His Royal Highness the Crown Prince of the Kingdom of Bahrain thanked

the President, the Vice-President and the Prime Minister and the External Affairs Minister for the warm reception and gracious hospitality accorded to him and his delegation.



402. Response of Official Spokesperson to a media query regarding bomb blasts in Bahrain.

New Delhi, November 5, 2012.

In response to a media query on the series of bomb blasts in Bahrain, the Official Spokesman said: "We have seen reports of series of bomb blasts in Bahrain this morning. We have also been informed that one Indian has been killed and another injured in the blasts. We strongly condemn the violence. We conveyed our serious concern to the authorities in Bahrain. We hope, and are confident, that the authorities in Bahrain will ensure security to our citizens living and working in Bahrain."



The Spokesperson was responding to media reports of five bombs blasts reported in the heart of the Bahraini capital Manama on November 5, killing two Asian street cleaners which prompted mutual accusations from activists and the government trying to put down pro-democracy demonstrations. The Bahraini Interior Ministry said the bombs were homemade and described the blasts as "terrorist acts."

EGYPT

403. Remarks by External Affairs Minister at the Unveiling Ceremony of Tagore Portrait at the House of Poetry, Cairo.

Cairo, March 3, 2012.

H.E Dr Shaker Abdel Hameed, Minister of Culture, Arab Republic of Egypt,
Ambassador Swaminathan,

Distinguished Members in the Audience and
Representatives of Young India

I am delighted to be here in Egypt. When I entered the hallowed district of Al Azhar, where the House of Poetry is located, I realized why Cairo is referred to as "Umm Al Duniya", the mother of the world. This is the city that gave birth to so many luminaries of poetry. The House of Poetry, a heritage building, is indeed an appropriate place to nurture that legacy.

I also come from an ancient land where we value such a heritage. Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, one of India's greatest sons, is remembered 70 years after his death, not only for his lyrical poetry, his melodious songs, his marvelous dance dramas but also his path breaking ideas as an educationist. Most importantly, Gurudev Tagore's humanist philosophy believed in the essential one-ness of humanity.

As we strive to preserve our distinct identities as individuals, groups, communities and nations, it is important to recognize and celebrate our commonalities. I quote these celebrated lines from the Gitanjali :

Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high;

Where knowledge is free;

**Where the world has not been broken up
into fragments by narrow domestic walls;**

Where words come out from the depth of truth;

Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection;

**Where the clear stream of reason
has not lost its way into the dreary desert sand of dead habit;**

**Where the mind is led forward by thee into ever-widening thought and
action**

Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake.

As Ambassador Swaminathan has said Gurudev Tagore visited Egypt twice, first as a 17 year old in 1878 and later as a mature poet philosopher in 1926.

There is an interesting anecdote from his second visit to Cairo in 1926. On 28 November, 1926 he was invited to the great Egyptian poet Ahmed Shawqi's house for a lecture. Many political leaders attended the lecture. In fact, the Parliament session which was to begin at 5 P.M was postponed by an hour to accommodate this function.

Tagore wrote in his travelogue, " I was told that this was unprecedented and that this it could not have been done for anyone else. This was indeed a novel way to show me their respect. I said this was homage paid to knowledge by politics. This was possible only in the East."

I am conscious as I stand in the House of Poetry that for the second time Tagore has been greatly honoured in this country. It is befitting that this is taking place during the observance of 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Gurudev Tagore in Egypt. It is also a testimony of the great friendship enjoyed between India and Egypt.

I am happy to note that the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, which commissioned this portrait, earned the distinction of making this unique and lasting contribution to the House of Poetry. I am confident that we would have more such cultural exchanges between our two peoples, which would further strengthen our bonds of friendship.

Thank You.



404. Media Statement by External Affairs Minister at the Joint Press Conference following the 6th India-Egypt Joint Commission Meeting.

Cairo, March 4, 2012.

Your Excellency Mr. Mohamed Kamel Amr, Foreign Minister of Egypt

Distinguished representatives of Media,

I am delighted to be here in Cairo; this is my first visit to Egypt. Since my arrival, I have had the opportunity to meet His Excellency Field Marshal Mohamed Hussein Tantawi, Chairman, Supreme Council of Armed Forces and His Excellency Dr. Kamal El Ganzoury, Prime Minister.

I have just concluded very useful and productive discussions with Foreign Minister Kamel Amr and co-chaired with him the sixth session of Egypt-India Joint Commission Meeting.

We reviewed the entire gamut of our bilateral relations during the just concluded Joint Commission Meeting. Foreign Minister Kamel Amr and I accepted the recommendations of four sub-committees on Trade & Economic Co-operation, Scientific & Technical Co-operation, Cultural Co-operation and Information Technology on strengthening bilateral relations in these sectors.

We also signed four documents including an MoU on Cooperation in the field of Environment Protection, Cultural Exchange Programme for the years 2012-15, Work Plan for Agricultural Cooperation between Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Agricultural Research Centre of Egypt for the year 2012-13 and a MoU between Egyptian Organisation for Standardisation and Bureau of Indian Standards.

Yesterday, Egyptian Minister of Culture and I unveiled a portrait of Rabindranath Tagore, renowned litterateur and the first Asian to receive the Nobel Prize in Literature, at the House of Poetry. I was very happy to know that Tagore is the first non-Arab poet whose portrait has been installed at the House of Poetry.

This morning the Prime Minister of Egypt suggested that a multisectoral Indian delegation with representatives from both private and public sectors visit Egypt to focus on concrete areas of economic cooperation. I have welcomed this proposal and requested the Egyptian side to identify specific sectors of their interest so that we can take the proposal forward. We hope that this delegation will visit Egypt shortly for focussed and productive discussions.

I also met His Excellency Dr. Nabil El Araby Secretary General of League of Arab States. India and Arab League has been holding regular political

consultations since the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation in 2008. The first meeting of the High Level Joint Committee of Arab-India Cooperation Forum was held in Cairo last week.

India has a robust cooperation arrangement with Arab countries and particularly with Arab League. Arab world and India share civilisational links, common cultural values and political beliefs and enjoy strong economic ties. With these activities, we propose to strengthen India-Arab cooperation further.

India-Egypt relations are over five millennium years old. In modern times, our relations were soundly founded on shared ideology and common beliefs. India has always viewed Egypt as a stabilising factor in the region and in the world. Egypt has consistently played a vital role in the Non-Aligned Movement and championed the cause of the developing world. Our bilateral relations constitute a factor of peace and stability in international relations.

The leaderships of our two countries maintain close contact through regular Ministerial visits and exchanges at the highest level. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's visit in 2009 for the NAM summit was followed by visits of a number of Ministerial delegations to Egypt. Our bilateral trade of 3 billion US Dollars last year is promising to grow in the coming years. Indian investment of 2.5 billion dollars is generating employment for 30,000 Egyptians. None of the Indian companies who had invested in Egypt have left the country after the Revolution. In fact, one more Indian factory has been established in Ain Sukhna.

I thanked Foreign Minister Mohamed Kamel Amr for the warm hospitality extended to me and my delegation. I also take this opportunity to wish Egypt success in all its endeavours.

Thank you.



405. Response of Official Spokesperson to a question on Presidential election in Egypt.

Egypt, June 25, 2012.

Egypt has successfully conducted its presidential elections. We respect and welcome the verdict of the people of Egypt and extend our congratulations to them and President – elect Dr. Mohamed Morsi. We wish the new President all success and reiterate our readiness for enhancing bilateral co-operation.



406. Press Release of the Election Commission on India and Egypt signing a Memorandum of Understanding to undertake the training of Egyptian Electoral officers.

New Delhi, September 18, 2012.

India and Egypt today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in New Delhi, to establish an institutional framework for their ongoing cooperation in the field of election management and administration.

The MOU was signed by the Chief Election Commissioner of India, Shri V.S. Sampath and the Secretary General of the Supreme Presidential Election Committee of Egypt, Justice Hatem Bagato. Election Commissioners, Shri H. S. Brahma and Dr. S.N.A. Zaidi, diplomats and senior officials of the Election Commission of India and Government of India were present at the signing ceremony.

The major aims of MoU are: promotion of exchanges of knowledge and experience in the field of organizational and technical development, with a view to strengthening the administration of electoral processes; exchange of information, material, expertise and technical know how relating to electoral processes and systems; training of personnel and development of human resources, and organizational development and capacity building.

Shri H.S. Brahma, Election Commissioner, in his welcome address, commended the recent rapid strides in election management and administration made by Egypt and expressed confidence that the MoU would pave the way for effective cooperation between the two institutions and will benefit other countries as well.

Shri Sampath expressed the confidence that the MoU would facilitate sharing of best practices, skills and experiences between the two institutions for mutual benefit. He described the MoU as an extremely suitable mechanism for strengthening and carrying forward mutual collaboration in electoral management and administration. He commended the Egyptian Committee for the competence with which the recent Presidential election in Egypt was conducted in the most challenging circumstances. He also offered the Egyptian side to send nominations of its election officials to participate in a special international training course for mid-career election officials which the ECI will organize from 8th to 20th October, 2012 under the ITEC programme of the Government of India.

Justice Bagato stated that India is one of the first countries with which Egypt is seeking to establish sound and comprehensive cooperation in the field of electoral management. He also stated that this MoU is a first step in mutual

cooperation and is another building block in the longstanding relations between Egypt and India and it will serve as a framework, setting guidelines on how to maximize the benefits that both sides can get from such collaboration.

Election Commission of India has so far signed thirteen MOUs with Election Management Bodies and international organizations across the world. India and Egypt are already collaborating in the areas of Electronic Voting, Voters Education and Election Tracking Technology. At the request of the Egyptian delegation, they were also given a detailed briefing and demonstration in the ECI, on the working of the Electronic Voting Machine.



IRAN

407. Joint Media Interaction of External Affairs Minister of India and Foreign Minister of Iran. New Delhi,

May 31, 2012.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Syed Akbaruddin): I welcome you to this media interaction. As is usual we will begin with opening remarks by the two Ministers, following which they have agreed to reply to a few questions. I request Shri SM Krishna, the External Affairs Minister of India to make his opening remarks.

External Affairs Minister (Shri S.M. Krishna): Your Excellency Foreign Minister Dr. Ali Akbar Salehi, friends from the media:

I have just had an opportunity to interact with His Excellency Dr. Ali Akbar Salehi, the distinguished Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Dr. Salehi is on his first official visit to India. However, such are our cultural, linguistic and civilisational links that it is a widely held belief amongst us that no Iranian can be a stranger in India just as no Indian can be a stranger in Iran. Our monuments, language, cuisine and literature are all evidence of our rich shared heritage.

As you are aware, Iran is set to assume the Chairmanship of the Non-Aligned Movement in August this year. We deeply appreciate the gesture of President Ahamedinejad for deputing His Excellency Dr. Salehi as his Special Envoy to deliver the invitation to Hon. Prime Minister of India to attend the 16th NAM Summit.

I have congratulated Dr. Salehi on Iran assuming this important responsibility later this year, and offered our best wishes for the success of the forthcoming NAM Summit.

India and Iran share the same neighbourhood. Iran is an important neighbour and a crucial trade partner for India, and also a major source of our energy supplies. It is also a gateway for India to Central Asia. India and Iran share an interest in the stability of Central Asia and the Gulf. We also face threats from terrorism and extremism. Dr. Salehi and I have, therefore, taken the opportunity to discuss all these and other issues of common interest. We intend to continue our discussions over lunch.

Dr. Salehi has also vast experience of nuclear issues. I conveyed my appreciation to him for his briefing on the recent discussions between Iran and the P5+1 in Baghdad. India has always held that the nuclear issue should be resolved through peaceful diplomacy, and the framework of the International Atomic Energy Agency provides the best forum to address the technical aspects of this issue.

Thank you.

Foreign Minister of Iran (Dr. Ali Akbar Salehi): *Bismillah ir-Rahman ir-Rahim!*

In the name of God, Excellency Mr. Minister my dear friend Mr. Krishna, it is indeed a matter of joy, pride and happiness for me to be in India. I do not feel I am in a strange country: I feel I am in my own country.

As was rightly put by His Excellency the Foreign Minister, and as has been very succinctly and vividly stated by Late Nehru, you can rarely find any two countries in the world that enjoy so much commonalities.

India and Iran enjoy a lot of commonalities culturally, linguistically, civilization-wise. And, therefore, the ground for the enhancement of our relationships in all domains is original. We intend, and this is the will of the officials of the two countries, to build a strong foundation on this background.

I am happy to be in India, and I am honoured to deliver the message of our President to His Excellency the Prime Minister of India, inviting him to attend the Non-Aligned Movement Summit which will be held in a few months from now, India being a forerunner and a founder of the Non-Aligned Movement, a movement that probably now has its most important, I would say, presence in offering a platform for most of the developing countries to reflect their views, to demand their rights in the international arena.

The Non-Aligned Movement is the united voice of 120 developing countries that can express themselves in a world where we see a lot of injustice, and we need a voice that would speak for justice, for fairness, and for equal sharing in the management of this world.

So, we discussed with His Excellency a number of issues of mutual interest. We will be continuing discussing the issues of mutual interest.

We decided to hold the 17th Joint Economic Commission soon in Tehran. Our trade with India stands now at about 16 billion dollars, but this is not proportionate to the potential of these two countries.

We are hoping and looking into ways and mechanisms of raising this level of trade between India and Iran. There is so much India can offer to Iran, and Iran I would like to stress here, is a reliable partner of India. It is a reliable source of energy for India. India is an emerging economic power, and its energy demand is ever-increasing. And they should look for resources that are reliable, and Iran is a reliable source for that matter.

Iran will remain a reliable partner for India. We have enjoyed in the past very good relationship. Our relationship now is very good and we hope that we enhance further this bilateral relationship.

Thank you.

Official Spokesperson: The two Ministers have agreed to answer a few questions.

Question (Ms. Devi Rupa, *New Indian Express*): Sir, the question is to both the Ministers. The West Asian region has been currently the focus of intense global attention, but now its voice has not been heard so far. Do you think the Movement has any relevance at all? Do you think you can find a common voice on issues like Syria?

Foreign Minister of Iran: As I said, if you go through the history of development of NAM, NAM was developed in the early 60s when we had the two sources of power in the world - the West and the East. And there were countries that would have liked to be independent and not to be part of any of these two superpowers at the time. So, when they got together in Indonesia, they set out ten principles, and those principles still are valid and still are I think of importance. The importance of NAM for especially countries in West Asia, as I said, lies in the fact that it could constitute a proper platform for expressing the joint views of these countries. And it is a platform that also could be utilized, it was only for political purposes that it was introduced, but now it could look into other aspects of inter-relationships between the members of NAM, aspects of economic cooperation, aspects of trade cooperation, scientific cooperation, cultural cooperation. So, NAM I think, if it is given the proper attention and India as I said being one of the founders of NAM, could certainly boost these roles of NAM for the betterment and the enhancement of the prosperity of the people living in the countries that are members of the NAM.

External Affairs Minister: NAM has been a very relevant factor in the context of today's geopolitics. History has shown that Non-Alignment is an idea that evolves over a period of time depending upon the various currents and cross currents on a pan global scale. But, the idea does not fade. India is one of the chief movers and shakers of the Non-Aligned Movement right from the beginning of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Marshal Tito, and President Sukarno I think today we have gone a long way in strengthening the Non-Aligned Movement.

The world has changed and the challenges have grown more complex. And the systems of global governance whether in the UN or the international financial institutions, have not kept pace either with the growing interdependence of nations or with contemporary realities. Though we have a global economy of sorts, the global polity does not represent the hopes and fears and aspirations of the majority of the people in the world. The relevance of NAM is of greater value today than ever before.

Question (Mr. Ranjit, *Navbharat Times*): My question is addressed to Mr. Krishna. US has imposed unilateral sanctions on Iran. Is India respecting US sanctions by reducing oil imports from Iran?

External Affairs Minister: As regards the question of sanctions is concerned, let me say that the United Nations Security Council in its wisdom has passed Resolutions on the issue, and India has always abided by such Resolutions of

the Security Council as a responsible member of the international community. As far as other sanctions, those decided either unilaterally or regionally, we are aware of such measures. In a globalised world such actions tend to impact on the market, and our commercial entities take these into account. Such measures should not impact on legitimate trade interests. With respect to our energy we are dependent on imports to meet the bulk of our requirement. Given our growing demand, it is natural for us to try and diversify our sources of imports of oil and gas to meet the objective of energy security. In this context, Iran is a key country for our energy needs and it remains an important source of oil for us.

Question (Ms Parul Chandra, *The Asian Age*): My question is for Dr. Salehi. There was this attack on an Israeli diplomat in New Delhi in February this year, and Israel accused Iran of being behind the attack. I would like to know your reaction to this. And will Iran cooperate with India in the ongoing probe into the attack?

Foreign Minister of Iran: Being a nation with 3000 years of written history, a nation that has introduced civilization into the world, good governance into the world, a nation that continued to produce so many poets, a nation that speaks of ethics and it has based all its life on ethics, we have been accused so many times over so many things. I was just joking with a friend that even the blame for the tsunami in Indonesia may be put on Iran. It was just a few months ago that there was another blame that Iran was intending to assassinate the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia in Washington. What happened? I would like to ask the press to go and see what happened to this accusation. So, we totally refute any action of this sort. We at the same time would like to put the record clear when the Israelis themselves, the Zionist regime, they expressed just a few days ago that they are introducing all these what they called these viruses, the computer viruses, into our industry, and they expressed as if it is a matter of pride, and the international community does not react. And when they assassinate our best scientists, our young scientists, they were in just the beginning of their career and having their young children now without fathers, and then they expressed very loudly that they were the ones who assassinated. It is them that the international community have to ask them who is the perpetrator, who is the assassin. They have given assassination a kind of legality when it comes to assassinating the Palestinians. So, we totally refute the allegation. And the world conscience knows, we do not need to really bother ourselves, the world conscience knows about the Zionist regime and how they do their business in the world. It is themselves that have to be answerable to all kinds of atrocities that have been committed against the Palestinian people.

Official Spokesperson: Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen, we come to the end of this event.



408. Report regarding India allegedly banning U.S.- sanctioned Iranian ships from entering Indian waters.

New Delhi, July 31, 2012.

Government has seen media reports regarding India allegedly banning U.S.-sanctioned Iranian ships from entering Indian waters. These reports are incorrect. With the EU sanctions, which came into effect on July 1, 2012, some complications arose due to the non-availability of P&I club insurance to ships carrying Iranian crude oil. Consequently, a general exemption was granted by Government to foreign ships carrying Iranian crude oil on CIF basis to dock at Indian ports under certain conditions. Subsequently, the national insurance companies have agreed to extend insurance cover to Indian ships for transportation of Iranian crude to India. In view of this, the general exemption granted earlier to oil PSUs for carrying Iranian crude on CIF basis has been withdrawn. We understand that there are some issues yet to be resolved between the national insurance companies and the ship owners regarding the terms of the insurance cover to be provided to Indian ships for carrying Iranian crude oil to India. While the matter is being resolved, permission for ships carrying Iranian crude oil to India on CIF basis is being granted on a case by case basis on the request of oil PSUs.



409. Extracts from the Media Briefing by the Official Spokesperson regarding relations with Iran.

New Delhi, August 31, 2012.

Question: ... (Inaudible)... announcements that you made, but it is about the NAM Summit that just got over. Can you give a little bit of a read-out in terms of the bilateral meeting between the Prime Minister and the President of Iran?

Official Spokesperson: The meeting lasted for about an hour. This was the first meeting. A meeting followed later on between Prime Minister and the Supreme Leader. That meeting lasted for about forty minutes I think. Coming to the first meeting, there was a discussion on the NAM Summit because that was the principal reason for Prime Minister's visit there. They discussed what were the challenges that are facing NAM and how India and Iran, which was to take over the Chairmanship of NAM, could coordinate on this. They also discussed at some length on the bilateral relations.

Prime Minister did mention that there was scope for increasing Indian exports to Iran, because at the current stage I think the imports from Iran to India are about nine billion dollars more than the exports from India. I think it is about 2.5 billion dollars exports from India and about 13 billion dollars or so imports to India from Iran. They also discussed in this context prospects of increasing the exports from India possibly including wheat exports. There was also a discussion to pursue the issue of Chabahar port both bilaterally and trilaterally with Afghanistan. In that context there were further discussions on infrastructure development projects that can be considered. There was also a discussion about the P5+1 engagement with Iran, and Prime Minister conveyed our position that we hope that this would lead to a successful outcome for peace and security in the region. These were broadly the issues that I can recollect from that meeting.

Question: What was the Iranian President's response in terms of the nuclear issue, this P5+1 engagement?

Official Spokesperson: He gave an update of where the discussions were. You would appreciate we could not share that sort of an update of what was discussed between the two leaders on that.

Question: In this connection, has there been any decision on the Iranian offer of 100 million investment to India for Chabahar project? Also, as far as I understand, the EU sanctions on Iran put a cap of 20 million dollars per annum per company investment in Iran. This is a hundred million dollar project. Can you just throw some light on that?

Official Spokesperson: First of all I do not know which project you are talking of which is of 100 million. dollars I think when the Foreign Secretary was here

last week he did mention that there are several options. We have not decided which of these options we would choose, if at all. There are several options based on what level of interest and what importance we have for each of these. These are only in the preliminary stage because we have just got that report by I think the Indian Ports Association. So, at this stage let us not talk of figures because there is no decision at all on this. They have appointed a Joint Working Group, as you are perhaps aware of. In three months' time when the External Affairs Minister visits Tehran in November, we hope to have some movement on that between now and then. That is regarding the project.

Now, let me also clarify that I do not think there are any EU sanctions which lead to measures against third countries. To my knowledge, EU sanctions relate to import from Iran and not measures against for third countries. There are of course other measures imposed by other than the EU that have measures mentioned by you and we are well aware of this. Let me assure you that the Government of India will take all these into account when we finally decide on this. I do not want to get into further details on this. We will have occasion to share with you, if at all we opt for an option what it is and how this will play out. So, let us wait for a decision on this before we answer that.

Question: Was there any bilateral meeting with the President of Egypt? There was talk of a pull-aside meeting. What happened?

Official Spokesperson: I understand there was a short pull-aside meeting. We are not privy to the details. There was supposed to be a structured meeting. It did not happen because the President of Egypt and the Prime Minister of India were both on the podium at the time that this meeting was scheduled to be held in a more structure manner. However, they had occasion because they were in a room where only Heads of State and Government were there, before they came over to the main hall. Prime Minister did mention that he had a short discussion with the President of Egypt. I am not privy to those details. But it was not a structured meeting and there was nobody else available. So, at this stage we should leave it at that.

Question: ...(Inaudible)... the Iranian nuclear programme.

Official Spokesperson: I think we have made our position clear several times. I do not want to go into this because this is available on the record. Perhaps this is one of the few times maybe you have come here, so it is new to you. I think we have made our position very clear and I do not want to repeat that. Our votes in the IAEA are available to see on what is our position. To encapsulate it into a one-liner for you would be difficult. I would certainly advise you to have a look at some of our statements. I will certainly send you those statements so that you have a broader appreciation of our views on this whole issue.

Question: Sir, Defence Minister A.K. Anthony has given an assurance to the

delegation led by Mr. Narayanasamy along with Tamil Nadu Members of Parliament that the moment the Prime Minister is back to India, the two military personnel will be sent back to Sri Lanka. What is the current situation?

Official Spokesperson: I must confess that I am not the right person to answer on an assurance that the Defence Minister has given because this is not the Ministry that can answer what the Defence Minister said. That said, it is just I think about two hours ago or two and a half hours ago that the Prime Minister came back. I do not know since then if there have been any developments. You said the moment this happens. I am afraid I cannot answer that question. However, if there is anything that we come to know of, we will certainly share it with you. At this stage, I am not aware of anything and certainly we are not the right Ministry.

I think this question was also asked a few days ago by you and the Foreign Secretary did reply that the Ministry of Defence is considering this issue and whatever is the decision of the Ministry of Defence on this matter, MEA will then pursue and take it further. That remains our position. I do not know of any further details in the last three hours which may have happened since the return of Prime Minister to Delhi.

Question: The Iranians have promised to send oil to India in fully insured ships belonging to Iran. When is this going start because only one ship has brought oil this month and it is charging 70 per cent more than what is the normal practice?

Official Spokesperson: I think we have traversed this a little earlier. There were issues relating to why Indian ships would not get reinsurance. And we have explained that since then there has been an agreement of reinsurance by an Indian insurance company also of specific insurance charges on oil from Iran. So, while that is an option, there are other options also which are available. This is for the oil companies to make that decision. It is not for the Ministry of External Affairs to make a decision either on it or to monitor which ship is bringing what oil. You would appreciate that while we look at the broader policy on this, and if there are any issues that have an impact, it will be brought to our notice both by the Ministry of Shipping and the Ministry of Finance. But at this stage, I am not aware that there has been a further dissonance since the last framework was put into place sometime ago.



IRAQ

410. Press Release of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry growing bilateral relations with Iraq.

New Delhi, February 27, 2012.

The Union Minister of Commerce, Industry and Textiles Shri Anand Sharma said that India is committed to deepen and elevate its relations with Iraq. He proposed during his meeting with the Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Dr Rowsch N Shaways, here today, that "the Joint Business Council between India-Iraq needs to be activated so that the interaction between businessmen of both the countries could be maintained regularly. The apex Chambers of Commerce should interact on regular basis for arranging Joint Business Meetings to boost the bilateral trade."

The visiting Deputy Prime Minister conveyed that India is the biggest importer of Iraqi oil and this is a firm foundation on which we can further build our economic engagement. He emphasized that there is a need to diversify the trade basket and proposed food, Construction, minerals, IT, pharmaceuticals, energy and Automobile as part of diversifying the existing trade basket. He invited Indian firms to Iraq either in JV or independently. "We are open in all formats and will welcome Indian participation in our reconstruction programme" the Deputy Prime Minister said.

Shri Sharma emphasized that India wants to partner with Iraq in all these areas. "We will be happy to see Indian Companies being encouraged in Iraq's reconstruction programme and we will also point our companies in that direction" said the Indian Minister. He mentioned that for capacity building of Iraq India is annually providing 120 slots under the Indian Technical Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme to train Government of Iraq officials. Similarly, India is offering 50 scholarships to Iraqi students for higher studies in India under the ' Cultural Exchange Programme Scholarship Scheme' (CEP) and the 'General Cultural Scholarships Scheme (GCSS) organizes by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations. The Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) has been providing training in India to the Iraqi officials on various subjects related to downstream oil sector.

Indian Ambassador in Iraq informed the meeting that every day about 160 medical visas are issued to Iraqi citizens. The people to people contacts are developing fast as are also the academic linkages between the two countries particularly in the medical and engineering fields. India has become the most favourite destination for Iraqis for seeking quality medical treatment. More than 28000 Iraqis visited India in 2010 for medical treatment, education and tourism.

Both side agreed to revamp Indian presence in Baghdad International Trade

fair. The Trade Minister of Iraq Dr Kheer Allah Hassan Babkr who was attending the meeting said there should be no need of third party in India Iraq trade and Indian company should be able to deal directly with the players in Iraq. He singled out Government firms in the fields of Construction and Auto mobile which can deal with Indian firms directly.

Iraq is an important trading partner of India in West Asia. Bilateral trade has registered a 100% increase over the last five years. The total trade has increased from US\$ 5.7 billion in 2006-07 to US\$ 9.7 billion in 2010-11. The exports from India have gone up from US\$ 203.99 million in 2006-07 to US\$ 738.65 million in 2010-11. Similarly, imports from Iraq have gone up from US\$ 5.5 billion in 2006-07 to US\$ 9.0 billion 2010-11. The top five exportable items from India to Iraq are Manufactures of Metals , Electronic Goods, Rice-Basmati, Meat & Preparations ,Machinery & Instruments etc. Similarly top five importable items from Iraq to India are Petroleum Crude & Products(99.88 %) Fruits & Nuts Excl Cashew Nuts, Sulphr & Unrosted Iron Pyrts, Wool Raw, Organic Chemicals etc. Both the leaders agreed that the bilateral trade does not reflect the full potential and can be further exploited to mutual advantage of both the countries.



411. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative of India at the UN Security Council briefing on the 1737 Committee concerning Iran.

New York, March 21, 2012.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I would join other colleagues in thanking Ambassador Nester Osorio for presenting the 90-day report of the 1737 Committee. We commend his stewardship of the Committee and as also the professionalism with which the Committee has been implementing its mandate.

2. Mr. President, the Panel of Experts is mandated to assist the Committee in the implementation of the relevant resolution and has to work under the direction of the Committee. We appreciate the work, including outreach activities, that the Panel has been doing and encourage it to continue its work in strict compliance with the relevant resolutions of the Security Council in an independent, objective, transparent and impartial manner. The Panel should also brief the Committee regularly on all its activities.

3. During the reporting period, the Panel has submitted several reports, including a quarterly update on the implementation reports of the Member States submitted during the period from 1 November 2011 to 31 January 2012. We thank the Panel for these reports, which we are carefully studying. In January this year, three members of the Panel visited India. They had a useful exchange of views with the concerned authorities in New Delhi.

4. Mr. President, India has consistently supported the right of all nations to peaceful uses of nuclear energy in accordance with relevant international treaties to which they are a party. Iran should fully cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to restore the confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of its nuclear programme. In this connection, we welcome the recent exchanges between Iran and the IAEA. We hope that the outstanding technical issues concerning the Iranian nuclear programme will be resolved peacefully through Iran's cooperation with the IAEA. We also welcome the decision to resume talks between the P5 + 1 and Iran. These talks should serve as an important confidence building measure and help avoid escalation of the situation.

5. Mr. President, India supports the full implementation of relevant resolutions of the Security Council concerning the Iranian nuclear issue. While implementing these resolutions, it is necessary that all efforts should be made so that legitimate trade and economic activities do not suffer.

6. In conclusion, Mr. President, we support the Chair's intention to hold an open

briefing along with the Coordinator of the Panel of Experts in April 2012 for interested member-states on implementation procedures. This briefing will also serve as a useful opportunity for the members of the Committee and the Panel to get views of the wider UN membership. I thank you.



ISRAEL

412. Press Release on the visit of Minister of External Affairs to the State of Israel.

New Delhi, January 10, 2012.

H.E. Mr. S.M. Krishna the Minister of External Affairs of India paid an official visit to Israel from January 9-10, 2012.

The Minister began his official program on 9th January by visiting the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial and Museum in Jerusalem which perpetuates and documents the Holocaust. He laid a wreath at the memorial in memory of the Holocaust victims.

On January 9, the Minister called on H.E. Shimon Peres, President of Israel and discussed bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest. The two leaders discussed issues such as cooperation in science & technology, water management, agriculture and combating terrorism. They also discussed recent developments in South Asia and the Middle-East.

That evening, the Minister of External Affairs and Mr. Avigdor Liberman, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel were Chief Guests at a reception hosted by the Ambassador of India. At the reception, the Minister launched celebrations of the 20th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Among the invitees were representatives from the Parliament, Government, corporate sector, media, academia and Indian community.

On January 10, the Minister met H.E. Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister, at a 90-minute breakfast meeting in the Prime Minister's office. In this meeting, EAM and PM Netanyahu reviewed the bilateral relationship and charted out areas of cooperation for the future including energy, trade, agriculture and human resource development. They also had the opportunity to review regional and international developments of mutual interest.

EAM thereafter met Foreign Minister Liberman at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where the latter hosted a lunch in his honour. The two Ministers reviewed ongoing bilateral cooperation and identified areas of cooperation for the future. The delegation level discussions provide an opportunity for the two Ministers to discuss recent developments in the Middle-East and South Asia. The two Ministers signed an Agreement for Reciprocal Extradition of each other's nationals; and an Agreement for Transfer of Sentenced Persons respectively. They also addressed the media at a joint media interaction.

Dr. Yuval Steinitz, Minister of Finance called on EAM. In this meeting, the two

Ministers reviewed the economic and commercial cooperation between the two countries, including status of the Free Trade Agreement, the proposal for a Joint R&D Fund, and other initiatives.

The Minister visited the Indian Hospice in Jerusalem which dates back to the days of the revered Sufi saint Baba Farid. He announced a special grant of US\$ 25,000 by the Government of India for setting up a Baba Farid Heritage Centre at the Indian Hospice.

The Minister visited the Cemetery for Indian Soldiers in Jerusalem which was used from July 1918 to June 1920 and contains graves of 79 Indian servicemen of the First World War. The Minister laid wreaths at the memorials for Indian Soldiers and signed the Visitors Book.



413. Remarks by External Affairs Minister at the reception to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between India and Israel.

Tel Aviv, January 10, 2012.

His Excellency, Mr. Avigdor Liberman, Foreign Minister of Israel

Distinguished members of the Israeli Government,

Ladies & Gentlemen,

Allow me, distinguished Foreign Minister, to first thank you for the warm invitation extended to me to visit Israel and for the excellent arrangements that have been made for this visit. I am delighted to be here and look forward to discussing matters of mutual interest to our two countries.

It is a particular pleasure to be here today to launch the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Israel. I would like to thank Foreign Minister Liberman and all members of this distinguished audience for being present with us on this historic occasion.

Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Twenty years may appear to be a short period but the impressive and multi-faceted development of our bilateral relationship shows how much can be achieved even in a few years given the necessary commitment and goodwill.

Impressive strides have been made in areas of critical importance to both our countries - from agriculture and water management to latest the hi-tech applications in communications, health and energy. The reasons for this remarkable cooperation are not far to seek: both our countries share common democratic values which are demonstrated by an active and representative Parliament, a strong judiciary based on Common law principles and an independent media.

Both countries successfully focussed efforts on human resource development, particularly in scientific and technological fields. And India, like Israel, sets great store by innovation as a game changer to bring about radical and rapid change. If Israel is known as the Start-up Nation, then India too has declared the present decade as the Decade of Innovation.

Economic complementarities, which allow the remarkable R&D achievements of Israel to find full play in an open, democratic and growing economy like India, will further enhance the potential of this relationship.

Mr. Foreign Minister, you would agree that this cooperation would not have been possible if there did not exist a wealth of goodwill and cultural empathy between

the people of our two countries, demonstrated most obviously by the large number of Israelis tourists visiting India today.

Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Indians and Israelis have shared the pain arising from loss of innocent lives in the dastardly act of terror in Mumbai in 2008 and are determined to fight the forces of terror together.

It is pertinent to note that Jewish people have been a part of the multi-religious and multi-ethnic mosaic of India for centuries. 70,000 of them who have migrated to Israel have not done so from any sense of persecution. They are, in fact, today a strong bridge between the two countries, participating in nation-building in Israel while holding fast to the cultural roots and traditions of the mother country.

In India we are fully engaged in meeting the challenges of poverty eradication and putting the country on the path of high, self-supporting, sustainable and inclusive long-term growth. We note with some sense of satisfaction that we have averaged over 6% growth over the last twenty years and have accelerated this to between 8-9% in the last five years. Despite the global economic downturn, the fundamentals of the Indian economy remain intact, and the growth story is poised to continue.

Yet, huge challenges need to be overcome if we have to sustain this high rate of growth. For instance, India needs world class infrastructure and that needs an investment estimated at 1 trillion US Dollars over the next five years. Not all of this investment can be funded domestically; despite the very high saving rate of 35%, and increasingly we have to look abroad for these resources.

Similarly, more than half of our population still depends on agriculture for its livelihood and upgradation of agricultural productivity, agricultural infrastructure and food processing facilities remain major requirements. To sustain our growth pattern, we need very significant energy inputs from abroad both from conventional energy resources and through new and renewable sources of energy.

Innovative solutions are needed to solve problems related to people's health, rural communications, agriculture and animal husbandry, green energy, health delivery systems and so on.

India's integration with the global economy - about 40% of our GDP is today related to external economy - allows us to create opportunities for trade and investment with countries like Israel to meet the challenges that I have outlined.

Excellency, There is ample potential to multiply the bilateral trade figure of 5 billion dollars that we have achieved last year as well as to increase the level of investment between the two countries. The Free Trade Agreement now under

negotiation is clearly a step in the right direction. It will give a boost to our economic and commercial ties. Mr. Foreign Minister, I would urge that both our countries, even as we celebrate 20 years of diplomatic relations in 2012, should already be planning ahead for a long and fruitful partnership. I am aware that our Embassy has planned out several events, just as your Embassy has in India, for the coming year. These events aim to intensify our political engagement in several spheres, give further impetus to economic cooperation, infrastructure building and a partnership in innovation.

Particular focus will continue to be on strengthening people-to-people links through a colourful cultural festival and tourism promotion. In all these efforts, we look forward to receiving the full cooperation of our Israeli partners as in the past.

I, once again, take this opportunity to reiterate India's commitment to usher in a comprehensive and long-term partnership with Israel in diverse areas for the mutual benefit of our people.

Thank you.



414. Press Release on the visit of Minister of External Affairs to the State of Israel.

New Delhi, January 10, 2012.

H.E. Mr. S.M. Krishna the Minister of External Affairs of India paid an official visit to Israel from January 9-10, 2012.

The Minister began his official program on 9th January by visiting the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial and Museum in Jerusalem which perpetuates and documents the Holocaust. He laid a wreath at the memorial in memory of the Holocaust victims.

On January 9, the Minister called on H.E. Shimon Peres, President of Israel and discussed bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest. The two leaders discussed issues such as cooperation in science & technology, water management, agriculture and combating terrorism. They also discussed recent developments in South Asia and the Middle-East.

That evening, the Minister of External Affairs and Mr. Avigdor Liberman, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel were Chief Guests at a reception hosted by the Ambassador of India. At the reception, the Minister launched celebrations of the 20th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Among the invitees were representatives from the Parliament, Government, corporate sector, media, academia and Indian community.

On January 10, the Minister met H.E. Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister, at a 90-minute breakfast meeting in the Prime Minister's office. In this meeting, EAM and PM Netanyahu reviewed the bilateral relationship and charted out areas of cooperation for the future including energy, trade, agriculture and human resource development. They also had the opportunity to review regional and international developments of mutual interest.

EAM thereafter met Foreign Minister Liberman at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where the latter hosted a lunch in his honour. The two Ministers reviewed ongoing bilateral cooperation and identified areas of cooperation for the future. The delegation level discussions provide an opportunity for the two Ministers to discuss recent developments in the Middle-East and South Asia. The two Ministers signed an Agreement for Reciprocal Extradition of each other's nationals; and an Agreement for Transfer of Sentenced Persons respectively. They also addressed the media at a joint media interaction.

Dr. Yuval Steinitz, Minister of Finance called on EAM. In this meeting, the two Ministers reviewed the economic and commercial cooperation between the two countries, including status of the Free Trade Agreement, the proposal for a Joint R&D Fund, and other initiatives.

The Minister visited the Indian Hospice in Jerusalem which dates back to the days of the revered Sufi saint Baba Farid. He announced a special grant of US\$ 25,000 by the Government of India for setting up a Baba Farid Heritage Centre at the Indian Hospice.

The Minister visited the Cemetery for Indian Soldiers in Jerusalem which was used from July 1918 to June 1920 and contains graves of 79 Indian servicemen of the First World War. The Minister laid wreaths at the memorials for Indian Soldiers and signed the Visitors Book.



415. Statement of External Affairs Minister on the incident in New Delhi involving Israeli mission personnel.

New Delhi, February 13, 2012.

We have just received information about an unfortunate incident that took place a little while earlier in which a staff member's family of the Israeli establishment in Delhi has been injured. She has been rushed to the hospital and we are awaiting further information about the well being of the victim. In the meanwhile, India very strongly condemns such incidents and it is going to be fully investigated and the culprits will be brought to justice at the earliest. I have just spoken to the Israeli Foreign Minister and I have reassured the Israeli Foreign Minister that the law of the land will take its course. The investigation has already started and we will continue with it and then keep him posted as and when we get progress report of the investigation. Thank You.



According to media reports there was attempted assassination of an Israeli diplomat in New Delhi. Tal Yehoshua Koren, an embassy official, also the wife of Israel's defence attaché, sustained serious injuries when a bomb fixed to her Innova car went off at 3.15 p.m., less than 500 metres from Prime Minister official residence. Ms. Koren was on her way to pick up her children from school. The reports said she was travelling on the back seat, sustained serious injuries as the blast ripped through the vehicle's metal body. Her driver was also injured. Delhi Police Commissioner B.K. Gupta quoted eyewitnesses to confirm that "a device had been affixed to the vehicle by a motorcyclist" who passed the car.

LIBYA

416. Press Release on India's humanitarian assistance to Libya.

New Delhi, January 31, 2012.

The Government of India's humanitarian assistance consisting of life saving medicines and medical equipment worth US\$ 1 million (approximate) was handed over to the National Transitional Council of Libya, in Tripoli, on January 30, 2012 by Shri Rajeev Shahare, Joint Secretary (West Asia & North Africa) in the Ministry of External Affairs.

The National Transitional Council had earlier in Benghazi provided a list of life savings drugs to the Government of India and these medicines were selected as per the requirements of Libya.

It may be mentioned that Government of India had provided assistance worth US\$ 1 million in cash earlier to the National Transitional Council through the United Nation's Office of Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid in New York. The Government of India has been supportive of the people of Libya and has interacted with the National Transitional Council in London, Istanbul and Paris meeting including in the United Nations.

The interim Government of National Transitional Council has been considering sending injured Libyan nationals for their medical treatment to India. Indian authorities welcome this and are looking forward to receive injured Libyan patients in India. In this regard a Libyan delegation has already visited India in December 2011 to tie up treatment of injured Libyan patients in reputed hospitals.

The Government of India is also arranging to send a team of 'Jaipur Foot' to Tripoli. The team would be providing prostheses (artificial limbs) to the injured Libyans and would set up a centre in Libya and provide readymade artificial limbs to injured Libyan patients.



PALESTINE

417. Intervention by Minister of State E. Ahamed at the Ministerial Meeting of the NAM Committee on Palestine at Sharm El Sheikh.

Sharm El Sheikh, May 9, 2012.

Mr. Chairman,

Thank you very much for this opportunity to address this committee.

I recall that this Committee started its work following a decision taken at the Non-Aligned Movement held in New Delhi in 1983.

India's deep association with and continuing commitment to Palestine is rooted in our struggle for independence. It has been a central feature of India's foreign policy even before we achieved independence in 1947.

India has consistently and strongly supported the Palestinian people's struggle for a sovereign, independent, viable and united State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital living within secure and recognized borders, side by side and at peace with Israel, as endorsed in the Arab Peace initiative, the Quartet Roadmap and relevant UN Security Council Resolutions.

We commend the state building efforts of the Palestinian National Authority and their determination for achieving statehood.

Mr. Chairman,

We are concerned at the situation of political prisoners. The expansion of illegal settlement activity is a matter of great concern.

Our Committee and the international community have been making decisions, but the situation remains very difficult and unresolved. We need to think how we can get these decisions implemented.

Mr. Chairman,

Last year, Palestine filed an application for its full membership to the United Nations.

Our Prime Minister, in his speech at the UN General Assembly in September last year, said that India looks forward to welcoming Palestine as an equal member of the United Nations.

We extended our support to the admission of Palestine to UNESCO. We consider it an important step forward towards Palestine joining as a full member of the United Nations.

We have noted Palestine's proposal made here to approach the UN General Assembly for recognizing its Statehood and upgrading their status. This will have our strong support.

I have had a personal rapport with the Palestinian leadership. I met President Arafat just before his death. In fact, I was the last foreign leader to meet him. I am aware how difficult situation he was facing at that time and the sufferings of his people.

The aspirations of the independence of the Palestinian people have not been achieved so far. Nothing seems to be moving and the settlement activity continues unabated.

President Abbas is facing a very difficult situation and is seeking support from the international community. I personally feel that we should utilize our collective wisdom and work towards implementation of some of the ideas proposed here. Hon'ble Foreign Minister of Indonesia has made certain proposals. We need to see how best the Committee can cooperate in moving forward with this process.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, I wish to avail this opportunity to renew India's commitment to the work of this Committee, confident that under your guidance, we would contribute in ever-larger measure to the work of the Movement in support of the Palestinian people.



418. Media Statement of Prime Minister during the State Visit of President of Palestine to India.

New Delhi, September 11, 2012.

Your Excellency, President Mahmoud Abbas, President of the Palestinian National Authority,

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Media,

It is an honour for me to welcome President Mahmoud Abbas on his State Visit to India. He is no stranger to India and, indeed, we regard him as a very special friend.

President Abbas and I have held useful discussions aimed at further expanding and strengthening the India-Palestine partnership, which is rooted in history and flows from our national ethos.

Support for the Palestinian cause has been a cornerstone of India's foreign policy. During our meeting, I reiterated India's firm support for the struggle of the Palestinian people to achieve a sovereign, independent, viable and united state of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital, living within secure and recognized borders, side by side and at peace with Israel.

India had played an active role in supporting the efforts of the State of Palestine to secure full membership status at UNESCO. We will continue to support Palestine's bid for full and equal membership of the United Nations.

We also look forward to early resumption of peace talks between the Palestinians and Israelis leading to a comprehensive resolution between the two sides.

Bilaterally, India will continue to support the development and nation-building efforts of Palestine. The MOUs signed today are indicative of our commitment to contribute in the areas of Information & Communication Technology, vocational training and education.

The Government of India will also contribute US Dollar 10 million to Palestine's budget for this year to help address its financial requirements.

Later today, President Abbas will inaugurate the new Palestinian Embassy building, which has been built with Indian support. The building is a symbol of the enduring friendship between our two countries and peoples.

President Abbas and I also exchanged views on regional developments, particularly the developments in the West Asian and the Gulf region. There is a great degree of similarity in our views. We both agree that the developments in the region must be addressed through political dialogue and peaceful means

without recourse to violence and outside interference, while taking into account the legitimate aspirations of all people.

I look forward to working together with President Abbas to further carry forward our special bilateral relations.



419. Response of Official Spokesperson to a media question on violence in Gaza.

New Delhi, November 18, 2012.

In response to a media query regarding violence in Gaza the Official Spokesperson said:"

We are deeply concerned at the steep escalation of violence between Israel and Palestine, focused around Gaza, that threatens the peace and security of that region.

It is, therefore, imperative that the situation be de-escalated urgently as the region is already undergoing turmoil. We urge both sides to exercise maximum restraint and avoid taking any action that may further exacerbate the situation. It may be mentioned that an emergency meeting on Palestine was held at the UN Security Council on November 14 under India's Presidency to send a strong message from the Council to those concerned to de-escalate the situation and to stop the violence immediately.

It is also necessary that direct talks begin without any further delay between Israel and the Palestinian Authority leading to a comprehensive resolution of the Palestinian situation."



420. Speech by Minister of State E. Ahamed on the occasion of International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People organized by Indian Council of World Affairs.

New Delhi, December 6, 2012.

Your Excellency, Mr. Adli Hassan Shaban Sadeq,
Ambassador of Palestine in India;
Your Excellency, Dr. Ahmed Salem Saleh Al-Wahishi,
Chief Representative, League of Arab States Mission;
Ms. Lisa Grande,
UN Resident Coordinator;
Director General of the Indian Council of World Affairs Shri Rajiv K. Bhatia;
Excellencies,
distinguished invitees;
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I feel honoured to be here today amidst this august gathering to mark the important occasion of International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. All of us present here, representing a wide cross-section of countries, in our own ways are here to express our solidarity with the people of Palestine in their struggle for their legitimate rights.

At this juncture, allow me to extend heartfelt congratulations to the people of Palestine and its leadership for obtaining the 'Non-Member Observer State' status in the UN General Assembly. India, which has always played a proactive role in garnering support for the Palestinian cause in multilateral fora, co-sponsored this resolution on enhancing Palestine's status in the UNGA. It is a decisive achievement for Palestine in the history of its long and arduous struggle to reach its final goal of an independent and viable Palestinian State. However, the journey doesn't end here. We will continue to support Palestine's bid for full and equal membership of the United Nations. India had also played an active role in supporting the efforts of the State of Palestine to secure full membership status at UNESCO.

India reiterates its unwavering support to the Palestinian cause at every available opportunity and forum. Hon'ble Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh in his message on the occasion of International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people, organized by the UN on 29 November 2012, reiterated India's strong and unwavering support to the Palestinian cause. It is a matter of great honour

that our Prime Minister's message was given pride of place and was the first to be read out in the UNGA among the messages from Heads of Governments. It would be a remiss if I do not mention the recent events in Gaza that led to death of more than 150 Palestinians including innocent children and women, with injuries to more than 1200 people. We categorically condemn the violence in Gaza and I have no hesitation in saying that disproportionate use of force is completely unacceptable. India, jointly with Brazil and South Africa, has also expressed the strongest condemnation of violence between Israel and Palestine and urged the need to lift the blockage in Gaza which continues to worsen the already dire socio-economic and humanitarian situation in Gaza.

Excellencies,

We have also chaired and proactively participated as member in the discussions on the violence in Gaza in the UN Security Council under India's presidency.

The ceasefire reached between Israel and Gaza is welcome and we hope that both the parties shall remain committed to the terms of the ceasefire.

Excellencies,

Indians have always placed Palestine close to their hearts. Even before Independence, India had demonstrated its solidarity with the Palestinian people and had looked forward to the emergence of an independent democratic state in Palestine in which the rights of all communities would be protected.

India was the first non-Arab State to recognize the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people in 1975 and in 1988 became one of the first countries to recognize the State of Palestine. India opened a Representative Office in Palestine in 1996 following the establishment of the Palestinian National Authority.

Excellencies,

Since the opening of the Representative Office, India has also extended material assistance to the Palestinian National Authority and has been a partner in the socio-economic development of Palestine in its quest for a life of dignity and self reliance and a future full of promises. Our assistance has been for humanitarian relief, development projects, establishment of educational and training facilities, budgetary support etc. India has been involved with training a large number of Palestinian officials from economic, industrial and financial sectors and special courses for Palestinian diplomats have been conducted at our Foreign Service Institute.

I also fondly recall my visit to Ramallah on September 17, 2004 when I had an honour of meeting the undisputed leader of the Palestinian People Yasir Arafat. That was the time when he was under siege and was confined to his compound in Ramallah. During that visit I also took with me a consignment of medicine

and 50 specially built vehicles. President Arafat was very overwhelmed while receiving me and was thankful for the Government of India to send me at a time when no one was with him. I spent one full day with him and also offered Friday prayers with him at Muqata led by Grand Imam of Al Aqsa Mosque. It was a very emotional visit for me which I can't forget to this day. Sadly President Arafat passed away after few months only. However our friendship with the Palestinian people has continued.

During the recent visit of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to India in September this year, we pledged an amount of US\$ 10 million as budgetary support to Palestine, and signed three agreements for cooperation in the fields of information and communication technology, vocational training and construction of schools in Palestine. India also contributes US\$ 1 million annually to United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East, UNRWA in addition to Indian's generous support at various Donor conferences for the Palestinian people. Jointly with Brazil and South Africa as partners in IBSA, India is implementing developmental projects in Palestine.

I am happy to note that the Palestinian Embassy has started functioning from its new Building in Chanakyapuri, which was built as a gift of the government and people of India to the Palestinian people. The building was formally inaugurated by President Mahmoud Abbas and former External Affairs Minister Shri S.M. Krishna during President Abbas' visit to India on September 11, 2012. We will continue to support the development and nation-building efforts of Palestine.

Excellencies,

In line with our support for United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, India supports a negotiated solution resulting in a sovereign, independent, viable and united State of Palestine living within secure and recognized borders with East Jerusalem as its Capital, side by side and at peace with Israel as endorsed in the Quartet Roadmap and United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1397 & 1515.

India has supported the Arab Peace Plan, which calls for withdrawal of Israel to pre-1967 borders, along with recognition of Israel and the establishment of the State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital.

India had welcomed the 'direct talks' between Israel and Palestine. However the continued stalemate in the situation and hardening of positions is a matter of concern. We are hopeful of resumption of 'direct talks' leading to final resolution of the conflict. However it should be noted that the settlement activities by Israel in the occupied Palestinian territories are not serving the cause of peace. We have called for an end to these Israeli settlements activities and will continue to do so in light of recent announcement by Israel to expand these settlements

in the occupied Palestinian territories. We also urge for an early and significant easing of restrictions on the free movement of persons and goods within Palestine.

Excellencies,

Let me take this opportunity to re-affirm India's consistent and unwavering support to the friendly people of Palestine and reiterate India's belief that a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region can be achieved through negotiations and dialogue so that a sovereign, independent, viable State of Palestine living side by side within secured borders, with the State of Israel, becomes a reality.

I thank the Indian Council for World Affairs for organizing this important event.



SAUDI ARABIA

421. Press Release on the 9th Meeting of the India-Saudi Arabia Joint Commission.

New Delhi, January 6, 2012.

The 9th Meeting of the India-Saudi Arabia Joint Commission on Technical and Economic Cooperation (JCM) was held in New Delhi on January 4-5, 2012. Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Hon'ble Finance Minister and H. E. Dr. Tawfiq bin Fowzan Al-Rabiah, Minister of Commerce and Industry of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia co-chaired the JCM. H.E. Dr. Al-Rabiah was accompanied by H. E. Mr. Abdullah A. Al Hamoudi, Deputy Minister for Foreign Trade, a 36-member Official Delegation and 40 member Business Delegation.

The visiting dignitary called on Hon'ble Prime Minister and Shri S.M. Krishna, Hon'ble Minister External Affairs. He also met Shri Anand Sharma, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry and Shri S. Jaipal Reddy, Hon'ble Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas.

The 9th Meeting of the JCM took stock of the progress made since the "Riyadh Declaration 2010" signed during the visit of Hon'ble Prime Minister to Riyadh. The discussions of the JCM were held in three bilateral Sub Committees dealing with (i) economic and commercial, (ii) Education and Science & technology and (iii) Consular and community affairs. Agreed Minutes of the 9th JCM which provide the contours of future action plans for mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation were signed by the Heads of delegations at the end of the JCM.

Both sides noted that while the trade between the two countries was growing rapidly, cooperation in investments needed to be raised to make it commensurate with that of bilateral trade. The two sides propose to work towards this objective.



422. Press Release of the Ministry of Defence on the agreement to set up a India – Saudi Arabia Joint Commission on Defence Cooperation.

New Delhi, February 15, 2012.

To give a boost to the defence ties between the two countries, India and Saudi Arabia have decided to set up a Joint Committee on Defence Cooperation to work out the contours of the relationship. The decision was taken at the delegation level talks between the two countries in Riyadh on Tuesday.

The Indian delegation was led by the Defence Minister Shri AK Antony and the Saudi delegation by his counterpart Prince Salman Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud. The Saudi Deputy Minister of Defence Prince Khalid Bin Sultan and senior functionaries of the Saudi Military organisations also attended the meeting. The Indian delegation included the Defence Secretary Shri Shashi Kant Sharma, the Indian Ambassador Shri Hamid Ali Rao, Vice-Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen SK Singh, Deputy Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Satish Soni and Air Vice Marshal MR Pawar.

The proposed Committee will evolve plans for cooperation in numerous areas including signing of an MoU on defence cooperation, high level reciprocal visits at all levels- political, official and Services, ship visits and conducting Passage Exercises during such visits. The Committee will also explore the possibility of signing an MoU on cooperation in hydrography, increased participation in training programmes on both sides and examine the possibility of cooperation in defence industries. Shri Antony's suggestion for the visit of a delegation from Saudi Arabia to see our defence production facilities in near future was accepted by Prince Salman. The latter also accepted an invitation from Shri Antony to visit India later this year.

Expressing concern at the spread of piracy in the Indian Ocean Region, Shri Antony's suggestion that the navies of the two countries could explore practical cooperation in the fight against piracy and an active role of the Royal Saudi Navy in the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) construct were readily accepted by Prince Salman.

Reviewing the security situation in the Gulf Region, the two sides agreed that all issues need to be settled through peaceful dialogue.

Earlier, on his arrival at the Defence Ministry Headquarters in Riyadh, Shri Antony was presented an Inter-Services Guard of Honour. Prince Khalid also hosted a lunch in honour of the visiting delegation.



423. Remarks by Minister of State E. Ahamed at the India-Saudi Arabia Youth Forum.

New Delhi, March 30, 2012.

Your Excellency Dr. Yousef Terad Al Saadon,
Excellency the Ambassador of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,
Excellency Dr. Adnan Mohammad Al Wazzan,
Distinguished members of the Saudi Youth Delegation,
Members of the Media,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me immense pleasure to welcome all of you in New Delhi.

I congratulate the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs for this excellent initiative to establish India-Saudi Arabia Youth Forum to enable the youth to learn from each others' cultures and further strengthen our friendly relations.

I hope that you have enjoyed your stay in India and you have had an opportunity to explore India and interact with its people and get a flavor of our culture and its diversity.

India and Saudi Arabia enjoy a unique relationship shaped by a common economic and socio-cultural history, extensive people-to-people contacts and robust trade that go back to many centuries. Today also Saudi Arabia is home to 1.8 million strong Indian Community. The community has not only excelled in all walks of life, profession and businesses but also has contributed immensely to the development and growth of the Kingdom. Each year more than 170,000 Indian visit the Kingdom for performing Hajj and many more visit to perform Umrah. These interactions have left strong influences on the cultures of both the countries.

In 1932, when His Majesty King Abdul Aziz Al-Saud unified the Arabian Peninsula and established the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru was full of praise for the King for his courage and statesmanship in unifying the Peninsula.

India became independent in 1947 and adopted a Constitution in 1950. In May 1955, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Faisal bin Abdul Aziz, who was also the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia, came to New Delhi laying the foundation for our bilateral relations in the post war period.

Soon after that, His Majesty King Saud bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud paid a 17-day long visit to India - the first ever visit by a Head of State of either country to the other. During the historic visit His Majesty King Saud toured a number of Indian cities including New Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Mysore, Simla, Agra, Aligarh and Varanasi, many more than this youth delegation has visited.

In 1956 when our Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru visited the Kingdom he was not only received with warmth and fervour, but was given the unique honour of addressing a public gathering at a football stadium in Jeddah, a distinction which has not been accorded to any other visiting leader.

A new beginning in our bilateral partnership was the landmark visit of His Royal Majesty King Abdullah, the Custodian of the two Holy Mosques of Makkah and Madinah, to India in January 2006. His Majesty termed India as his "Second Home". The participation of His Majesty as the Chief Guest at our Republic Day celebrations was a matter of deep honour for the people of India. The visit opened a new chapter in our bilateral relations and the 2006 'Delhi Declaration' signed by His Majesty the King and our Hon'ble Prime Minister enshrines our shared vision for a new relationship.

The momentum generated by the extensive bilateral interactions after His Majesty's visit culminated in the historic visit of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Saudi Arabia in February 2010. In keeping with the new global realities and unfolding opportunities of the 21st century, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and His Majesty King Abdullah signed the "Riyadh Declaration" which among other things recognized the importance of the youth in strengthening the relations between our countries. Your visit today is actually the result of their wisdom and foresight.

The youth is the most powerful resource on the earth. Nations must empower their youths through value-based education and leadership so that they build their world and plan their future by themselves in which they can live in peace and enjoy the fruits of progress and prosperity. Today, both India and Saudi Arabia have more than 50 % population under the age of 30 years. Youth is the force of change and in both the countries the youth is responding positively to the global challenges both in the social and economical fields. Interactions between the Youth of both the countries will certainly chart a new path in the relations between our two great nations.

All of you have heard the words of wisdom of Khalil Jibran. What did he say about youth? - "Youth is a beautiful dream, on whose brightness books shed a blinding dust. Will the day ever come when the wise link the joy of knowledge to youth's dream? Will the day ever come when Nature becomes the teacher of man, humanity his book and life his school? Youth's joyous purpose cannot be fulfilled until that day comes. Too slow is our march toward spiritual elevation, because we make so little use of youth's ardor." I hope that the visit of this youth delegation is an answer to Khalil Jibran.

Thank you.



424. Press Release on the visit of Saudi Youth Delegation led by Deputy Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia Dr. Yousef Terad Al Saadon to India.

New Delhi, March 30, 2012.

Speaking at a valedictory function in New Delhi today, the Deputy Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia Dr. Yousef Terad Al Saadon said he was, "carrying a message that calls for friendship, dialogue and building mutual understanding between cultures – an understanding that promotes respects for all cultures and appreciates diversity as a source of enrichment". Shri E. Ahamed, Minister of State for External Affairs, recalled the successful visits of His Majesty King Abdullah to Delhi in 2006 when he was the honoured Chief Guest of Republic Day parade and visit of Prime Minister to Riyadh in 2010 when the two countries embarked on a strategic partnership.

2. The remarks came at the end of a path-breaking ten day visit by a Saudi youth delegation and in the context of the establishment of the India-Saudi Youth Forum. The Forum, established in fulfillment of the mandate given by the leadership of India and Saudi Arabia in 2010 and embodied in the Riyadh Declaration, is aimed to strengthen bonds of friendship and foster exchanges between youth India and Saudi Arabia. The Forum also fits into the initiative of His Majesty the King of Saudi Arabia encouraging youth of the country to understand and appreciate different religions and cultures of the world.

3. Under the aegis of the Forum, a 43 member delegation comprising students studying Communications and Information Technology as well as officials and media persons visited India from 21 to 31 March 2012. As a mark of the importance attached to the exercise, the entire delegation is headed by Dr. Yousef Terad Al Saadon, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Economic and Cultural Affairs of the Saudi Government. Public Diplomacy Division of the Ministry coordinated and facilitated the visit in association with Young Indians (Yi) Group of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

4. The delegation visited Hyderabad and Bengaluru prior to their visit to Delhi where they were received at the Indian School of Business, Indian Space Research Organisation, Infosys, Narayana Hriduyalaya, Computer Associates, TCS and Infotech. In Delhi, they interacted with the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India and the National Informatics Centre and were briefed by Secretary (East). Hon'ble Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology Sachin Pilot received the delegation and interacted with them. Hon'ble Minister of State E.Ahamed hosted a lunch in honour of the delegation.

5. Upon the conclusion of the official programme today, the India-Saudi Youth

Forum presented a joint letter addressed to Hon'ble President of India and His Majesty the King of Saudi Arabia. Another joint letter addressed to Secretary General of United Nations was also presented. The letters speak of the rich experience which the Saudi youth obtained during the visit, the potential of using cutting edge technologies like tele-education and tele-medicine in addressing the challenges of education and healthcare and pledge the support of the youth in contributing to strengthening bilateral relations and also to peace and progress.



425. Condolence message of Prime Minister on the demise of His Royal Highness Prince Naif bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

New Delhi, June 16, 2012.

In a message to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, His Majesty King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the Prime Minister expressed his “profound sorrow and deep grief” on the demise of His Royal Highness Prince Naif bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,

In his message the Prime Minister conveyed the “deepest condolences” of the Government and people of India and said that “His Royal Highness Prince Naif will always be remembered and admired for his outstanding contribution towards the development of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in many different fields.”

A senior Minister is being deputed by the Government of India to attend the funeral of Prince Naif bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.



SYRIA

426. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri during Briefing on the Middle East (Syria) in UN Security Council.

New York, January 31, 2012.

Thank you, Mr. President.

At the outset, I would like to thank you for organising this meeting at the request of the League of Arab States. I also take this opportunity to welcome in our midst today the Chair of the League's Ministerial Committee and Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Qatar, His Excellency Bin Jasim Bin Jaber Al Thani, and the Secretary General of the League of Arab States, Dr. Nabil El-Arabi. I would like to thank them for their comprehensive briefings on the League's efforts to resolve the crisis in Syria. I would also like to thank the Permanent Representative of Syria for his statement. Participation of the US Secretary of State, the Foreign Minister of France, the Foreign Secretary of the UK, the Foreign Ministers of Guatemala, Portugal and Morocco and Minister of State of Federal Foreign Office of Germany in today's meeting testifies to the importance of the subject of our discussion and deserves our appreciation.

2. Mr. President, Chapter VIII of the UN Charter provides for this Council's cooperation with the regional organisations for maintenance of international peace and security. In this context, we welcome today's meeting and think that it provides us a good opportunity to understand the role the League of Arab States is playing in resolution of the problem in Syria.

3. Mr President, the Syrian Arab Republic has historically played an important role in the Middle East by virtue of its geographic and strategic location, its diversity, and the genius of its people. Developments in Syria have implications for peace and stability in the wider region. We have, therefore, called for a peaceful and inclusive political process to address the grievances of all sections of the Syrian society since the beginning of the protests in March 2011. The problem in Syria is not merely security-related; it is primarily political and economic and emanates from the Syrian people's desire to play a greater role in shaping their destiny. Resolution of this problem cannot be found in violence or armed struggle and its violent suppression. Nor can a solution be reached through prescriptions from outside. The Syrian people demand and deserve empowerment so that a Syrian-led and Syrian-owned political solution can be found in an atmosphere free of violence and bloodshed.

4. Unfortunately, during the last ten months we have witnessed an increasing level of violence that has taken a heavy toll of civilians and security forces and caused destruction of civilian infrastructure. We unequivocally and strongly condemn all violence irrespective of whoever the perpetrators are and whatever

justification is proffered. We also condemn all violations of human rights and rights of expression and peaceful assembly. India holds these rights among the fundamental values that should be respected while ensuring stability and security of the society. India, along with its IBSA partners, conveyed this message clearly to the Syrian leadership when an IBSA delegation visited Damascus in August 2011. This message was also contained in the Council's PRST issued in August 2011 under India's Presidency.

5. We see the efforts of the League of Arab States in Syria in light of our support for a political resolution of the crisis. We had noted that the deployment of the League's Observer Mission across several areas in the country had had a calming effect and are disappointed that the Mission was suspended on 28 January on account of a serious deterioration in the form of continuing violence. The report of the Observer Mission that the League made available to the Security Council clearly states that there is an armed element to the opposition which is also responsible for a number of violent acts. The continued presence and deployment of the Observers could have helped reduce the violence and present a more accurate picture of developments especially since the monitors had also confirmed that a lot of information in the media is exaggerated and misleading. The report of the Observer Mission also made an important point that the mission needs to be accompanied by a political process to address the grievances of the Syrian people, something that we strongly support.

6. Mr President, we are firmly of the view that all sides need to cooperate with the League of Arab States. A political process must begin without any further delay. The process should be led by the Syrians and should respect Syria's sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity. The League of Arab States, as an important regional organisation, should play its required and historic role in promoting political dialogue among the Syrian parties. This dialogue can build upon the package of political reforms already announced by the Syrian leadership and also bring about necessary changes to the package of political reforms so that it finds acceptance among all sections of the Syrian society. The outcome of this dialogue cannot be prejudged. The outcome should also be acceptable to the widest segment of Syrian society for it to resolve the present crisis and be enduring.

7. Mr President, the international community, including this Council, should play a constructive role in the process of political dialogue among the Syrians. In this context, we welcome submission of a draft resolution to the Security Council. We will engage with fellow Council members so that the Council can speak with a unanimous voice in support of the initiative of the League of Arab States to expeditiously resolve the Syrian crisis.

Thank you.



**427. Explanation of Vote by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri
Permanent Representative of India to UN on UNSC
Resolution on Syria.**

New York, February 4, 2012.

Thank you, Mr President,

I want to start by congratulating you on assuming the Presidency of the Security Council for the month of February. My delegation and I look forward to working with you to make your presidency extremely successful. I had an opportunity, in an earlier incarnation, to have visited your beautiful country. I would also like to take this opportunity to compliment South Africa, Ambassador Baso Sangqu and his team, for their very wise and able stewardship of the Council during January.

2. Mr President, the Syrian Arab Republic has historically played an important role in the Middle East. Prolonged instability and unrest in Syria have implications for peace and stability in the wider region.

3. India is concerned with the present situation in Syria that has resulted in the deaths of thousands of civilians and security forces personnel over the last ten months. Therefore, since the beginning of the protest, we have called for a peaceful and inclusive political process to address the grievances of all sections of Syrian society.

4. We strongly condemn all violence, irrespective of whoever the perpetrators are. We also condemn all violations of human rights. India holds the rights of expression and peaceful assembly among the fundamental values that should be respected, while ensuring stability and security of the society.

5. India has conveyed this message to the Syrian leadership, both bilaterally as well as along with its IBSA partners. We have impressed upon the Syrian side to abjure violence and pay heed to the aspirations of the people of Syria. This message was also contained in the Council's PRST issued in August 2011 under India's Presidency.

6. We are firmly of the view that a political process for resolution of the present crisis should be led by the Syrians themselves. We believe that the main role of the international community, including this Council, is to facilitate engagement of the Syrian Government with all sections of Syrian society for an inclusive political process, taking into account the legitimate aspirations of all Syrians while ensuring respect for the country's sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity.

7. We note that the resolution enjoins upon the government to protect its population, indicating that it should have the capacity to do so.

8. The League of Arab States, as an important regional organisation, should play its required and historic role in promoting political dialogue among the Syrian parties. In this context, we welcomed the deployment of the League's Observer Mission across several areas in the country which had a calming effect on the level of violence and provided a more accurate picture of developments. We hope that this Mission can be resumed soon.

9. Our support for the Resolution is in accordance with our support for the efforts by the Arab League for a peaceful resolution of the crisis through a Syrian-led inclusive political process. We note that the resolution expressly rules out any measures under Article 42 of the Charter and calls for serious political dialogue between the Syrian government and the whole spectrum of the opposition under the auspices of the League of Arab States. We believe that the leadership of Syria is a matter for the Syrian people to decide. It would be necessary for all opposition forces in Syria to peacefully engage in constructive dialogue with the authorities. We hope that this will create a new environment for peace and facilitate a political process. This political dialogue should build upon the political reforms already announced by the Syrian leadership with necessary changes so that they find acceptance among all sections of Syrian society.

Thank you.



**428. Explanation of Vote by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri
Permanent Representative of India at the UN Security
Council Resolution on Syria.**

New York, April 21, 2012.

Thank you, Madam President.

Let me begin by thanking the Russian delegation for introducing the resolution that the Security Council has adopted unanimously today as resolution 2043. This is a significant step in the Council's collective support for the efforts of the Joint Special Envoy, Mr Kofi Annan.

2. Madam President, it is a matter of satisfaction that Mr. Annan's efforts over the last seven weeks have resulted in an improvement in the situation in Syria. Even though there have been reports of violations, the ceasefire that came into force on 12 April has been observed by all parties in a large part of Syria. Obviously, there is a need to sustain the gains made so far. This should be facilitated by the expeditious deployment of the United Nations Supervision Mission in Syria (UNSMIS), authorized by resolution 2043. This resolution is also an appeal to all parties to walk back from violence so that an impartial supervision and monitoring of the ceasefire can contribute to observing and upholding the commitment of the parties.

3. We have voted in favour of resolution 2043 with the expectation that UNSMIS will implement its mandate impartially, objectively and fairly and help the Syrian parties to build on the ceasefire and commence an inclusive Syrian-led political process that will meet the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people.

4. For the success of the Annan plan, it is necessary that all parties implement their respective commitments under the six-point plan. We have noted that the Preliminary Understanding signed by the Syrian Government and the United Nations on 19 April sets out clear conditions that have to be met by the Syrian government and the armed opposition groups. We hope that all parties, including the opposition, will abide by those conditions.

5. Madam President, while the Syrian parties cooperate with UNSMIS and the Joint Special Envoy, it is also necessary that all countries interested in securing peace and stability in Syria extend their full support for Mr Annan and UNSMIS, and also refrain from any action that may cause further bloodshed. This will help in the expeditious resolution of the Syrian crisis as well as in ensuring that the crisis does not spill over Syria's borders.



429. Explanation of Vote by India on Human Rights Situation in Syria and the recent killings in EI-Houla at the 19th Special Session of the Human Rights Council.

Geneva, June 1, 2012.

Madam President,

India has consistently supported all efforts to resolve the Syrian crisis through an inclusive Syrian-led political process. To this end, we have given our full support for the mission of Joint Special Envoy Mr. Kofi Annan.

2. We strongly condemn the EI-Houla incident, which has resulted in death of over a hundred innocent civilians including women and children and have therefore intended to vote for this resolution. The incident underscores what the situation can lead to if there is any further delay in the complete cessation of violence. We expect that the Commission of Inquiry will be able to identify those responsible for these heinous attacks and provide clarity on the events that led to it. We sincerely hope all concerned will cooperate to ensure an objective process of inquiry into these terrible events.

3. We strongly believe that all parties need to abjure violence for there to be a genuine chance for a realistic and lasting solution to the Syrian crisis. We urge all sides to comply with their obligations under the Annan plan.

Thank you, Madam President.



TAJIKISTAN

430. Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson and Joint Secretary (Eurasia) on the visit of the President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon.

New Delhi, August 31, 2012.

The President of Tajikistan will pay a visit to India from 1st to 4th September, 2012 at the invitation of the President of India.

The main day of engagement would be the 3rd September when the Tajik President will meet the President of India, the Vice-President of India, and hold discussions on bilateral cooperation with the Prime Minister.

During the visit, the Leader of Opposition and the External Affairs Minister will both call on the President of Tajikistan as is the usual practice. On the same day, President Rahmon will also address a business meeting jointly organized by ASSOCHAM, CII and FICCI. The President is also slated to visit organizations and institutions outside New Delhi

Official Spokesperson (Shri Syed Akbaruddin): As I have said before, I have here with me Joint Secretary (Eurasia) Mr. Ajay Bisaria who will brief you on the visit of the President of Tajikistan. You can ask him any question and he will answer those questions. I will request Ajay to make some initial remarks and then he will respond to any questions that you may have on this.

Joint Secretary (ERS) (Shri Ajay Bisaria): Thank you, Akbar.

We are going to talk about a country which is a neighbor of Pakistan, which seems to be the central theme of this press conference. It is a close neighbor of both Pakistan and India. Let me begin by repeating what Akbar has initially mentioned.

The President of Tajikistan His Excellency Mr. Emomali Rahmon will arrive in India for a state visit from the 1st to the 4th of September. During his stay, President Rahmon will visit Goa, Bengaluru and New Delhi for official meetings. He is expected to meet the Prime Minister for discussions on a range of issues. Also President Rahmon will meet the Hon. President at whose invitation he is visiting India, the Vice-President of India, and the Leader of Opposition in Parliament. The External Affairs Minister Shri Krishna will call on him. The President will be accompanied by a number of senior Ministers from the Tajik

It may be recalled that on April 13 the Official Spokesman of the Government of India in his response to developments in Syria had said: "We welcome the developments in Syria in response to the Mission of UN Special Envoy Kofi Annan. We hope this Mission will have further success in resolution of all issues leading to lasting peace in Syria."

Cabinet which is, I believe, eight or nine. In Goa he will meet the Governor of the State. In Bengaluru he will be again hosted by the Governor and is also expected to visit facilities like Infosys and HAL.

I think it will be useful to give some background on Tajikistan. As you would see from this map, Tajikistan lies in India's extended neighbourhood. It has borders with China of about 520 kilometres on the mountainous Pamiri region in the East, with Afghanistan of 1425 kilometres, a very porous border, with Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan on the North. Tajikistan across the Afghan Wakhan corridor at its narrowest point is just 16 kilometres from Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir. Hence, we call it a country in our extended neighbourhood.

Tajikistan became part of the Soviet Union in 1929 as the Tajik Soviet Socialist Republic. The country gained Independence from the Soviet Union in September 1991 and faced civil war from 1992 to 1997. President Rahmon was elected as de facto Head of State in 1992 - this would be already 20 years in power - and has continued in office ever since. The last Presidential election was held in 2006 in Tajikistan in which the President received a mandate for seven years. The next election for the Presidency is expected in 2013.

As for bilateral relations, they have traditionally been very close and friendly. We have had exchange of visits at higher levels which have cemented bilateral ties. President Pratibha Patil paid a state visit to Tajikistan in September 2009. President Rahmon himself has visited India four times in the past – in 1995, 1999, 2001 and 2006. Incidentally, the last time he was here he was known as President Rahmonov. The Russian 'ov' which forms the end of the name was removed in 2007. So, it is a more Tajikised name of President Rahmon now.

We have language similarities, similarities in customs, food, music, arts. These roots are from the ancient times even before the Kushana period. We share close relations with Tajikistan based on very ancient roots. In fact in the Kushana period we were part of the same political space.

We have several consultative mechanisms in place that reinforce high level visits. We have Foreign Office Consultations, a Joint Working Group on Terrorism, a Joint Commission on Trade, Economic and Scientific Cooperation, and we are of course discussing a few others that will be set up.

Over the years we have established a very strong development partnership with Tajikistan. This has elements of humanitarian assistance, of grant assistance, capacity-building, and a very robust partnership in defence based on capacity-building and training.

In keeping with our close bilateral relations, India has responded several times to humanitarian crises in Tajikistan. For example, in response to an appeal by President Rahmon for humanitarian aid to overcome the crisis caused by an unprecedented harsh winter in 2008, India announced a grant of two million

dollars. We have also provided assistance in 2009, in 2010 during floods. And after the outbreak of polio in the southwest Tajikistan, the Government of India provided two million doses of oral polio vaccine. This just illustrates the kind of relationship we have in the humanitarian sphere.

Our project assistance in the form of grants has also been significant. In 1995, for the first time India extended a credit line of five million dollars to establish a joint venture in pharmaceuticals. This was converted into a grant later. Similarly, we extended a grant to set up a fruit-processing plant, which was commissioned in 2005, during the visit of the Indian Prime Minister in 2003. We agreed to set up an Information Technology Centre which was inaugurated in 2006 and started functioning under the name of Bedil India-Tajikistan Centre.

During the last visit of President Rahmon to India in 2006, India announced that it would undertake rehabilitation and modernization of Varzob-I Hydropower Station by BHEL and NHPC. This project is virtually complete, and in the latter part of 2012 it is expected to start generating power. We have also set up a modern tool room which was at the State Technical University. This was announced then.

India also contributes very strongly to capacity-building in Tajikistan. We have 100 ITEC slots, which mean that about 100 Tajik students are coming annually to avail of these. And there are 25 general cultural scholarships which mean that 25 graduates are joining our universities each year. These are extremely popular among the Tajik young people. We are also in discussion with the Tajik partners to deepen this development partnership with a series of new projects which will be announced after this visit.

Tajikistan and India will have very close and active defence cooperation, apart from playing a major role in the development of the Gissar military aerodrome, India helped in the reconstruction of this aerodrome. This was inaugurated by President Rahmon in September 2010. India is also training Tajik officers and cadets both within Tajikistan as well as by sending them for various military courses in India including the NDA and IMA.

We have of course transportation barriers, as you see. We are not connected by land, and Tajikistan is a doubly landlocked country. This has reduced our trade and commerce to a level of just 40 million dollars of trade. The usual route for transportation of goods from India is by sea to the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas and from Bandar Abbas via Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan by land. This is not only time-consuming but prohibitive in terms of costs. Of late, we have been discussing various alternative routes for connecting, including making the North-South Transport Corridor more efficient. We have also been discussing trans-Afghan routes.

There have been some positive developments in terms of investment. There is

a five-star hotel coming up by the Crown Plaza or CHL Group in Dushanbe. There is also discussion in Bengaluru by a Bengaluru-based company for investments.

Tajikistan has been very supportive politically of India in UN bodies and other international organizations. And India has supported Tajikistan's accession to the WTO, and most recently on the 3rd of August, this month, a Protocol on Tajikistan's accession was signed in Dushanbe.

So, overall we have a strong partnership of long standing with growing cooperation in a number of strategic areas, and we expect all these areas to be bolstered by this visit.

Thank you.

Question: Ajay, can you give us an overall picture of our relationship with Central Asia, all those States which are a part of the Soviet Union a long time ago? A lot of oil and gas has been discovered in those countries. Are we looking for any kind of investments in oil and gas fields there? When Chabahar becomes operational, what are the chances of our trade with Central Asia going up?

Joint Secretary (ERS): That requires a very detailed answer but let me try and briefly tell you about Central Asia. Yes, of course, India has articulated this year a very proactive phase in our engagement with Central Asia. We call it the Connect Central Asia Policy. This policy is based on proactive engagement in a number of spheres – economic, defence, strategic, cultural and so on – and a few flagships projects including what we call the Central Asia E-Network. This is a network that will connect all Central Asian countries and provide telemedicine and tele-education. We already have huge IT cooperation with these countries with IT Centres of Excellence. That is a subject of great interest in all these countries. We have already strategic partnerships with Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan in this space, and we have very strong relations in terms of high-level exchange of visits with all these countries.

As for oil and gas, hydrocarbons is an extremely important objective of India in this region, not the only objective but certainly a major objective. As you know, three of these countries are rich in oil and gas. Kazakhstan is rich in oil. India in the last couple of years had a major breakthrough where OVL got a 25 per cent stake in the Satpayev oil block in the Caspian Sea, which makes us an important player in the oil and gas market of Kazakhstan.

With Turkmenistan, which is one of the largest gas producers in the world, we have as you know the TAPI pipeline, which again is a paradigm-shifting sort of energy initiative which will deliver gas to India hopefully by 2017. We are at a very crucial stage right now of going for the consortium. There are road shows planned in different parts of the world to hunt for the right consortium which can build this pipeline across Pakistan and Afghanistan and deliver gas to India. Of

course, we are talking with Uzbekistan as well about gas. We have uranium supplies from both Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.

Overall, it is a picture of very strong engagement which we have put into a higher gear or a higher level. Particularly in the hydrocarbons sector we have a very strong engagement.

Question: Since we have the map here, could you just outline the North-South Corridor and how it helps?

Joint Secretary (ERS): Sure. The North-South Corridor essentially goes from Mumbai to the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas. It is not quite here. The North-South Corridor is actually not represented in this map because it would go along Bandar Abbas port in North along the length of Iran to Bandar Anzali, a port in Northern Iran on the Caspian, then from there along the Caspian Sea to the Port of Astrakhan in Russia and onwards. But the central point about the North-South Corridor is that it is re-energizing an alternative route to Central Asia, and it is going to make transportation, hopefully at the end of it, forty per cent cheaper and faster. That is what it adds to the table. Incidentally for Tajikistan the route that is more important is one via the Trans-Afghanistan Corridor using either Chabahar or Bandar Abbas - they are just 300 kilometres from each other - but basically using then this route - the Mashhad and Zaranj-Delaram the road that India built - and along this there is talk of routes to Tajikistan. So, the North-South Corridor is an important additional corridor on the table, not the only one. And India has made a lot of efforts this year to re-energize it.

Question: There was a meeting in January about filling of the gaps that existed. What has been the progress? You were supposed to have meetings with all the countries.

Joint Secretary (ERS): There was a meeting in January with all the major stakeholders of the North-South Corridor. All the countries got together. India took the initiative. Again in May there was an expert-level meeting where we tried to talk about funding of those two gaps in terms of railways. We are now expected to have another meeting of the Coordination Council of the INSTC in Azerbaijan soon. So, it is moving fairly fast and we are hoping that we will have major breakthroughs in terms of filling those gaps and then doing the soft stuff, which is essentially making the customs and other arrangements easier.

Question: Are there any plans to upgrade the only military overseas facility we have in Tajikistan? In terms of defence relationship, are any new initiatives being planned?

Joint Secretary (ERS): As I mentioned, you will know of any new initiative of course after the visit in terms of its outcomes. But the Gissar military aerodrome which I mentioned is an airport where India has in terms of Development Assistance provided technical assistance in terms of upgrading that Soviet

airfield into a state-of-the-art, modern kind of facility for the Tajikistan State and the Tajikistan Government to use. We continue to discuss important initiatives in the military sector. As I said, this is an extremely important part of the relationship with Tajikistan. And of course you will come to know at the end of the visit what else we have arrived at.

Question: A follow-up to that question. Is India still engaged in the development of Ayni airbase?

Joint Secretary (ERS): Exactly what I said, Yes, India is engaged in the development of that facility. India is also engaged in training the Tajik cadets and Tajik army both in Tajikistan as well as in India.

Question: Sir, instead of the Government's earlier clinic at Farkhor, where is the new one going to be? Has work on it started? When is it going to be ready?

Joint Secretary (ERS): You will come to know at the end of the visit, if there is any development on that.

Question: Does the Farkhor Medical Unit still exist?

Joint Secretary (ERS): It does not.

Question: You mentioned Ayni and that the upgraded base was inaugurated by the President of Tajikistan in the September of 2010. But you have also told us that we are still engaged there. Could we have a little clarity about the kind of engagement we have at the moment?

Joint Secretary (ERS): As I said, we developed the airfield and we continue to cooperate with Tajikistan in maintenance of this facility.

Question: Sir, just can you give an idea of what kind of discussions will we have with Tajikistan on Afghanistan?

Joint Secretary (ERS): Afghanistan will certainly be an important issue that will be discussed during the visit. I cannot predict the outcomes of what is going to happen. But, as you know, in recent times there has been some instability in Southern Badakshan region on the northern border of Afghanistan. We will continue to discuss counterterrorism issues, issues of narco-trafficking and of instability in the region. And of course we could expect discussions between our leadership and Tajik President on the situation in Afghanistan and ways and means of stabilizing it.

Official Spokesperson: With that we come to the end of this interaction. Thank you very much.



431. Statement by the Prime Minister to the Media after the delegation level talks during the State Visit of President of Tajikistan.

New Delhi, September 3, 2012.

Distinguished representatives of the media,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have great pleasure in extending a very warm welcome to His Excellency Mr. Emomali Rahmon, President of Tajikistan, on his fifth State Visit to our country.

Tajikistan will celebrate the 21st anniversary of its independence on September 9. On this occasion, I wish to convey our best wishes to the people of Tajikistan and to congratulate President Rahmon on sagaciously guiding the destiny of his country for the last two decades.

Tajikistan is a key partner of India in the Central Asian region. We recently commemorated two decades of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries. President Rahmon and I agreed that in view of the broad progress made in our bilateral relations, particularly in defence and security cooperation, we should elevate our relations to a 'strategic partnership'.

President Rahmon and I are also in agreement on the need to enhance our trade and investment relations. I conveyed to President Rahmon our desire to see an early accession of Tajikistan to the WTO, which would assist in enhancing our bilateral trade. We also discussed opportunities for investments in free economic zones in Tajikistan. We hope to send a delegation from the private and public sectors to explore investment opportunities in these zones. Information technology, e-connectivity, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, textiles, leather goods, mining and renewable energy are some of the areas with high potential.

To intensify our developmental partnership, India has offered to undertake a series of development projects in Tajikistan. These include the setting up of an IT Centre of excellence, an e-network including tele-education and tele-medicine, medical centres, language laboratories, a fruit and vegetable processing plant and an Entrepreneurship Development Institute, as well as supply of agricultural machinery. We have also decided to enhance the number of training slots under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation training programme from 100 to 150 slots annually.

Cultural and people to people ties between our two countries date back centuries. The agreements signed today in the fields of culture and education will help renew such contacts.

The resumption of direct air links between New Delhi and Dushanbe by Tajik Air is a welcome development. However, surface connectivity challenges hinder the faster growth of our bilateral ties. We agreed to explore the possibility of establishing transport corridors, including rail lines, in cooperation with other countries of the region.

India and Tajikistan have common concerns regarding regional developments. President Rahmon and I exchanged views on the situation in the Central Asian region and beyond, particularly in the context of the security transition in Afghanistan. We also agreed to deepen our counter-terrorism cooperation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I once again welcome President Rahmon to India and now invite him to make his remarks.



TURKMENISTAN

432. Inaugural speech by Minister of State Shri E. Ahamed at the event to mark the 20th anniversary of establishment of Diplomatic Relations between India and Turkmenistan.

New Delhi, April 26, 2012.

Ambassador Soni

Ambassador Durdyev

Ambassador Afzal

Professor Nirmala Joshi

Distinguished guests

Ladies & Gentlemen

I am delighted to be here to inaugurate this event which marks the 20th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Turkmenistan. I compliment the Embassy of Turkmenistan, the Indo-Turkmen Friendship Society and the Centre of Advanced Regional Studies Parathethys in taking this initiative in organizing this event.

It is well-known that India and Turkmenistan have shared close, historical and civilization ties. We had close links with the present-day Turkmenistan during the Kushan Empire. The 'Silk Route' connected us in the past. Bairam Khan, who was the mentor of Emperor Akbar, was a Turkmen. His illustrious poet son Abdul Rahim Khan-e-khana contributed the Court of Emperor Akbar. The 'Turkmen Gate', built in 1650s in Delhi to honour Turkmen soldiers serving in the Mughal Army, testifies to a centuries-old relationship between our two countries.

I am fortunate to have visited Turkmenistan thrice; the first visit was in October 2006 as the Co-Chair of the Joint Commission, the second time in February 2007 to felicitate President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov on his assumption of office, and the third visit was in April 2008 as part of Hon'ble Vice President of India's delegation to Turkmenistan. We remember and value the Turkmen President's visit to India in May 2010. Allow me to take this opportunity to congratulate once again President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov on his re-election with a massive mandate earlier this year.

In presence of such a distinguished audience here let me highlight some important aspects which can help us to raise our bilateral relationship with Turkmenistan to a much higher pedestal in the years ahead:

- i) The proposed TAPI gas pipeline which aims to bring the Turkmen gas to India via Afghanistan and Pakistan is an ambitious project. Once completed, the project could change the entire region. There has been remarkable progress on the project till date. TAPI gas pipeline project has been described by our Hon'ble Prime Minister as the 'Pipeline of Peace'. The implementation of TAPI project will bring Central Asia and South Asia much closer in an enduring energy partnership for peace, development and prosperity of the peoples of the region.
- ii) Ashgabat is witnessing a construction boom. There are vast opportunities for Indian construction companies in Turkmenistan. We would certainly like our construction companies to become partners in infrastructural development of Turkmenistan.
- iii) India and Turkmenistan have an annual trade turnover limited to about US \$ 50-60 million. India exports pharmaceutical drugs, tyres, buffalo meat, electrical goods, etc. to Turkmenistan and imports raw hides & skin, iodine etc. from there. Our trade turnover is much below its potential. The Ministry of External Affairs is committed to give boost to the bilateral trade. I would also like various trade bodies like CII, FICCI, ASSOCHAM and India-CIS Chambers of Commerce to mount business delegations to Turkmenistan so as to expand our bilateral trade basket.
- iv) I am happy to note that an India-Turkmenistan IT Centre was inaugurated in October last and that this Centre has started conducting various IT courses for the students of Magtamyuly University. India, being an IT superpower, would be happy to share its expertise for the development of information & communication technology, telecommunication network, e-governance, etc. with Turkmenistan.
- v) Turkmenistan has great potential for tourism with the creation of National Tourist Zone of Avaza on the Caspian coast. We would be happy to see an increase in the two-way tourists' movement.
- vi) We are happy at the implementation of North-South Railway Corridor Project, expected to be completed next year, connecting Turkmenistan with Iran and Kazakhstan. On our part, we have also revived our efforts to increase connectivity with Central Asia through International North-South Transport Corridor. Increase connectivity in this region will benefit both India and Turkmenistan and will also boost bilateral trade.
- vii) We are committed to the human resource development of friendly country Turkmenistan through our ITEC and ICCR scholarships. We are ready to increase cooperation in this field.

- viii)** India cooperates with Turkmenistan at various international fora including the UN. We highly value the support extended by Turkmenistan for our candidature for a permanent seat at the expanded United Nations Security Council.

To conclude, I would like to say that we are determined in strengthening our ties with Turkmenistan, matching our historical ties, in the contemporary era. At the same time, our Ministry of External Affairs would welcome your ideas, suggestions and comments to deepen and widen our ties with Turkmenistan.

I wish this event a huge success.

Thank you.



UAE

433. Press Release on the Second India- UAE Foreign Office Consultations.

New Delhi, February 8, 2012.

The 2nd India- United Arab Emirates (UAE) Foreign Office Consultations took place in New Delhi today. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Sanjay Singh, Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs and the Emirati delegation was led by Dr Tariq Ahmad Al Hidan, Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of UAE. The two delegations discussed bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual concern.



434. Joint Media Interaction by External Affairs Minister and Foreign Minister of United Arab Emirates.

New Delhi, May 18, 2012.

External Affairs Minister (Shri S.M. Krishna): His Highness, Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Foreign Minister of the United Arab Emirates; friends from media:

This is for the third time His Highness, Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Foreign Minister of the United Arab Emirates and I are meeting in less than a year. It is an indication of the priority that each of us accords to our bilateral relations.

Today we focused particularly on our economic ties. We discussed the forthcoming 3rd India-Arab Economic Conclave to be hosted in Abu Dhabi on 21st and 22nd May 2012 and the proposed Road Show on investment in Abu Dhabi and Dubai that Indian officials intend to undertake in June so as to exchange information and clarify issues related to the investment climate in India.

The United Arab Emirates is our largest trading partner, significant contributor to our energy security, and hosts about 1.75 million Indian expatriates.

The United Arab Emirates' leadership is now keen to address the issue of investments to bring it on par with the multi-faceted relations we enjoy in all other sectors. I am happy to inform you that the two Governments have decided to set up a High Level Joint Task Force to explore further opportunities in the area of investments.

His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Zayed al Nahyan, the Managing Director of the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, and our Commerce, Industries and Textiles Minister Shri Anand Sharma will be leading the respective sides of the High Level Task Force.

Our bilateral relations have now acquired a new momentum and are progressing towards a comprehensive partnership for the mutual benefit of our countries.

Thank you.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Syed Akbaruddin): I now request His Excellency the Foreign Minister of the UAE to make his opening remarks.

Foreign Minister of UAE (Mr. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan): Good afternoon.

Dear friend, dear colleague Mr. Krishna, I am very honoured to be back here in Delhi and visiting India. The relationship between our two countries prolongs for

a period prior to the existence of our two nations as we know them now. The people-to-people relations between our two countries have been there for centuries, and we are very eager that we can even further facilitate this relationship in all means and forms.

It is extremely important to see the frequent flights between our two countries. The trade is extending to 50 billion dollars this year. The UAE is the fourth largest supplier of crude oil to India. We have almost two million Indians visiting and living in the UAE. We are very proud of that. I think there is a lot we could do. I am very delighted that both our Governments have reached an agreement on having a Joint Investment Task Force with very senior officials on both sides. We are working together not only in developing our investments in India but in looking at future investments in India.

India is not only a very important ally and a neighbour to the UAE but it is a booming economy worldwide. There is potential of one trillion dollar of investment in India in the next five years. India is looking for half of that amount to come from abroad. We would very much like to see a strong UAE presence in that.

Minister, you visited the UAE on the 16th of April. We had a very good visit. You rightly mentioned that this is our third meeting in the last year. It is extremely important that we keep in touch on bilateral relationship between our two countries but also in exchanging our views in a very dynamic region that both of us live in.

I am sure we will have even more time during lunch to discuss developments in the peace process between Israel and Palestine, discuss the Iran nuclear file, discuss the security in the Arabian Gulf, discuss the very vibrant and developing relationship in the last couple of months which we are very much pleased about between Pakistan and India, discuss the future of Afghanistan.

We will also have the opportunity to talk about the importance of securing maritime access in the Gulf of Aden, stabilizing and supporting the Government in Somalia. So, there is a huge agenda in front of us both on investment, trade but also on security and political matters.

Your Excellency, once again thank you very much for your kind words, and thank you very much for your robust support for the relationship between our two countries. I really hope that we could meet again soon and report to the media even further developments in the relationship.

Official Spokesperson: The two Ministers have agreed to take a few questions.

Question (Mr. N.C. Bipindra, IANS): This question is to the Indian External Affairs Minister.

There have been plans of increasing oil imports from the UAE. Have you discussed this issue with your counterpart? What was the result of it?

External Affairs Minister: India's economy is one of the fastest growing economies in the world. As a result of that, the need for increased import of oil and other energy sources is of extreme critical importance to us. And in the United Arab Emirates we have a dependable supplier of oil which India needs so badly.

In 2010, we imported 12 million tonnes, and in 2011 we increased it to 14 million tonnes. So, this should be the indication of the rate at which our imports from the UAE are going up. It is basically our refineries which make decisions on import of oil, and they are based on technical, economical and commercial considerations. Given the United Arab Emirates' advantages on all these fronts, it is likely that this trend of the UAE continuing to meet our needs of energy security will be maintained.

We also discussed the possibilities of cooperating not only on increase in oil imports but also investment opportunities in this sector. The Task Force on Investments, we will certainly look into this matter also.

Question (Ms. Shohrat Aref, MENA): The UAE is an important source of energy to India. Do you intend to increase your exports to India in the coming period?

Foreign Minister of UAE: As you know, the UAE is a large exporter of crude oil, and we keep on trying to improve our capacity when it comes to production and export. Looking at many of our strategic plans, we do not only try to increase our exports but also to diversify our own ways where we use our own resources. That is why we invest very heavily in renewable energies, we are trying to invest in nuclear energy so we can offset further our capacity to the world market.

No doubt, we would like to see more UAE energy exports to India, especially when it comes to crude oil. I believe as we speak, there are talks between our officials and they are looking at these venues. But even further, as Mr. Krishna rightly mentioned, we would like to see a UAE presence in downstream investments in India when it comes to petrochemical, energy production, etc. It is not only a step that we would like to take today but there are several steps down the road that we would like to develop among our two countries.

Question (Mr. Ashok Sharma): Given the existing cooperation between the two countries, I would like to ask the two Ministers, is there any possibility of jointly tackling the maritime pirates in a very specific manner?

External Affairs Minister: We attach great importance to working with all other countries including the United Arab Emirates to counter the scourge of piracy on the high seas. When I visited Abu Dhabi last month, we had very extensive discussions on this issue. Both of us have agreed that our officials will work together and cooperate on tackling this menace collectively. We intend to share

our knowledge, our intelligence, and cooperate effectively on this issue with the United Arab Emirates so that we as a group could tackle this scourge.

Foreign Minister of UAE: Resolving piracy will not come unless we can resolve Somalia. It is very important that at a time when we face piracy in the Gulf of Aden and beyond actually, which I am very much pleased that the UAE and India are working very closely on, its key where we can resolve the source of this problem which is the lack of government, of unity, of the void that has been created in Somalia. We are working very closely with the Central Government in Mogadishu but also with the local governments in Somalia where we could further not only help and support but try to get them together, and beyond by engaging with the African Union, in helping Somalia, in supporting many of their difficulties let alone poverty and drought. But beyond that, where we can help them building their capacity in every way and form. That is the only way where we can make sure that the source of piracy is resolved. And here also the help and the cooperation between our two countries to Somalia and to the African Union is vital and key.

Question (Ms. Geeta Mohan, Times Now): My question is to the External Affairs Minister of India. It is on a very different issue, Sir.

Over a thousand of Indians are stranded in Angola. What has the Government been doing on this entire matter? Also, what is the message on the police brutality against the Indians in Angola when the Ambassador met with the Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs yesterday?

External Affairs Minister: I am personally following issues related to the problems that the Indian workers unfortunately are facing in Angola. It is engaging our most serious attention. I am sure that all efforts will be made to ensure a swift resolution of the issues involved. And those workers who want to come back to India I think that could be arranged swiftly and without any difficulty. We have done it before elsewhere, and we are willing to do it here in Angola. About their financial transactions, and their compensation and whatever it is, I think we will be taking it up with the company concerned, the employer. And I hope that we should be able to resolve the issue.

Official Spokesperson: With that, we come to the end of this event.

Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen.



YEMEN

435. Intervention by Minister of State E. Ahmed at the Third Ministerial Meeting of the Friends of Yemen in Riyadh.

Riyadh, May 23, 2012.

Mr Chairman, His Royal Highness Prince Saud Al Faisal

His Excellency, Mohammad Basindawa, Prime Minister of Yemen

Friends of Yemen

And distinguished invitees,

At the outset, let me congratulate the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the United Nations for having initiated the process of peaceful political transition in Yemen, thereby preventing the country and the region from plunging into a new turmoil.

I take this opportunity to strongly condemn ghastly terrorist attack on national day of Yemen and we express our heartfelt condolences to the people of Yemen. I also share the sentiments of other speakers that such incidents serve only to further strengthen our resolve to fight the forces of terrorism.

India supports peace, security, stability and territorial integrity of Yemen. We are aware of the extraordinary political, security, economic and humanitarian challenges faced by Yemen in the current times. In this hour of need for Yemen, India expresses its solidarity with the people and Government of Yemen in addressing the various challenges being faced by Yemen. Keeping in view our ancient civilizational links and close friendship with Yemen, India has decided to join the 'Friends of Yemen Group' with a view to strengthen the international efforts in assisting Yemen in this critical phase in the history of Yemen.

India already has an elaborate programme of capacity building and training in specialized fields for Yemeni citizens. Likewise hundreds of students avail of educational scholarships offered by Government of India. India is also conscious of needs of Yemen in the humanitarian fields. A consignment of rice valued at USD 2 million equivalent is on its way to Yemen. In addition, in our engagement under the 'Friends of Yemen Group', we would be happy to look at specific proposals for assistance from Government of Yemen, particularly in the field of training, capacity building, entrepreneurship development, the employment generating Small and Medium sector, education and Information Technology within the bilateral framework or under India's programme for assisting the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

Projects and Programmes considered urgent and necessary by Government of

Yemen can be converted into Feasibility Reports that can be made available to Government of India for consideration under the umbrella of Credit lines for LDCs already announced by India during the India-LDC Ministerial Conference in New Delhi on February 18-19, 2011 and the UN LDC Meeting at Istanbul, Turkey on May 9-13, 2011.

Yemen can also benefit from concrete ideas and proposals that would emerge during India's chairmanship of the Indian-Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) of which Yemen was a former Chairman and an active member.

With these few words, I would like to wish the friendly people of Yemen continued progress, peace and prosperity and reassure them of India's support as the country traverses through a crucial phase in its history.



INDIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS - 2012

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AFRICA

436. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Commerce announcing US \$ one million grant for the Project for Craftswomen of Africa.

New Delhi, January 10, 2012.

Shri Anand Sharma, Commerce, Industries and Textiles Minister announced that the National Institute of Design (NID) India is undertaking a project for training and exposure to craftswomen of rural Africa to empower them through design intervention in basketry making, as part of the India-Africa Forum Summit Action Plan. The announcement came during his meeting with Prof. Welshman Ncube, Ministry of Industry & Commerce of Zimbabwe at Harare yesterday. The initiative will cover five African countries at a cost of US \$ one million over a period of three years. "This collaboration between the ancient civilizations with rich tradition in craft skills will further strengthen the bonds between India and Africa", said Shri Sharma.

The project will be launched in Zimbabwe in February 2012 with the team from NID visiting Zimbabwe for identification of 25 craftswomen, who would be later trained in India, in collaboration with New Basket Workshop Foundation, an African NGO. The project aims at women empowerment through skill enhancement and appropriate marketing through leading Indian brands like Fab-India.

The Indian Minister assured that India will assist Zimbabwe in reviving its textile sector. India will provide skills training and also help in the development of textiles clusters. The two Ministers also reiterated the need for enhancing and diversifying the bilateral trade between the two countries which currently stood at US \$ 128 million. The two Ministers also agreed to convene the meeting of the Joint Trade Committee within the next six months.



437. Speech by Minister of State for External Affairs, Smt. Preeti Kaur at the inaugural session of India-Africa Science & Technology Ministerial Conference

New Delhi, March 1, 2012.

Hon'ble Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Shri Vilasrao Deshmukh

Hon'ble Minister of State for Science & technology and Planning, Dr. Ashwani Kumar

Hon'ble Minister of Scientific research of Arab Republic of Egypt, Chair of the African Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology, Dr. Nadia Eskander Zakhary

Hon'ble Commissioner of Human Resources, Science and Technology of African Union Commission,

Prof. Jean Pierre O Ezin

Hon'ble Ministers from Africa,

Excellencies,

Delegation Members

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted and deeply honoured to have this opportunity to welcome this distinguished gathering of Ministers and delegates for the India-Africa Science & Technology Ministerial Conference and Tech Expo.

India has always felt a special solidarity with Africa. In more contemporary times, the ties of friendship that bind us were forged in our common struggle against colonial domination and apartheid. India is keen for a reinvigorated and multi-dimensional India-Africa relationship. The tradition has continued under the rubric of the India Africa Forum Summit that paves the way for India and Africa in the areas of technology transfer, economic cooperation and capacity building. This new paradigm of cooperation aims at building upon the historical trust, goodwill and political engagement between India and Africa to create a modern functional partnership for mutual benefit.

We have now embarked upon an intensive and all-encompassing engagement with the African countries to implement important decisions that India and Africa took together at the first and second India Africa Forum Summits held in April 2008 and May 2011 respectively.

It is a matter of great satisfaction that today we are fulfilling one of the important commitments made at the first India Africa Forum Summit by organising the S&T Ministerial Conference. We are confident that the Science and Technology exposition will provide an opportunity to witness, appreciate and share various technologies. It will also help to develop an understanding for science, technology and innovation systems in the African continent.

Excellencies,

India's visionary Prime Minister Shri Jawaharlal Nehru considered institutions of scientific knowledge as "temples of learning" and "places of pilgrimage". The spirit of this vision echoes, as under IAFS-I and IAFS-II, India has committed more than 100 capacity building institutions in Africa. This manifests our desire to build African capacities for both human and natural resources. Among the institutions, that we propose to establish and which have direct impact in the field of science and technology are; Food Processing Cluster, Medium Range Weather Forecasting Centre, University for Life and Earth Sciences, Soil, water and Tissue Testing Laboratories, Farm Science Centers, Material Testing Laboratories for Highways, Rural Technology Parks, Food Testing Laboratories, Centres on Geo-Informatic Applications and Rural Development, Women Solar Engineer vocational Training Centers, besides Information Technology Centers. The Addis Ababa Declaration and the Africa India Framework for Enhanced Cooperation adopted at the end of the second Summit will now guide our systematic enhanced engagement with Africa in the coming years.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Demonstrating India's continued commitment to development in Africa, India has successfully implemented the Pan-African e-Network Project including tele-education, tele-medicine and connectivity between leaders in 47 African countries. An agreement has also been signed for its implementation in the 48th country, South Sudan recently.

To further strengthen these issues in Africa, there is a provision for 22,000 new scholarships for African Students in various academic courses and training programmes including special agriculture scholarships and C.V. Raman fellowships. India has offered more than 700 CV Raman Scientific Fellowships till 2014. So far more than 150 post-doctorates from Africa have availed the fellowships. We hope that this would help in building capacity for scientific research in Africa.

As per India's commitment to assist African countries in the field of Science & Technology, proposals for institutional strengthening of identified institutions in Africa and transfer of need based technologies have also been initiated. We are happy that the delegates from all the three institutes are present here and hope that they will have fruitful discussions with their India interlocutors. My ministry

will support all these initiatives through its "Aid to Africa" budget and has duly secured approvals from the Cabinet to take this vast new agenda for cooperation with Africa forward.

In conclusion the camaraderie India shares with Africa would enhance technical collaboration, transfer of technology and greater participation by the young and dynamic populations of both India and Africa.

The next India Africa Forum Summit is slated for 2014 and our endeavour will be to implement as many decisions of the two Summits that have taken place so far as possible and take India-Africa cooperation to a new height by adopting mutually beneficial idea.

I thank you for your attention and wish you all a pleasant stay in India.



438. Press Release on the First India-Africa Science & Technology Ministers' Conference.

New Delhi, March 2, 2012.

The First India-Africa Science & Technology Ministers Conference and Tech Expo was held on 1-2 March 2012 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The inaugural session was addressed by Shri Vilasrao Deshmukh Hon'ble Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Smt. Preneet Kaur, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, Dr. Ashwani Kumar, Hon'ble Minister of State for Science & Technology and Planning from Indian side and Dr. Nadia Eskander Zakhary, Hon'ble Minister of Scientific Research of Arab Republic of Egypt (Chair of African Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology) and Prof. Jean Pierre O Ezin Commissioner of Human Resources, Science & Technology of African Union Commission from African side. Following the inaugural session of the Conference, the Ministers visited the Tech Expo which was organized to showcase and share the best technologies.

2. Over 150 delegates from over 40 African countries attended the conference including 30 African Ministers dealing with Science and Technology, representatives from African Union Commission, and representatives from African Regional Economic Communities. Various round table sessions were held during the two days which focused on the following areas: Capacity building in Science and Technology, Science & Technology for development, Knowledge transfer & adoption and research areas of mutual interest.

3. India agreed to strengthen the three selected regional institutions in Africa such as Institute Pasteur of Tunisia, Institute of Mathematics and Physical Sciences of Benin and School of Science and Technology of Masuku in Gabon. The conference addressed the common societal needs such as affordable health care, water technology, climate change, agricultural science, food processing technologies, renewable energy, and Information & Communication technology, women in Science & Technology etc.

4. The conference ended with issuing of India- Africa Science & Technology Ministers Conference Declaration which put forth the action plan for the future cooperation in the field of Science and Technology.

5. The conference was organized in New Delhi as per India's commitment made at the first India Africa Forum summit. Under the India Africa Forum summit, India has committed more than 100 capacity building institutions in Africa, provided 22,000 new scholarships for African students in various academic courses and training programmes including Special Agricultural Scholarships and C V Raman Fellowships.



439. Address by the Prime Minister at the Inauguration of Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Afro-Asian Rural Development Organization

New Delhi, March 5, 2012.

The Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, participated in the inauguration of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the Afro-Asian Rural Development Organization in New Delhi today. Following is the text of the Prime Minister's address on the occasion.

"I am delighted to participate in this inaugural session of the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Afro Asian Rural Development Organisation. I welcome each one of the distinguished participants from the friendly countries of Asia and Africa.

It was more than 50 years back that India took the initiative to host the 1st Afro-Asian Conference on Rural Reconstruction here in this historic city of New Delhi. The far-sighted leaders of Asia and Africa recognized the need for cooperation in the development of agriculture and rural development among the newly liberated countries of the South. This historic Conference led subsequently to the establishment of the Afro-Asian Rural Development Organization which stands today as a shining symbol of South-South Cooperation.

Over much of the last century, the people of Asia and Africa fought together, shoulder to shoulder, to liberate themselves from colonial domination. Today the challenges we face are different but equally daunting. There are threats to international peace. The processes of globalization and the growing interdependence among nations pose fundamental new challenges to our economic sustenance. We face the rising aspirations of our teeming millions who demand and deserve nutritious food, clean drinking water, quality education and affordable health care.

In India, we have attempted to bring about rural reconstruction through development programmes aimed at poverty alleviation, employment generation, infrastructure development and provision for social security. In recent years, rapid economic growth has provided revenues to fund a massive expansion in our anti-poverty programmes. We have learnt important lessons in the process of implementing them and have adapted our strategies for intervention. We have empowered and democratized local bodies to make them principal instruments of implementing targeted schemes and programmes. We have directed large resources towards human development to enable the poor to benefit from the processes of economic reform and modernization. With a view to softening the harsh edges of poverty, we have introduced a landmark

employment guarantee scheme named after the Father of our Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, that assures a hundred days of employment to every rural household. Many challenges remain and we continue to explore new ideas and new means to reach out to the poor, particularly in the most backward and remote areas of our country and areas beset with violence and conflict.

India has a vision for a partnership with Africa to deal with some of these common challenges of the 21st century. That is why we initiated the India-Africa Forum Summit process in the year 2008, during which the leaders of India and Africa agreed on a Framework for Cooperation for a sustainable and wide-ranging partnership in development.

The first area of cooperation identified under this framework was agriculture. The thrust of the first phase of cooperation in this sector is on capacity building. We hope and trust this will complement the good work being done by the Afro-Asian Rural Development Organization, which runs international training programmes in seven member countries.

India will provide more than 500 new scholarships over the next few years particularly in agricultural sciences. We have earmarked 700 Science fellowships named after the celebrated Indian Nobel Laureate C.V.Raman for Africa. 150 African students have already been awarded this prestigious fellowship. We are also conducting short term training courses in areas such as water conservation, livestock and fisheries production, farm mechanization and post-harvest processing & value addition.

We have also agreed to pool our intellectual resources in the area of development planning. Joint studies have been planned on cotton production in Africa and on integrated water resource development and management of five different river basins in Africa.

Institution building is another important facet of our cooperation. We have earmarked about US \$ 100 million for establishing various institutions including the India Africa Institute of Agriculture and Rural Development, soil water and tissue testing laboratories, farm science centres, agricultural seeds production-cum-demonstration centres and rural technology parks in different parts of Africa. We hope that these initiatives will become intellectual hubs for agricultural studies and research for development.

We have to use science, innovation and entrepreneurship to give a boost to growth and employment in our rural economies. We are funding training and capacity building of 350 persons from Sub-Saharan Africa in the area of food processing.

We have approved lines of credit worth nearly US\$ one billion for projects in

rural Africa in the sugar sector, for rural power transmission and purchase of agricultural machinery.

We should encourage more investment and trade in agriculture between Asia and Africa. For this, the role of the private sector is also important. I am happy that Indian investment is flowing into Africa in areas such as agro-processing, agricultural machinery and floriculture. Indian farm technologies and practices are, I believe, quite relevant for African conditions and we should encourage such technology and investment flows. In the health sector too, Indian pharmaceutical companies are helping to combat AIDS in Africa.

Last year, the Prime Minister of Ethiopia and my friend, His Excellency Mr. Meles Zenawi made an important speech on the subject of 'Green Economy and Structural Transformation in Africa'.

In that historic speech he said that the resource base of agriculture in Africa is very seriously threatened and that green development is central to transforming agriculture in the African continent. He also spoke of the enormous untapped renewable energy resources available in Africa, not the least being the bio-energy potential that would come with the greening of African agriculture.

I believe that in the future we will need to tackle the short term and long term environmental challenges that our economies face. Our scientists and experts have to reflect on technologies and processes that are most suitable for our rural conditions and circumstances, both in Africa and in Asia.

We have to work together to build a favourable international regime that enables us to access funds and green technologies for rural economic and social growth. We should put our heads together to work for the best outcomes at the Climate change negotiations and the forthcoming Rio + 20 Conference in Brazil.

In pursuing our common goals, we should draw upon our own knowledge, our traditions and wisdom. The Nobel Laureate Ms. Wangari Maathai emphasized the importance of a holistic approach to development, as exemplified by the Green Belt Movement, which linked environmental preservation with women's empowerment, democracy and peace. In her Nobel lecture she said "I have always believed that solutions to most of our problems must come from us".

At the last Indian Science Congress, I was delighted to meet the members of the tribal community of Koraput, in the Indian State of Odisha. They had just been honoured by the Food and Agricultural Organization which had accorded the status of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System to the traditional agricultural system they practiced.

So there is much to study and learn from each other.

Three quarters of the world's poor live in Asia and Africa. Rural reconstruction and poverty eradication are, therefore, fundamental to our plans for sustainable development and inclusive growth. The Afro-Asian Rural Development Organization has the potential of playing a vital role in our collective battle against hunger, disease and despair that afflict large segments of populations in India and in Africa. I reiterate India's full commitment to the ideals and objectives of the Organization and conclude by expressing our firm belief that the Organization will scale new heights under the distinguished leadership of Egypt. With these words I once again welcome all our guests, Their Excellencies, Ministers, Ambassadors from all friendly countries of Asia and Africa."



440. Inaugural Address by Minister of State Smt Preeti Kaur at the 8th CII - EXIM Bank Conclave on India Africa Project Partnership "Creating Possibilities; Delivering Values" 2012.

New Delhi, March 19, 2012.

Excellency Ms. Joice Mujuru, Vice President of Zimbabwe,

Excellency Mr. Faustin Archangel Touadera, Prime Minister of Central African Republic

Hon'ble Ministers,

Eminent Heads of Institutions;

Industrialists;

Shri T C A Ranganathan, CMD, EXIM Bank;

Shri Syamal Gupta, Chairman, CII Africa Committee

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to participate at this inaugural session on "India –Africa : Partners in Progress" of the 8th CII EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership, 2012 "Creating Possibilities; Delivering Values". I welcome you all the Ministers and delegates who have come from Africa. Your visit and participation in this conclave makes it more meaningful. I am also delighted to welcome the young parliamentarians, Journalists and Secretary Generals of various African Chambers of Commerce and Industry. Your presence here, Excellencies is an affirmation of our common resolve and shared vision. I am happy that your visit to India takes place at the time of 8th CII EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership, 2012. India has institutionalised its partnership with Africa to deal with the common challenges of development in the 21st Century under the rubric of the India-Africa Forum Summits. The IAFS process has provided a new direction for greater collaboration in the areas of technology transfer, economic cooperation and capacity building. In fact the tripod on which the India-Africa relationship stands today with the resonance of South-South cooperation is that of technology, investment and training.

2. Recognising the trends towards regional integration in Africa we have created a three-tiered cooperation at the Pan-African, regional and bilateral levels with Africa. Under the decisions IAFS process, India would be establishing more than 100 capacity building institutions in Africa. There is also a provision for 22,000 scholarships for African students in various academic courses and

training programmes including Special Agriculture Scholarships and C. V. Raman Scientific fellowships. Besides, we intend to organise several workshops and conferences. In the last 6 months we have already organised 15 workshops or Conferences including the India-Africa Hydrocarbon Conference, India-Africa Science and Technology Ministers Conference, and a conference to enhance economic partnership.

3. At the Second India-Africa Forum Summit, held in Addis Ababa in May 2011 a series of new initiatives were announced with regard to establishment of various capacity building institutions which includes India- Africa Food Processing Cluster; India-Africa integrated Textile Cluster; India- Africa Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting; India-Africa University for Life and Earth Sciences; India- Africa Institute of Agriculture and Rural Development etc. These will be established at PAN-African level and the location of these institutions will be decided by the African Union. We are also setting up 32 institutions at regional level and approximately 40 Institutions at Bilateral level. I hope this will support the endeavour to achieve millennium development goals in Africa.

4. India has a large exposure through the Lines of Credit in Africa. During the Second India-Africa Forum Summit in May 2011 the Prime Minister of India announced the availability of Line of Credit of US \$ 5 billion in the next 3 years. These Lines of Credit will support the development of infrastructure and expansion of industries and encourage the private sector to invest in Africa and the like.

5. It gives me pleasure to share with you that our capacity building training programmes under the framework of IAFS-I & II have been widely appreciated by our African partners. We have already conducted more than 50 special Training programmes so far which have been attended by more than 1000 participants from 43 African Countries.

6. While India today stands as an important partner with Africa we have realised that the world is changing rapidly. At this conclave we aim at creating a new understanding in the fast changing global economy and realise that we among the developing countries, must not depend only on traditional markets but must develop new markets as well and I am happy to note that India's trade with Africa has increased by more than 35 % during 2010-11 from the previous year. This CII Conclave "Creating Possibilities; Delivering Values" aims at enhancing an understanding, recognising the new conditions and the emerging opportunities so that our partnership and engagement becomes more fruitful.

7. India's economic growth and investment in education, human resource development, infrastructure and service sector has brought forth immense opportunities for modern India. We believe that this experience is a basis for sharing with Africa and for creating opportunities for cooperation and business

partnerships. I am happy to state that the initiative taken by India for the PAN-African e-network project is functional in 47 African Countries and providing tele-medicine and tele-education facilities.

8. Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is matter of immense pride for us that we have just launched the India-Africa Business Council and convened the first meeting of Council. This Council will facilitate and enhance our business engagements. We have also concluded the Second India- Africa Trade Ministers meeting which has provided a unique platform to enhance our Business engagement. I am confident that these initiatives which recognise the development cooperation between India and Africa would have a positive impact on our societies and people to people contact. I would urge that the measures that we have outlined will lead to the development of stronger partnership, evolution of new areas of trade and investment and endeavour to enhance economic partnership between India and Africa.

9. Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I have briefly touched upon the areas of cooperation that we undertake with Africa through the processes of the India Africa Summits. Our emphasis on nurturing human resources, building African capacities and enhance value addition and processing of African resources and commodities is unflinching. We are committed to work with Africa for fulfilling its developmental aspirations and we know both the pain and the pleasure of the processes of development in a democratic framework for multi-cultural and pluralistic societies. We believe that such a vast canvas needs multi-faceted attention and that is why my Ministry, which largely provides the budget for many of these activities, has tried to bring together various important groups of our African friends to also have associated with the India-Africa conclave. This manifests our desire to do business with Africa with a human face.

10. I wish you a pleasant stay in India and fruitful deliberations.



**441. Media Interaction of Minister of State for External Affairs
Smt. Preneet Kaur with journalists from Africa.**

New Delhi, March 20, 2012.

Dear friends from Africa, at the outset I would like to wish you a very warm welcome to India and to the Ministry of External Affairs. You represent 12 of our closest friends in Africa, and we are delighted to have you in India. I do hope that your visit so far has been good.

You have come at the time when there is the CII-Exim Bank Conclave, the eighth one on the India-Africa Project Partnership. I was privileged to interact with the Hon'ble Vice-President of Zimbabwe, and the Hon'ble Prime Minister of the Central African Republic, and many other Ministers who had come from various other nations yesterday at the Conclave.

As you all know, our ties with Africa are centuries old and through these centuries we have nourished a very good people-to-people contact and engagement. We have been partners in the struggle against colonialism. We are in the 21st century, and we have now moved to a new paradigm. We seek to cooperate with each other to build a better life for all our peoples. This partnership is anchored in the fundamental principles of equality, mutual respect, and mutual benefit.

Africa figures very prominently on our foreign policy radar in India. It is one of our most valued relationships and associations. We have created a three-tier engagement with Africa at the pan-African level, regional, and bilateral level. These levels are dealt through the rubric of the India-Africa Summits. The guiding principles here are: to work together for capacity-building, human resource development, science and technology cooperation, enhancing agricultural productivity, food security, development of infrastructure, and in other areas.

At the Second Africa-India Summit in May 2011, a series of new initiatives were announced. Here we are going to establish various capacity-building institutions. These include: the Africa Food Processing Cluster, the India-Africa Integrated Textile Cluster, the India-Africa Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting, the India-Africa University for Life and Earth Sciences, and the India-Africa Institute of Agriculture and Rural Development. All these institutions will be established at the pan-Africa level, and the location of these institutes will be decided by the African Union.

We are also setting up 32 institutions at the regional level, and about 40 institutions at the bilateral level. There are 22,000 scholarships for African students in various academic courses, training programmes, especially for agriculture, and the C.V. Raman scientific fellowships. We hope that these will help you all achieve your Millennium Development Goals.

I think you all should be familiar with the Pan-African e-Network Programme. This is going to be in 53 countries and it is already providing tele-medicine and tele-education facilities in 47 countries. The meeting which you have come for, the CII Exim Bank Partnership and Development Conclave between India and Africa is the outcome and it will help the five billion dollar line of credit in the next three years that our Prime Minister announced at the last India Africa Forum Summit in May 2011. These lines of credit will support the development of infrastructure, expansion of industry, and encourage the private sector to invest in Africa.

I recently had a very successful and very good visit to the beautiful countries of Rwanda and Burundi. I would like to build on these successful visits and to the other countries that I have been to in your very beautiful continent.

India and Africa have common objectives, that is, to ensure that the voice of the developing countries in the world is given due attention. Media, as you know, in every country plays a pivotal role in creating better awareness of the openings and possibilities. That is why we are facilitating the exchange of journalists between India and Africa, and we are really very pleased to welcome you here.

I understand that you have already, during your week long stay here, been to Agra, and you are going to Ahmedabad. I hope that you will enjoy them and this will give you a glimpse of not only the abiding partnership that India and Africa have but also the special warmth India and her people have for our brothers and sisters in Africa. I wish you a very pleasant stay.

Thank you very much.

Question: This is a session where there is a competition for African resources between China and India. Can you make a comment on this from India's point of view? What do you say is the difference between China-Africa interaction and India-Africa interaction?

Minister of State for External Affairs: I would not like to comment on the China-Africa interaction because that is your bilateral interaction, i.e., between the specific countries and China. As far as India is concerned, we consider not just an economic relationship; it is a relationship that goes way beyond that, many centuries. It is a relationship built on each of us being there for the other in once difficult time, against the colonial rule, against apartheid. Also, it is a relationship in which, as I said, we have mutual respect for each other and we want to help in your capacity-building so that your people can take care of your needs. Whichever way we can help you to develop the role and the ability of your people to be able to best serve your own country and how you would like to develop, that is important for us to know how to go forward in our relationship.

If there is anything else I would ask Shri Gurjit Singh, Additional Secretary (Eastern and Southern Africa) who is much more seasoned than I am, because he has been our Ambassador there and very good in looking after our relations with Africa. Maybe he can throw some light on a few more things.

Additional Secretary (East & Southern Africa) (Shri Gurjit Singh): I recall Madam when she spoke at African Union Executive Council two years ago. What she said was, for India the best African resources do not lie under the ground, but live on it. I think that is our approach. We believe that the real, good resources of Africa – they are also under the ground but - the human resource is the best. So, one of the significant departures I think of any other partnership and Africa, is that India focus on human resource development and capacity-building.

Question: Madam Minister, I would like to know whether you are thinking in terms of dealing with human rights as well apart from collaboration in different industries.

Additional Secretary (E&SA): Our policy towards Africa is worked on the basis that the best model of your development in a democratic manner is your own. So, we have no prescription for you. But yes, if you have acceded to international values, then you should abide by that. But if you choose to be democratic and abide by human values, follow the elections, India will help you to built capacities in those areas. And this is enshrined in the Addis Ababa Declaration which was signed between India and Africa at the Second Summit in Addis Ababa in May last year.

Question: I would like to talk about the relationship between India and some other countries in the world. But in ...(Unclear)... from the western world that Iran ...(Unclear)... Is India likely to increase its oil supplies from African countries?

Minister of State for External Affairs: Oil is one of the greatest energy demands that every country has, and it is an increasing demand. I would not at this stage like to comment on Iran. We have a separate relationship with Iran. So, that does not come between our relationship here. Certainly because of the increasing demand for oil, I am sure that India will look at increasing buying of oil from Africa?

Question: You were speaking about the five billion dollars which have been set aside. I would like to know what exactly that is. Is it a loan of some sort? What kind of system will be followed as opposed to other institutions and which industries?

Additional Secretary (E&SA): The five billion dollar provides soft loans, and Senegal is already a beneficiary. I cannot easily recall which projects but the

projects are chosen by the Africans countries, not by us.

Question: What are the modes? Can you give some more details?

Additional Secretary (E&SA): For a country like Senegal we provide a loan at 1.75 per cent for a repayment period of 20 years.

Question: I am representing the National Press Agency which is part of the Government of Niger. I am happy that India is also collaborating with us. Earlier we were only doing projects with France and now, of course, we have moved on to do with China on petrol, and Canada in gold for example. What I would like to know is if we could also get a credit for the improvement of our agencies which requires large equipment to become a bigger project, - whether it could be a Government-connected project or whether private enterprise -can also be involved in developing this agency.

Additional Secretary (E&SA): First of all I would say that at the Addis Ababa AU Summit in January, our delegation and the new Foreign Minister of Niger had a very good meeting. As a result of that meeting, an Indian delegation would be going to Niger very soon to discuss the priorities of the Government of Niger, of what they want from us. If they tell us that they want this institute, we will help them. We do not set the priorities. Possibility, yes. Private sector, public sector, both, yes.



442. Statement by Minister of State Mrs. Preneet Kaur on New Partnership for Africa's Development; Causes of Conflict and the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa at the joint debate in UNGA.

New York, October 17, 2012.

Mr. President,

I am honoured to address this august assembly at today's Joint Debate on the New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support, causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa including on the decade to Roll Back Malaria in developing countries.

Allow me to convey our sincerest appreciation to the Secretary General for his timely and extremely informative report on the agenda items under discussion today.

Mr. President,

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) articulates both a vision and a strategic socio economic development framework for Africa.

India applauds the progress achieved by Africa in the implementation of NEPAD priorities over the last ten years through multi sectoral initiatives in agriculture, infrastructure, health, education, science, information technology and environment.

However, despite these positive strides, serious challenges remain to be addressed before the African continent can achieve all round development and prosperity.

Extreme poverty, hunger, lack of adequate nutrition, conflicts and other malaises continue to shackle the tremendous potential of the African people.

It is therefore important to acknowledge that addressing Africa's development needs and challenges requires an unwavering commitment backed by resolute action, not only from within Africa, but equally important, from outside the continent.

It is imperative that the international community remain resolute in its support for Africa through sustained cooperation including transfer of technology, resources, and an enabling international environment.

As has been pointed in Secretary General's report, as a proportion of total OECD global aid allocation in 2011, Africa's share remained virtually unchanged at a mere 37 percent.

Indeed, till date, Africa has received only around half of the pledged increase made at the Group of Eight Summit in Gleneagles.

The international community therefore needs to urgently address this gaping gap between promise and delivery.

In these times of political uncertainty and economic meltdown, it is more incumbent than ever for the continent's development partners to stay the course and help African countries achieve their developmental goals.

Mr. President,

The India-Africa partnership is based on firm historical foundations, which over the decades, has grown into one of the most productive and durable partnerships.

Our similar historical experiences have engendered a common worldview. Understanding and sensitivity to each other's strengths, requirements and constraints has given our partnership lasting strength and resilience.

India is today on a path of rapid economic growth.

Africa is also witnessing a phase of robust resurgence. Some of the world's fastest-growing economies are in Africa. Africa is also blessed with a young and dynamic population.

We have, therefore, together with our African friends, transformed our age old and traditional bond into an enduring and multi dimensional relationship.

Our partnership with Africa is aligned with the priorities integral to the development goals of Africa and is built on the foundations of mutual equality and common benefit.

At the 2nd India Africa Forum Summit in 2011, India committed US Dollars 5 billion for the next three years under lines of credit to help our African partners, achieve their development goals.

We also committed an additional US Dollars 700 million to establish new institutions and training programmes in consultation with the African Union and its institutions.

We also decided to support the development of a new Ethio-Djibouti Railway line to the tune of US Dollars 300 million in keeping with NEPAD's priority on infrastructure development.

Following the success of the Pan-African E-Network Project we are working on the establishment of an India-Africa Virtual University, which will help to meet some of the demand in Africa for higher studies in Indian institutions.

We are making available 10,000 new scholarships under this University exclusively for African students.

Our total commitment until 2014 by way of scholarships to African students, including under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme, stands at more than 22,000.

To strengthen trade and investment flows, we have earlier this year in May 2012, launched the India Africa Business Council, whose core sectors of cooperation include agriculture, manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, textiles, mining, petroleum and natural gas, IT/ITeS, financial services (including microfinance), energy, roads and railways.

Given the sheer potential of untapped trade, we have also raised our bilateral trade target to US Dollars 90 billion by 2015 from US Dollars 70 billion set earlier.

We are already making available duty free and quota free market access for goods from 34 LDCs in Africa, which covers 94% of India's total tariff lines and provides preferential market access on tariff lines that comprise 92.5% of global exports of all LDCs.

Moreover, under the IBSA Trust Fund, with our partners from Brazil and South Africa, we have completed several successful projects in Burundi, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau and Sierra Leone for strengthening of infrastructure and capacity building.

Mr. President,

India's partnership with Africa also spans capacity building programmes which include medical specialists to tackle pandemics like malaria, HIV and TB.

Our private sector has also invested substantially in pharmaceutical manufacturing facilities in several African countries.

We remain committed to the complete elimination of malaria and would like to thank the Secretary General for enlisting it as one of his top priorities. \

Mr. President,

India's engagement with Africa is built on a strong focus on all round capacity building and contributing to human resource development and facilitating greater intra African cooperation.

We have redirected our age-old bonds of friendship to respond to the contemporary aspirations of our peoples and build a partnership which is increasingly being cited as the 'beacon of South South cooperation'.

This partnership, indeed, has the potential to strengthen global governance systems and democratise multilateral institutions.

In conclusion, I would like to quote the words of my Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh,

“The 21st century is often described as the Asian century. India wishes to see the 21st century as the Century of Asia and Africa with the people of the two continents working together to promote inclusive globalisation. Events in India and Africa in the middle of the 20th century changed the world. Today, we have a second chance to take charge of our own destiny, and give new meaning to the concept of sustainable, equitable and environment-friendly development.”

I thank you, Mr. President.



443. Speech by the Minister of State Smt. Preet Kaur to African Heads of Mission.

New Delhi, November 15, 2012.

Excellencies,

Let me extend you all a very warm welcome.

I am sure you have been keeping close track of recent developments in India. Mr. Salman Khurshid has taken over as new Minister of External Affairs. As you are aware, he is no stranger to international affairs and served with distinction as Minister of State for External Affairs during 1993-1996. As most of you are aware, he has right from the start been deeply engaged in intense diplomatic activities including with IOR ARC and ASEM meetings.

Excellencies,

The UPA Government during last nine years have significant achievements to its credit in the field of social and economic policy-making. Some of these include flagship initiatives like the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, the setting up of the Unique Identification Authority of India to provide every resident with an "Aadhaar" number to access social support services, Rural Health Mission, Jawahar Lal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission, Skill Development Mission and legislation bringing into effect the Right to Information and the Right to Education.

Excellencies,

We are now also experiencing the fallout of difficult economic conditions globally. The Indian economy has also been affected by these developments. Our exports have shrunk and the fiscal deficit has gone up on account of a variety of factors. Growth decelerated to 6.5 per cent last year. The economy grew 5.5% during April to June this year, marginally higher than the 5.3% recorded during the previous three months, but the full year growth for 2012-13 may still be below 6%. Data released last week showed that factory output contracted by 0.4% in September. India's exports have also fallen by 1.63% in October, the sixth successive month of such contraction, as orders dry out from Europe hit by sovereign debt worries and a wobbly political situation.

Excellencies,

In recent weeks, the Government has initiated several important steps to:

- (i) Stabilize government finances.

- (ii) Make this growth process socially and regionally more inclusive.
- (iii) Step up public investment as well as public-private partnerships.
- (iv) Tap into available capital and technology from around the world that seeks investment opportunities in India.

We hope such steps will assist us in responding to the challenges being faced by our economy.

Excellencies,

Now let me turn to Africa and India's relations with this important continent.

India and Africa share historic and close ties. India considered its own independence will not be complete till African and other countries were rid of colonisation and apartheid in South Africa. Indian leadership enjoyed close and warm relations with several African leaders. India's own independence served as an example to many African countries in their liberation struggle.

In South Africa, the apartheid regime was a curse on human dignity. India was the first country to place trade embargo and later cut off diplomatic relations. India vigorously brought the issue of South Africa at the United Nations.

Excellencies,

We condole passing away of some senior African leaders this year such President of Ghana, PM of Ethiopia, President of Malawi. However, it is to be noted that African institutions have matured as transition of power in these countries has been smooth. It is a positive development that conflicts in Africa are on the decline except in the Horn and some parts of Western and Central Africa. We are concerned at rapidly deteriorating situation in Mali and we reiterate our support to efforts being made by the African Union and ECOWAS towards restoration of constitutional order. There is also an urgent need to restore peace and security in Cote d' Ivoire and Democratic Republic of Congo.

In Africa's hot spots, there are at present more that 6,500 Indian soldiers under UN Peace Keeping Operations including in DR Congo, Liberia, Sudan, Cote d' Ivoire. Our soldiers have suffered casualties in Congo and elsewhere. We remain committed to playing our role in ensuring safety to the people as well as strengthening humanitarian assistance programmes in Africa. India has also contributed US\$ 2 million to AMISOM for its operations in Somalia.

The democracy has been expanding in Africa. As compared to less than 5 in 1970s, today more than 40 countries in Africa hold regular elections. The African continent has been the second fastest growing region in the world in the past decade. Between 2000- 2010, six of the 10 fastest growing economies were from Africa. KPMG in its recent report has noted that the African economy is

expected to grow at 5.8 % in 2012. The collective African GDP is expected to grow from US\$ 1.6 trillion in 2008 to US\$ 2.6 trillion in 2020. With one quarter of world's population under 25 years is projected to be from sub-Saharan Africa in 2025; offers an opportunity and poses challenge too of providing skills and creating jobs. The urbanisation rates in some of the African countries are as high as 10%, this will put strain on existing urban infrastructure- water, sanitation, health; sustained and unprecedented growth will be needed for job creation.

In recent times the role of Africa in the international affairs has grown and its voice is heard with respect.

Excellencies,

India enjoys close and friendly relations with all countries in Africa, pan-African organisations African Union, African Development Bank, regional organisations- ECOWAS, India is one of the cooperating partners of COMESA the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa and Southern Africa Development Community (SADC).

Excellencies,

India is committed to a reinvigorated and multi-dimensional India-Africa relationship. The tradition has continued under the rubric of the India Africa Forum Summit that paves the way for India and Africa in the areas of technology transfer, economic cooperation and capacity building. This new paradigm of cooperation aims at building upon the historical trust, goodwill and political engagement between India and Africa to create a modern functional partnership for mutual benefit.

During the current year, former President Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil of India paid state visits to Seychelles and South Africa. We were honoured by visits of President of Mali and Burundi; and Prime Minister of Mauritius to India. Apart from these, several high level visits were exchanged between India and Africa.

Excellencies,

The first India Africa Forum Summit was held in 2008 in New Delhi which adopted the Delhi Declaration and India-Africa Framework for Cooperation. Both documents together defined the future roadmap for cooperation between India and African countries. The Second one took place in Addis Ababa in May 2011.

These Summits, built upon the foundations of the historical relationship that existed between India and Africa and further contributed to designing the structure of an enhanced engagement between India and our African partners in the 21st century. The next India Africa Summit is slated for 2014 in India.

Excellencies,

India and Africa share the mutual desire to expand economic cooperation and trade and investment linkages between them. The trade and investment between

Africa and India have increased; both Africa and India have agreed to take further measures to continue to create a positive ambience for such enhanced flows. India-Africa trade crossed US\$ 65 billion in 2011-12. This is an encouraging development, however, this is still well short of the potential. India's unilateral non-reciprocal Duty Free Tariff Preference Scheme (DFTP) Scheme for LDCs announced at the time of the first India - Africa Forum Summit in 2008 has significantly contributed to the ability of African LDCs to access the growing Indian market and contributed to the creation of complementarity in their export baskets. We are currently examining a proposal to further expand coverage of the products which have now become of interest to several African countries to export to India under DFTP Scheme.

Lines of Credit have become an important instrument of development partnership between India and Africa. During the last decade, 115 LOCs of value of US\$ 5.2 billion have been extended to African countries. Africa has also effectively utilized concessional Lines of Credit offered by India for supporting the development of its infrastructure, industry and capacity building. Some of the projects executed and under execution include setting up of tractor assembly plants (Benin), rural electrification (Ghana, Burkina Faso), low cost housing, setting up of textiles project (Angola), Cassava plantation (Cameroon), hydro electric projects (Central African Republic, Burundi, Rwanda), development of Sugar industry (Ethiopia), renewal of urban transport system (Cote d'Ivoire), Setting up cement plants (DR Congo, Djibouti), Energy transmission (Eritrea, Mali). This list is not an exhaustive but just an indicative one of projects undertaken by India under lines of credit.

Excellencies,

India's approach to cooperation with Africa is under the rubric of South-South Cooperation, responding to African needs in the development process especially in:

- i. Capacity building,
- ii. infrastructure development,
- iii. promotion of trade and industry and
- iv. value addition/beneficiation.

Capacity building, particularly as both India and Africa are young societies and want to translate the demographic dividend into effective growth has been an area of high importance. The successful utilization of the ITEC programme has been a manifestation of the South-South Cooperation that effectively exists between India and Africa. The enhancement of scholarships and training slots under the ITEC programme, as well as the creation of new courses for training of African nationals in specified areas, all emerge from the Action Plan of the Framework of Cooperation of IAFS-1 and have been appreciated.

Under IAFS-I and IAFS-II, India has committed more than 100 capacity building institutions in Africa. This manifests our desire to build African capacities for both human and natural resources. Among the institutions, that we propose to establish and which have direct impact in the field of science and technology are; Food Processing Cluster, Medium Range Weather Forecasting Centre, University for Life and Earth Sciences, Soil, water and Tissue Testing Laboratories, Farm Science Centers, Material Testing Laboratories for Highways, Rural Technology Parks, Food Testing Laboratories, Centres on Geo-Informatics Applications and Rural Development, Women Solar Engineer Vocational Training Centers, besides Information Technology Centers. These are at various stages of implementation and our endeavour is to accelerate it with your cooperation.

A provision has been made of 22,000 new scholarships for African Students in various academic courses and training programmes including special agriculture scholarships and C.V. Raman fellowships. India has offered more than 700 Dr. C V Raman Scientific Fellowships till 2014. So far more than 150 post-doctorates from Africa have availed the fellowships. We hope that this would help in building capacity for scientific research in Africa.

India is engaged in providing Technical Assistance to Cotton – 4 countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali), Malawi, Nigeria and Uganda. This is aimed at improving the livelihood of African cotton growers and exporters and creating value addition to the local produce.

Excellencies,

The Pan African e-Network Project is unique project to use the Indian expertise in information technology to bring benefits of healthcare and higher education to all countries of Africa. The Network is connected by a satellite/fibre optical network to provide tele-medicine, tele-education and VVIP connectivity to these countries. The cost of the project is approx. US\$ 130 million, a total grant from the Government of India. I am happy to inform you that close to 10,000 African students have been enrolled, 3,500 tele-education sessions conducted under this important initiative.

The first India-Africa Science & Technology Ministerial Conference was held on 1 and 2 of March 2012 at New Delhi. It helped to develop an understanding for science, technology and innovation systems in the African continent.

Excellencies,

As part of Joint Action Plan approved under the Framework for Cooperation of the India-Africa Forum Summit, we have been regularly organising familiarisation visits and training programmes for journalists from Africa as well as visits of Indian journalists to Africa. Overall from 2009 to 2012 India has hosted nearly

90 journalists from Africa and trained another 45 African journalists. Under "INDIAFRICA: A Shared Future" programme is a dynamic platform to exchange ideas about emergent realities, successes and challenges, and to imagine future collaborations in business, design and culture, understanding diverse nations as interdependent creative problem solvers with unique and invaluable resources and talents. In its first year, this unique people to people and youth outreach programme received participation from over 3000 people representing 282 institutions in 20 African countries.

Excellencies,

In implementation of India's enhanced engagement under India Africa Forum mechanism, as this is a partnership, we seek close cooperation of the African Union, Regional Economic Communities and each African country. I also request you to closely follow-up all projects with your government and assist us in timely implementation.

Excellencies,

The challenges we confront today are global in nature be it international terrorism, piracy in the Indian Ocean and Gulf of Guinea, climate change, organised crime etc. We need to have close consultation, cooperation and coordination to effectively tackle these.

India has historically espoused African causes in the international fora - UN, Commonwealth. India will continue to extend its active support to the African issues. In that context, I wish to thank many African countries which have extended support for India's candidature for Permanent Membership in an expanded United Nations Security Council.

Excellencies,

It may be relevant to recall here that PM in his recent address spoke of 'rising expectations' in India and round the world which has on the one hand unleashed new energies in our society and, on the other, fostered an atmosphere of great impatience and cynicism. He said, "This is a challenge that all of us must deal with, so that we can socially and politically sustain an environment conducive to higher economic growth."

Let me conclude, by assuring you of India's continued commitment as trusted partner of Africa in its socio-economic and technological and human resource development.

I wish, in advance, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Thank you.



BURUNDI

444. Press Release issued on the visit of Minister of State Smt. Preet Kaur to Burundi.

New Delhi, February 21, 2012.

Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, Smt. Preet Kaur visited Burundi as part of her two nation tour to Rwanda and Burundi on 17-18th February. This was the first ever visit by a high powered delegation from the Ministry of External Affairs to Burundi.

2. Burundi opened its Mission in New Delhi in 2009. Since then, relations with Burundi have taken a positive direction. The Foreign Minister of Burundi has visited India for the LDC Ministerial Meeting in 2011 and for the India-Africa Conclave. He also accompanied the President of Burundi on a private visit to India last year. Meetings with Foreign Minister of Burundi were held on the sidelines of international meetings in Africa on several occasions in the last 2 years, most lately during the AU Summit in Addis Ababa in January, 2012.

3. India's engagements with Burundi have also grown rapidly. An LOC of US\$ 80 million has been offered to establish Kabu hydro electric power station. Under the decisions of IAFS, Burundi is establishing the India-Africa Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (IAIEPA) and a Vocational Training Centre. Bilaterally, it has been offered an IT Centre and a cluster of biomass gasifiers. India has also increased its scholarships for Burundi after IAFS-II. The Pan-African E-Network Project for both tele-medicines and tele-education is functional in Burundi. Burundi sees India as a major partner with whom it can engage effectively.

4. During her visit Smt. Preet Kaur called on the President H.E. Pierre Nkurunziza. They recalled his participation in the Second Africa India Forum Summit in Addis Ababa in May, 2011 and his bilateral meeting with PM on that occasion. They reviewed the international and regional situation and bilateral cooperation. The President thanked India for its consistent support to Burundi in its development and supported it for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council. Detailed discussions were held with the Foreign Minister of Burundi, H.E. Laurent Kavakure. He also hosted a banquet in honour of Hon'ble Minister of State and described her visit as historic. He also emphasised that Burundi, which was recovering from international strife, had taken many positive steps and it found India to be among the most responsive of partners and expressed his strong commitment for processes of IAFS from which Africa in general and Burundi in particular has benefited. He said 'I take this opportunity to reiterate the profound gratitude of the Government of Burundi for the so many measures

taken by Indian authorities to boost Africa's development through the said mechanisms'. A General Cooperation Agreement between India and Burundi was signed during the occasion.

5. Smt. Preneet Kaur also met with the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Tourism, the Minister of Mines and Energy, the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology. Her invitation to the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology to participate in the India Africa S&T Ministers' Conference in New Delhi to be held on 1st and 2nd March was accepted. Similarly, the Trade Minister accepted the invitation to participate in the India Africa Trade Ministers' Meeting to be held on 17th March 2012.

6. A large business delegation from CII accompanied the Minister on her visit. The delegation was warmly received by Burundian authorities and Chambers of Commerce and had an extensive programme of engagements both at the official and private sector levels. A considerable potential of expanding economic cooperation and trade and commerce with Burundi was discussed.

7. The Indian community in Burundi has also revitalised its presence and is making a positive contribution to the economic development in Burundi. Smt. Preneet Kaur met with this growing community and addressed it.



445. Extracts from the Media Briefing on the visit of President of Burundi.**New Delhi, September 13, 2012.****Official Spokesperson (Shri Syed Akbaruddin):** Good afternoon

On my left is Joint Secretary (East and Southern Africa), Mr. Ravi Bangar, who will also be available to respond to some of the questions on the first of the announcements that I have to make.

The President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Pierre Nkurunziza, will be visiting India on a State visit from September 17 to 19. This is the first State visit of the President of Burundi to India. Indeed, this is the first State visit either from India to Burundi or from Burundi to India.

Those of you who are following the number of State visits will perhaps note that this is the third State visit during the course of this month. We have already had two State visits earlier - from Tajikistan and Palestine – and this is the third State visit to India of a Head of State during this month.

The President will be accompanied by four other Ministers. He is scheduled to meet Rashtrapatiiji on the 18th of September. He will also have delegation-level talks with the Prime Minister, and will have calls by various other dignitaries. During the visit he will also be addressing the chambers of commerce at a meeting jointly organized by the ASSOCHAM, CII and FICCI.

Burundi is one of the smallest and most densely populated countries in Africa. India's bilateral relations with Burundi have been on the upswing since 2009 when they opened a Mission here. Also, this year earlier, Ms. Preneet Kaur, the Minister of State for External Affairs, had visited Burundi.

Burundi is also the location of two pan-African initiatives that India has taken. The first is the India-Africa Institute for Educational Planning and Administration, which is being set up there. The second is a vocational training centre which is being set up in Burundi. These are both pan-African initiatives that we have taken following the India-Africa Forum Summits. We hope that the visit would further develop our bilateral relations.

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Question: Can you just tell us what is it on the table, specific issues, between India and Burundi? Also, China has been there for quite some time. How are we placed in Burundi vis-à-vis China?

Official Spokesperson: Just one minute. We do not want to enter into

comparisons, but JS (E&SA) will certainly explain our position on this. As regards any other country's position, I think it is not proper and appropriate on our part to make that an issue of our briefing. With that I will hand it over to Ravi.

Joint Secretary (E&SA) (Shri Ravi Bangar): As far as India-Burundi relations are concerned, we have had a fairly intensive engagement with them since the end of the Genocide which unfortunately took place there in the early 1990s and following the Arusha accord of 2003. And their engagement with India has been on the upswing. They decided to open the Resident Mission in India in 2009, which they did. We have had a number of Ministers from Burundi who have come on a visit to India.

Burundi is rich in mineral resources, very small but rich in mineral resources, particularly in platinum, uranium and other precious metals too. Therefore, in the engagement with Burundi, our stand mainly is to build the capacity of Burundi and to contribute in the infrastructure development in Burundi. And the two institutions which were earlier mentioned by Akbar ... (*Unclear*) ... to bring a kind of a pan-African level engagement centred from Burundi with India's participation as implementation of India-Africa Forum Summit decisions. In a nutshell, our engagement with Burundi is focused on capacity building, and on socioeconomic development of Burundi.

Question: Mr. Bangar, what are we looking at Burundi for? What is our take away from this meeting, this engagement? Also, are we looking at the kind of cooperation in peace-keeping areas? Is there some angle to the peace keeping ... (*Inaudible*) ...

Joint Secretary (E&SA): Both Burundi and India contribute troops to UN peace-keeping missions. Despite the Genocide, despite the turmoil which was there Burundi has contributed troops to AMISOM to combat the menace of the civil wars and the lack of governance in case of Somalia. Our basic objective is to forge a very closer relationship with all countries in Africa. Burundi is important. Burundi was the Chair of the East African Community last year. They joined the East African Community in 2007. So, Burundi is not just Burundi alone, but a group of 12 countries in East Africa. Their basic urge to integrate economically among themselves and as a bloc to seek closer ties with India, that is what is in our interest, that is what we are working at.

Official Spokesperson: Just to give you supplementary information, apart from AMISOM Burundi has also contributed to Sudan in Darfur and in Chad. This is a country of ten million. To AMISOM I think they contributed something like 2,000 soldiers.

Question: Since India has entered into nuclear cooperation agreements with other African countries, since they have uranium resources, is there any plan to have a similar agreement with Burundi ?

Joint Secretary (E&SA): Not at the moment because they have to first have a complete, detailed survey done as to what their resources are. For platinum, definitely they are quite advanced. They produce almost 46,000 metric tonnes of platinum a year, which is quite significant. But other resources they have not yet done.

Question: Ravi, can you give us an update on our efforts to provide connectivity – internet, telecom, hospitals, education and all that between the States. How many countries have been able to connect so far ... *(Inaudible)* ...

Joint Secretary (E&SA): This is called Pan-Africa E-Network which we commenced in 2008. It is with a grant of about Rs.530 crore, roughly US\$ 135 million at that point of time. We have 48 countries which have signed on to this project, of which in 47 of these countries it is already established. The last country to join was South Sudan earlier this year. And the remaining are keen to join this and they are completing their procedural requirements of this.

This tele-education, which you have mentioned, Venkat, and also the telemedicine has been useful. And here we are overcoming quite a number of challenges in terms of implementing the project. The time zones, there are very different. There is the language issue. But still the popularity of the courses through this, through the University of Delhi, IGNOU, Amity University, private universities, hospitals like Apollo, like Netralaya, they are equally very well established in terms of connectivity now. And increasingly we are finding that the language is not a major issue to overcome. I hope that answers your question.

Question: Will we be looking to source Uranium from Burundi... *(Inaudible)* ...

Joint Secretary (E&SA): As I said earlier, it is too early for that.



446. Media Statement of Prime Minister during State Visit of the President of the Republic of Burundi.

New Delhi, September 18, 2012.

His Excellency Mr. Pierre Nkurunziza,

President of the Republic of Burundi,

Ladies and Gentlemen of the media.

It's a great honour to welcome President Nkurunziza to India on his first state visit to India.

India and Burundi enjoy warm and friendly relations. Our official exchanges, trade and investment linkages and people-to-people interactions are growing steadily. Earlier today, President Nkurunziza and I reviewed our relations and we have agreed to further promote and expand our ties in an all-round manner.

The Memorandums of Understanding signed today in the fields of rural development, education, health and medicine will enable our two countries to undertake structured cooperation in these vital areas of human development, where India's experience can be of some relevance to Burundi.

There is also great potential to further strengthen bilateral trade and investment relations. I requested President Nkurunziza to facilitate Indian investment in agriculture, infrastructure and manufacturing sectors in line with Burundi's national development goals and policies.

India has also contributed to the development of Burundi's human resources through the pan- African e-network project, training programmes and scholarships. Burundi will be hosting the India-Africa Institute of Educational Planning and Administration, a Vocational training Centre and Cluster of Biomass Gasifier Systems offered by India under the India-Africa Forum Summit initiative for capacity building and development. India is also setting up an Information and Technology Centre of Excellence there. I hope these institutions will be operational soon and benefit not only our friends from Burundi but the whole of Africa.

India is committed to the development of infrastructure in Burundi. In addition to the US\$ 80 million line of credit for the important Kabu hydroelectric project currently under operation, we have agreed to extend a new line of credit worth over US\$ 40 million to Burundi for a farm mechanization and food processing project.

We also exchanged views on regional and global issues, including our fight

against the common threat of piracy and the urgent need for reform of the United Nations Security Council. India deeply appreciates Burundi's support for its candidature as a permanent member of the reformed and expanded Security Council.

This visit of President Nkurunziza has imparted a fresh impetus to our joint efforts to strengthen our bilateral relations. With these words, I am confident that our ties will make rapid progress in coming years.

I thank you.



447. Joint Statement on the State Visit of the President of Burundi.

New Delhi, September 18, 2012.

His Excellency Mr. Pierre Nkurunziza, President of the Republic of Burundi paid a State Visit to India from 17-19 September, 2012 at the invitation of Hon'ble President Shri Pranab Mukherjee.

2. He was accompanied by Her Excellency First Lady Mrs. Denise Bucumi Nkurunziza and a high-level Ministerial and official delegation. The Ministers accompanying included His Excellency Mr. Laurent Kavakure, Minister of External Relations and International Cooperation; Her Excellency Ms. Kayitesi, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock; and His Excellency Mr. Come Manirakiza, Minister of Energy and Mines.

3. The President of Burundi was accorded a ceremonial welcome at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on September 18, 2012. The President laid a wreath at the memorial to Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat and paid homage to the Father of the Indian Nation. During the State Visit, President Nkurunziza met the Hon'ble President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee who hosted a banquet in his honour. Hon'ble Vice President Shri M. Hamid Ansari called on the President of Burundi. The President of Burundi and the Prime Minister of India held detailed discussions on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest.

4. The President of Burundi received Minister of State for External Affairs Mrs. Preneet Kaur.

5. The President of Burundi and the Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh held delegation-level discussions on bilateral, regional and international issues. These discussions were held in a warm, cordial and friendly atmosphere reflecting the developing multi-faceted bilateral partnership between the two countries.

6. The two leaders recalled their meeting on the sidelines of the Second Africa-India Forum Summit held in Addis Ababa in May 2011 and discussions held thereon.

7. The two leaders expressed satisfaction at the intensification of diplomatic contacts between the two countries, particularly after the opening of resident Embassy by Burundi in New Delhi in 2009. The leaders positively assessed the growing bilateral political, trade and economic relations. The General Cooperation Agreement signed during the visit of Minister of State for External Affairs of India in February 2012 was seen to provide an important platform for cooperation between the two countries in various areas.

8. Both sides agreed to further enhance the bilateral cooperation in view of the considerable untapped potential.

9. President of Burundi thanked the Government of India for approval of a concessional line of credit of US \$ 80 mn for the Kabu – 16 Hydro-electric project. Completion of the project will go a long way in meeting Burundi's electricity requirements.

10. President Nkurunziza expressed satisfaction for the successful implementation of the Tele-education and Tele-medicine centres in Burundi set up in August 2010 under the Pan African E-Network project. Under the tele-education programme, Burundi has concluded agreements with the University of Madras and Indira Gandhi National Open University.

11. The two leaders reviewed and expressed satisfaction at the implementation of the following projects, which have been offered to Burundi as part of the decisions of the India-Africa Forum Summits of 2008 and 2011:

- (i) India-Africa Institute of Education, Planning and Administration;
- (ii) India-Africa Vocational Training Centre;
- (iii) Village electrification in Burundi through the setting up of Biomass Gasifiers; and
- (iv) Farm Science Centre.

12. India is also setting up an IT Centre of Excellence as a bilateral commitment. The two sides have identified the main thrust areas for the proposed Centre.

13. Both sides agreed to continue strengthening cooperation in the areas of economy, trade and investment, finance, human resource development, culture, etc. while striving to expand cooperation into other potential areas such as agriculture, food processing, ICT, science & technology, health, mining etc. Burundi invited Indian investments in infrastructure development, mining, agriculture, power generation and transmission, tourism among others. Both sides agreed to find ways and means of enhancing and further expanding the bilateral trade and investment.

14. President Nkurunziza thanked the Government of India for the increased number of long-term scholarships provided to Burundian students in the educational institutions in India under Indian Council for Cultural Relations. He also appreciated the high quality of training being imparted to the Burundian officials under Indian Technical and Economical Cooperation (ITEC) programme and various short-term training and long-term fellowship programmes of the

India Africa Forum Summit mechanism. These programmes have been useful to Burundi in its human resource development.

15. The Burundian Government requested Government of India's assistance to finance some of their infrastructure projects. Government of India assured President Nkurunziza of India's continued support in Burundi's economic and infrastructural development. Government of India announced a Line of Credit of US\$ 42.38 million for Farm Mechanisation and Integrated Food Processing Complex in Burundi. The President of Burundi expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister of India for this financial support.

16. President Nkurunziza also appreciated the contribution of India through the IBSA Trust Fund for strengthening infrastructure and capacity to combat HIV/AIDS in Burundi.

17. The following agreements were signed during the visit: (i) Exchange Programme for Cooperation in the field of Education, (ii) Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the field of Rural Development and (iii) Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine.

18. President Nkurunziza took special note of India's active participation in the United Nations sponsored peace missions in Africa, and the role it continues to play in promoting peace and security in the continent. India appreciated Burundi's contribution of forces to the AMISOM in an effort to bring in peace and security in Somalia.

19. President Nkurunziza conveyed Burundi's support for India's candidature for Permanent Membership in an expanded United Nations Security Council. The Indian side thanked Burundi for its support to India's candidature for Permanent Membership in an expanded United Nations Security Council.

20. Burundi informed of its application for the membership of the Commonwealth and requested India's support. India conveyed that, in view of the excellent and growing bilateral relations, the request of Burundi will be considered when the Commonwealth Secretary-General consults with member States in this regard, in keeping with the agreed process for membership of the Commonwealth.

21. Both India and Burundi strongly condemned the menace of international terrorism and its devastating effect on the human civilization. They affirmed that there can be no justification for terrorism and reiterated their resolve to work towards strengthening of the global consensus and legal regimes against terrorism.

22. Both sides agreed that the State Visit of the President of Burundi will lead

to strengthening of the cooperative relations between the two countries, and will provide further impetus for the future development of a comprehensive partnership.

23. The President of Burundi conveyed his deep gratitude and appreciation to the President and Prime Minister of India for the warm hospitality extended to him and the members of his delegation during the visit. President Nkurunziza invited the President and the Prime Minister of India to pay State Visits to Burundi on mutually convenient dates. The invitations were accepted with gratitude and it was agreed that the dates of the visits would be finalized through diplomatic channels.

**List of Documents signed during the State Visit of President of Burundi
September 18, 2012**

Sl. No	Name of MOU/Agreement	Indian signatory	Burundian signatory	Remarks
1.	Exchange Programme for cooperation in the field of education.	Smt. Preneet Kaur, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs	H.E. Mr. Kavakure Laurent, Minister of External Affairs and International Cooperation	The Exchange Programme for cooperation in the field of education provides for cooperation and development of contacts between educational institutions, exchange of scholars, experts, research materials, publications, educational literature, teaching aids, etc., organize joint conference, research programmes, training etc., twinning arrangements between institutions of higher learning, examining

				possibility of mutual recognition of educational qualifications, set up chairs on contemporary studies etc.
2.	Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine	Smt. Preneet Kaur, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs	H.E. Mr. Come Manirakiza, Minister of Energy and Mines	Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine provides for partnerships in the field of capacity building and training in the health sector, collaboration in integrated disease surveillance, medical research, emergency relief, hospital management, laboratory and diagnostics, drugs and pharmaceutical products, traditional medicines, AIDS control, medical education etc. A Joint Working Group will be set up to work out details of cooperation.
3.	Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the field of Rural Development.	Shri Pradeep Jain, Hon'ble Minister of State for Rural Development	H.E. Ms. Odette Kayetesi, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock	Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the field of Rural Development provides for encouragement, development and strengthening of technical cooperation

in the field of rural development. The MOU will be implemented through biennial work plans to be developed jointly by both parties. Implementation will be through technical assistance [consultancies, feasibility studies, exchange study visits, fellowships], provision of technology, equipment and material, sector-specific training in both Burundi and India, and institutional linkages and collaboration.

New Delhi

September 18, 2012



ETHIOPIA

448. Press Release on the Second India-Ethiopia Foreign Office Consultations.

Addis Ababa, January 24, 2012.

The second India-Ethiopia Foreign Office Consultations were held on 24 January 2012 in Addis Ababa to discuss the follow up of decisions taken at India Africa Forum Summit and at the bilateral meetings with Prime Minister Meles Zenawi and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. This was the first meeting after the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's visit to Addis Ababa in May 2011. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Gurjit Singh, Additional Secretary (East & Southern Africa), Ministry of External Affairs and Ethiopian delegation was led by Mr. Arega Hailu, Director General of the Asia and Oceania Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia.

2. India and Ethiopia enjoy close and friendly bilateral relations which are diversified and have depth. There is greater understanding in bilateral matters and excellent cooperation in regional and international fora. India-Ethiopia engagement has developed through capacity building programmes, training and sharing of experience and has reached the threshold of high volume of bilateral trade and increased investment by Indian entrepreneurs in Ethiopia.

3. The heads of the delegation hailed the existing warm and cordial relations between the two countries. They emphasized the significance of the second round of Foreign Office Consultations as another milestone of meaningful and growing cooperation between the two countries. Both sides also agreed to infuse the close political relationship with greater economic content.

4. Both sides held extensive discussions on bilateral, multilateral and regional issues of common interest. Cooperation under the India Africa Forum Summit and Lines of Credit offered by the Government of India for Sugar Project and Ethiopia- Djibouti railway line were also discussed.

5. During the discussions, both sides also reviewed implementation of decisions taken under India Africa forum Summit I & II including the establishment of four capacity building institutions in Ethiopia which include Vocational training Centre, IT Centre, Women Solar Engineering Vocational training centre, Farm Science Centre.

6. It was also agreed to propose that the next Joint Commission meeting will be held in 2013.



MALI

449. Joint Statement issued on the visit of the President of Mali.

New Delhi, January 11, 2012.

1. H.E. Mr. President of the Republic of Mali Amadou Toumani TOURE paid a State visit to India on January 11-12, 2012. The President was accompanied by First Lady Madame Toure Lobbo Traore and a high-level Ministerial and Business delegation. The Ministerial delegation included Their Excellencies, Dr. Bocary Tereta, Minister of Livestock and Fisheries; Mr. Soumeylou Boubeye Maiga, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation; Mr. Aghatham AG Alhassane, Minister of Agriculture; Mr. Habib Ouane, Minister of Power and Water; Mr. Modibo Ibrahim Toure; Minister of Post and New Technologies; Mr. Sambou Wague, Minister in Charge of Budget.
2. The President was accorded an official ceremonial reception at Rashtrapati Bhawan in the capital New Delhi on January 11, 2012. The President laid a wreath at the memorial to Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat. During the visit, President Toure met with the President of India Smt. Pratibha Devi Singh Patil who hosted a Banquet in his honour. He held talks with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. Shri E. Ahamed, Minister of State for External Affairs called on the President.
3. President Toure met leaders of Indian business and industry in New Delhi.
4. President Toure appreciated the achievements made by the State, the Government and people of India in all fields in the course of national development which has increasingly enhanced the role and standing of India in the region and the world.
5. The leaders of the two countries exchanged views in an atmosphere of warmth, cordiality and mutual trust on all aspects of bilateral cooperation as well as on the regional and international issues of mutual interest. They welcomed the development of the friendship and cooperation between India and Mali.
6. The leaders expressed satisfaction at the intensification of diplomatic contacts between the two countries following the opening of resident Embassies in New Delhi and Bamako in 2009 and 2010 respectively.
7. Both sides agreed to further enhance high-level visits and meetings between the two countries. The leaders noted that there still remained considerable potential for cooperation and agreed to strongly enhance the partnership between the two countries in all areas of mutual interest.
8. Both sides called for an early convening of the first meeting of the Joint Ministerial Commission following the signing of the Agreement on Political,

Economic, Scientific, Technical and Cultural Cooperation between India and Mali in October 2009.

9. The leaders agreed to further deepen the partnership, by adding more concrete programmes and projects and broadening it to new areas for cooperation. Both sides agreed to continue strengthening cooperation in the areas of economy, trade and investment, finance, human resource development, culture, agriculture, fisheries, etc., while striving to expand cooperation into other potential areas such as mining, hydrocarbons, agriculture, food processing, ICT, science and technology, public health. Both sides agreed to find ways and means of enhancing and further expanding the bilateral trade and promoting mutually beneficial cooperation. India noted with appreciation Mali's offer for Indian participation in their mining industry, agriculture, food processing, dairy and poultry farming, cotton cultivation, pharmaceutical industry, leather industry, automobile and two-wheeler segment and other commercial activities and expressed its willingness to collaborate with Mali in these areas.

10. Both sides noted with satisfaction that the two-way trade had increased steadily in the recent years. President Toure affirmed that Mali would create favourable conditions for Indian enterprises to invest in the country. Both sides agreed to step up trade and investment linkages, inter-alia by encouraging cooperation.

11. The Malian side welcomed the enhanced training slots provided by India under ITEC for training and capacity building of Malian defence forces.

12. During the visit, the following Agreements were concluded: an Agreement for grant of a Government of India Line of Credit of US \$ 100 million for a Power Transmission Project connecting Bamako and Sikasso via Bougouni in Mali and MoU on Co-operation in the Field of Geology and Mineral Resources.

13. President Toure highly appreciated the support and assistance of the Government and people of India rendered to Mali's development process over the past years and warmly welcomed the announcement by the Prime Minister of India to continue to assist Mali in its socio- economic development.

14. The leaders affirmed their desire and determination to work together for peace and stability in the region and the world, and agreed to further strengthen cooperation at regional and international fora, especially the ECOWAS-India as well as in AU, WTO, WIPO, UN and the Non-aligned Movement.

15. The Malian side underlined the pioneering role played by India in consistently extending support and cooperation to African countries within the framework of South-South Cooperation. This has acquired an enhanced and significant role following the successful organisation of India- Africa Forum

Summit in 2008 and the Africa-India Forum Summit in 2011 leading to the strengthening of Africa–India relationship.

16. Both sides also agreed to closely cooperate to promote dialogue and cooperation in Africa with the aim of promoting peace, stability, development and prosperity in the continent.

17. The two sides agreed to strengthen cooperation to effectively address the challenges posed by non-traditional security threats such as climate change, environmental degradation, natural disasters, energy security etc.

18. The Indian side thanked Mali for its support to India's candidature for permanent membership in an expanded United Nations Security Council.

19. On the situation in the Middle East, the two sides condemned any forms of violence and urged the protagonists to resume dialogue and reiterated their support for the "Road Map" of the Quartet.

20. The two sides strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and resolved to increase cooperation in the common efforts of the international community in preventing this scourge in a comprehensive manner. Both sides agreed to closely cooperate for an early finalisation of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism, for which India had presented a draft at the United Nations in 1996.

21. The Indian side appreciated the regional peace-keeping efforts of Mali in Africa and reiterated its offer for providing training facilities to Mali to augment its peace-keeping capabilities. India appreciated the Conference on Peace, Security and Development in the Sahelo Saharian region organised by the Government of Mali in 2010, in order to address issues on cross-border crimes and terrorism affecting the region.

22. President Amadou Toumani Toure expressed his gratitude to the State, Government and friendly people of India for the warm reception and hospitality accorded to the President and the Malian delegation during their State Visit to the Republic of India. He invited Her Excellency the President and His Excellency the Prime of India to pay State Visits to Mali. The invitations were accepted.

List of agreements signed during the visit of President of Mali.

January 11, 2012.

S. No.	Name of the MOU/ Agreement/Treaty	Malian signatory	Indian signatory
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- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| 1 | MoU on Co-operation in the Field of Geology and Mineral Resources between the Ministry of Mines of the Government of India and Ministry of Mines of the Government of the Republic of Mali | H.E. Mr. Soumeylou Boubeye Maiga
Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation | Shri Dinsha J Patel,
Hon'ble Minister of state (Independent charge) of Mines |
| 2 | Joint Statement by India and Mali on the Occasion of the visit of the President of Mali | H.E. Mr. Soumeylou Boubeye Maiga
Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation | Shri E Ahamed, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs |
| 3 | Line of Credit of USD 100 Million for a Power Transmission Project | H.E. Mr. Sambou Wague, Minister in Charge of the Budget | Shri T C A Ranganathan, Chairman and Managing Director, EXIM Bank (India) |



450. Media Briefing by the Official Spokesperson on Recent Developments in Mali.

New Delhi, March 23, 2012.

In response to a question, the Spokesperson said as follows:

“The Government of India expresses its deep concern over the recent developments in Mali and calls for respect of the Constitutional order and democratic process in that country. It welcomes the statements by the United Nations Security Council, the African Union and the ECOWAS on the developments in Mali.

The Ministry of External Affairs is in touch with the Embassy of India in Bamako. The small Indian community in Mali is safe. The members of the community have been advised to exercise caution and remain in contact with the Embassy.

India will monitor the evolving situation in Mali.”



The Spokesperson was referring to the military coup in the African country, where on March 23, 2012 mutinous troops seized control of the state television and radio station, and announced a coup. The country's democratically elected president was not heard since then. President Amadou Toumani Toure, who was overthrown was himself a seasoned soldier, who headed the country's parachute commando unit. There was speculation of a counter coup by the troops loyal to President Toure. Mali was considered one of the only functioning democracies in the region. The coup represented a major setback for the 15.4 million Malians at the feet of the Sahara desert. Although Toure initially took power in a 1991 coup, he became known as the “Soldier of Democracy” because he handed power to civilians, and retreated from public life. Years later he re-emerged to win the 2002 election and was re-elected in 2007.

MAURITIUS

451. Extracts from Media Briefing relevant to the visit of Mauritius Prime Minister's Visit.

New Delhi, February 6, 2012.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Syed Akbaruddin): Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen and thank you for coming for this briefing.....

.....Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of Mauritius, will be arriving in the next few hours in New Delhi. He will be on a state visit from 6th to 10th February. We have put out a press release on this. So, you have all the details available with you. Just a few additional points I would like to make.

As you are aware, India has occupied a significant and important place in the foreign policy activities of Mauritius and this visit forms part of this regular exchange of high-level visits between India and Mauritius. This is Dr. Ramgoolam's first visit after his re-election in 2010 and it follows the state visit of our President to Mauritius in April 2011.

As you know, Dr. Ramgoolam is a close friend of India and he has visited India in various capacities since 1995. The last time he was in India was in 2008 when he was the Chief Guest for the Sixth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, and was conferred Pravasi Bharatiya Samman award.

His day of engagement is on 7th February when he will meet Prime Minister and senior dignitaries, and they will have delegation-level talks. The details of his schedule and the media opportunities for interaction will be provided to you separately.

Besides Delhi, Dr. Ramgoolam will also travel to Kurukshetra where he will be conferred the honoris causa degree of Doctor of Laws by the Kurukshetra University, and he will visit Mumbai to interact with business people. He will also have an interaction with businessmen here in Delhi.

I am certain you will have questions on that. We have here with me Additional Secretary (East & South Africa), Mr. Gurjit Singh who will answer those questions.

Question: Sir, what about the Double Taxation Avoidance Treaty? I believe there were talks in December, especially after the Vodafone court ruling ...*(Inaudible)*...

Additional Secretary (East and Southern Africa)(Shri Gurjit Singh): Yes, you are right. In December we had the Joint Working Group on Double Taxation meet in Mauritius from 21 to 23 December. It was held in a friendly and

constructive atmosphere. Both sides have agreed to pursue discussions on the basis of concerns raised at the meeting. They acknowledged that the economic interests of both countries should be preserved, and agreed to work towards concrete outcomes that would be mutually beneficial. This is the status as of now.

Question: There were some reservations, I believe, on the part of Mauritius. Have they been overcome?

Additional Secretary (E&SA): This is an ongoing discussion which was resumed in December. So, there are various things which have been said but I do not think any particular thing about reservations. I think we have made our position clear, they have spoken to us, and the discussions are ongoing.

Question: Sir, to my understanding, the details of the full financial disclosure from certain banks about certain accounts in Mauritius is not yet available to the Indian Government. Are these in talks?

Indian High Commissioner in Mauritius (Shri T.P. Seetharam): We have a process of exchange of information between Mauritius and India. It is based on specific cases rather than generally opening up all accounts of all banks. So, that is a process which is going fairly smoothly.

Additional Secretary (E&SA): You are aware that there is a major Business Delegation accompanying Prime Minister Ramgoolam. You would also be aware that our trade, though small in size, has grown by nearly 300 per cent over the last five years. And India's exports are close to 800 million dollars. We are supplying almost the entire petroleum requirements of Mauritius. That is one aspect. The other aspect is that according to the Department of Investment Policy Protection, 62 billion dollars of investment out of 152 billion dollars received by India between 2000-2011, which is about 40 per cent, has come through Mauritius. So, they are a significant channel for foreign direct investment into India.

Question: Sir, any agreements likely to be signed with Mauritius?

Additional Secretary (E&SA): With a country with whom we have such a close and diverse relationship there is always a clutch of agreements. It is all being worked out. I think by tomorrow you will know exactly what went through. We have a very cogent relationship on that. We have a common agreement to deal with issues of surveillance and reconnaissance in the region. And, as you know, with the rising threat of piracy this has acquired greater significance and we are contributing to it in a significant manner on the basis of joint discussion with Mauritius. We have also sought to augment their capacity, both human and physical. As you know, in 2009 November I think we have gifted a Dhruv

helicopter to them which is providing good service to them ...(Inaudible)... And we have also now installed, in April last year, a new coastal surveillance radar system, which is also from all accounts doing well and helping them to do this. Indian ships are visiting them regularly. Training of their people is also going on quite frequently and regularly. So, I think that relationship is fairly stable and it is looking at the requirements and dealing with them as they emerge. It is also significant that the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation is located there. And, as you know, India has taken over the Chair and an Indian has taken over as the Secretary-General and Mauritius is extremely supportive of our efforts to deal with this. So, we are working quite closely on the overall context of cooperation in the Indian Ocean.

Question: Mr. Ambassador, can you tell us a little bit about the Chinese presence there?

Indian High Commissioner in Mauritius: While Mauritius has a very large Indian origin population which is close to 69 per cent of the population, there is also a small but significant Chinese origin population in Mauritius. Three per cent of the population of Mauritius is Chinese origin. They are largely into trading and play a significant part in the economic aspect of Mauritius. China has good relations with Mauritius. They have an Embassy there. They have had high-level visits recently and they are taking more and more interest.

Question: Any defence relations?

Indian High Commissioner in Mauritius: Defence, no. Their cooperation is largely economic. They are in the process of setting up a Special Economic Zone in Mauritius. But in the area of defence, nothing worth mentioning has ever come to our notice in Mauritius, not between China and Mauritius.



452. Statement by the Prime Minister to the media during the State Visit of Prime Minister of Mauritius.

New Delhi, February 7, 2012.

Your Excellency, Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of Mauritius,
Ladies and Gentlemen of the Media,

It is a great honour for me to welcome Prime Minister Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam on his State Visit to India. He is a very special dear friend of India and a distinguished member of the Indian diaspora.

Prime Minister Dr. Ramgoolam and I have completed extremely fruitful and wide-ranging discussions aimed at strengthening and further expanding the India-Mauritius partnership.

Relations between India and Mauritius are rooted in strong historical and cultural links. However, over the years, our relations have been transformed into a modern, dynamic, comprehensive and mutually beneficial partnership that encompasses active cooperation in a wide spectrum of spheres.

We have agreed that the next Meeting of the India-Mauritius Joint Commission on Economic, Scientific, Technical and Cultural Cooperation will be held later this year to identify new measures to promote cooperation in key areas.

India has been a long-standing development partner of Mauritius. I was happy to inform the Prime Minister that the Government of India will provide a new economic package to Mauritius consisting of a Line of Credit of 250 million US dollars and a grant of 20 million US dollars. A part of this grant will be used to establish a hybrid planetarium at the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre in Mauritius.

We reviewed the status of implementation of the India-Mauritius Double Taxation Avoidance Convention. Both India and Mauritius have a mutual interest in ensuring that there is no misuse of the convention. We are happy that the Joint Working Group on this Convention has resumed its work and held a meeting recently in Port Louis in December 2011. We have directed our officials to continue their work towards finding a mutually acceptable and satisfactory solution to the issues that concern us at the earliest.

The Memorandums of Understanding signed today in the areas of Science & Technology and Education will enable institutionalized cooperation in human resource development in our two countries. I have also invited Mauritius to make the best use of the opportunities available under the initiatives launched by us as part of the India-Africa Forum Summit process.

Diaspora links have provided the foundation for our bilateral relations. The Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the field of Sports and Youth

Affairs that will help in strengthening these contacts, particularly amongst the youth of our two countries.

The Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Textiles is aimed at developing cooperation to mutually benefit from the strengths and endowment of both countries with regard to raw materials, skill development and increasing production capabilities.

Defence and security cooperation is one of the key pillars of our relationship. We both have common security interests. India will continue to support Mauritius in ensuring the security and sovereignty of its land and maritime territory.

We have agreed to strengthen our cooperation to address the growing menace of piracy which has emerged as a major security and developmental challenge for all littoral states of the Indian Ocean. A stable and peaceful Indian Ocean is an objective we both share. In this context, we have agreed that India - as current chair of the IOR-ARC, and Mauritius - as the host for its Secretariat – should work together to reinvigorate this important initiative.

We have had a complete meeting of minds on key regional and global issues. We deeply appreciate Mauritius' consistent and strong support for India's candidature as a permanent member of an expanded and reformed United Nations Security Council.

This visit of Prime Minister Dr. Ramgoolam has imparted a fresh impetus to our efforts to further strengthen our excellent bilateral relations.



453. Joint Statement issued on the State Visit of the Prime Minister of Mauritius.

New Delhi, February 7, 2012.

The Hon Navinchandra Ramgoolam, GCSK, FRCP, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius paid a State Visit to India from February 6-11, 2012 at the invitation of the Honourable Prime Minister of the Republic of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh.

2. The Prime Minister of Mauritius was accompanied by his wife, Mrs. Veena Ramgoolam, Dr. The Hon Arvin Boolell, GOSK, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, Hon Cader Sayed-Hossen, Minister of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection and high-level officials. An important delegation comprising the main economic sectors from Mauritius also accompanied the Prime Minister.

3. After a ceremonial welcome in New Delhi, the Prime Minister of Mauritius visited Rajghat to pay homage to the memory of Mahatma Gandhi. During the State Visit, the Prime Minister of Mauritius called on the President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil and the Vice President of India, Shri M. Hamid Ansari.

4. The Prime Minister of Mauritius met the Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh, and held discussions on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest and relevance. Official talks between India and Mauritius were held on February 7, 2012 in an extremely warm, cordial and friendly atmosphere reflective of the special and unique relationship between the two countries. The Prime Minister of India hosted a banquet in honour of the Prime Minister of Mauritius and the accompanying delegation.

5. The Prime Minister of Mauritius received Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Minister of Finance and Shri Jaipal Reddy, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Smt. Preneet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs. He called on the UPA Chairperson, Smt. Sonia Gandhi.

6. The two leaders recalled the historical and cultural ties based on the foundations of kinship and shared heritage and common values between the two countries. They reiterated an abiding faith in and commitment to democracy, development and peace.

7. They shared the confidence that cooperation at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels will enable the two countries to realise their developmental aspirations, and contribute to peace, prosperity and security in the Indian Ocean Region.

8. The two sides signed the following documents during the visit:

(i) Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Science and Technology;

(ii) Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Youth and Sports;

(iii) MOU for Cooperation between Ministry of Textiles, Government of India and Ministry of Industry, Commerce & Consumer Protection, Government of Mauritius;

(iv) Education Exchange Programme 2012-2016 and

(v) Memorandum of Understanding between the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre Trust Fund and the National Council of Science Museums of India.

9. Both sides noted with satisfaction the progress achieved in the implementation of projects under the economic package offered by the Government of India to Mauritius in the past. One Advanced Light Helicopter Dhruv was gifted to Mauritius in November 2009 as part of this package. The Coastal Surveillance Radar System was installed and commissioned in April 2011. The construction of the Offshore Patrol Vessel is underway.

10. Government of India announced an offer of an economic package, including a Line of Credit of US\$ 250 million and a grant of US\$ 20 million. The Prime Minister of Mauritius thanked the Prime Minister of India for this generous financial package.

11. The two leaders agreed to strengthen cooperation to enhance security in the Indian Ocean region through jointly agreed programmes of EEZ surveillance, exchange of information, capacity building and the development of an effective legal framework against piracy.

12. The two leaders emphasized the need to intensify cooperation to tackle the challenges faced by Indian Ocean Rim countries, including strengthening the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC). Mauritius pledged its full support to IOR-ARC as India assumed the Chair of IOR-ARC.

13. The two leaders reviewed the progress achieved so far in cooperation in hydrography between India and Mauritius. Both sides agreed that 6 years of bilateral cooperation in hydrography had led to the successful preparation of new navigational charts of Mauritian waters.

14. The two leaders reviewed the various efforts to promote bilateral trade and investment ties and the development of infrastructure in a manner that contributes to sustainable development in both countries. The two leaders noted the growth of bilateral trade between India and Mauritius which has increased from US\$207 million in 2005-06 to US\$818 million in the year 2010-11, a growth of 295% in the last 5 years. During Financial Year 2010-11, India's exports to Mauritius were US\$801 million and imports from Mauritius were US\$17 million. It was agreed that the Joint Commission Meeting would be held at an early date where all issues relating to closer economic cooperation would be addressed.

15. Both sides noted with satisfaction, the growing economic and commercial ties between India and Mauritius. The two Prime Ministers agreed on the need to foster greater business linkages in all areas where opportunities exist whether at bilateral or regional level.

16. Both sides noted that the Meeting of the Joint Working Group on DTAC was held from December 21-23, 2011 in a friendly, constructive and positive atmosphere. Both sides agreed to continue discussions at an early date with a view to reaching a mutually agreeable outcome.

17. Mauritius welcomed the initiative taken by India to hold the India Africa Forum Summits on a regular basis. Both sides noted with satisfaction that the process had enhanced India's engagement with Africa and given it a modern and functional dimension. Mauritius expressed its appreciation for the contribution by India for infrastructure development and capacity building in Africa. A large amount of credit lines were providing an important basis for increased development and enhanced business interaction between India and Africa. The human resource development and capacity building initiatives were providing opportunities for training African youth to participate in their own development process. They expressed their satisfaction that the Pan African e-Network Project had been successfully implemented in Mauritius and that, under the IAFS initiatives, the Hybrid Planetarium at the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre would be undertaken.

18. Both leaders reiterated the importance of an effective multilateral system, centered around a strong United Nations, as a key factor in tackling global challenges. In this context, they also recognized the need to pursue reform of the main UN bodies, including the revitalization of the UN General Assembly and expansion of the UN Security Council in both categories of membership. The Prime Minister of Mauritius reiterated his country's [consistent support for India's candidature for permanent membership of an expanded UN Security Council.

19. The two leaders underscored the need for strengthening and reform of multilateral financial institutions and enhancing the voice and participation of developing countries, including SIDS, in international economic decision-making.

20. The two leaders reaffirmed their unequivocal position against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. In furtherance of the shared security interests of both countries which are interlinked in the region, it was agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation on issues of common concern, including piracy, terrorism, organised crime and drugs. It was also agreed to intensify cooperation in the areas of training and capacity building of the Mauritian Police Force. The Prime Minister of Mauritius expressed interest in the purchase of equipment to

strengthen the capability of Mauritius Police Force. The Prime Minister of India assured that this equipment could be supplied expeditiously to Mauritius under a mutually agreed time frame. Both the Prime Minister of India and the Prime Minister of Mauritius also agreed on the necessity of ensuring adequate surveillance of the vast EEZ of Mauritius through mutually agreed programmes.

21. Both sides agreed that climate change was one of the most important global challenges. They reaffirmed the provisions and principles of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), in particular that of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. They reiterated that developed countries should take the lead in undertaking ambitious mitigation efforts and providing financial and technological support to developing countries. Both Parties shall collaborate on projects of mutual interest to preserve common eco-systems. They shall also collaborate to address vulnerability of Mauritius as a Small Island Developing State (SID) to Climate Change and strengthen coastal research.

22. India reiterated its consistent support to Mauritius for the restoration of Mauritian sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago. The Prime Minister of Mauritius thanked India for its long-standing and unwavering stand in this regard.

23. Both leaders welcomed the fact that the business delegation, led by the Hon. Prime Minister of Mauritius, had meaningful interactions with the business communities of India in New Delhi and Mumbai.

24. The Prime Minister of Mauritius thanked the Prime Minister of India for the warmth, cordiality and gracious hospitality extended to him and members of his delegation during their stay in India.

25. Prime Minister Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam extended an invitation to Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to pay a visit to Mauritius. The invitation was accepted and it was agreed that the dates of the visit would be finalized through diplomatic channels.



454. Banquet Speech by Prime Minister during the State Visit of the Prime Minister of Mauritius.

New Delhi, February 7, 2012.

Your Excellency The Honourable Navinchandra Ramgoolam,
Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius,
Mrs. Veena Ramgoolam,
Distinguished Members of the Delegation of the Republic of Mauritius,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honour and privilege to warmly welcome Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam and his delegation to India.

Excellency, we regard you as a close and special friend of long standing. Even more than a friend, we regard you as family. The bonds of friendship between India and Mauritius are rooted in strong historical and cultural links. After an arduous journey and overcoming the vagaries of nature, your ancestors settled in Mauritius and have laid the foundations of a modern and prosperous State.

The linkages forged by Mahatma Gandhi and Manilal Doctor among others, were carried forward by Smt. Indira Gandhi. She developed a close rapport with your distinguished father, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, who led your country to freedom and prosperity.

Today, our two countries have built strong bridges across the Indian Ocean to bring our people closer together. Yet advances in technology and communications allow us to close the gap even further between us. Our interests and welfare are interlinked. We must work towards greater integration in the widest sense of the term.

Excellency,

India and Mauritius are both pluralistic societies where rule of law and democratic values are cherished. Unity in diversity is the hallmark of both our countries.

We compliment you and the people of Mauritius on the socio-economic progress that Mauritius has achieved over the last four decades. Mauritius has emerged as a model of success for Africa as well as for the entire world. Despite the prevalent winds of turbulence affecting the global economy, Mauritius has shown remarkable resilience under your leadership and has maintained an impressive economic growth and a high standard of living. India is committed to extending its full support to the Government and people of Mauritius in their development efforts.

Excellency,

Your visit has provided us an opportunity to reaffirm our special relationship and

to identify ways and means of further enriching our multifaceted partnership for the mutual benefit of our two peoples.

There are many areas where our two countries can elevate the level of our cooperation to an even higher level. These include the areas of trade and economic cooperation, culture, connectivity, education, space and tourism. We look forward to working closely with you towards this end.

I once again wish you a very pleasant stay in India.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to invite you to join me in a toast to:

- To the good health and well being of Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius His Excellency The Honourable Navinchandra Ramgoolam, and Mrs. Veena Ramgoolam;
- To the progress and prosperity of the friendly people of the Republic of Mauritius.
- To the close and continuing friendship between India and Mauritius.



NAMIBIA

455. Press Release on the India-Namibia Foreign Office Consultations.

New Delhi, November 22, 2012.

The Namibian delegation led by HE Ambassador Veiccooh Nghiwete, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Namibia visited India on 20 November 2012 and held Foreign Office Consultations in New Delhi. Mr. M. Ganapathi, Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India led the Indian delegation at the Consultations.

The Namibian delegation called on Shri Salman Khurshid, Minister of External Affairs and exchanged views on bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest.

Both sides noted with satisfaction that bilateral relations rooted in history during the Liberation struggle of Namibia had expanded in recent years especially following the State Visit of HE Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of Namibia to India in 2009. The two sides agreed that there was significant potential for further expanding bilateral relations.

During the Consultations, the two delegations discussed bilateral relations and exchanged views on regional and international issues. Relations between the two countries in the areas of trade, education, healthcare, human resource development, capacity building, Cooperation on Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, defence and India Africa Forum Summits and related projects were amongst the subjects on which views were exchanged between the two delegations.

The two delegations also discussed cooperation between India and Namibia including in the UN, NAM, and Commonwealth. It was agreed to strengthen cooperation in regional and multilateral fora in areas of mutual interest.



RWANDA

456. Press Release on the Minister of State Smt.Preneet Kaur's visit to Rwanda.

February 16, 2012.

On her first leg of bilateral visit to Rwanda and Burundi in Africa, Preneet Kaur Minister of State for External Affairs met Louis Mushikiwabo, Foreign Minister and Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda. During the bilateral discussions with the two leaders, Smt. Kaur conveyed that Indians value Rwanda as a stable and rapidly developing country in Africa. The bilateral visit is in furtherance to consolidate the diplomatic relationship, which has already been blooming. This is the first ever visit by an Indian Minister of state from Ministry of External Affairs to Rwanda.

2. In a meeting with Rwanda Foreign Minister the two Ministers signed three MOUs viz. in the field of: i) India – Rwanda Renewable Energy Cooperation; ii) For solar electrification of 35 schools in rural Rwanda; and iii) Agreement for Establishment of a Joint Commission with Rwanda.

3. Smt. Kaur further stated that the economic engagement between the two countries has always been strong and during the recent years it has been growing steadily. Indian government has offered a support of US 80 million Dollars for a Hydroelectric Project on Nyabarongo River, which has been progressing well. While appreciating the assistance by the Government of India in capacity building efforts by the Rwandans, Foreign Minister Louis Mushikiwabo, expressed satisfaction with the progress in the Government of India supported projects and requested for expediting few more projects already submitted by them. Smt. Kaur stated that the Government of India remains committed to support the establishment of Vocational Training Centre in Rwanda to support the development of their Human Resources. Indian government has increased ITEC slots to 40 from 25 and ICCR scholarships from 6 to 10. Indian Government has also offered 8 post doctoral Fellowships under the C V Raman Scheme. In addition, the Government of India is going to support the Rwanda government in the establishment of an Entrepreneur Development Institute.

4. During this visit to Rwanda she also met the Agriculture Minister of Rwanda who has shown keen interest to intensify Agricultural co-operation between the two countries. In her meeting with the Indian Community at Kigali in Rwanda, she appreciated their efforts in strengthening the bilateral relationship.

5. A high powered CII business delegation consisting of 22 members is also accompanying the Minister of State for External Affairs to these two African

countries. This is significant especially in view of the recent growing trend of India-Rwanda trade relations in the recent years as it will help Indian business people to explore new possibilities of strengthening trade relations.



SEYCHELLES

457. Press Release on the Prime Minister's meeting with President of Seychelles.

New Delhi, February 2, 2012.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh received the President of Seychelles, His Excellency James Alex Michel on 1 February 2012. He was here to attend the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit.

Matters of mutual interests, including international, regional and bilateral issues were discussed. Both leaders reaffirmed their close and abiding relationship and India was acknowledged as the main development partner for the Seychelles. The two leaders also discussed issues relating to piracy and its consequent impact on security, tourism and fisheries.

The President of Seychelles expressed his gratitude for India's support for Seychelles development and in the fight against piracy. The President of Seychelles had made a State visit in June 2010 and also visited in February 2011 for the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit.

Both sides agreed to continue their close cooperation and keep abreast of new developments in the region.



458. Press Releases on the visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Seychelles.

New Delhi, February 14, 2012.

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Seychelles, His Excellency Mr. Jean-Paul Adam, is in India currently on an official visit from 14 to 16 February 2012.

2. He held delegation-level talks with Minister of External Affairs, Shri S.M. Krishna, on 14th February 2012, who hosted him a working lunch. Both sides reviewed bilateral relations as well as current status of various bilateral cooperation matters, particularly those which emanated after the State Visit of President of Seychelles in June 2010. President of Seychelles also visited India in February 2011 and in February 2012 to participate in the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit (DSDS) and met Prime Minister to discuss bilateral cooperation issues.

3. During the talks, the Indian side reiterated its commitment to continue its support to Seychelles for its security, development, and in its capacity building efforts. Other areas of cooperation discussed include trade and investment, culture, hydrocarbon sector, fisheries etc. Both sides emphasized the need to continue joint surveillance of the Exclusive Economic Zone of Seychelles and anti-piracy surveillance to ensure safety of the Indian Ocean region. Both sides also discussed regional situation and matters pertaining to Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and the African Union (AU). An MOU between Government of India and Government of Seychelles and an Agreement between Seychelles and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) for the supply of Coastal Surveillance Radar Systems as well as an Agreement between Seychelles and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the supply of a Dornier Aircraft were signed during the occasion.

4. During his stay in India, the Seychelles Foreign Minister is scheduled to meet Defence Minister. He will also visit National Defence College (NDC) and Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD).



459. Address by President Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil to the National Assembly of Seychelles.

Victoria, April 30, 2012.

I bring to you warm greetings, good wishes and best regards from the people of India, from the Members of the Indian Parliament, and from the Government of India.

I am honoured to have the privilege to address this special session of the National Assembly of Seychelles, the pillar of democracy of your beautiful country.

I am fascinated by the unique splendour of this paradise island. I am deeply touched by the warm welcome extended to me and my delegation by the friendly people of Seychelles.

Hon'ble Speaker,

Our peoples and our countries are connected by the Indian Ocean, the trade winds and the monsoon. The bonds between us are rich and infused with history. We share a common legacy of colonialism and a struggle to free our nations. India's struggle for freedom was a unique movement for democracy, justice and equality. It was led by Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of our Nation - an important bridge between India and the African continent. It was the cradle of Africa that turned the barrister into a Mahatma, who remains the symbol of peace and, non-violence as also hope all over the world as it strives for global stability and security.

India and Seychelles are two vibrant democracies that share common values like expression of popular will, respect for liberty and human rights, adult suffrage, rule of law and equality. India's experience has shown to the world how development can be addressed within the constitutional and democratic frameworks; how aspirations of millions can flourish in a pluralistic society and how diversity can be unifying as well. Democracy in India has remained strong and peoples' faith in the system has remained alive and vibrant, as reflected in huge turnouts in all stages of elections to our Parliament and state assemblies.

We, in India, have great admiration for Seychelles's strong democratic traditions, for its economic reforms, for the impressive human and social development indicators it has attained.

In a democracy, Parliaments are the forums to understand and address people's aspirations and their developmental needs, and to focus on various aspects of governance, which impact on the well-being of the people. We also believe that Parliaments can play a role in building greater understanding between the peoples of different countries. India would like to increase cooperation between our two Parliaments, and there should be more exchange of visits between the Members

of Parliaments. With this aim in view we invited young MPs from African countries for mutually beneficial interactions with their Indian counterparts last month. I am happy that one of the young lady MPs from Seychelles had participated in the programme. I am happy that MPs from India are with me during this visit. We would like to continue such interactions.

India and Seychelles enjoy close relations. The links between our two countries extend to every aspect of human life, be it social, economic, cultural, intellectual or political. Our relations are characterized by regular high level visits and political consultation, both at the highest and official levels. President Michel's State visit to India in June 2010 was historic as were his visits in 2011 and 2012. He has been instrumental in building up the relationship between our two countries over the years. These visits has strengthened co-operation in all fields. India would like to continue as an important partner of Seychelles in its development process. We are now entering a new phase of increased bilateral relationship. There is so much to gain and benefit through mutual help and understanding. Let us expand cooperation in areas such as economic and commercial, tourism including eco-tourism, and environment, apart from the existing cooperation in defence and security, education, health and human resource development.

Seychelles has ethnic links with three continents – Asia, Africa and Europe. It is uniquely placed to play a role in our efforts to achieve better integration of our policies with Africa. There is nothing metaphorical when we say that the trade winds take us to Africa via Seychelles. Shared values have enabled our two countries to have a common vision and common goals in our bilateral and multilateral ties. As members of the NAM, United Nations, Commonwealth and IOR-ARC, both the countries have played an important and cooperative role in these multilateral bodies. We have maintained close cooperation in multilateral fora mindful of each other's vital interests and considering them as our own.

Peace and security has always remained the primary pre-condition for development. Attainable and Sustainable peace can only be achieved by curbing the acts of violence, conflicts and terrorism. There is a common need to be vigilant against this common threat. I would like to thank the people of Seychelles for their principled and consistent support to India on the issue of terrorism. The fight against terrorism has to be comprehensive and sustained, and for that we need to isolate the elements who instigate, support or assist terrorism, in any form, as much as those who perpetrate it. The issue of terrorism has been made more complex with the challenge posed by piracy. The issue of piracy, though not new, has brought a new dimension to the threat it posed to the peaceful Indian Ocean. This is affecting India as well as Seychelles, and many other countries by threatening security of our sea-lanes of trade and communication. India acknowledges the immense courage and conviction demonstrated by Seychelles in tackling the problem of piracy.

India would continue to extend cooperation to Seychelles in the fight against piracy as has been the case during the last few years. Indian naval ships make regular visits to Seychelles to safeguard the Exclusive Economic Zone of Seychelles.

We are living in an era in which most global problems and their solutions pertain to developing nations like ours and it is the demand of our time that our global institutions reflect this reality.

There is a need to expand the UN Security Council to make it more representative and effective to address challenges of the 21st Century. In this context, I would like to convey our sincere appreciation for the support of the Government of Seychelles to India's candidature for the permanent membership of an expanded UN Security Council.

Hon'ble Speaker

Once again may I express my gratitude to you for having given me this opportunity to share my thoughts with the Honourable members of the National Assembly of Seychelles. It was, indeed, a great privilege and rare honour for me. I wish the very best to every one of you. May God bless your country and all the inhabitants, with ever increasing prosperity, success and glory.

Thank you.



460. Speech by President Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the India-Seychelles Business Forum meeting.

Victoria, April 30, 2012.

Let me begin by thanking the Seychelles Government and the business community in organising this meeting during my visit to your beautiful country. Today's meeting brings together businesspersons, investors and financiers both from India and Seychelles, for the purpose of fostering economic partnerships for the benefit of both India and Seychelles.\

I am pleased to address this Business Forum. We envision this Forum, as an important step towards realising the business potential that exists between India and Seychelles.

India and Seychelles share the Indian Ocean; our cultural ties go back over two centuries. We also share many common values and beliefs, foremost among them are a democratic system, a secular, multi-linguistic and multi-cultural society. The warm and friendly bilateral relationship encompasses collaboration and cooperation in diverse fields - political, economic, scientific and cultural. The objective of my State Visit to Seychelles is to expand and deepen our bilateral relations in all areas.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We, in India, acknowledge the economic progress made by Seychelles. India stands ready to be a full and equal partner in the development of Seychelles through financial assistance and initiatives that support capacity building. With an exclusive economic zone of 1.3 million square kilometres, Seychelles offers a plethora of business opportunities in terms of both investment and trade. The Government of Seychelles has identified areas for investments that have a high potential and on the basis of traditional resource base and competitive advantage, and global business trends, has targeted specific sectors for fast track development. These sectors should be the focus of attention for Indian businesspersons.

Seychelles has investor friendly policies for foreign businesses, helped by Investment Promotion and Protection Agreements with several countries including India. It also provides incentives to businesses including tax holidays, concessions and the repatriation of profits. All this makes Seychelles an attractive destination for foreign direct investments. I call upon Indian investors and traders to tap into this market for mutual benefit.

India's economic progress has been impressive. It is one of the largest and fastest growing economies, counted as one of the key drivers of the global

economy. Today, we have large investments in education, health and rural development which are bringing their own benefits. We are undertaking a massive expansion in skills development as also in our physical infrastructure. We intend to do this through both public and private investments as also through public-private partnerships. We are, therefore, committed to creating an environment that promotes enterprise and investment. We are doing all this within a democratic framework that is focussed on inclusion and participatory growth. Expanding economic activities in India offer opportunities for the rest of the world, and India hopes this will also benefit Seychelles and wider Africa.

The trade between India and Seychelles can grow. Indian exports to Seychelles in 2010-2011 were worth US\$ 31 million while imports from Seychelles by India were US\$ 9.29 () million. We must look at ways of increasing it, including by broadening the basket of trade between the two countries.

As you are aware, through the India-Africa Forum Summits, India-Africa engagements have been given a new dynamism and direction. In line with India's commitment to assist in capacity building of African countries, we have visualised more than 22,000 scholarships to Africa over the period of the next three years; and establishment of more than 80 capacity building institutions in Africa. Some of these institutions will be conducting business related diploma courses which will be useful to all African countries including Seychelles. India has also been organizing Conclaves on India-Africa Project Partnership every year and the 8th edition was held in March this year. African delegations are invited and are provided an opportunity to link with Indian businessmen and entrepreneurs for enhancing trade and investment.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Seychelles is breathtakingly beautiful and its natural environment is captivating. I am deeply impressed with its scenic environs. Indian tourists have been visiting Seychelles. I understand that some Indian films have been shot here and I hope that many more Indian film producers and directors will look at Seychelles as a possible location. I am sure the Government and local industries of Seychelles will be only too happy to begin such discussions.

There is significant potential to expand the Indo-Seychellois bilateral partnership in the economic and commercial fields. I urge you to fully utilize the opportunity of meeting today, to impart further momentum to business relations between our two countries. You can be sure of a helping hand from the two governments. I wish you every success.

I would like to recognize the role played by the business chambers, as well as the High Commissions in the two countries, in enhancing the flow of information on investment and trade related issues. I am confident that this will make an

invaluable contribution to supporting the establishment of joint ventures between enterprises of both countries. I urge them to keep up the good work.

Thank you.



461. Statement to the press by President Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil on the conclusion of meeting with the President of Seychelles.

Victoria, April 30, 2012.

I am, indeed, very happy to be in Seychelles. My delegation and I are deeply touched by the warmth of the reception, and the generous hospitality accorded to us by the Government and the people of Seychelles. I bring greetings and good wishes from the people of India to the friendly people of Seychelles.

This is my first visit to Seychelles, a country of amazing natural beauty. I feel privileged to be here at the invitation of President James Alix Michel whose State visit to India in June 2010 was path breaking in our bilateral relations. My visit to Seychelles is to re-emphasize the strong friendship that exists between our two countries, which share the Indian Ocean and along with it, cultural affinities and ties of history. Today, this relationship is vibrant, wide-ranging, multi-dimensional and mutually beneficial. My visit to Seychelles reaffirms our common commitment to take our relations to new heights.

My meeting with His Excellency President James Alix Michel was very fruitful. I have also had a useful meeting with His Excellency the Vice President and the Cabinet Ministers of Seychelles. We have noted with satisfaction that India and Seychelles have, over the past few decades, developed a strong and mutually beneficial cooperation at both bilateral and regional levels. Given the progress in the relationship, both sides expressed the desire to work together towards elevating the bilateral relations to a strategic partnership for mutual benefit.

While expressing satisfaction over the present state of our economic-commercial relations, we agreed that considerable opportunities still exist for further expansion, particularly in the areas of trade and economic cooperation. I am happy to state that a business delegation has joined me from India to explore business opportunities in Seychelles. My participation in the Business Forum Meet last evening in Seychelles was very encouraging. I am confident that this interaction will further push bilateral relations in the economic and commercial fields.

We have agreed to further enhance exchanges in the fields of higher education, manpower development, health, Information and Communications Technology, Science and Technology, hydrographic surveys, monorail, tourism, hospitality and culture. In fact, the signing of the MOU on Co-operation in the field of Youth Affairs and Sports, will go a long way in enhancing people-to-people exchanges also. India would always be a trusted development partner of Seychelles. In tune with this commitment, I was happy to inform President Michel of India's financial package of a Line of Credit of US \$ 50 million and a grant of US \$ 25 million for Seychelles.

We expressed satisfaction at the present level of bilateral cooperation in the defence and security areas, especially in the context of combating piracy in the Indian Ocean region. Piracy in the region adversely impacts on us all. India reiterated its commitment to provide assistance to Seychelles in the defence sector, including training and deputation of experts. We have seen the signing today of an MOU on co-operation on training of police personnel.

I express my gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Seychelles for its valued support on regional and global issues of crucial importance to India. Seychelles has consistently supported India's candidature for a permanent membership in an expanded United Nations Security Council. The re-entry of Seychelles as a member of the IOR-ARC will further make the organization more representative and I hope Seychelles will benefit from it.

I am privileged to have been given the opportunity to address the Special Session of the National Assembly of Seychelles. It will be soon after this, and I am looking forward to it. India is keen to enhance parliamentary exchanges between our two countries. I am happy that apart from a Minister, two Members of Parliament are also with me to be part of this historic moment.

I have invited President James Alix Michel to visit India, which he has accepted. The visit will take place on mutually convenient dates.

Thank You.



462. Speech by President Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the Indian Community Reception in Victoria, Seychelles.

Victoria, April 30, 2012.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to meet all of you, a significant cross section of the Indian community residing in Seychelles, a country with immense natural beauty.

I understand that the Indian community here has a substantial presence and is deeply respected. Many of you are occupying important positions in Seychelles in various walks of life including in Government and politics; and in the health, education, construction, banking and finance sectors. You have contributed substantially to the development and prosperity of this country and also for the strengthening of the relationship between India and Seychelles. We are proud of your accomplishments and achievements. From the time the first batch of Indian immigrants came to the islands of Seychelles over the 200 odd years - settling here as among the earliest inhabitants, the Indian community of Seychelles has contributed to the development of this country, while providing strong human, social and cultural links with India.

I am glad that the Indian community here is well-integrated with others in this country, even as it has preserved our traditional cultural values and civilizational strengths through activities of various cultural and other associations. The variety and number of Indian associations you have set up here, reflect the Indian ethos which is eloquently expressed in "unity in diversity". All of you from different organizations, therefore, must work collectively as representatives of Indian culture and tradition in this beautiful country.

India has fascinated the rest of the world since times immemorial. The cultural ethos of our country has the capacity to stay deep rooted in the minds of its people, no matter where they live. It is the Indian way of life, multi-cultural but yet all-embracing, tolerant and harmonious living which is our heritage and strength. This has been augmented by the Indian thirst for knowledge, which has today found expression in our country being among the foremost in the knowledge revolution. India has emerged as an economically resilient nation largely due to the hard work of its people.

I believe that Indians living in different parts of the world have a deep affinity as they spring from the same source. The footprints of the Indian Diaspora are widespread and its presence felt in every continent. Overseas Indians numbering over 27 million dispersed all over the world are symbols of India in their adopted countries. Together, they constitute a formidable force, both in themselves as well as in having the potential to plough back their resources and acumen, to

join as partners in the development and progress of India. The Government of India deeply cherishes its relationship with the Indian Diaspora. It is keenly interested in their well-being and also seeks to engage actively with them. Every year the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is held in India as a celebration of Indians living abroad, and I am happy that members of the Indian community from Seychelles have also participated. The Government and people of India recognize and greatly value the important role being played by Indian communities living abroad.

In conclusion, I once again take this opportunity to compliment the Indian community in Seychelles for having integrated themselves so well into the local milieu and for making significant contribution to the growth of the island nation. India deeply values its relationship with Seychelles, and this relationship could be nurtured and strengthened with the contributions of all of you in your respective fields. I have no doubt that all of you will continue your efforts in that direction.

My best wishes to all of you.

Jai Hind!



463. Media Briefing by Secretary (West) M. Ganapathi on the President's Meetings during her State Visit to Seychelles.

Victoria, April 30, 2012.

Secretary (West) (Shri M. Ganapathi): Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, friends from the media.

First of all let me recognise the presence of Mr. Ravi Bangar, Joint Secretary (East & Southern Africa) in the Ministry of External Affairs; Ms. Archana Datta, OSD (PR) to the President; and the High Commissioner of India Mr. Thanglura Darlong. I also recognise Mr. Sailas Thangal, our colleague from the Ministry of External Affairs. I think Sailas you are on your last overseas trip, so we will miss you. I am sure the friends from media will miss you.

As we discussed in New Delhi just before coming here, the President of India is on a State Visit to the Republic of Seychelles and the Republic of South Africa and the first leg of the visit started yesterday.

The President of Seychelles, Mr. James Alix Michel, warmly welcomed the President of India yesterday on her arrival. I think the most significant point reflecting the visit appeared in the Special Communiqué of the newsletter of the Ruling Party here which says "*En moman memorab dan Sesel!*" that translates itself to 'A memorable moment for Seychelles!'. That is how the Seychellois leader welcomed the President of India. I think this also goes on to talk in terms of the importance which Seychelles accords to the visit.

Today morning the President of India and the President of the Republic of Seychelles Mr. James Alix Michel had extensive discussions in the State House where various aspects of our bilateral relations were covered. They also touched upon certain aspects of regional and international issues.

The President of India thereafter received the Vice-President of Seychelles and they again discussed various elements of our bilateral cooperation before the conclusion of two agreements – one relating to MoU on Cooperation in Sports and Youth Affairs and the second relating to Cooperation between the Seychelles' People's Defence Forces and the Bureau of Police Research and Development of India. The President thereafter addressed the National Assembly of the Republic of Seychelles.

In the discussions which the Hon'ble President had with the Seychellois side, the historical relations between India and Seychelles were underlined. The President of Seychelles reiterated the fact that Seychelles was a true friend of India and Indo-Seychelles relations have a long and historical background to it. In fact, the two sides reiterated the shared ideals and values besides the fact that both our countries are washed by the waters of the Indian Ocean.

The Seychelles President saw the President's visit as a defining moment in the history of relations between our two countries, and said that besides sharing the Indian Ocean both sides shared a vision based on understanding, mutual trust and confidence.

The Seychelles President also emphasised the fact that India can count on Seychelles as a defender of the values of peace and development that we share. He noted that Seychelles was a bulwark of stability and an unshakeable friend of India in the region. The President said that Seychelles could count on India as a trusted friend.

The cooperation between India and Seychelles was seen as multidimensional, bringing together cooperation and interaction in the areas of the political field; trade, economic and investment areas; the cultural sphere; education and human resource development; people-to-people contact; and the defence and security areas.

In the political field, the two sides noted the unique partnership which was seen as that of a strategic partnership and a natural one which the Seychelles President underlined.

In the area of trade, economy and investment, the two sides noted that the bilateral trade turnover was around US\$ 40 million, which our President said was not commensurate with what could be done, in the sense that there were enough opportunities to further expand trade and investment cooperation.

The two sides noted that we have a Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement, and that we would look forward to concluding other agreements as we move along towards further expanding our trade and economic partnership.

The President noted that India's engagement with Africa through the India-Africa Forum Summit deliberations also extends to include Seychelles, and in this context mentioned the setting up of the cluster of solar energy cells in Seychelles, and looked forward to further expanding our relationship through the three areas which are under consideration – (1) the question of refurbishment of the national health sector in Seychelles, (2) the question of the development of a monorail facility, and (3) that relating to the Mahe Anse Dam.

The President also announced the offer of a line of credit of US\$ 50 million to Seychelles besides a grant of US\$ 25 million. This is in addition to the already extended lines of credit of US\$ 10 million which was announced during the visit of the President of Seychelles to India in June 2010.

The Centre for IT was noted as a significant opportunity to further expand our cooperation in the field of information and communications technology. The Seychelles President and his Vice-President remarked on the fact that they

would be having a fibre optic connectivity which would be available from June of this year, which would provide a further opportunity for diverse cooperation with Seychelles. In fact, the Seychelles side had said that the undersea fibre optic cable facility would allow for revolutionary changes in the financial services and online services sector, and they welcomed Indian participation. This was taken note of by our side.

Environment and renewable energy was seen as an important area of cooperation. We already mentioned the setting up of the solar power charging cluster and other opportunities in the renewable energy sector. In fact the President recalled the setting up of the photovoltaic street lighting facility in Seychelles. The Seychelles side also mentioned about the Conference on Biodiversity which will take place in India in October this year.

Education and training was seen as an important area of cooperation. The President noted that 41 slots which were being offered to Seychelles under the India Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC), and the nine scholarships which would be afforded in the education sector.

Cooperation in the infrastructure, transport and connectivity areas were touched upon. The President said that not only would India participate in capacity-building and in the human resource development sector in Seychelles but also in the development of the infrastructure sector.

In terms of the defence and security, the Seychelles President did remark on the fact that stability and security in the Indian Ocean would be an important area of bilateral cooperation. In this context we might all recall that India has offered a Dornier aircraft for Seychelles and are setting up the Coastal Surveillance Radar System (CSRS), which would be available to Seychelles. This would take forward our cooperation to provide for the security of Seychelles in a very big way.

Of course, you are all aware that the Indian Navy extensively participates in not only the hydrographic surveys of Seychelles water but also has been sending, at least over the couple of years, thrice a year its offshore patrol vessels for Extended Economic Zone Surveillance and Anti-Piracy Patrolling of the waters of Seychelles. The Seychelles side thanked the Government of India for this committed support which India has been offering in terms of the offshore patrolling which has been carried on extensively.

In this context, both sides discussed the threats which piracy has been posing to the countries in the Indian Ocean, particularly in this area. This was a point of considerable interest because we need to ensure that the menace of piracy is eliminated from this region. In fact, the President of Seychelles did note that the commitment of India towards not only anti-piracy patrolling but in eliminating the

scourge was an important element in providing for security and stability of the countries of the region.

Two agreements were signed. One was the MoU on Cooperation in Sports and Youth Affairs, which was remarked as providing for greater engagement in people-to-people contacts, and also for providing for greater understanding between the two countries, particularly through youth exchanges. The second was the MoU between the Seychelles People's Defence Forces and the Bureau of Police Research and Development of India. This will allow for greater training and capacity building of the Seychelles People's Defence Forces.

The President thanked the Government of the Republic of Seychelles for their warm hospitality and for the exceptional arrangements made by them for the visit. The President also noted that this was a visit which was taking place at the Presidential level after around 23 years, which naturally reinforced the commitment of India to provide for greater engagement with Seychelles.

The President invited President James Alix Michel to visit India. The dates for the visit will naturally be worked out through diplomatic channels. As you are all aware, President Michel has been on a state visit to India twice in 2005 and 2010. He was in India in 2011 and 2012 for the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit.

The President of Seychelles accepted the invitation and we look forward to the visit in the near future.

In terms of the President's Address to the National Assembly, this was the first Address by any President in the new building which the National Assembly is housing. The President's Address was received with great attention, and was seen as an opportunity of the commitment of the world's largest democracy to, as they called it, the world's smallest democracy. The President's Address was received with great applause and with great attention.

With these words I would conclude here, and I would be open to questions which our friends would have. Thank you.

Question: Could you just elaborate on the line of credit?

Secretary (West): The line of credit which was announced by the President was for a line of credit of US\$50 million and for a grant of US\$ 25 million. Now, what does happen, as you are all aware, is the President has announced now, the Seychelles Government will revert back to us with their requirements in various fields. And we would then work on this and provide the assistance commensurate with their requirements. Of course, the other thing which I mentioned is there are the earlier lines of credit which have already been announced and we have moved forward on these.

Question: You have mentioned that Indian Government is giving them assistance to stop the piracy. Are we giving any naval force or the coastguards?

Secretary (West): What I said was in terms of the anti-piracy patrolling and the EEZ surveillance which the Indian Navy provides for Seychelles. We have thrice a year Indian Naval ships coming around, and the fourth one when we do the hydrographic surveys. So, in a calendar year, four times our naval ships, the offshore patrol vessels, come over for anti-piracy patrolling. Of course, we do have Naval Advisors present here. I think we have here the Maritime Security Advisor, a senior officer from the Indian Navy, who does advise the Government of Seychelles. But the anti-piracy patrolling which takes place through the visit of our ships regularly does act as a major deterrent to the pirates in moving southwards.

Question: You said that India will be making available the radar system. Will it be stationed here or some other site?

Secretary (West): The Coastal Surveillance Radar System, the agreement for which has already been signed, provides for the establishment of what they call as the Automatic Identification System (AIS) plus the radars which would allow for tracking of unidentified vessels which would then provide for, if there is an unidentified vessel, appropriate deterrent action against it. This system will be based in Seychelles.

Question: Have you identified any particular island where this will be set up?

Secretary (West): The agreement has been signed and the islands have been identified and they will be placed there.

Question: Compared with other grants and credits to our friendly countries, how significant is this line of credit of US\$ 50 million?

Secretary (West): I think any line of credit and grant, any assistance which is given, is significant because it provides an opportunity for the recipient government to work out their requirements which would be met through the assistance which we offered. I do not think we should compare this with the offer to any other country, but this is significant. And if you look at what we have offered so far to Seychelles, the total assistance offered so far has been around US\$ 25 million line of credit. This is a US\$ 50 million dollar of credit and a US\$ 25 million grant.

Question: When was the radar deal signed?

Secretary (West): It was signed recently, I think in February this year. When the Seychelles Foreign Minister Jean Paul Adam was in New Delhi, we signed two agreements. One was on the supply of the Dornier aircraft and the second was that relating to the Coastal Surveillance Radar System. This was on the 14th of February.

Question: By when would these be provided?

Secretary (West): Normally what happens is it takes roughly six months.

Question: Sir, Dornier is already there.

Secretary (West): A Dornier is already there on loan. The supply of the Dornier will replace it.

I can just mention to you from the Mauritius example, because I was there in Mauritius when we also signed a similar Coastal Surveillance Radar System (CSRS) agreement. This is exclusively done by Bharat Electronics Limited which does the systems integration and provides for the AIS and the radar.

Question: Is there any agreement on terrorism?

Secretary (West): There is no agreement per se but there is a total understanding on the threat which terrorism and piracy poses to both India and Seychelles, and we are both determined to combat this menace and eliminate it.

Question: Seychelles is looking at improving the financial services sector. Do you foresee it becoming some kind of a Mauritius where ... *(Inaudible)* ... tend to prevent it from being used as a tax haven.

Secretary (West): I think the interest of Seychelles naturally as a financial services centre would always be there because it is a developing country in this part of the world. When we have discussions on various elements of an ongoing cooperation in the financial services sector, all these are factored in.

Question: You mentioned about nine scholarships. Is it that scholarship is only for the ... *(Inaudible)* ...

Secretary (West): Those nine scholarships are in the education sector. It is for students. The other 41 slots under the ITEC are for a comprehensive engagement in the economic, human resource capacity-building development, including police training. But the new agreement will afford a greater number of slots being made available for Seychelles.

Question: Are these scholarships for graduation level or PG?

Secretary (West): It is for undergraduate. Besides, we have also have under the India-Africa Forum Summit the CV Raman Fellowships for science and technology. That goes right up to postgraduate and Ph.D. level training.

Thank you.



SOMALIA

464. Intervention by Shri E Ahamed, Minister of State for External Affairs at the London Conference on Somalia.

London, February 23, 2012.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Let me begin by thanking the United Kingdom for organizing this important and timely conference. We hope today's deliberations would be a step towards a comprehensive strategy to rid Somalia of the instability and conflict that has mired it for over two decades. We are here to affirm our solidarity with the people of Somalia with whom we share two millennia of civilizational exchanges across the seas.

2. As His Excellency Sheikh Sharif remarked to me yesterday, his country and mine are neighbours, separated only by the waters of our common ocean. India desires stability in Somalia. Piracy is the most obvious example of the lack of it. Not many years ago, India made a major contribution to peacekeeping in Somalia through its significant involvement in UNOSOM-II. Last May following my Prime Minister's announcement at the second India Africa Summit we became financial contributors to AMISOM. We have continued to extend help to Somalia in capacity building through human resource development and have recently increased the number of scholarships we grant. We have also successfully contributed in the information technology sector in Somalia. We remain committed to helping Somalia in its development.

3. Much of India's trade passes through the Gulf of Aden, estimated at about US \$ 120 billion annually. Indians constitute 7% of all the World's seafarers and a manifestation of the Somali predicament has been the tremendous human cost that these seafarers pay. As I speak, a number of Indian seafarers remain hostage to pirates in Somalia. We hope the outcome document of this important Conference will reflect our concerns over the treatment meted out to mariners.

4. We support all international efforts, led by the United Nations, for the creation of an environment in which the Somalis can take care of their own destiny, free from violence of all kinds. I am confident this conference will be a reaffirmation of our collective commitment to Somalia's immediate future.

I thank you.



465. Statement by Mrs. Preneet Kaur, Minister of State at the Debate on Somalia in the UN Security Council.

New York, October 16, 2012.

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to thank the Guatemalan delegation for organizing today's debate on the situation in Somalia.

As the new authorities start their work in Mogadishu, it is a good time to deliberate upon the progress achieved so far, the challenges that lie ahead, and how the international community can continue its support for the government and people of Somalia.

We have carefully noted the views expressed by SRSG Augustine Mahiga, and I would thank him for his valuable statement.

Mr. President,

During the course of last year there has been remarkable progress in the process of stabilization of political, security and humanitarian situations in Somalia. This has created a historic opportunity that must be seized for the full restoration of peace and stability in Somalia after two-decade long conflict.

The adoption of a provisional constitution, formation of the new parliament, elections of the President and the Speaker, and appointment of the new prime minister clearly reflect the collective resolve of the Somali people to move from the transitional institutions to a more representative government that can meet the legitimate aspirations of all sections of Somali society.

These important milestones would not have been possible but for the coordinated and concerted efforts of the international community, including the African Union and the United Nations.

The important role played by SRSG Mahiga in the successful completion of the transition process deserves our special appreciation.

Our congratulations are also due to the new Somali leadership, particularly H.E. Mr. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, the new President of Somalia. It is a matter of immense pride for us that President Mohamud spent a few years studying in India in the late 1980's.

Mr. President,

The gains on the political front have been made possible by the impressive achievements of AMISOM and the Somali forces on the security front.

Thanks to AMISOM, Mogadishu is today firmly under the control of the Somali authorities.

Last week, AMISOM and the Somali forces secured the strategic towns of Kismayo and Wanla Weyn from Al Shabaab. The support of the international community to AMISOM operations has been instrumental in these successes.

We commend all troop contributing countries, in particular Uganda, Burundi and Kenya, for their commitment to the Mission and for the sacrifices their troops have made.

Mr. President,

In order to consolidate the gains made, the new government in Somalia has to embark upon building effective state institutions that can pursue national reconciliation, provide the rule of law, revitalize economic activities, and restructure and strengthen the security forces.

It is also necessary to expeditiously implement the pending tasks of the Road Map. In this regard, we welcome the six-point policy framework set out by President Mohamud, and call upon the international community to fully support the implementation of the framework.

Mr. President,

AMISOM remains the mainstay of the international community's efforts for stabilization of the security situation in Somalia. AMISOM and the Somali security forces have continued to expand their control in all four sectors of operations.

Still, Al Shabaab remains a major threat to peace and stability in Somalia, and has turned to asymmetrical warfare.

The changing security situation demands further augmentation of resources for AMISOM, including enablers and force multipliers.

We, therefore, support the request made by the AU for a technical roll over of four months, continuing the current support package. We also support the expansion of the logistical support package to cover the deployment of additional civilian personnel and to include naval assets for CoE reimbursement.

The latter is crucial to safeguard the supply routes of AMISOM and to prevent Al-Shabab from benefitting from illegal maritime trade and piracy.

Mr. President,

Maritime piracy off the coast of Somalia and the humanitarian plight of hostages held by pirates remain a major cause of concern for India.

Much of India's trade passes through the Gulf of Aden, estimated at over US \$ 160 billion annually.

Indians constitute 7% of the world's seafarers and a consequence of piracy has been the tremendous human cost that these seafarers have had to pay. According to the Secretary General's latest report, 259 hostages from 18 ships are still held by pirates. Of these, 43 are unfortunately Indian nationals.

We hope that the international community will provide full assistance to the new government in Somalia to implement the comprehensive set of measures to counter piracy as identified in the roadmap.

Mr. President,

India and Somalia share two millennia of civilizational exchanges across the seas. Not many years ago, India made a major contribution to peacekeeping in Somalia through its significant involvement in UNOSOM-II.

Last year, following our Prime Minister's announcement at the second India-Africa Summit, India made a financial contribution of US\$ 2 million to AMISOM. This year, we are making another contribution of US\$ 1 million.

We have also continued to extend help to Somalia in capacity building through human resources development, and have recently increased the number of scholarships available for Somali experts and students to utilize in Indian academic institutions. We have also contributed to the development of the information technology sector in Somalia.

Mr. President,

As Somalia moves on to a new phase of pacification and peacebuilding, the continued support of the international community will remain critical for its success.

I would like to assure the new government of Somalia of India's continued support for our common endeavours to put Somalia back on to the path of peace, stability, and prosperity.

I thank you again, Mr. President.



SOUTH AFRICA

466. Message of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh on the Centenary Celebrations of the African National Congress.

New Delhi, January 9, 2012.

Calling the Centenary celebrations of the African National Congress (ANC) “a moving moment for all those across the world who cherish human dignity and freedom”, Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh has said that economic engagement between the two countries have demonstrated dynamism in recent years and India and South Africa have coordinated their positions on many complex global issues. In a message to the President Jacob Zuma of South Africa the Prime Minister wrote “the dawn of 21st century has seen a dramatic shift in global, economic and political architecture and in the emerging paradigm, countries of the South are increasingly being called to play a much larger role. ...today we (India and South Africa) share the same table at United Nations Security Council and G-20 and we are partners in IBSA and BRICS.”

Shri Anand Sharma, Minister for Commerce, Industry and Textiles, who is heading the Indian delegation to the Centenary celebrations of the African National Congress (ANC) in the South African city of Mangaung (Bloemfontein) called on President Jacob Zuma, who is also the President of the ANC, yesterday and personally handed over the message of the Prime Minister along with the message of the and President of the Indian National Congress (INC), Smt. Sonia Gandhi. Smt Gandhi recalled the shared past and shared national heroes by the two countries. She recalled Mahatama Gandhi’s 22 year stay in South Africa where he shaped his philosophy of Satyagrah and Non-violence. She also noted that the “leadership of Madiba (President Nelson Mandela) provided the moral anchor and the healing touch during the reconciliation process which was the emergence of a rainbow nation.” She thanked President Zuma for his invitation to join the celebrations and informed him that the India is represented by a senior leadership delegation, comprising of those who have been proactively engaged with struggle against apartheid, as mark of respect and solidarity.

President Zuma thanked Minister Sharma for the messages and stated that the ANC and the Indian National Congress shared historic and fraternal links forged over many years of struggle for freedom and justice. Minister Sharma stressed the continuing importance India attaches to the bilateral relationship between India and South Africa, and noted that the close party to party relations between the ANC and INC were a special facet of the overall bilateral relationship between the two countries.



467. Media Briefing by Secretary (West) Shri M. Ganapathi on the President's visits to Seychelles and South Africa.

New Delhi, April 27, 2012.

Director (XP) (Shri Y.K. Sailas Thangal): Good afternoon friends. Thank you for coming for this briefing this afternoon. As you know, Hon. President would be on a state visit to Seychelles and South Africa. Secretary (West) has kindly agreed to come here and brief you on this visit. We also have on the dais Mr. Ravi Bangar, Joint Secretary (E&SA), who is looking after both these countries.

As usual, Secretary will make a few opening remarks after which he will take questions you may have on the visits. I would now hand over the floor to Secretary (West).

Secretary (West) (Shri Madhusudan Ganapathi): Good afternoon friends from the media, ladies and gentlemen, and my colleagues Ravi Bangar, Sailas Thangal.

As all of you are aware, the Hon. President of India will be paying a state visit to the Republic of Seychelles from April 30 to May 1, 2012. The President thereafter will pay a state visit to the Republic of South Africa from May 1 to 7, 2012. The visit to both Seychelles and South Africa are in response to the gracious invitations by the Seychelles and South African Presidents to the Hon. President of India to pay a state visit to their countries.

Shri Sachin Pilot, Hon. Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology; Dr. Prabha Thakur, Hon. Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha); and Shri Sanjay Shamrao Dhotre, Hon. Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), will accompany the Hon. President of India during her state visit to Seychelles and South Africa. Senior officials including the Secretary to President Dr. Christy Fernandez and Secretary (West), MEA will form a part of the delegation which would also include other senior officials, business leaders and members of the media.

While in Seychelles, the President will have a bilateral meeting with President James Alix Michel during which various aspects of bilateral, regional and international issues are expected to be discussed. The Vice-President of Seychelles Mr. Danny Faure and other members of the Cabinet in the Government of the Republic of Seychelles will call on the Hon. President. The President will address a Special Session of the National Assembly. This will be followed by a call on the President by the Leader of the Opposition, the Hon. David Pierre. President Michel will host a Cocktail Dinatoire in honour of the President.

The other engagements of the President in Seychelles include an address to

the India-Seychelles Business Forum and attending a reception hosted by the High Commissioner of India for the Indian Community and Seychellois Friends. She will also visit the Seychelles People's Defence Force where she will be received by the Chief of the Seychelles Defence Force and interact with Indian Naval Officers.

The President will leave Seychelles for South Africa in the forenoon of May 1, 2012.

While in South Africa, the President will meet President Jacob Zuma in Pretoria and hold discussions with him on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest. The Deputy President of South Africa Mr. Kgalema Motlanthe will call on the President. President Zuma will host a State Banquet in honour of the President.

The President will visit Johannesburg on May 3, 2012 and unveil a bust of the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi at the Constitution Hill. She will visit Number Four Prison where Mahatma Gandhi was incarcerated by the apartheid regime, and where Nelson Mandela was also there later. She will return to Pretoria and address the India-South Africa Business Forum Meet. The President will visit Cape Town on May 4-5, 2012. There she will meet a team of South African Parliamentarians led by the Speaker of the National Assembly Mr. Max Sisulu and Chairman of the National Council of Provinces, Mr. Mahlangu. The President is expected to visit Robben Island where Nelson Mandela had been imprisoned in Cell Number Five.

From Cape Town, the President will visit Durban on May 6-7, 2012. She will visit the Phoenix Settlement, offer floral tributes at the bust of Mahatma Gandhi, and visit thereafter the John Dube Memorial. The President will also visit the Pietermaritzburg Station which has a historic link to India wherein Mahatma Gandhi had been thrown out of a First Class compartment onto the platform by the then apartheid regime. The President will attend a Reception hosted by the High Commissioner of India for the Indian community and friends of India in South Africa. She will also meet representatives of the Gandhi Communities in South Africa.

As mentioned earlier, the President will be accompanied by a Business Delegation. Forty-one business persons will form a part of the business delegation to Seychelles and 54 business persons will be similarly represented in South Africa. The business component of the visit is being coordinated by ASSOCHAM, FICCI and CII, and members of the delegation are drawn from these three chambers. The leader of the business delegation is former Ambassador Shri V.B. Soni, the Chairman of the Overseas Infrastructure Alliance (I) Pvt. Ltd.

Relations between India and Seychelles have been close and friendly, and characterised by full mutual understanding and close cooperation. Diplomatic

ties with Seychelles were established on its Independence in June 1976. India set up its Resident High Commission in Victoria in 1987, while Seychelles did so in New Delhi in 2008.

The President of Seychelles Mr. James Alix Michel was on a state visit to India in June 2010. He had earlier been on a similar state visit in 2005. He had twice thereafter been on two visits to India to attend the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit. The only Presidential visit from India so far to Seychelles till now had been by late President Shri R. Venkataraman in 1989.

President Michel's visit to India had been followed by that of the Seychelles Foreign Minister Mr. Jean Paul Adam in February 2011.

India was in the forefront of the anti-apartheid struggle. It was the first country to sever trade relations with South Africa in 1946, even before it became independent. Relations between India and South Africa were restored in 1993, and the Indian High Commission in Pretoria opened in 1994. The ANC had maintained a representative office in India since the 1960's which was thereafter upgraded to a High Commission following the end of apartheid. India's relations with South Africa are close and friendly enjoyed by a strategic partnership.

President Zuma of South Africa was on a state visit to India in June 2010 in what was his first bilateral visit to any Asian country. He was recently in New Delhi on March 29, for the Fourth BRICS Summit. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and Mr. Jacob Zuma had met more than once last year on the margins of various multilateral and plurilateral summits, and their friendship has become stronger in all these meetings.

Trade and economic relations between India and Seychelles has not realised its full potential. Bilateral trade in 2010-11 was US\$ 40.44 million with India's exports to Seychelles being US\$ 31.14 million and imports US\$ 9.29 million. The current composition of major items of export from India to Seychelles includes food products, grains, pharmaceuticals and textiles. The major export items from Seychelles include copra, cinnamon and related items.

Potential areas of cooperation with Seychelles in the trade and investment area include those in the sectors relating to tourism, including the hospitality sector, healthcare, information and communication technology, food processing, financial services, renewable energy, engineering and electrical goods, textiles among others. Being an island archipelago, fishing and related industry offers considerable potential and promise. As a country with some of the best tourism resorts, the tourism and hospitality sector offers significant opportunities. The film industry has been naturally attracted to Seychelles because of some excellent locales, and some films in Hindi and the regional languages have been shot there. The medical industry provides a useful entry point in the absence of adequate medical facilities.

Indian investments in Seychelles thus far have included those by the Bharti Telecom Group, TCIL, LPG facilities by BNH Tank of Pune; Polaris' venture to develop banking services; and supply of Tata and Ashok Leyland buses. India has extended Lines of Credit worth around US\$ 25 million to Seychelles since 2000. During the visit of President James Alix Michel to India in June 2010, a Line of Credit of US\$ 10 million was announced.

Bilateral trade between India and South Africa was US\$ 11.125 billion in 2010-11 of which imports were US\$ 7.14 billion and exports US\$ 3.98 billion. During the state visit of President Zuma in 2010, agreed to work towards a target of US\$ 10 billion in trade turnover by 2012. But we have crossed that well before the time and the current target of trade turnover has been revised to US\$ 15 billion by 2015.

The main items of export from India to South Africa include mineral fuel, mineral oil, engineering goods, textiles, gems and jewellery, chemicals, drugs and pharmaceuticals among others. Insofar as imports from South Africa are concerned, gold forms an important part of our import besides those from the extracted industry including copper ores, concentrates and other minerals and organic chemicals. Substantial potential for trade growth exists with potential areas of cooperation seen in mining, manufacturing, petroleum sector, drugs and pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, automobiles sector, food processing, information technology and the SME sector.

Major investors from India in South Africa include the Tata Group, UB Group, Mahindra, Ranbaxy, Cipla and other IT companies, besides investments in the mining sector. There is a growing South African interest in investing in India in the infrastructure, insurance and financial services sectors.

The politico-legal base for cooperation between India and Seychelles and South Africa is fairly strong. India offers slots to both Seychelles and South Africa under the India Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC). Around 520 Seychellois have so far availed of the opportunities under the ITEC programme with over 500 ITEC slots being used by South Africa. India has deputed a number of its experts to Seychelles under the ITEC Programme. For the year 2011-12, 41 ITEC slots have been allocated to Seychelles, and 108 ITEC slots to South Africa. Besides, India also offers specialised courses under the India-Africa Forum Summit to various African countries including Seychelles and South Africa.

Education has been an important area of cooperation between both India and Seychelles and South Africa. The number of tourists from India to Seychelles and South Africa and in the reverse direction has been quite significant. Cultural cooperation providing for strong people-to-people interaction has been quite vibrant between India and the two countries.

The Indian community in Seychelles numbers around 6500. The Chairman of the Seychelles Chamber of Commerce and Industry Dr. V. Ramadoss is a Pravasi Bharatiya Samman awardee and he is the Medical Adviser to the President of Seychelles. The Indian Diaspora in South Africa celebrated the 150th year of its arrival into South Africa in the year 2010 having arrived there in 1860. The Indian origin community in South Africa numbers over 1.5 million.

As in all visits of Heads of State or Government, the visit by the Hon. President of India to Seychelles and South Africa should provide a greater momentum and impetus in the further consolidation and development of our comprehensive, multifaceted engagement with these two countries. The visits are expected to provide a platform for an extensive exchange of views on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest. The presence of a business delegation will allow for greater B2B engagement providing for expansion in trade, economic and investment related activity between India, Seychelles and South Africa. The State Visits will encourage greater people-to-people contact. The visits will naturally provide greater content and meaning to India's partnership with both Seychelles and South Africa.

Thank you very much.

Question: Any new cooperation activity with Seychelles? Also, tell us about the present state of defence cooperation between India and Seychelles.

Secretary (West): The standard operating procedure, as all of you are aware, is that we do not announce agreements before the conclusion of the visit because many agreements are at the stage of discussion. and we sometimes have a surprise by adding a few and there are many surprises by deleting a few because some of them are not ready. But we do expect some agreements to be signed in Seychelles. India has, of course, provided a Dornier aircraft to Seychelles. We have a Maritime Security Advisor, a Military Advisor and Naval Advisor. We expect the strategic partnership between India and Seychelles to be further consolidated and strengthened in continuation of the President's visit.

Question: Will the situation in South Sudan figure in the discussions among the international issues which would be discussed with the two Presidents? Also, what is our reaction on the increasingly escalating confrontation between the two Sudans? Since we support the Thabo Mbeki initiative, will this be one of the important issues that would be discussed?

Secretary (West): That is a very relevant question obviously because South Africa plays a very prominent role on the African continent, and we expect every issue on the African continent to be discussed between the President and her South African host. And obviously I think the situation in the Sudan will be touched upon as also the situation in certain parts of West Africa, and the

cooperation between India and Africa through the India-Africa Forum Summit. Of course our view on Sudan is very clear. As you said, we support the African Union High Implementation Group led by Thabo Mbeki in trying to resolve the situation between Sudan and the South Sudan. You are also aware that we had sent a Special Envoy not long ago in Additional Secretary (PV) Mr. Amarendra Khatua visiting both Juba and Khartoum and then touching base in Addis Ababa.

Question: I want to know the latest about India-SACU PTA. It was being negotiated, it should have been signed by now. The expectation was that India-SACU and MERCOSUR will expand our trade with Africa and America. What is the latest on that?

Secretary (West): Venkat, looks like you have not forgotten the IBSA briefing. Yes, we have it with MERCOSUR but with SACU the point is that all the countries have not yet come on board. So, we are going to request the South Africans to ensure that this is expedited. In this visit I do not think it will be concluded but hopefully we should be following on the course towards its conclusion as early as possible.

Question: In Seychelles there is an obvious growing presence of China. Has the consolidation of the ties between Seychelles and India something to do with this?

Secretary (West): As the Prime Minister of India has stated, there is enough space in the world and in every country for India and China to be present. I think we are not competing with each other. And our relations with Seychelles stand on their own merit and content.

Question: A South African Government owned company called Denel was a couple of years ago central to India's artillery plans. It was subsequently blacklisted and the Government of South Africa has asked for a review of the decision. Is this going to be discussed?

Secretary (West): As I pointed out, all issues of mutual interest in the bilateral, regional and international spheres will be touched upon between the two Presidents.

Question: Sir, you said a large delegation was going to South Africa and Seychelles. Can you tell us how many members of the President's personal family will accompany?

Secretary (West): Shrinjoy, there is again a standard operating procedure. As my predecessor had said, as I have said, we do not comment on the family members.

Thank you.



468. Statement by the President at the conclusion of her talks with the President of South Africa.

Pretoria, May 2, 2012.

My delegation and I are deeply touched by the warmth of the reception, and the generous hospitality accorded to us by the Government and the people of South Africa. I bring greetings and good wishes from the people of India to the people of South Africa.

India and South Africa are bound by ties of history, emotional attachment, cultural affinities and indeed, kinship. It is even more satisfying that our bilateral relationship today has acquired a robust and dynamic character, to assume the dimension of a strategic partnership. Since the establishment of our relations in 1994, we have developed strong ties and institutional frameworks for dialogue and cooperation in the political, economic, commercial, science and technology fields. Our bilateral relations today are wide-ranging, multi-dimensional and mutually beneficial. Our shared and abiding commitment to the ideals of democracy and pluralism has only reinforced our close and friendly ties. My visit to South Africa is part of our tradition of regular high-level exchanges, reaffirming our common commitment to take our relations onward to new heights.

Today's discussions with His Excellency President Jacob Zuma were wide ranging and covered bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest. The focus of our discussions was on issues covering the vast canvass of Indo-South African relations. While expressing satisfaction over the current state of our relations, we did feel that considerable opportunities existed which are needed to be fully explored, particularly in the area of trade and economic cooperation. Indian companies are investing in capacity building by systematic training of South Africans, creating jobs and playing an important role in the development and economic growth of South Africa. A business delegation from India accompanies me, and it would explore business opportunities in South Africa, to give greater thrust to this important sphere of our interaction. President Zuma and I will be participating in the Business Forum tomorrow to listen to views of captains of industry from both sides, and encourage them to contribute to our bilateral economic exchanges.

We have agreed to closely monitor the implementation of various agreements that exist and expand co-operation in the fields of power including renewable energy, health, Information Technology, Science and Technology, tourism, hospitality, infrastructure development and culture. People to people contacts are at the heart of our vibrant and robust relationship. India is interested in working closely with the Government of South Africa to develop Gandhi heritage sites in South Africa. Both the governments continue to support the wide range

of linkages that exist between our universities, research institutes, academic institutions, think-tanks, media houses and civil society. We are mindful of the sporting ties between the countries, especially in cricket. I would also like to recognise the South African hand in the form of Coach Gary Kirsten in ensuring victory for India in the Cricket World Cup in 2011.

I have thanked the Government of the Republic of South Africa for its meaningful contribution, as one of our closest partners, on important issues like reform of the United Nations, reform of the international financial system, including the Bretton Woods Institutions, climate change and global trade talks. India and South Africa are members of IBSA, BRICS, G-20, IOR-ARC, NAM, the Commonwealth and other plurilateral as well as multilateral bodies, where we work together.

Piracy in the Indian Ocean region adversely impacts on us all. We are deeply committed to working with the Government of South Africa and its people, to ensure that our trade routes are not affected, and we are able to bring a sense of safety and security in the maritime waters.

I am confident that today's discussions have promoted a better understanding of issues of mutual interest and established a solid foundation for the deepening and expansion of our mutually beneficial strategic partnership, and in bringing our two peoples closer together for a better future.

Thank you.



469. Speech by the President Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil at India-South Africa Business Forum.

Pretoria, May 3, 2012.

His Excellency Mr Jacob Zuma, President of South Africa;

Dr. Rob Davies, Minister of Trade and Industry of South Africa;

Shri Sachin Pilot, Minister of State for Communication and IT of India;

Dr. Prabha Thakur and Shri Sanjay Dhotre, Members of Parliament of India;

Mr. V.B. Soni, Leader of the Indian Business Delegation;

Ms. N. Majokweni, CEO of Business Unity of South Africa;

Mr. Xolani Qubeka, CEO of Black Business Council;

Distinguished representatives of the business community of India and South Africa;

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me begin by conveying my deep appreciation for the presence of President Zuma at this Business Forum. This augurs well not only for this Business Forum but also for broader economic engagement between our two countries. It gives me great pleasure to join the business representatives from South Africa and India here today. The economic and commercial exchanges between our two countries are at the core of our bilateral ties.

Growth rate of over forty-three percent in our bilateral trade registered in the year 2010-11 is impressive by any standard but especially so in today's global economic scenario. I am extremely happy to note that the trade target of Ten billion US Dollars by 2012 agreed during the State Visit of President Zuma to India in June 2010, was achieved last year with bilateral trade having crossed the figure of Eleven billion US Dollars. I am told that the next goal is to achieve bilateral trade of Fifteen billion US Dollars by year 2014. I am confident that this target would also be achieved as we build on the momentum of our bilateral ties. South Africa is one of our most important trading partners and in the future too, I believe, our two countries will have deep economic engagement.

I am happy that Indian companies work closely to achieve the priorities of the South African government, and are also seeking to add value to raw materials, with a view to increasing beneficiation locally. Indian companies have not only built partnerships with their South African counterparts, but also view it as a gateway to the Southern African region.

Indian companies are also significant investors in the services sector. India itself has become a predominantly service economy with over fifty-five percent of our GDP attributable to services. This has naturally meant that the trade in services has become an important component of our international engagement. IT Technology, training, capacity building, Business Process Outsourcing, banking and finance, and transfer of technology are important areas of our exchanges. Our confidence in the South African economy is reflected in the fact that several major Indian banks are present in South Africa, and I am told that their representation is planned to grow in the future. We are also happy that many important firms from South Africa have established their presence in India. We want many more of your companies to look at business opportunities in India.

The Joint CEO's Forum set up during President Zuma's State Visit to India in 2010, provides an institutional mechanism for our economic and commercial interaction.

I would also like to compliment the Business Unity South Africa for proactively bringing the business communities of our two countries together. I have been told that on average at least one South African business delegation visits India every month. I hope that this frequency only grows in the future, and gives a further fillip to our trade and industry co-operation.

India seeks economic development that has an inclusive character so that it benefits all our citizens. The fulfillment of our goals would depend to a great extent on the ability to tackle the constraints in our physical infrastructure. Power, roads, airports and ports, are all India's overarching priorities - and investments of close to one trillion US Dollars would be required in the next five years. Like us, South Africa too, is focused on boosting its infrastructure development. This provides an excellent investment opportunity for Indian and South African companies to look at each other's strengths in infrastructure, housing, engineering, skill building and other key areas, and find complementarities for forging mutually beneficial collaborations. As we build infrastructure in our respective countries, we can look at each other as partners. In the field of energy security too - another important objective for both countries - renewable energy and gasification of coal are areas in which we can work together. I urge the business community to explore these possibilities and concretize projects.

A critical and an absolutely necessary input for the sustainable growth of a nation's economy and all its sectors is technology, which in turn, depends on research and development. India has a rich human capital and a strong knowledge base. We have been successful in many frontier areas - space, nuclear energy, Information Technology, nano-technology and bio-technology, among others.

The Indian Space Research Organisation is working with the South African National Space Agency to support joint initiatives, so that as developing countries we are not left out in our efforts to explore new areas. I feel that it would be useful to share our knowledge and experience, to translate the cutting-edge knowledge of science into products for the market. This will yield benefits both in terms of new employment and new products for consumers. Technical education linkages would get a fillip and new momentum, if on both sides, businesses were to assess the value of such research and collaboration and promote them.

India and South Africa are strategic partners. South Africa has become a member of BRICS, adding greater weight to this grouping. We were honoured that President Zuma travelled to Delhi in March 2012 for the BRICS Summit in New Delhi. The Summit had discussed the establishment of a development bank which would cater for needs of developing countries. We look forward to working with South Africa to take the process forward, as many developing countries are looking to us to provide leadership in the 21st Century.

India and the Southern Africa Customs Union are negotiating a broad based Preferential Trade and Investment Agreement which will, in our view, serve the mutual interest of both sides. I hope that South Africa would facilitate the early completion of the internal discussion process. I visualize great opportunities for expansion of trade in goods and services and two-way investment through this Agreement.

We are keen to working with South Africa bilaterally, and also through the IBSA, BRICS, G-20 and other international fora, to deal with the impact of economic fluctuations in the Western countries on our economy, and ensure that international financial institutions reflect the emerging economic realities.

In conclusion, I would like to share with you that my interactions with President Zuma and the leadership of South Africa, have left me in no doubt that the India-South Africa relationship is based on solid foundations and has a bright future. There is tremendous potential to expand the India-South Africa bilateral partnership. I urge you to fully utilize the opportunity of meeting today, to impart further momentum to business relations between our two countries. You can be sure of a helping hand from the two Governments, as they are committed to taking bilateral economic ties to ever greater heights.

Thank you!



SUDAN & SOUTH SUDAN

470. Press Note issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the up-gradation of the Consulate General of India in Juba, South Sudan to Embassy level.

New Delhi, March 13, 2012.

The status of the Consulate General of India in Juba, South Sudan has now been upgraded to Embassy level. South Sudan declared its independence on July 9, 2011. Hon'ble Vice-President had attended the ceremony in Juba marking the independence of South Sudan. It may be mentioned that India was one of the first countries to open a Consulate in Juba in August 2007.



471. Response of Official Spokesperson to Developments in Sudan and South Sudan.

New Delhi, April 12, 2012.

In response to a query on the situation between Sudan and South Sudan, the Official Spokesperson said:

“The Government of India is concerned with the recent developments in Sudan and South Sudan. We had also recently conveyed our concern when our Special Envoy had visited Khartoum and Juba last month. We again urge both sides to exercise restraint and recommence negotiations, which are being held under the African Union High Level Implementation Panel, to resolve all outstanding issues peacefully.”



INDIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS - 2012

SECTION - VIII

AMERICAS

472. Remarks by Secretary (West) M. Ganapathi at the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) re. National Consultations on India-LAC Relations.

New Delhi, July 10, 2012.

Ambassador Rajiv Bhatia, Director General, ICWA,

Prof. Varun Sahni, Chairman, ICWA Programmes Committee,

Ambassador Deepak Bhojwani, Consultant for LAC countries, ICWA,

Your Excellency, Mr. Javier Paulinich, Ambassador of Peru and President of the GRULAC countries in New Delhi,

Your Excellencies Ambassadors from Latin American and Caribbean countries, Diplomats from the LAC region,

Senior Members of the Indian Foreign Service and former Ambassadors, Indian Ambassador-designate to Mexico,

My Colleague in the Ministry, Ambassador Dammu Ravi, Joint Secretary (LAC) and Dr. Janakiraman, Deputy Secretary(LAC),

Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I consider it a privilege and honour to be invited today to speak at the ICWA's National Consultations on India-LAC Relations. It is also among Ambassador Rajiv Bhatia's first major events under his watch as the Director General of ICWA. May I, add my own congratulations and best wishes to him in addition to the many plaudits of Pundits who have warmly welcomed Ambassador Bhatia's appointment to this very important institution. ICWA is an iconic institution and it needs to be nurtured carefully and given his distinguished service as one of my senior colleagues and Ambassadors and his innate abilities and intuitive qualities, I could say unequivocally that ICWA is in safe hands and we could see it from going to strength to strength. I am particularly pleased that among the first events organised by ICWA with Ambassador Bhatia as the Director General, India's relationship with Latin America and the Caribbean has been given a prominent place. I was also happy to hear that ICWA's website with focus on the Latin America and the Caribbean Region would be launched today – this in itself is an important pointer to ICWA's interest in that region.

2. Many may point out and not incorrectly too that while some attention has been given to this important continent, not much focus has been allowed for a sustained engagement with Latin America and the Caribbean. Undoubtedly, the LAC region is highly fascinating; its culture, music, sports (particularly football)

and literature strikes a common chord with many an Indian. The Latin America and Caribbean region is diverse and pluralistic like India. Underlying this vibrancy, we are witnessing today a region that is rapidly integrating. What was a dream 190 years ago in 1822 is a reality today.

3. Latin America and the Caribbean region is geographically vast and diverse. It encompasses more than 40 sovereign States and a large land mass with about 600 million inhabitants. 40% of the world's fresh water resources are available in this part of the world. With the discovery of new hydrocarbons, the region is becoming increasingly attractive for investments. Similarly, there is ample scope for agriculture farming and it is also an excellent source for diverse minerals. All of this naturally makes the region very attractive. I should not forget that more importantly the countries of the region and their people have the warmest and friendly feelings for India and its people. Thus, there is a lot of synergy to galvanise our relations.

4. The Caribbean region is home to a large Indian Diaspora. Through various programmes, we have aimed to strengthen our historical and cultural links with the region.

5. Latin America and the Caribbean comprises of many regional forums and institutions including the Andean Community; the CARICOM; the MERCOSUR; the Rio Group; the ALBA; the UNASUR; the SICA; the OAS and the recently launched CELAC.

6. The formation of CELAC (Community of Latin American Countries) is a recent phenomenon. It came into existence only last December. This development has a far reaching implication for the world as well as for India. The rapid integration of the region is a clear indication of their shared desire to embark upon a common destiny. India has engaged with many of the groups in the region and is particularly keen to engage with CELAC by enhancing interaction at all levels. India will be hosting the first India-CELAC Foreign Ministers' Dialogue in New Delhi next month on August 7, 2012. The Foreign Minister's of Chile, Cuba and Venezuela are expected to participate in the Troika format. The External Affairs Minister will be the host to the event.

7. Ladies and Gentlemen, let me be frank and honest enough to admit that our approach to this region has been admittedly slow. There is the ready excuse giving reasons of distance, poor connectivity and language constraints. However, these are unacceptable and we need to do more. We are determined to overcome any mindset which may have inhibited an enhanced engagement with the region. While there will be challenges, there are opportunities as well. It is our aim to overcome these challenges and convert them into opportunities. A concerted and cogent approach will be formulated to direct our attention and energy to this

very important region with which we could naturally forge a productive partnership. Ambassador Bhatia mentioned the region as the Last Frontier. However, it is only East of East and West of West. Being a cricketing nation and drawing from a cricketing analogy, the Last Frontier shall be conquered and converted into a mutually beneficial partnership.

8. There has been exchange of visits at the Head of State/Government level besides those at the Ministerial, official and people-to-people level with the Latin American and Caribbean region. The Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, the President of Brazil and the President of Paraguay were in India in the first six months of this year. Our Prime Minister was in Mexico and Brazil only last month. External Affairs Minister Shri S.M. Krishna was in Cuba recently. He was very warmly received in Havana. Minister Krishna also chaired a LAC Regional Conference of Indian HOMs in Havana on June 16, 2012. The meeting looked at various ways of strategising our engagement with this important region. Besides, there have been other Ministerial visits. As was mentioned, our Minister of State for Commerce and Industry is in Cuba today after having visited Colombia and Venezuela. The Minister of State for Information Technology had not long ago extensively travelled to countries in the region.

9. Trade and investments relations with the region are growing at a rapid pace. From a mere US\$ 2 billion in 2000, bilateral trade with the region has crossed a record US\$ 25 billion. However, this is not much – it is only one-tenth of that of China's and only one per cent of the region's overall trade. Our investments in the region are estimated to be of the order of around US\$ 15 billion. If you look at the rate of growth, perhaps, this is the fastest growing region in the world today. As mentioned earlier, let me once again emphasise that it is just not mere trade and investments that underpins our relations with the region. The engagement is multifaceted and dynamic which is evolving to our mutual benefit. We have Preferential Trade Agreement with Chile and MERCOSUR. Some of the LAC countries have shown interest in an FTA. There is the India-MERCOSUR-SADC PTA. Cooperation is also carried on through IBSA and BRICS. Our engagement with the region also takes place through our membership of NAM and at the UN.

10. Cooperation in technology is an important aspect of our relationship. As developing countries we need to cooperate amongst ourselves to address our common challenges. It is not merely a commitment to South-South Cooperation but also to learn from each other on the applicability of technologies. Through the ITEC programme, India offers 450 ITEC scholarships to countries in the region and there is the possibility of enhancing this number. India's IT centres in the region are widely appreciated and has provided employment to a significant number of people. All these initiatives are no doubt does contribute modestly to

the enhancement of human resource development and capacity building in the region.

11. In the UN and other multilateral agencies and organisation, CELAC constitutes a significant bloc. Our cooperation with the region is close and driven by common interests and shared values. There is a common understanding on many issues, particularly on UN reforms. We need to engage with the countries both bilateral and through regional organisations. There may be certain differences in approach or nuance to issues. However, this should not deter us from engaging with the countries of the region and sensitising them on our core concerns. We should also extend our cooperation with these countries on issues relating to security, human trafficking, migration and disaster management.

12. India's engagement with Africa has culminated in the setting up of the India-Africa Forum Summit mechanism. Our aim is to have a similar India-Latin America and Caribbean Dialogue Mechanism. We have a mechanism for interaction with SICA and the CARICOM. The SICA Foreign Ministers were expected in India in May this year but due to absence of mutually convenient dates, this meeting will now take place later this year. The CELAC Foreign Ministers' Dialogue is an additional important mechanism leading to the ultimate objective. These steps will enable the countries in the region and India to overcome the lack of awareness of our potential for significant cooperation. We in the Ministry of External Affairs sincerely believe in enhancing this opportunity to mutual benefit.

13. It is in this context this National Consultation on India and the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean region assumes significance. We would like to be guided by your thoughts as to how we can take the entire process forward. I wish today's event all success and congratulate ICWA for this excellent initiative.

Thank you.



473. Press Release on the First India - Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) Troika Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

New Delhi, August 2, 2012.

The First India-CELAC Troika Foreign Ministerial Meeting will be held on August 7, 2012 in New Delhi. External Affairs Minister Shri S. M. Krishna will lead the Indian delegation and Foreign Minister of Chile, Mr. Alfredo Moreno Charme will lead the CELAC Troika. Foreign Minister of Venezuela, Mr. Nicolas Maduro and Vice Foreign Minister of Cuba, Mr, Rogelio Sierra will participate in the Meeting as members of the Troika.

Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) is a newly formed regional group comprising of 33 Sovereign States of Latin America and the Caribbean region (LAC) region. Chile holds the pro-tempore Presidency of CELAC till January 2013. LAC has a land mass 5 times that of India and is endowed with vast mineral resources and hydrocarbons. It has about 600 million inhabitants.

India enjoys friendly and warm relations with all CELAC countries. They have a shared understanding on the values of democracy, freedom, equality and justice. India's trade with the region is over US\$ 25 billion in 2011 and cumulative investments are estimated to be US\$ 16 billion mostly in Hydrocarbons, Minerals, Agriculture, Pharma and IT. There exists a vast untapped potential for mutually beneficial cooperation in various sectors.

The meeting will provide a unique platform for both sides to discuss a vision for building India-CELAC relations. Both sides will also discuss various regional developments and multilateral issues of mutual interest.



474. Joint Statement on the First India-CELAC Troika Foreign Ministers' Meeting

New Delhi, August 7, 2012.

1. The First Meeting of the India-CELAC Troika Foreign Ministers was held in New Delhi on August 7, 2012. The External Affairs Minister of India Shri S.M. Krishna led the Indian delegation. The CELAC Troika was led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile Mr. Alfredo Moreno Charme, the pro-tempore President of CELAC. The Foreign Minister of Venezuela Mr. Nicolas Maduro and the Vice Foreign Minister of Cuba, Mr. Rogelio Sierra participated in the meeting as members of the Troika.

2. During the discussions, both sides undertook a comprehensive review of India-CELAC relations. They also discussed regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest. The discussions were aimed at, inter alia, strengthening the multifaceted bilateral cooperation between India and CELAC, coordinating responses to regional issues and addressing international challenges including UN reforms, the international financial crisis, climate change and international terrorism.

3. The Foreign Ministers of India and the CELAC Troika expressed satisfaction at the First Meeting of the India-CELAC Troika Foreign Ministerial Dialogue after the commencement of CELAC in December 2011. They expressed their deep appreciation at the expanding relations between India and countries in the Latin America and the Caribbean region and reiterated their desire to work together bearing in mind each sides' respective development priorities based on the common shared values of democracy, freedom, equality and justice.

4. The Foreign Ministers agreed to enhance exchange of visits at all levels including at the Summit level leading towards realisation of a 'Strategic Partnership' between India and CELAC. They underscored the need to meet every year alternately in India and the CELAC country holding the pro-tempore Presidency.

Trade and Investment

5. The Ministers expressed satisfaction over the growth of commercial, economic and investment relations between India and CELAC. They recognised that although trade between India and the region had crossed US\$ 25 billion in 2012, it was still far below potential. The Ministers underscored the need to tap the available potential through diversification of trade, participation in each other's trade fairs, exchange of business delegations, construction of regulatory frameworks, relaxation in movement of goods, services and people and through strengthening air connectivity and shipping links. In this regard, they agreed to

set up a **India-CELAC Business Council and a India-CELAC CEOs Forum**. These business related institutional mechanisms are expected to meet regularly and submit recommendations towards further enhancement of such links between India and CELAC.

Energy

6. Both sides recognised that energy security holds the key to economic development. Considering the importance attached by both sides to bilateral cooperation in the sphere of energy security including that in renewable energy, both sides agreed to set up an **Energy Forum** to address this important issue.

Minerals

7. The Indian side recognised that Latin America is endowed with abundant and diverse mineral resources which could help to sustain India's growth rate. Both sides agreed to work towards providing for value addition in the exchange of commodities through direct trading and by setting up of manufacturing units. The Indian side offered to provide technical know-how to the CELAC countries in mapping of their geological resources by using India's remote sensing satellites. Both sides highlighted the growing importance of the mineral trade, and in this regard, emphasized on the need to promote mutual investment opportunities to contribute to the economic growth of both India and CELAC countries.

Agriculture

8. Both sides agreed to work towards providing for food security for their people. In this regard, they expressed their desire to deepen cooperation through the setting up of a mutually beneficial partnership in the agriculture farming and food processing sector. They discussed the need to work together on agricultural research through institutional linkages and by exchanging ideas on their agriculture practices. In this regard, they agreed to set up an **Agricultural Expert Group** which is expected to submit recommendations to Ministers.

Science and Technology

9. Recognising that cooperation in science and technology is crucial for addressing poverty and developmental challenges that confront them, the Ministers reiterated their commitment to work together by synergising their technological strength and capabilities. They agreed to set up a **Science Forum** that will consider a programme of action for joint research in the areas relating to medicine, agriculture, astronomy, information technology and renewable energy, in particular bio-fuels, solar, wind and hydro energy. India offered to assist CELAC countries in the launch of low-cost satellites for communications as well as for weather forecasting.

10. Both sides welcomed the ongoing cooperation in the field of technical training and capacity building and noted the potential for further enhancement for cooperation in this area. They agreed to initiate various projects related to tele-education, e-governance and tele-medicine that would cover the entire Latin America and Caribbean region.

Culture, Education and people-to-people contacts

11. Both sides reiterated the importance attached by them to encourage people-to-people contacts and reaffirmed their determination to cooperate closely in this field. They agreed to strengthen cultural and academic linkages, including between the Diplomatic Institutes in India and CELAC countries. They underscored the need to conclude bilateral Air Services Agreements to enhance direct air links between India and CELAC in order to promote tourism and business.

Regional and Multilateral

12. Both sides discussed a broad range of regional and international issues of mutual interest. They exchanged views on the development in South Asia and Latin America and Caribbean region. They acknowledged that their cooperation in the UN and other multilateral fora has always been close and determined by common interests. They agreed to work together on common global challenges in the interest of developing countries by maintaining coordinated approach on UN reforms, financial crisis, climate change and international terrorism.

13. Both sides strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and agreed to cooperate in the joint endeavour of the international community in eliminating the menace of international terrorism. They urged the international community to adopt a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism at the earliest.

14. Both sides recognised that climate change is a global challenge with strong economic, environmental and social dimensions. They acknowledged the efforts of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) for a renewed political commitment towards Sustainable Development to achieve poverty eradication through a balanced integration of economic, social and environmental aspects.

15. The Foreign Ministers of the CELAC Troika thanked the External Affairs Minister of India for the warm hospitality extended to the CELAC delegation and for the arrangements made for the First India-CELAC Troika Foreign Ministerial Dialogue. They agreed that the next meeting of the India-CELAC Foreign Ministerial Dialogue will take place in 2013 under the Cuban Presidency of CELAC.

16. The pro-Tempore President and Troika Foreign Ministers of CELAC will present this Joint Statement in next meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Community that will be held in September 2012 in New York on the sidelines of UNGA.



475. Joint Media Interaction following the First India-CELAC Troika Foreign Ministerial Meeting.

New Delhi, August 7, 2012.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Syed Akbaruddin): Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen of the media. I welcome you to this interaction. As is usual, we will begin with brief opening remarks.

I would now request the External Affairs Minister of India Shri S.M. Krishna to make his opening remarks.

External Affairs Minister (Shri S.M. Krishna): Excellency Foreign Minister of Chile Mr. Charme, Excellency Foreign Minister of Venezuela Mr. Maduro, Excellency Vice Foreign Minister of Cuba Mr. Sierra Diaz, Friends from Media:

I am indeed delighted to welcome the Foreign Ministers of Chile and Venezuela, and the Vice Foreign Minister of Cuba for the first ever India-CELAC Troika Foreign Ministers Dialogue.

During the Dialogue we recognized that India and Latin American and Caribbean countries are facing common challenges and similar aspirations. With the economic cooperation gathering momentum at bilateral levels with the Latin American and Caribbean countries, we have agreed to strengthen our cooperation in diverse sectors at India-CELAC level also. In this context, our discussions today focused on ways to strengthen interaction at all levels.

We agreed that as our Dialogue process gains momentum, we should set up specific frameworks for cooperation, in particular in the areas of trade and investments, energy security, agriculture, science and technology, culture and education. I proposed that in the not too distant future, India and CELAC should take forward the Dialogue process to the Summit level.

We reiterated our intention to enhance our bilateral trade, which is currently around 25 billion US Dollars. Our discussions today also examined ways to provide value addition to business activities by direct trading, imparting technology and setting up mutually beneficial partnerships in the manufacturing sector. We agreed to strengthen interaction between business communities. We have agreed to encourage our respective Trade Ministers to consider setting up India-CELAC level Joint Business Council.

Science and Technology was another area that came up for discussion. We agreed to set up India-CELAC Science Forum to synergize the respective strengths in technology for mutual benefit. India has offered to share its experiences in e-governance, tele-medicine, tele-education with CELAC countries, and also use of satellite technology to map the mineral resources of the region as well as to assist in weather forecasting.

We recognized that India and the Latin American and Caribbean societies are culturally vibrant and tolerant. We agreed to enhance our people-to-people contacts through exchange of scholars, cultural troupes, students and tourists. We propose to set up an Academic Forum to look into these issues.

CELAC Troika Foreign Ministers and I also exchanged views on regional development and multilateral issues. We have a shared understanding on regional developments and threats to international peace and security. We further agreed to work together on the reform of the United Nations, climate change and global economic situation in a coherent and concerted manner in the interest of developing countries.

I am fully satisfied with the outcome of the first India-CELAC Troika Foreign Ministers meeting. India looks forward to work closely with CELAC for mutual benefit of our peoples.

Thank you.

Official Spokesperson: I now request the Foreign Minister of Chile to make his opening remarks on behalf of CELAC.

Foreign Minister of Chile (Mr. Alfredo Moreno Charme): First of all I want to say thank you to India and its Minister and its people for this warm welcome that we have received here today.

This is an historical event. For the first time 33 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, all the Latin American and Caribbean countries, have set up this Organisation and this is the first time that we have an international presentation to another country and that country is India.

It is India because of many reasons. One is that you have this idea some time ago when we have the Rio Group which was a smaller group, but also because India is a close friend because we share a lot of positions on the multilateral organizations, but also because we have a lot to benefit, both, because we have a lot of complementarity. For example in trade, today trade among both regions is only four per cent of our imports and exports. These figures are one/tenth of what the Latin American and Caribbean countries have for example with China.

What has been done with Chile yesterday and today in our meetings to increase our limited trade agreement that we have and to continue on a free trade agreement show that we can go on, not only with Chile but with the other countries. This is also true on investment, on agriculture, on mining, on energy, and on many other fields. Latin America and Caribbean countries have the largest reserves of oil, many minerals and large agricultural extensions. Just to tell you, that continent is five times the size of India but it only has half of the population. So, there are a lot of complementarities that we can share.

On the other hand, India has the technology, the expertise that we need to go on and achieve what all these countries want to achieve which is to be developed countries in the future. So, what we are doing today in this historical event, this first time that we share our common beliefs and we have a lot to do in the future, a lot of complementarity and a lot of benefits that we can obtain from both sides.

Thank you.

Official Spokesperson: The Ministers have agreed to field a few questions.

Question: My question is to Mr. Krishna. Sir, what are the advantages of India engaging with the CELAC so soon after its formation?

External Affairs Minister: The fact that India has been one of the initiators of this interaction with the group of nations of Latin America and Caribbean states, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean states, provides India a platform to interact directly with 33 countries in the region. Since our relations with all Latin American and Caribbean countries are friendly and our trade and commercial relations are increasing steadily, we thought it is a good time to strengthen our relations with this new born grouping from Latin America and Caribbean region. There is a high degree of complementarity between India and the region. The India-CELAC dialogue, we therefore think will provide an excellent opportunity to take our relations to the next higher level.

Question: I have a question for the Foreign Minister of Chile. Is the Chilean industry satisfied with the Partial Trade Agreement that they have in India? Do you want to expand it at a later stage ...*(Inaudible)*...

Foreign Minister of Chile: Our teams, India and Chile, have been working on expanding this limited agreement that we have today. The limited agreement that we had until today was only 178 products. We will increase it to 1100, which covers almost all the goods that are exchanged between both countries. And also we will continue onwards on negotiations for a free trade agreement after we have completed this agreement on this increase on the current agreement that we have today, which we believe that we can obtain that in a few weeks.

So, going to your question, we feel that the agreement that we had until now worked fantastically, but today we need to go to the next level, taking your words to a higher level. And we are really glad that we have been able to obtain that agreement with the Indian authorities.

Official Spokesperson: With that we come to the end of this interaction.

Thank you very much ladies and gentlemen.



BRAZIL

476. Statement by the Prime Minister to the Media during the State Visit of the President of Brazil.

New Delhi, March 30, 2012.

Distinguished representatives of the media,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my proud privilege to welcome the President of Brazil, Her Excellency Ms. Dilma Rousseff, to India on her first State Visit.

We have just completed very fruitful discussions. President Rousseff is a pioneer in many fields. She is the first Brazilian woman to be elected to the office of the President of her country. Her personal zeal and commitment to democracy, human rights and upliftment of the downtrodden are well known. I have conveyed to her our deep admiration of her work and her achievements. I congratulated her on receiving an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Delhi.

India and Brazil represent diverse, multi-ethnic, vibrant democracies. We are both committed to creating an international order that facilitates our efforts at poverty eradication and social development. We have emerged as new growth poles of the evolving global economy. We deeply value our cooperation in various multilateral and plurilateral forums including the Fourth BRICS Summit that was held yesterday. President Rousseff and I have agreed to enhance our consultations on reform of global governance system, particularly in the context of the reforms of the United Nations and in the G-20 process. We have agreed to step up our efforts, particularly towards the reform of the United Nations Security Council as G-4 partners.

We also agreed on the importance of IBSA and noted our cooperation in third countries through the IBSA process.

President Rousseff and I exchanged views on various global developments. Our perspectives are marked by a high degree of convergence. We are convinced that a resolution to the crisis in West Asia can only be achieved through dialogue and consultations.

India and Brazil share common perspectives on environmental issues. Brazil will be hosting the important Rio+20 Conference on sustainable development in June this year. I informed the President of our full support to make this event a success.

Our bilateral Strategic Partnership has strengthened and deepened enormously. President Rousseff and I have undertaken a comprehensive review of our

relations, including the work of the inter-governmental Joint Commission Meeting which met last December in New Delhi. We directed our officials to take specific steps to exploit the full potential in areas such as trade, education, science and technology, environment, defence, space and nuclear energy.

Bilateral trade and investment flows have grown by leaps and bounds. Yet, the President and I are in full agreement that these can be enhanced even further. We agreed to take measures to promote greater business interaction.

The reconstitution of the India-Brazil CEO's Forum is a first step in this regard.

Our two countries face similar challenges in promoting inclusive growth. Brazil has been successfully implementing various social welfare programmes that hold relevance for India's situation as well. We agreed to exchange experiences in this field.

I conveyed to H.E. the President our interest in her innovative initiative "Science without Borders," aimed at upgrading scientific and technological talent. We look forward to receiving Brazilian students in our institutes of science and engineering.

The President and I underscored the need to enhance cultural and people-to-people ties. The Cultural Exchange Programme that was signed today will facilitate such interactions.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am convinced that it is in our interest, and in the interest of the world, to deepen the Strategic Partnership between India and Brazil in every possible way. I look forward to working closely with President Dilma Rousseff in this endeavour.

Thank you very much.



477. Joint Statement by India and Brazil on the State Visit of Brazilian President Ms. Dilma Rousseff.

New Delhi, March 30, 2012.

Her Excellency Ms. Dilma Rousseff, President of the Federative Republic of Brazil paid a State Visit to India from March 27-31, 2012 at the invitation of the Prime Minister of India, His Excellency Dr. Manmohan Singh. The President of Brazil and the Prime Minister of India held official talks on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest.

2. During the visit, the President of Brazil met the President of India, Her Excellency Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil. After a ceremonial welcome in New Delhi, the President of Brazil visited Rajghat to pay homage to the memory of Mahatma Gandhi. The President of India hosted a Banquet in honour of the visiting dignitary. The Chairperson UPA Smt. Sonia Gandhi and the Leader of Opposition Smt. Sushma Swaraj called on the President of Brazil. The University of Delhi conferred the Degree of Doctor of Letters Honoris Causa on the President of Brazil during the visit.

3. The following bilateral instruments for cooperation were signed during the visit:

- i Executive Programme of Cultural Exchange 2012-2014;
- ii Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation under the Brazilian programme 'Science without Borders' ;
- iii Programme of Cooperation on Science, Technology and Innovation (2012-2014);
- iv Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the field of Biotechnology;
- v Memorandum of Understanding on Technical Cooperation;
- vi MOU between INMETRO and NABCB on mutual recognition of accreditation bodies; and
- vii Statement of Intent for Promotion of Gender Equality and Advancement of the Rights of Women and Children.

Strategic Partnership

4. The two Heads of Government acknowledged the significance of the bilateral visit of the President of Brazil and underlined that the India-Brazil Strategic Partnership established in 2006 has moved to a higher level of a

privileged nature. They recognised that the bilateral relations between India and Brazil are based on bonds of strong friendship which are underpinned by shared values of democracy, rule of law and commonality of interests. The meeting between the two Leaders was held in an atmosphere of warmth and friendship. They noted with satisfaction that the range and frequency of engagement between the two countries had expanded and intensified in recent years and reiterated their commitment to enhance bilateral cooperation to a higher level. They also reaffirmed that they would work together for the further enhancement of their multifaceted relationship.

5. Both Leaders expressed satisfaction with the mutually beneficial cooperation and partnership between India and Brazil at all levels encompassing political, economic, trade, investment, defence, energy, agriculture, science and technology, space, education and culture. They recalled that South-South cooperation fosters a shared vision of the evolving international order which enables close cooperation and coordination in all multilateral fora. They underscored that the ongoing cooperation through G-4, G-20, IBSA, BRICS and BASIC is another important dimension of their relationship.

6. The two Leaders complimented the Foreign Ministers of the two countries for the excellent groundwork they had made on all areas of India-Brazil Strategic Partnership during the 5th round of the India-Brazil Joint Ministerial Commission meeting in New Delhi in December 2011. They evaluated the outcome of the decision of the Joint Commission Ministerial meeting and called for the 6th Meeting to be held in Brazil in 2012. The co-Chairs of the Joint Ministerial Meeting have been requested to carry out a review of the implementation of the decisions arrived at during the State visit.

Economic and Financial Dialogue

7. Both Leaders welcomed the establishment of the bilateral Economic and Financial Dialogue in 2011. Considering the fast changing nature of global financial markets, it was useful for the two countries as major economies and members of the G-20 to exchange views on macro and micro economic and financial issues. The two Leaders expressed deep concern over the international economic and financial crisis and underlined the importance of maintaining close contact in the G-20 meetings.

Trade and Investment

8. The two Leaders expressed satisfaction at the steady increase of bilateral trade and investment between India and Brazil. They noted that the bilateral trade has already touched a record US\$ 9.3 billion in 2011 and agreed to set a trade target of US\$ 15 billion by 2015. The two countries would work towards identifying and implementing steps required to remove various impediments to

trade to achieve this objective. They recognised that there exists considerable untapped potential for greater trade exchanges considering the size of the two economies and also the total volume of foreign trade in both countries. In this context, they also took note of the recommendations of the meetings of the fifth Joint Ministerial Commission, the Trade Monitoring Mechanism (TMM) and the Brazil-India Business Conference: "A New Frontier for Business Opportunities". Addressing Indian and Brazilian businessmen at the Conference, President of Brazil made a presentation on the bilateral economic relations and future perspectives for strengthening the economic ties between the two countries.

9. The two Heads of Government underscored the importance of the CEOs Forum in the promotion of bilateral trade and investments and called for the early convening of the India-Brazil CEOs Forum. Both sides noted that diversification of trade basket and participation in each other's trade fairs and sharing of information on each other's investment policies in specific sectors through seminars and conclaves would help to further strengthening trade and investment linkages. Both Leaders urged the concerned officials to discuss and find solutions on tariff and non-tariff barriers, anti-dumping cases and countervailing duties and resolve them through mutual consultations. The Indian side invited Brazil to join the 20th International Engineering and Technology Fair (IETF) to be held in New Delhi in 2013 as a focus country.

10. The President of Brazil and the Prime Minister of India discussed opportunities for further expansion of bilateral trade and expressed their satisfaction with the implementation of the India-MERCOSUR Preferential Trade Agreement. They also reaffirmed their commitment to analyse possible alternatives to expand the Agreement and the preferences granted to each other.

Agriculture

11. Recognising the enormous potential in agriculture and food processing sectors, the two Leaders expressed interest in enhancing cooperation for mutually beneficial partnerships. They urged their competent authorities and technical teams to take necessary measures to widen our cooperation in these sectors in the context of food security of both countries in the near future. They underscored their mutual desire to deepen cooperation in agriculture research between the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (EMBRAPA). They welcomed the areas identified for cooperation in the fields of germ-plasm exchange, agro energy, sugar based ethanol, soybean cultivation and processing for bio diesel and animal reproduction, beginning with programmes in 2012. They expressed appreciation over the streamlining of certification for import of bovine embryos from India to Brazil. The successful exchange of bovine genetic material is an example of how both countries can help each other to improve the quality of their cooperation in the

areas of animal husbandry. They reiterated interest to cooperate in setting up cold chains and terminal markets for fruits, vegetables and other perishables with state of art facilities in India. In this regard they recognised the importance of convening the Joint Working Group on Agriculture to discuss specific proposals and take forward bilateral cooperation in Agriculture.

Tourism, Air Services and Sports

12. Both Leaders recognised the vast tourism potential in each other's countries and reiterated their interest to collaborate in the Tourism sector for mutually beneficial partnership. They agreed to facilitate expeditious movement of tourists to each other's countries. In view of the forthcoming Football World Cup 2014 and Olympic Games 2016 to be held in Rio de Janeiro, both Leaders expressed interest to explore the possibility of joint venture investments in the hospitality and tourism sectors. They urged the two sides to operationalise the Bilateral Air Services Agreement between India and Brazil signed in March 2011 so as to facilitate and encourage business interaction, tourism and people-to-people exchanges. Furthermore, they highlighted their interest in promotion of cooperation in the areas of sports and youth exchanges.

Defence

13. The President of Brazil and the Prime Minister of India expressed satisfaction at the ongoing cooperation in defence. They recalled the successful visit of the Defence Minister of Brazil, H.E. Mr. Celso Amorim, to India in February 2012. They also noted with satisfaction the reciprocal visits of high level officials and exchanges of defence personnel. They reiterated their desire to jointly collaborate in training as well as exchange of information on peace keeping operations and other areas of mutual interest. They agreed to work on specific proposals for joint development of projects in defence sector, in particular relating to ship building and design. They also agreed to explore possible cooperations in the areas such as space, nuclear propulsion, cyber-defence and defence systems, among others. They expressed satisfaction with the successful maiden flight with the Indian Airborne Early Warning and Control System mounted on the Brazilian EMBRAER aircraft as an excellent example of their ongoing collaborative partnership in Research and Development. The two Leaders recognised that the existing Joint Defence Committee is a useful mechanism to discuss these issues and work towards expanding bilateral defence cooperation.

14. They noted the progress made in the realisation of the objectives enshrined in the Brazil-India Agreement on Defence Cooperation, signed in 2003, and reaffirmed the interest of both sides to further build cooperation in the defence sector. Both Leaders agreed that there is scope for promoting military technical cooperation through joint scientific research and technological development

activities in armament and military equipment; exchange of experience, technologies and information related to development, production and testing of armament and military equipment, and other such initiatives.

Science and Technology

15. The two Leaders expressed their satisfaction with the first meeting of the Brazil-India Joint Commission on Scientific and Technological Cooperation on March 22 - 23, 2012. The Joint Commission is a relevant mechanism for the exchange of experience and programmes and for the establishment of new scientific and corporate partnerships, in the fields of second generation bio-fuels and renewable energy; nanotechnology; biotechnology; information and communications technology; innovation; cooperation in the aerospace sector; and oceanography. They welcomed the establishment of a Bilateral Programme of Cooperation on Science, Technology and Innovation for 2012-2014, with implementation mechanisms, as well as the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Biotechnology, which will focus on initiatives in the areas of health (especially cancer and stem cell therapy); agriculture; bio-fuels and bio-energy; nanotechnology; taxonomy; and vaccines, among others.

16. Both Leaders emphasised the potential for bilateral cooperation in the field of Information and Communications Technology, based on the complementarities and technological development of both countries. They noted with satisfaction their converging dialogue on the Information Society, especially regarding the trilateral cooperation in the IBSA Forum. They also reaffirmed their commitment to the principles established by the Tunis Agenda during the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), highlighting the importance of the democratisation of the forums discussing this issue and of the effective participation of the developing countries in the Internet global governance regime, as a means to resolve the effects of the "digital hiatus".

Space

17. Both Leaders expressed desire to strengthen cooperation in Space research in areas such as remote sensing, data sharing and weather forecasting. In this regard they expressed their interest to exchange experts on regular basis. Brazil reiterated its interest in receiving images from the Indian satellite Resourcesat-2, given the successful cooperation in reception of data from Resourcesat-1 in the Terrestrial Station of Cuiaba. On IBSA Satellite Project, both Leaders expressed strong interest in working jointly for the success of the Technical Meeting to be held in Bengaluru before the end of the year of 2012.

Environment

18. Both Leaders expressed interest in fostering cooperation in the field of

traditional knowledge, protected areas and water resource management. They expressed satisfaction in enhancing cooperation in Environment in areas including scientific management of forests, climate change, waste management and reuse of treated effluents.

Energy

19. The two Leaders expressed satisfaction on the progress of bilateral cooperation in the field of energy for mutually beneficial partnership. They recognised the potential opportunities in this sector and welcomed private and public companies to participate in exploration and production of oil and gas in Brazil. They asked concerned authorities for early convening of Joint Working Group meeting on Hydrocarbons to discuss further cooperation in this sector as well as sharing of experiences in bio-fuels, hydro-power generation, wind and solar energy and privatization and distribution of electricity. Acknowledging the importance of the new and renewable energy resources as instruments for the strengthening of the national energy security, the promotion of sustainable development, technological growth and poverty elimination in association with social inclusion, the parties concurred to create a permanent mechanism for the exchange of technical information and to address those issues. They further reiterated their interest to cooperate in the area of civil nuclear energy.

Health

20. Both sides recognised the importance of active floor co-ordination on the issue of substandard/spurious/falsely-labelled/falsified/counterfeit medical products in the World Health Organization (WHO) and IPR related issues on generic medicines. Both sides also agreed to cooperate and exchange views on other priority health areas such as social determinants of health, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of HIV/AIDS, primary health care, non-communicable diseases traditional medicine, as well as neglected diseases with a focus on Hansen disease.

Education

21. The President of Brazil informed the Prime Minister of India about her initiative of "Science without Borders". The Prime Minister expressed keen interest in the idea with emphasis on basic sciences and technology. Recognising some of India's capabilities in specific areas, they agreed to start a programme of placement of students and scholars in each other's institutes of excellence. They also took note of the progress made in the Joint Working Group on Education and directed that a beginning could be made by the two countries with regard to these exchanges at different levels in 2012. Both Leaders expressed their satisfaction with the signature of the "MOU on Cooperation under the Brazilian programme 'Science without Borders' on reception of Brazilian scholarship

students in India. Brazil welcomed the establishment of an Indian Chair at the Getulio Vargas Foundation (FGV) in Rio de Janeiro.

Culture

22. The President of Brazil and the Prime Minister of India reaffirmed the fundamental role of culture to deepen the friendly ties between the peoples of Brazil and India and decided to stimulate closer relations between artists, cultural institutions and producers of the two countries. They expressed their satisfaction with the signature of the Executive Programme of Cultural Exchanges for the Period 2012-2014, and underlined that it will give momentum to the existing cultural ties. They welcomed more frequent cultural exchanges including the highly successful Indian Cultural Festival in four cities in Brazil in 2011, the Film Festivals held in different cities in Brazil and the setting up of the Indian Cultural Centre in Sao Paulo in 2011, as well as the announcement of the residency programme for Brazilian visual artists, which will take place in New Delhi and Mumbai in 2012. Brazil expressed its intention to set up a Brazilian Cultural Centre in India. They agreed to strengthen cooperation in the audio-visual sector and explore mutually beneficial opportunities in this sector for Film production.

Regional and Multilateral

23. The two Heads of Government discussed a broad range of regional and international issues of mutual interest. They exchanged views on the developments in South Asia and Latin American region. They reaffirmed their commitment to the Millennium Development Goals to fight against hunger and poverty. They also agreed to continue their coordination on issues of common interest of the international agenda.

24. The President of Brazil and the Prime Minister of India noted with satisfaction the fruitful cooperation established during the nine years of the IBSA Forum. The continuity of various IBSA Forum activities remains a priority of their foreign policies. The last IBSA Summit, in October 2011, was held in a unique moment for the Forum, when the three countries were simultaneously members of the United Nations Security Council. They underscored that the cooperation of the IBSA countries in the UNSC in 2011 enriched the debates on the agenda of the Council and contributed to enhance its effectiveness and legitimacy.

25. The President of Brazil congratulated Prime Minister of India for the successful organisation of the Fourth BRICS Summit and the other events in the run up to the meetings of the Leaders. Brazil and India expressed their satisfaction with the growing dynamism of the BRICS and the important consensus reached in different subjects during the Fourth Summit. They also

noticed with great satisfaction that the scope of intra-BRICS cooperation is continuously broadening out and that the five countries concur on important issues on the international agenda.

26. The two Heads of Government stressed the importance of coordinating their actions at the G-20 and other international economic fora. As the world economy presents modest and unequal growth and exposed to risks, Brazil and India's efforts to combine financial and monetary policies with inclusive growth and employment generation become increasingly relevant. The Leaders also noted the importance of promptly implementing the agreed reforms in the governance structure of the international financial institutions. Such reforms must take into consideration the growing influence of the emerging countries economies.

27. The Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the reform of the United Nations, particularly the Security Council, through its expansion in the permanent and non-permanent categories, with increased representation of developing countries in both, in order to improve its representativeness, and legitimacy, and for it to better meet the contemporary challenges faced by the international community. The Leaders reiterated mutual support for their countries' aspiration to permanent membership in an expanded UNSC.

28. The Leaders called for enhanced Security Council procedures in order to monitor and assess the manner in which resolutions are interpreted and implemented. In this vein, they support the idea that the concept of Responsibility while Protecting (RwP) should be discussed further at the UN.

29. Regarding Middle East and North Africa, the two Heads of Government expressed their support the movement for greater democracy, inclusive growth, human dignity and social justice in the region.

30. They expressed their deep concern at the deteriorating situation in Syria and called for an immediate end to violence, which they strongly condemned. They stressed that a peaceful, Syrian-led political process is essential to resolve the ongoing crisis. They also welcomed the designation of former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan as UN-LAS Joint Special Envoy on the Syria Crisis and support his efforts to bring about a peaceful resolution.

31. The two Leaders underlined the urgent need for a just and lasting resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Brazil and India reiterated their support for a sovereign, independent, democratic and economically viable Palestinian State, with East Jerusalem as its capital, within the 1967 borders, living side by side with Israel in peace and security. Given that the Palestinian question is possibly the single most complex challenge on the international peace and security agenda, they called for greater involvement of the Council in the search of a solution to the conflict.

32. The President of Brazil and the Prime Minister of India considered that sustainable development is the main paradigm for inclusive economic growth, social equality and environmental conservation, in primacy of the Rio principles in this regard. They underscored that a green economy should contribute to meeting the goals of poverty eradication, food security and sustained, inclusive and equitable growth that generates employment. The Leaders highlighted their countries' coordination in the BASIC group on the climate change negotiations, which played an important role in the positive results of the Conference of the Parties (COP 17) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Durban in 2011.

33. The two Leaders reaffirmed their mutual support to the important events of the environmental agenda that will take place in India and in Brazil in 2012: the 11th Conference of the Parties (COP-11) to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in October 2012 in Hyderabad, India and the United Nations Conference on Sustainability Development (the Rio+20) In this context, they underlined that the Rio+20 Conference represents an unique opportunity for the international community to secure renewed political commitment to sustainable development. President Dilma Rousseff extended an invitation to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to participate in the Rio +20 Conference to be held in Rio de Janeiro on June 20-22, 2012.

34. The President of Federative Republic of Brazil thanked the Indian government and its people for the warm hospitality extended to her and the accompanying delegation in India. She invited the President of India and Prime Minister of India to visit Brazil on mutually convenient dates which will be decided through diplomatic channel.



CANADA

478. Opening Remarks by External Affairs Minister at the Media Interaction in Toronto

Toronto, June 18, 2012.

High Commissioner Gavai,
Consul General Smt Preeti Saran,
Friends from the Media,

I am very pleased to meet you today in Toronto. As you may be aware, I am transiting through Toronto after my official visits to USA and Cuba.

Last evening Hon'ble Minister for Foreign Affairs of Canada Mr John Baird, joined by three other Cabinet Ministers, hosted a dinner for me. He flew in from Ottawa on a Sunday evening especially to host me. I am deeply touched and honoured by this special gesture and for his hospitality. It reaffirms, once again the importance that we both attach to India Canada relations. Minister John Baird and I reviewed the entire gamut of our bilateral relations and agreed on further strengthening the relationship. I look forward to receive Foreign Minister John Baird in India soon.

Immediately after this media interaction, I will be attending a Reception organised by the Consulate General of India and the Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce. I am happy to note that you are also joining us at the Reception.

I am taking advantage of my transit visit to renew our contacts with the Friends of India as well as the members of the vibrant Indo-Canadian community residing within the Greater Toronto Area. We in India are, indeed, proud of their achievements in Canada. This, of course, includes all of you. As members of a vibrant media that takes keen interest on India, you not only cover recent developments in India but also help bring Indo-Canadian community closer to their heritage and to their links with India.

Friends,

India - Canada relations have never been as close as they are today. These have been sustained more recently by a series of high level visits, including frequent interaction between our two Prime Ministers, both during visits to each others' countries as well as at international Summits. Last year was a landmark year in our relations as the Year of India was observed in Canada. It was a celebration of the tremendous space that exists in our bilateral relations. There is immense scope for further cooperation in a number of sectors.

In recent years, our governments have signed several agreements in different areas of cooperation including nuclear cooperation, mining, agriculture, education, and science and technology. We are also discussing other instruments to further facilitate greater trade and commerce between our two countries including a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.

There is an increased understanding on both sides of the vast untapped potential for further economic ties. The Indo-Canadian community is an important asset and an important link in building stronger ties between India and Canada. I want to take this opportunity, and convey through you, Government of India's deep appreciation to the Indo-Canadian community for their immense contribution in bringing India and Canada closer together.

Thank you.



479. Remarks by External Affairs Minister at a reception hosted in his honour by the Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce together with Consul General of India in Toronto.

Toronto, June 18, 2012.

Hon'ble Ministers Harinder Tahkar, Kathaleen Wynn and Margret Best, Members of Parliament and Members of Provincial Parliament, President of Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce Mr. Satish Thakkar High Commissioner Shri S.M. Gavai, Consul General Smt Preeti Saran, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to be present at this evening reception hosted by the Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce together with the Consulate General of India in Toronto. I place on record my sincere appreciation to Mr. Satish Thakkar, President, Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce for his gracious invitation to me to meet with you all.

It is indeed a special occasion for me as I get to meet and interact with Friends of India and other members of the vibrant Indo-Canadian community. You are an important asset in our relations with Canada – a country with which we share a close bilateral relationship based on our shared values of democracy, pluralism, multiculturalism and tolerance.

A series of recent high level visits have raised the political profile of our relations. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and Prime Minister Harper are keen to advance the bilateral relationship to the next high level. We are currently discussing a number of important bilateral agreements, including a comprehensive economic partnership agreement. A concerted effort is underway to transform the bilateral relationship by infusing greater economic content into it.

Last year was a landmark year in our relations with Canada, as we celebrated the Year of India in Canada. The Year of India was not just about showcasing India's vibrant and rich culture. It was a celebration of India-Canada relationship. It highlighted the tremendous space that exists for taking this relationship to even greater heights.

The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Canada, organised in partnership with the Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce, was an important component of the celebration of the Year of India in Canada. The very fact that the mini-PBD was held in Canada is a recognition and acknowledgment of the important role of the Indo-Canadian community in building bridges between our two countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

India today is at a historic phase when the world is witnessing profound changes. The socio-economic transformation in India with over one billion people, within a democratic framework, will have enormous contribution to make for the rest of the world. It could become an anchor of stability and opportunity for the global economy.

Despite the global economic crisis, the Indian economy has shown resilience and managed to grow at 6.9 percent last year. We are confident of resuming higher growth rates in the coming years. We have initiated measures to harness the creativity of our young population- with 50% of the population below the age of 25 years, to drive innovation-led inclusive growth. This will assist us to sustain growth and help alleviate poverty in India.

There is also an external dimension to India's growth story. Our economic future will depend to a large extent on global peace, stability and security. Our foreign policy always had a broad and open outlook. Thanks to our economic growth and development over the last two decades, we now also have increased capabilities and capacities to contribute to global peace and security.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have today a broad-based agenda of cooperation with major countries and regions of the world. In Asia, which is fast becoming the center of global opportunities and challenges of the 21st century, India is seen as an anchor of moderation and stability.

Our economic fundamentals are strong with a regulated banking sector, high savings rate, a vibrant private sector and an economy that is largely driven by domestic demands. We have introduced extensive reforms and liberalised our economy to allow participation of external partners. Our government has developed an ambitious plan of investing over one trillion US Dollars in the next five years for infrastructure development alone. We, therefore, see new and exciting possibilities for India and Canada to work together.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I deeply value the contribution that all of you have made in transforming the bilateral relationship to one that is forward looking and with high level of substance. I take this opportunity to invite you and through you the Canadian industries and businesses to be part of India's growth story, especially in important sectors such as mining, agriculture, agro-processing, education, infrastructure and energy, where Canada has immense strengths.

I thank you all.



480. Joint Media Interaction of External Affairs Minister and Foreign Minister of Canada.

New Delhi, September 12, 2012.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Syed Akbaruddin): Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. I welcome you to this media interaction. As is usual, we will begin with opening remarks by the two Ministers. I now request the External Affairs Minister of India, Shri S.M. Krishna, to make his opening remarks.

External Affairs Minister of India (Shri S.M. Krishna): Your Excellency Foreign Minister John Baird; Friends from the Media:

It is a great pleasure to welcome Foreign Minister Baird on his first visit to India. I wish to acknowledge his special gesture when he flew down from Ottawa to Toronto for a meeting with me on a Sunday and he went back to Ottawa late in the night so that he would be ready to face parliament the next morning. I did extend an invitation to him and I am indeed very happy, both at a personal and official level for the wonderful gesture of increasing the engagement between our two great democracies.

Foreign Minister Baird's visit marks the beginning of a new phase of deeper engagement and more productive cooperation between our two countries. Today, Foreign Minister Baird and I had productive discussions on the entire gamut of our bilateral relations. We are pleased with the progress we are making on bilateral framework agreements like the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, the Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement and the Social Security Agreement. This is in addition to a number of agreements for cooperation in areas like agriculture, mining and higher education signed over the last few years.

We both acknowledged that India and Canada have the potential to be strong economic partners. Canada's rich natural resources and sophisticated technological and educational base give us a great promise to make our engagement more substantive.

I have stressed to Foreign Minister Baird that Canada can be a true partner in India's pursuit for food security as well as energy security. Indeed, trends in supplies and price of oil and gas make Canada an economically attractive option for sourcing our requirements; and this is a subject of growing importance in our dialogue and in the engagement between our two private sectors.

We are encouraged by the growing flow of investments in both directions. Indian companies have invested over US\$ 10 billion in Canada during the past two years, including in the resources sector. The India-Canada CEO Forum has

been constituted and should commence its work soon. We also looked forward to early completion of negotiations on Appropriate Arrangements for the bilateral Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement signed in 2010.

We also acknowledged the enormous potential for cooperation in the areas of science and technology, defence technology, higher education and clean energy. We agreed that our two governments should establish innovative platforms to stimulate collaboration in these areas.

People-to-people ties are very strong. A million-strong Indian community is an integral part of Canada's vibrant society and acts as a bridge of friendship between our two countries. Canada is a rapidly growing destination for Indian students who want to pursue higher studies abroad. Canadian Government's support helped make the Year of India in Canada in 2011 a great success. I invited Foreign Minister Baird to host a Year of Canada in India.

India and Canada are part of the wider Asia Pacific community, the Commonwealth, and the G-20. The challenges of terrorism, proliferation and maritime security are of concern to both countries. We welcome Canada's support for India's membership of the four international export control regimes.

Foreign Minister Baird and I will continue our discussions later after this media interaction.

Foreign Minister Baird and I agreed our two countries should deepen and broaden our dialogue and consultations, on political and strategic issues as well as on economic cooperation. We look forward to making this dialogue a regular feature.

Finally, Foreign Minister Baird and I discussed the visit of Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, who has been a strong advocate of closer India-Canada ties, later in the year as an opportunity to raise our relationship to a qualitatively new level.

Thank you.

Foreign Minister of Canada (Mr. John Baird): Thank you very much, Minister. I want to thank you at the outset for the very kind invitation to travel and to visit India. This is my third day in the country and it is simply overwhelming. I have enjoyed the trip immensely. I wanted to thank you as well for the generous welcome me and my delegation received. The Government has been very kind.

The Prime Minister of Canada, Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, and Prime Minister Dr. Singh have established a very good cordial friendship and relationship both personally and professionally. We are very pleased with the solid footing the relationship between Canada and India is on, but even more pleased with the trajectory, that it is going in very much in the right direction and improving each

and every day. And that is because of the leadership of the two Prime Ministers and of your Government.

We enjoy such strong people-to-people ties. I am pleased to be joined by my Parliamentary Secretary Deepak Obhrai who has been in the Department for six years and has served in the Parliament for fifteen years. He is the key interlocutor for our relationship, and I am pleased that he could join me.

We enjoy so many things in common, principally values. We are both liberal democracies; we are both pluralistic societies; we welcome diversity as a strength; we are also open economies; we are working to increase the prosperity of our peoples. The complementarities between the Indian economy and the Canadian economy are profound. We are excited about the opportunities to further collaborate and to increase trade and commerce, to increase investment both ways.

The economic agenda with us is very strong. The Comprehensive Economic Partnership discussions are going very well. We have had five or six very good rounds and we look forward to the next round, and to success in the coming months and years on that. We are very excited about our negotiations on the Bilateral Investment Protection and Promotion Agreement. Those two things will send a very strong signal and a very strong message to the business communities of both our countries to increase trade and investment and increase the prosperity and standards of living of both of our people.

We had a very good discussion with respect to cooperation on energy. Canada has the third largest confirmed sources of oil in the world. We have tremendous opportunities to partner with India on that. We have large deposits of natural gas, some of which can be brought to India, closer from Eastern Canada than Western Canada. There are great opportunities for oil and gas for Canada as a stable and liberal democracy and open economy, to provide for India's economic growth and energy security.

We are also very pleased with the nuclear cooperation between our two countries. The number one area that we can point to in the growth of the relationship is the nuclear cooperation agreement that was signed by the two Prime Ministers two years ago. We look forward to enhancing our cooperation, providing for the peaceful use of nuclear energy which is important for the future prosperity in India but also tremendously important for air quality and on tackling climate change. We also had a very good discussion on security and counterterrorism cooperation. This is an area with which we see great opportunities for future engagements.

The biggest terrorist incident ever happened in Canada was the bombing of the Air India flight back in 1985. As I told the Minister, that is something that is dear

to my heart, close to my heart because one of the victims I went to High School with. And that is something that since I was 15 or 16 years old have ...*(Inaudible)*... about, in a very personal sense. We have enhanced our cooperation on both security and counterterrorism. I think we can do much more to help promote the values that India and Canada both cherish.

Once again I thank you for your kind invitation and for the very warm hospitality. But most importantly, Minister, thank you for your leadership in helping to get this relationship going in the right trajectory. ...*(Inaudible)*...

Official Spokesperson: The two Ministers have agreed to take a couple of questions each.

Question (Mr. Manish Chand, IANS): I have a set of two interlinked questions. The first one is for External Affairs Minister Mr. Krishna. Sir, what are the issues holding up the implementation of the bilateral civil nuclear deal? It has been two years since we signed that but we have not seen much visible progress.

My second question is for the Canadian Foreign Minister. Excellency, when will Canada start supplying uranium to India? Are you looking for additional conditionalities on top of what we have with, say for example, Russia and France?

External Affairs Minister: About the civil nuclear agreement signed in 2010 during Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's visit to Toronto, it is an important milestone in our relationship. Nothing is holding up the implementation of the agreement. Only the two governments are in the process of working out the arrangements and the details which are being negotiated. These are a matter of detail and are being worked out through consultations. We look forward to early completion of these consultations.

Foreign Minister of Canada: We are excited about the nuclear cooperation agreement. We think it is a tangible demonstration that our relationship with India is in the 21st century and not in the 20th century. We have no concerns with respect to proliferation. Those concerns and issues are in the past. We came to agreement. We have to do the administrative details. Often they can take more time than any of us would like. But I can underline the fact that these administrative discussions, I am confident, will be concluded in very short order. And I had underlined the issues I did with the Minister ...*(Unclear)*... We certainly have no additional concerns with respect to those discussions that we would have the agreement that we have with the United States or with the European Union. So, we look forward to the successful resolution of these administrative discussions.

Question (Ms. Parul Chandra, The Asian Age): My question is for both the Ministers. India's energy needs are growing and Canada has shale gas reserves.

So, was this issue of a possible sale of shale gas to India by Canada discussed at the meeting?

External Affairs Minister: The energy requirements of India was one of the important deliberations between the Foreign Minister and me. Canada is potentially an important source of oil and gas. Given the sharp increase in the availability of gas in North America and steep decline in prices of gas in North America, India would naturally be interested to import oil and gas from North America. Indian companies are interested in investing in Canada as also entering into long-term commitments. This is an issue of growing importance in our bilateral dialogue and I have raised it again. Canada also attaches importance to expanding cooperation in this area. We acknowledge Canada is a superpower in energy and naturally India would depend quite a bit on Canada.

Foreign Minister of Canada: I concur with the Minister's comments. We having significant reserves of both oil and natural gas, and we think especially from our East Coast there is a great potential for commercial deals. And our Government is very supportive of establishing those commercial relations. It is a significant priority of our High Commissioner here in Delhi. So, it is a part of the discussions. And we look forward to do more work there. I think Canada can be a stable supplier of natural gas to India.

These things are primarily on our end dealt with by commercial entities. But they will do so with the full support of our Government. We think that we can be part of meeting India's growing energy needs to help power the prosperity and the economic growth that we see here. Most importantly it can be a stable source of the national security supply for India. So, we are quite enthusiastic about this ...*(Unclear)*...

Question (Mr. Vishal Thapar, NewsEx): My question is for Minister Baird. In your opening remarks, Sir, you made a reference to counterterrorism. But there have been reports of Sikh militants engaging openly in anti-India activities in Canada, about them indulging in hate speeches and organizing functions where Canadian politicians are also present. How do you address the impression that there is a certain permissiveness in Canada towards anti-India activities?

Foreign Minister of Canada: The Minister had made a very good intervention in our meetings on this. I know, both he and Prime Minister Singh have raised this in the past. Our Government will do everything it can possibly do under the law to combat radical extremism by such groups in Canada.

We have, going back to 2003, listed groups under our criminal code as terrorist organizations. I invited the Minister, if he has any counsel or if there are additional groups that we could list. And certainly we have agreed that we have got to do more to tackle this challenge. We are completely on the same page as the

Government of India that it is completely unacceptable. From time to time there are representatives, not at the senior political level, who find themselves at one of these events not necessarily knowing the radical nature or extremist nature of these militant groups. When it is brought to our attention or we discover, we tackle it aggressively.

The Indian High Commission in Ottawa brought to us a case about a year or a year and a half ago which we were horrified with. And we will do more to promote and inform and educate officials, whether they be at the political level, at the public service level or at the military level. The fight against extremism and radical terrorists knows no borders, and Canada will be a strong ally to India in this ...(*Unclear*)...

Question (Mr. Tom ..., Global TV): This is a question for Mr. Baird on Iran. But I would like to hear Minister Krishna's thoughts on it as well.

Would Canada support a unilateral Israeli strike on Iran?. If so, what redlines need to be crossed to justify that?

Foreign Minister of Canada: We want to see this issue tackled diplomatically. We want to see every diplomatic measure necessary to bring this issue to a successful conclusion. We had some optimism for the P5+1, or it might be referred to as 3+3, dialogue. I am in close contact with Catherine Ashton, the EU Representative for Foreign Affairs. We will continue to work progressively on sanctions. Canada has some of the most aggressive sanctions in the world. We are pleased with the unanimity of the P5+1 including China and India who have been constructive players in these discussions. Obviously we want to see this issue dealt with in a nonmilitary fashion.

We are deeply concerned about the nuclear programme. We are deeply concerned about Iran's disgraceful human rights record which is, if anything not getting better and is deteriorating. And we are concerned by Iran's hostile intentions to its neighbours and others in the region, particularly its racist, anti-Semitic rhetoric against the State of Israel and the unconstructive role that it plays supporting terrorism in the region. Beyond that I would not speculate.

But we do believe that all diplomatic action should be necessary. If the Government of Iran wants to resolve this issue, I think there is an ample opportunity for them to do that. They have not taken advantage of the first two or three meetings and the other dialogues that they had with the P5+1. And I would in the strongest of the terms encourage them to take a different course. This thing can be resolved, if the Government of Iran wants to.

Official Spokesperson: With that we come to the end of this event. Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen.



481. Media Briefing on the visit of Canadian Prime Minister.**New Delhi, November 1, 2012.**

Joint Secretary (Americas) (Shri Vikram Kumar Doraiswami): Good evening ladies and gentlemen and thank you for your time and attention.....

You already have an approximation of the programme, the main highlights of the programme of Prime Minister Harper's visit. We have a Press Release out with a little factsheet that we have put together for your information. It is basically a little snapshot of the India-Canada relationship. It gives you statistics on trade, investment, sectors of interest, something that we hope will give you a little background and a little flavor of the relationship. What I would like to say, however, is what you would not find in the factsheet, which is essentially this that this is Prime Minister Harper's second visit in three years. This is his first State visit of course. He was here almost exactly three years to the day ago. In November 2009 he visited India last. It is part of what we see as a strong effort on the part of the two countries to re-engage, to engage much more closely. Prime Minister Harper's 2009 visit was preceded by the visit of Prime Minister Paul Martin in 2005 and Prime Minister Chretien in 2003. So, in a space of about a decade this will be the fourth visit from Canada to India.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh visited Canada in 2010 for the G20 Summit. A bilateral segment of the visit was bookended for that visit. Some of you may have gone on that visit too. So, on both sides we see a strong desire to reengage and to take the relationship to another level.

We have of course the highlights of the relationship being a strong economic and commercial partnership. We are looking at ways of enhancing bilateral trade which is currently at around five billion dollars all told. This is a net growth of about 28 per cent on the previous year. This is good growth but not at the speed the two Prime Ministers had expected. So, efforts are on to find ways of stepping this up. We would look at using this visit as an opportunity to look at more functional mechanisms to identify specific areas of trade in which we can take matters forward. Investment has been an area in which significant growth has happened in terms of bilateral investment. India's investment in Canada is quite a bit larger than Canada's investment in India. All told, investment is of the order of 14 billion dollars from India to Canada. Canadian investment in India, historically that is, is at about just under the five billion US dollars mark. It is about 4.8 billion or so. In 2010 alone we had over six billion dollars in Indian investment in Canada.

Key sectors of interest for us include energy, of course. We see Canada as an important and potentially critical partner for India in the energy sector. We are

looking of course at agriculture as an important part of the partnership. You will find in your factsheet that Canada is an important provider of lentils and peas to the Indian agricultural sector. Current agricultural trade figures are at 490 million in terms of imports by India and 157 million in terms of exports from India to Canada.

We are looking at ways in which we can more substantively engage Canada's agricultural economy. Canada is of course an agricultural superpower. So, obviously it makes sense for us to have a much more detailed and multi-layered engagement with Canada in that sector.

Apart from that there is also of course education. Canadian universities are among the best in the world. There is already a significant flow of Indian students studying in Canada. We have currently an estimate of about 23,000 students studying in Canada per year. We want to look at ways of building and expanding this relationship. Mining is another area of great interest. Because of its history as a strong natural resource producing country, Canadian mining in terms of technologies is among the world leaders. Obviously we could do with a lot more cooperation in the mining sector.

Technology. We have an excellent partnership already ongoing for several decades between Canada and our Department of Science and Technology. We are looking at ways of trying to take this partnership forward in terms of identifying more and new sectors of technology partnership, in particular nanotechnology, in advanced materials, and biotechnology. Finally of course there is a vibrant link of Canadians of Indian origin. We have estimates of a bit over a million people of Indian origin in Canada. This in percentage terms is about three per cent of the total population of Canada. In ethnic terms, it means the second largest ethnicity in Canada.

We are looking at a number of mechanisms that take our partnership forward. Some of this is captured in the stuff that we have already prepared for you. So, we look forward to using this visit as a means of taking the relationship forward and building upon what we see as a strong desire on the part of Canada also to engage much more closely with India. I do not think I have much more to say in the opening remarks. I am more than happy to address any questions subject to my knowing the answers. Thank you.

Question: Sir, considering the travails of Petronas and CNOOC, both of them are SOEs, what is our strategy to gain energy resources from Canada? Do we want them from SOEs or are we pushing private sector forward? Do our SOEs match the transparency norms that Canada wants?

Joint Secretary (AMS): Thank you for that question. I think it is really an answer that, quite fairly speaking, should be given by a Canadian official rather than by

me. As far as we understand Canada's investment laws, the net benefit test is applied insofar as majority stakes are concerned. In other words, if you have a company that is seeking to access natural resources in Canada and to buy out a stake, if it falls within the benchmark of a majority stake, in other words if it is under 50 per cent, then you do not need to have this test assessed. If it is over 50 per cent, it is a different matter.

I really cannot comment why the Petronas-Nexen deal fell through. But this really is a matter for Government of Canada to answer. But insofar as our strategies are concerned, OVL is very interested. They have an office opened up in Calgary as of July this year. We believe our bids will be good ones, professional bids. I have had personally a discussion with the people at OVL. I think they are very seized of the Canadian Government's approach to investment. And it is not as if the Canadian Government does not want investment in these sectors. They are open to investment. But I think in their system it all depends on what triggers the regulations within their own system. So, while it is not for me to defend or in any other way comment on their system, I think it is fairly clear from what they have put out that they have set a fairly transparent set of mechanisms in place. And I do not believe that OVL in any sense is a nontransparent holding.

Just to add a point to that, the bid that OVL has made at least in one of the two areas that they are looking at is a consortium of three state-owned companies. But as you know, at least in the case of ONGC about 30 plus per cent of its holding is not purely in state hands.

Question: Vikram, what is the status of civil nuclear negotiations between the two countries? Do we expect a deal by the time the Prime Minister comes or during the visit?

Joint Secretary (AMS): That is an important question. As you know, we signed a bilateral civil nuclear agreement in 2010. We think it was an important moment in our bilateral relationship. I think the quality of India-Canada cooperation has significantly changed as a result of that and as a result of Canada's support for the India-specific safeguards agreement at the IAEA prior to the 2010 agreement. So, obviously there is a qualitative movement on both sides to engage. The specificities and modalities of getting the cooperation operationalised are being discussed. We hope to have forward movement on this in time for Prime Minister Harper's visit. Naturally it would be improper for me to comment on exactly where we stand at this particular juncture. But we would be very happy if this comes through. I think both Governments feel that this is an area in which we can cooperate. You are of course aware of the scale of uranium resources in Canada. And Canada's long and very well put together systems in the management of strategic resources like uranium. So, any cooperation that has

to be done will be done within the framework of our international commitments, in particular the India-specific safeguards agreement, the bilateral India-Canada nuclear cooperation agreement, and of course Canadian law and the IAEA rules. So, within these four corners which I have just spelt out, whatever we can exactly nail down, we hope to be able to do something within that.

Question: Vikram, actually there had been complaints against Canada about giving shelter to separatist elements that had been active in India for long. Has there been any forward movement on this trend in Canada? And do you expect anything more on this?

Joint Secretary (AMS): I think the history of this particular issue is well-known, I do not need to comment on this. The fact of the matter is that it has been an issue of significant concern to the Government of India. It has been raised now for decades, in particular since 1985, since the tragedy of Kanishka. But we have had an excellent response from the Government of Canada. You are of course aware of Foreign Minister Baird's visit here in September. He made a very specific and a very clear-cut, in our view, denunciation of such activity. And we feel that the kind of cooperation that we are getting from Canada has significantly improved. It is of course a matter of concern for us. And we do continue to be in dialogue with the Government of Canada on this issue. But we also recognize that Canada's cooperation with us has to be within the limits of Canadian law and also within the parameters of their commitments to cooperate against extremism and terrorism.

Question: Vikram, I was surprised to find a large number of Indian doctors driving taxis in Vancouver. That is because I understand Canada does not recognize Indian medical degrees. I think this is terrible. What is the Government of India doing about it?

Joint Secretary (AMS): We are actually working towards a new strategy on cooperation in education. One of the outcomes of this would be recognition of degrees. Professional degrees of course is a more complicated matter. It would be fair only to recognize that this is not the only country in the world where this happens in terms of having extremely qualified emigrants from India doing jobs that say, if I were to understate it a bit, not exactly within the limits of their qualifications. If that were to be the case, getting this done in a manner in which needs and capacities are matched better requires a certain level of comfort between the regulatory institutions on both sides. That is an ongoing process. Canada's interest in engaging with us in education is quite strong. And we recognize that it is also in our interest given Canada's highly competent educational institutions. But the movement of people is always a complicated issue in today's world, as you know, particularly skilled people because of issues of job displacement. So, managing this within the two contending ends of migration

policies and educational recognition of degrees is always a complex balancing act. But we have been encouraged by Canada's willingness to talk to us on issues of this sort. So, let us see where this dialogue goes further.

Question: Are there any pending security issues? For instance Blackberry, is it a pending issue? Or is Blackberry something which is behind us now?

Joint Secretary (AMS): The dialogue vis-à-vis Blackberry was not directly raised with the Government of Canada. It is a major private sector operator. Whatever dialogue happens between their entity in India and the Home Ministry is happening in direct channels with the company. I am not aware of whether there are further issues that Home Ministry requires to raise with them at this stage.

Question: This is on super visa. Canadians have recently launched their super visa scheme and the Indian Canadians are up in arms against it. They call it super flop. They have several problems. One of the irritants is the fee structure is higher. And the insurance cover for the senior citizens is not there. So, is it going to be on the table? Are you going to seek any redressal in this regard?

Joint Secretary (AMS): I must be honest this has not been one of the issues that we have had currently on the agenda but certainly I can look into it and come back on this.

Question: Can you give us an update on the negotiations on the Indo-Canadian FTA? He is coming with a substantial trade delegation. Who are the other Ministers accompanying him? And why is he going to Bangalore and Chandigarh?

Joint Secretary (AMS): The question about why he is going where he is going is really probably best directed to his media advisor, not me. We are quite happy to have our visiting dignitaries travel to wherever they wish in our country. Bangalore is a quite often visited city. It has got nothing to do with the fact that I am from Bangalore. But, Chandigarh of course there is interest given the strong population of course I am sure of people of Punjabi origin. The visiting delegations tell us that they wish to go to x, y and z after Delhi, and it is fine with us usually. We have absolutely no comment on that to offer.

Your first question was, who are the Ministers? That is in our little press release. Basically the Cabinet Minister accompanying is Minister Edward Fast who is the Minister for International Trade, the Minister of State for Democratic Reforms Mr. Uppal, and Minister of State for Sport Mr. Gosal. Those are the Ministers accompanying.

Question: ... (Inaudible)...

Joint Secretary (AMS): I can hardly speak for the Government of Canada on how they allocate portfolios and what they call them. So, really on that one you have got me.

There was a question on the FTA. Actually it is not an FTA, it is a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) negotiation. The next round of negotiations will take place in the middle of this month in Canada. We are hopeful of moving forward in the next 12 to 18 months' time to actually conclude it. But negotiations are moving at a pretty fast pace now. I think there is great hope for forward movement on this.

Question: Is there any talk between India and Canada about the extraction of natural resources in the Arctic zone? China, Russia, America and Canada, all of them are interested in this kind of a race that is going on. Are we in talks with Canadians so far as this is concerned?

Joint Secretary (AMS): You are actually looking into Volume 2. Canada will chair the Arctic Council next year and it is an area which we definitely are hoping to talk to them about. So, during the visit let us see what kind of dialogue we can have on the subject.

Question: Vikram, what is the political component of this particular relationship? Is there a strategic element to it at all?

Joint Secretary (AMS): I am not too sure I follow the question. But in the sense of the political component being the quality of interaction between the leaders, I have just shown you how the scale of interaction has increased considerably. Our leaders have also had the opportunity to meet in a number of international fora. India and Canada are also co-chairs of a subgroup in the G20. On defence, we have been in dialogue with Canada. Canada's defence structure is quite dissimilar from ours in the sense that it is entirely in the private sector pretty much. Even the equivalent of our DRDO is a corporation in Canada, it is DRDC. So, direct engagement in the form of state-to-state relationship is a little more difficult. It is also different from the United States which has a Foreign Military Sales Programme which is routed through the Department of Defence. So, in Canada the quality of partnership tends to be through private sector entities. But certainly we are interested in it - thank you for reminding me, I should have mentioned that - because defence technology in Canada, the quality and capacity in Canada is very high. So, it is an area in which we are engaging with them. We already have an MoU on cooperation on some parts of this. So, we look to taking this forward during the visit in fact.



482. Press Release on the call by the Prime Minister of Canada on President Pranab Mukherjee.

New Delhi, November 6, 2012.

The Prime Minister of Canada Mr. Stephen Harper called on the President Pranab Mukherjee today and held wide ranging discussions on bilateral and multilateral issues.

The President said that India and Canada share fundamental values as two inclusive democracies wedded to federalism, pluralism, individual liberty and human rights. He expressed happiness that Canada is home to 1.5 million people of Indian origin. The President invited Canada to be partner in India's development, especially in the fields of energy, mineral resources, infrastructure and food security. The President said there is need to encourage more investment in both directions, from Canada in India's infrastructure and from India, in Canada's resources sector.

The President also said cooperation with Canada in the field of agriculture is crucial to India's food security. India imports 40 percent of its pulses and 25 percent of its potash requirements from Canada. With India's large and growing population, food security in the coming years is a strategic imperative for India and Canada can be an important partner in this regard.

The Canadian Prime Minister welcomed the President's views and said there is need to focus on few areas and deepen the engagement between the two countries. He said India has needs which can be best served by Canada and for Canada, there is no emerging market more compatible than India to expand its engagement. He specially lauded the cooperation between India and Canada within the G-20 and said many important achievements have been made by the G-20 due to the joint leadership of the two countries.



**483. Prime Minister's statement to the media during the State Visit of Prime Minister of Canada Mr. Stephen Harper to India
New Delhi, November 6, 2012.**

Your Excellency Prime Minister Harper,
Ladies and Gentlemen of the media,

It is my pleasure to extend a very warm welcome to Prime Minister Harper on his second visit to India. Since his last visit in 2009, our bilateral relations have seen a significant transformation. I am confident that our ties will be marked by increasingly beneficial cooperation in the years ahead.

Prime Minister Harper and I have conducted a comprehensive review of our wide-ranging partnership. We agreed to institute a Strategic Dialogue at the level of Foreign Ministers. We identified energy cooperation, particularly exports of Canadian oil and natural gas as well as renewable energy cooperation, as an area with enormous potential. A Ministerial-level energy dialogue will supplement the Strategic Dialogue and promote specific projects. We also welcomed the recent progress made towards concluding the modalities for the effective operationalization of the agreement on civil nuclear energy cooperation that we had signed in 2010.

There is active collaboration in high technology sectors between our scientific institutions. The Prime Minister and I agreed on the need to develop such linkages. The MOU that has just been signed between DRDO and York University is a welcome foray into bilateral defence technology cooperation, where Canadian prowess is widely acknowledged.

The large Indian origin community in Canada, and the people to people interaction this has fostered, has played a vital role in strengthening our relations. The Social Security Agreement that has been signed today will be of enormous benefit to many expatriate professionals in both countries.

Canada has traditionally been an important partner in our efforts to ensure food security. In this context, both sides have agreed to enhance cooperation in the field of agriculture.

Our economic cooperation is below its potential. The establishment of a bilateral CEOs Forum, and the commitment to a structured dialogue between our Commerce Ministers, will help our trade and economic interaction. We resolved to conclude negotiations for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement within the next year. I assured the Prime Minister that India is committed to finalizing a Bilateral Investment Protection and Promotion Agreement, on which negotiations are underway. I also conveyed that India hopes to attract more

Canadian investment in India, just as there has been a steady flow of Indian capital into Canada.

India and Canada are nations built on shared values that celebrate democracy, inclusiveness and diversity. We have similar concerns in combating terrorism, extremism and radicalism. The Prime Minister and I agreed to deepen our counter-terrorism cooperation. I conveyed to the Prime Minister our appreciation for Canada's efforts in promoting peace and development in Afghanistan.

Our two countries have a common interest in the stability of the global financial system. We have a close and effective partnership in the G-20, where India and Canada co-chair the Working Group on a Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth. The Prime Minister and I agreed to intensify our coordination in international fora.

Prime Minister Harper's visit is yet another milestone in our bilateral relations. It has been a pleasure working with him and I look forward to continuing our fruitful partnership.

Thank you.



484. Joint Statement on the occasion of the State visit of Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada to India.

New Delhi, November 6, 2012.

The Prime Minister of Canada, The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, paid a State Visit to India from November 4-9, 2012, at the invitation of the Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh. Prime Minister Harper was accompanied by Mrs. Laureen Harper and a high-level delegation comprising three Ministers, five Members of Parliament, two Senators, senior officials and business persons, including four members of the India-Canada CEO Forum. In addition to New Delhi, Prime Minister Harper visited Agra, Chandigarh, and Bengaluru (Bangalore). During his official engagements in New Delhi, Prime Minister Harper held bilateral consultations with Prime Minister Singh. He also called on the President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, and the Vice President of India, Shri Hamid Ansari. Prime Minister Harper met the Leader of the Opposition Smt. Sushma Swaraj and the UPA Chairperson Smt. Sonia Gandhi.

The Prime Ministers held detailed discussions on bilateral issues and on regional and international issues of mutual interest. They noted the significance of the visit, marking the 65th Anniversary of the opening of the High Commission of Canada in India. The two Prime Ministers highlighted the strengthening of India-Canada relations, based on long-standing people-to-people ties and mutually-cherished values of democracy, tolerance, human rights, pluralism, freedom of religion and the rule of law.

The two leaders agreed on the imperative to forge a forward-looking relationship by deepening the bilateral engagement at a strategic level and better leveraging significant complementarities existing between the two countries in key areas of mutual interest such as: energy security; agriculture and food security; mineral resources; education; infrastructure development; and advanced civilian, defence and space technologies. Towards achieving this objective, they agreed to intensify their interaction through regular meetings, including dialogues on the margins of international meetings, and to institute an annual strategic dialogue between the two Foreign Ministers, supported by bilateral meetings among senior officials.

Energy and Mining

Both leaders agreed that a key area of focus should be enhanced cooperation in energy, in particular, joint efforts to develop capacities to maximize the utilization of energy resources ranging from oil and gas to new hydrocarbon resources such as oil sands, shale gas and other sources of energy including renewables. To take this forward and strengthen the bilateral dialogue, both leaders agreed to elevate the discussions to the Ministerial level, led by the Deputy Chairman,

Planning Commission, on the Indian side and the Minister of Natural Resources on the Canadian side, and to explore the possibility of a Memorandum of Understanding in the field of oil and gas.

Prime Minister Singh and Prime Minister Harper welcomed the recognition of synergies between Canada's developed natural resources sector and the growing demand for such resources and related technologies and services generated by India's economic growth, in particular in mining and energy sectors, including liquefied natural gas. They welcomed ongoing bilateral collaboration under Memoranda of Understanding signed between India and Canada as well as with four of Canada's provinces: British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec and Saskatchewan. They emphasized the need to further augment such engagement through long-term commercial investments, joint partnerships, technological cooperation and exchange of best practices in mining and energy sectors including oil, natural gas, renewables and energy efficiency.

Trade and Economy

The two leaders welcomed the substantial progress made towards finalizing a Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement and expressed their commitment to finalize the Agreement on a priority basis.

The two Prime Ministers welcomed the progress being made in negotiations on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and reaffirmed their desire to conclude it by the end of 2013.

The two leaders noted that bilateral trade, at its current level, did not reflect the true potential of the commercial relationship. The two leaders reiterated their shared desire to see bilateral trade reach \$15 billion by 2015. They welcomed the two successful rounds of the Annual Trade Ministerial Dialogue and underlined the need to institutionalize the dialogue on a regular basis to boost bilateral trade and to realize the enormous potential for bilateral trade and investment flows. In this context, they welcomed the signature of significant commercial contracts and private sector agreements in the course of the visit as a demonstration of the benefits of even greater trade and economic cooperation and a further contribution to prosperity and economic development in both countries.

The two leaders also commended the convening of the first meeting of the India-Canada CEO Forum. The CEO Forum meeting was co-Chaired by Mr. Tom Jenkins (Executive Chairman and Chief Strategy Officer, Open Text Corporation) and Mr. Hari Bhartia (Co-Chairman & Managing Director, Jubilant Life Sciences). The co-Chairs presented to the two Governments, the CEO Forum's preliminary views and action plan on measures to enhance bilateral trade and commercial relations.

The two Prime Ministers endorsed the decision to commence a Financial Sector Policy Dialogue at an early date, to facilitate mutual understanding of developments in the financial sectors of the two countries, and to discuss and coordinate positions on developments in global fora. Recognizing the sound health of Canada's financial services sector and India's requirement for large-scale investment capital, and the various steps taken by India towards further liberalizing foreign portfolio investment and easing regulations for external commercial borrowings by Indian companies, India invited Canada to consider investing in the Indian infrastructure sector and avail of the opportunities provided by Government divestment of shares in several Indian public sector enterprises. Recognizing the significance and dynamism of India's economy, Canada encouraged India to consider providing increased opportunities for Canadian participation in the Indian financial sector.

The two leaders also welcomed the expansion of commercial cooperation between India and Canada, noting in particular the decision by Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Ltd to establish a urea project worth \$ 1.2 billion in the Province of Quebec.

Science & Technology

The two leaders affirmed their support for the Canada-India Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement and acknowledged the increase in collaboration between the scientific communities of both countries. Recognizing the strategic importance of enhanced science and technology cooperation, the two leaders have tasked the Canada-India Joint Science and Technology Cooperation Committee, which meets in January 2013, to develop an Action Plan that would further strengthen the scope of this collaboration with the goal of promoting basic research, facilitating academic and industrial personnel exchanges, and accelerating technology commercialization.

The two Prime Ministers welcomed the completion of eight projects for research in cutting-edge areas of science and engineering, jointly funded by the Government of Canada and India's Department of Science and Technology (through the DST-CII platform, GITA) and Department of Biotechnology. India also welcomed Canada's initiative to award \$ 13.8 million in grants to set up the Canada-India Research Centre of Excellence (CIRCE).

Information and Communication Technologies

The two Prime Ministers welcomed the signing of the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). They recognized the mutual benefit from cooperation in the Information Communication Technology and Electronics (ICTE) sector and stressed the need to establish a strong and effective business-to-business partnership and cooperation in this

sector; to raise awareness among private and public sector stakeholders on ICTE opportunities in Canada and India; and to establish an ICTE Working Group to engage in a wide variety of ICTE Sector related issues.

Education

Recognizing that the number of Indian students studying in Canada has grown considerably over the past five years, with a total of more than 23,000 Indian students currently in Canada, and noting that over 300 Memoranda of Understanding exist between institutions of higher learning in India and Canada, the two leaders identified education as a key area of mutual interest and enhanced collaboration

Canada welcomed the decision by the Indian Council of Cultural Relations to establish an India Research Chair in Humanities and Social Sciences at McGill University. Both sides also agreed to explore the possibility of convening an India-Canada Education Summit in India further to the Canada-India Education Summit in Canada in June 2011, with the objective of expanding cooperation between the educational institutions of the two countries

Agriculture

Recognizing that Canada is a key supplier of India's agricultural imports including pulses and fertilizers, Prime Minister Singh and Prime Minister Harper welcomed ongoing collaboration under the Memorandum of Understanding on Agriculture Cooperation. Recognizing the imperative of growing food demand in India and the salience of food security to India's sustained future development and growth, both leaders reaffirmed the importance of intensifying bilateral collaboration in the area of agriculture and fertilizers. In this context, they underlined the need for closer cooperation in the area of fertilizers, especially potash, as well as dairy and agricultural production, processing, distribution and monitoring.

People-to-People Ties

Appreciating the contributions made to both societies by the community of more than one million Canadians of Indian origin, the two Prime Ministers emphasized the need to further energize bilateral people-to-people contacts and for the two Governments to work more closely to facilitate the orderly movement of people, in particular, students and professionals. They applauded the increased interaction between skilled professionals from India and Canada, and in this context, welcomed the signing of a Social Security Agreement to enable coordination of specific pension programmes in the two countries, for the benefit of working professionals, businesses, and retirees in both countries.

The two leaders welcomed the ongoing effort to update the 1982 bilateral Air Services Agreement. Recent amendments which are being applied on an

administrative basis have already facilitated easier travel between India and Canada, permitting more flights to an expanded list of destinations and providing air carriers the flexibility to add new services, including cargo services, well into the future. Subject to a thorough legal review, the two sides also concluded updated Articles dealing with security and pricing to significantly ease regulatory requirements and allow air carriers on both sides to respond quickly to developments in the marketplace.

Audio-Visual Co-Production Treaty

Acknowledging the progress made in the ongoing negotiations for an Audio-Visual Co-production Treaty, the two Prime Ministers agreed that both sides would make their best endeavours to conclude the Treaty in 2013. They recognized that when finalized, the Treaty would contribute to both India's and Canada's economies and enhance trade between the two countries.

Space

The two Prime Ministers expressed satisfaction at the existing India-Canada space partnership, including astronomy and commercial activities in satellite launch services. Both sides expressed satisfaction at progress in developing an ultraviolet space telescope, soon to be flown in India's Astrosat satellite. They agreed to explore further cooperation in the years ahead.

Defence

The two Prime Ministers congratulated the Defence Research Development Organization of India and York University of Canada for concluding a Memorandum of Understanding to develop collaboration in areas such as chemical-biological defence and the application of research in advanced materials and nanotechnology to defence. They also noted the growing opportunities for cooperation in defence, especially in the areas of research and training.

Security

Prime Minister Harper and Prime Minister Singh agreed to enhance bilateral security cooperation, including through a dialogue to be led by India's National Security Council Secretariat and Canada's Office of the National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister. Both countries agreed to work closely together to improve cyber security as well as broaden their dialogue and cooperation on cyberspace policy with the shared goal of an open and secure cyberspace which is increasingly essential to freedom of expression and economic growth. Condemning violent extremism in all its forms and committing to continue to counter global terrorism, they agreed that India and Canada would work together to address this challenge. The two Prime Ministers looked forward to a productive meeting of the Canada-India Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism that is scheduled to meet on November 29, 2012 in New Delhi

The two Prime Ministers were pleased to note that Canada can now undertake its internal processes to enable early signing of the agreed Transfer of Offenders Treaty / Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Persons.

Regional and Global Issues

Prime Minister Singh and Prime Minister Harper affirmed that, as Co-chairs of the G-20 Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth Working Group, India and Canada have shared stakes in keeping the global recovery on track. The Prime Ministers highlighted their group's important work in global economic cooperation, most recently through the Los Cabos Growth and Jobs Action Plan.

The two sides agreed on the need for greater effort to reform the Bretton Woods Institutions, key organs of the United Nations and other international institution. In this context, they noted progress made in the reform and renewal of the Commonwealth. Expressing their continued commitment to the Commonwealth's values and principles, both sides reiterated the importance of democracy and development as the twin pillars of the Association's strength.

The two leaders underlined their shared commitment to a world without nuclear weapons. They reaffirmed their support for global efforts for non-proliferation and elimination of all weapons of mass destruction. Canada acknowledged India's strong non-proliferation record and expressed support for India's ongoing engagement with the four multilateral export control regimes with the objective of India's full membership of these regimes. In this regard, both sides agreed to hold regular official-level bilateral consultations on disarmament, arms-control and non-proliferation issues.

Prime Minister Singh and Prime Minister Harper underscored the considerable potential for mutually-beneficial civil nuclear cooperation, based on the early implementation of the 2010 Bilateral Agreement of Cooperation on Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy. The two Prime Ministers recognized that both countries were leaders in nuclear technology and services, and that the two countries could develop mutually-beneficial partnerships in this regard. They also recognized that Canada, with its large and high-quality reserves of uranium, could become an important supplier to India's nuclear power programme. In this context, they welcomed the conclusion of negotiations on Appropriate Arrangement and looked forward to its early entry into effect, as well as to the inaugural meeting of the Joint Committee created under the Agreement.

The two Prime Ministers also discussed a range of international security matters of concern including the conflict in Syria, Iran's nuclear program, and stability and economic recovery in Afghanistan.

The Prime Minister of Canada thanked the Prime Minister of India for the warm

hospitality extended to him, Mrs. Laureen Harper and the accompanying delegation. He invited Prime Minister Singh and Mrs. Gursharan Kaur to visit Canada again. The invitation was duly accepted with gratitude.

List of Documents signed during the State Visit of Prime Minister of Canada.

November 6, 2012.

<i>Document/MoU</i>	<i>Indian Signatory</i>	<i>Canadian signatory</i>	<i>Synopsis</i>
Agreement on Social Security	<i>Shri Vayalar Ravi, Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs</i>	<i>Mr Edward Fast, Minister of International Trade and Asia Pacific Gateway</i>	<i>The Agreement, signed between Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs and Department of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, provides for avoidance of double social security contributions by detached workers (employed persons who are subject to the legislation of a country and who are sent by their employers to work in the territory of another country) from the host country legislation, portability of contributions at the time of relocation, and totalization of the</i>

			<i>periods of contribution for determining eligibility to a benefit.</i>
			<i>The MOU, signed between Ministry of Communications and Information</i>
MOU on cooperation in Information Communication Technology and Electronics	<i>Smt Preet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs</i>	<i>Mr Edward Fast, Minister of International Trade and Minister of Asia Pacific Gateway</i>	<i>Technology and Department of Industry Canada, will provide the necessary framework for cooperation in the Information Communication Technology and Electronics (ICTE) sector between the two countries for establishing a strong and effective business to business partnership and cooperation; raising awareness among private and public sector stakeholders on ICTE opportunities in Canada and India; and establishing an ICTE Working Group to engage</i>

**MOU between
DRDO and York
University, Canada
for cooperation
in the areas of
Joint Research
and
Development in
Defence Science
& Technology**

Dr V K Saraswat, Dr Robert Hache, Scientific Advisor to Raksha Mantri

Dr Robert Hache, Vice-President, Research & Innovation, York University, Canada

*in a wide variety of ICTE Sector related issues.
The MOU will establish a framework for cooperation and identify opportunities for collaboration in the areas of joint research and development in defence science and technology through information and personnel exchanges.*



485. Speech by Prime Minister at the banquet hosted in the honour of the Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

New Delhi, November 6, 2012.

Your Excellency Prime Minister Harper,

Madam Laureen Harper,

Distinguished Guests,

I and my wife are delighted to welcome you, Mr. Prime Minister, and Madam Harper, on your second visit to India. We have very warm memories of our visit to Toronto in 2010. We are therefore glad to have this opportunity to reciprocate your very gracious hospitality on that occasion.

Mr. Prime Minister, we welcome you here as a friend and as an ardent advocate of closer ties between India and Canada. Your vision for this relationship and your sustained commitment to pursue it has placed our ties firmly on a growth path. You have worked not only to expand opportunities, but also to address concerns in our relationship. The civil nuclear agreement of June 2010 heralds a truly changed paradigm in our cooperation.

We also admire your stewardship of Canada at a time of great challenge for the global economy. Your contribution to the G-20 process and your efforts to deepen Canada's global engagement, especially in the Asia-Pacific region, are noteworthy.

Your Excellency,

India and Canada have every reason to have a close partnership. We are defined by democracy and diversity. We face many similar challenges and we have a common interest in a peaceful and stable Asia Pacific region. Our economic synergies hold enormous potential for mutually beneficial partnerships. More than a million Canadians of Indian origin are a testimony to the values that our two societies deeply cherish. They form an enduring bridge of friendship between our two countries and I am pleased to see some of them here today.

Your Excellency,

At the dawn of India's independence, Indian and Canadian leaders like Jawaharlal Nehru, Louis Saint Laurent and Lester Pearson defined a vision of great promise and potential for this relationship between our two countries. Subsequently, for reasons that we need not dwell on tonight, we were adrift for many years. Now, however, we have set a new course in our relationship.

I believe that we stand at the cusp of a historic moment in India-Canada relations. As we discussed today, exciting opportunities await us in diverse fields such as

energy, education, agriculture, mining, science and technology, defence, counter-terrorism and the knowledge economy. As Governments, we should, in partnership with our institutions and businesses, seek to harness the full potential of our cooperation in these areas. I am confident that, with your visit today, we will add further momentum and purpose to the new and enriching journey that has already begun for our two countries.

With those words, Ladies and Gentlemen, may I request you to join me in raising a toast:

- to the health and happiness of Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Mrs Laureen Harper;
- to the continued growth of the India-Canada partnership; and
- to the happiness and prosperity of the friendly people of Canada.

Thank you.



486. Press Release on the Eleventh Meeting of India-Canada Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism.

New Delhi, November 29, 2012.

The 11th meeting of the Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism between India and Canada was held in New Delhi on 29 November 2012. The meeting took place within the framework of the enhanced interaction in bilateral relations between India and Canada, and in keeping with the desire of the Prime Ministers of India and Canada towards greater cooperation in counter terrorism matters, as set out in the India-Canada Joint Statement of 6 November 2012.

The discussions were held in an atmosphere of trust and mutual understanding. The two countries shared their respective threat assessments and informed each other of the measures taken by their Governments to strengthen counter terrorism policy and structure. They also discussed the follow-up of the Mumbai terror attack of 26 November 2008.

The two sides also exchanged views on international developments, coordination in international fora and their bilateral cooperation in the area.

The delegations comprised of representatives from relevant Ministries and agencies of the two countries. The next meeting of the Joint Working Group will be held in Canada in 2013 on mutually convenient dates. The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Asoke Kumar Mukerji, Special Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, India and Mr. Artur Wilczynski, Director General for International Relations, Canada.



COLOMBIA

487. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Culture on India and Colombia signing the Cultural Exchange Programme for the Years 2012-2016.

New Delhi, March 12, 2012.

India and Colombia here today signed a Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP) for the Years 2012-2016. Secretary Culture Smt. Sangita Gairola signed the CEP from the Indian side and Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs (Multilateral) Ms. Patti Londono Jaramillo from Colombian side. The CEP was signed in conformity with the provision established in the Cultural Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Colombia, signed in Bogota on 22 May 1974.

The CEP covers areas such as Cultural Heritage, Museums, Archives, Exhibitions, Scenic Arts, Visual Arts, Cinematography, Radio and Television, Music, Libraries, Book and Literature, Creative Industries and Editorial Industry for cooperation. Both the countries shall contribute to the exchange and cooperation between institutions and organizations that are in charge of cultural affairs, as well as amongst cultural creators, researchers and cultural agents of the two countries.

During the implementation of the programme, both the countries, pursuant to their budgetarial and financial possibilities, shall exchange visits of cultural delegations in order to approach both the countries through the reciprocal knowledge of their values. Both the countries have agreed to establish a joint working group to supervise the implementations of their programme. The group shall meet alternately in India and in Colombia when determine by both the countries.



CUBA

488. Press Release on the visit of Cuban Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Rogelio Sierra Diaz.

New Delhi, August 8, 2012.

On the sidelines of the First India-CELAC Foreign Ministers Troika Meeting in New Delhi on August 7, 2012, His Excellency Mr. Rogelio Sierra Diaz, Vice Foreign Minister of Cuba met with Shri S.M. Krishna, Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs of India.

2. During the meeting, both sides reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations and expressed satisfaction that bilateral interaction between India and Cuba encompassing the areas dealing with political; commercial and economic; energy; sports; science and technology; education and culture was progressing well. Both sides reiterated their desire to sustain and consolidate these relations.
3. Both sides noted that the total bilateral trade of US\$ 40 million between India and Cuba did not correspond to the excellent bilateral ties. They emphasised that the trade turnover should be enhanced through concerted efforts and underlined that new opportunities for cooperation existed in the area of trade and investment.
4. The Cuban side appreciated the importance of the role played by the Indian Company OVL (ONGC Videsh Ltd.) in the field of petroleum exploration in Cuba and sought OVL's continued engagement in Cuba in this area. The Indian side noted the Cuban interest.
5. The Indian side reiterated its offer of Lines of Credit announced during the visit of its Minister of External Affairs to Cuba in June 2012. The Cuban side expressed its gratitude for India's continued economic and technical assistance to Cuba.
6. Regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest were discussed during the meeting. Both sides acknowledged their ongoing cooperation in various international fora. They expressed satisfaction over the convergence of views on various international issues of common concern.
7. India and Cuba agreed on the need for the reform of the United Nations Organisation. The Indian side appreciated Cuba's expression of support to India's candidature for permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council.
8. Both sides emphasised the continued relevance of the Non-Aligned Movement in the current context of global relations and agreed to work towards the success of the forthcoming NAM Summit in Tehran.

9. India and Cuba expressed appreciation over the importance and significance of the First India-CELAC Troika Ministerial Dialogue and recalled the considerable opportunities available for mutually beneficial cooperation between India and CELAC both in a multilateral manner and bilaterally.

10. The Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cuba thanked the Minister of External Affairs of India for the warm hospitality and the excellent arrangements made for him and his delegation during their stay in New Delhi.



TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

489. **Media Briefing by Officer on Special Duty (External Publicity) on the ongoing visit of Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago.**

New Delhi, January 5, 2012.

Officer on Special Duty (External Publicity) (Shri Syed Akbaruddin): Good afternoon everyone. As you are aware, today we will have a briefing on the visit of the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago. Before I begin I wanted to just inform you that we have with me a colleague, Mr. Dammu Ravi, Joint Secretary (Latin America & Caribbean), who will be there to answer any questions if you have specifically which I am not able to answer.

Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Mrs. Kamla Persad-Bissessar, is on a state visit to India from January 5 to 14. This is the first state visit of the year and is also the first state visit by a woman Head of Government of Indian origin. So, it has a special resonance as far as we are concerned.

She is accompanied by several Ministers and two very prominent sporting Ambassadors who cricket lovers will instantly recognize. They are Brian Lara and Daren Ganga. For those of you who follow cricket these are household names.

During her visit to India, the Prime Minister will have discussions with our Prime Minister, and as is customary will call on the President and the Vice-President of India. External Affairs Minister will also meet her. The logistical details of these meetings will be provided separately to those of you who are interested.

Apart from her programme in Delhi, the visiting Prime Minister is expected to visit Jaipur for the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas as the Chief Guest; and will be conferred the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman award. She is also visiting her ancestral village in Buxar, Bihar; and will also visit Kolkata and Mumbai.

Our relations with Trinidad and Tobago are evolving in the context of the focus that we have on strengthening India's relations with the Latin American and Caribbean region. In 2010 India's trade with the Latin American and Caribbean region was US\$ 23 billion and cumulative investments in that region were estimated to be about US\$ 15 billion.

As regards Trinidad and Tobago itself, people-to-people interaction and exchanges constitute an important part of our bilateral relations. People of Indian origin constitute about 42 per cent of the population there, and are part and parcel of the economic, political and social fabric of the country. These historic and cultural

linkages have become stronger with time. In 1966, we established the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Cultural Cooperation in Port of Spain. The ICCR has also set up long-term Chairs on contemporary Indian studies and on Hindi. Indian cultural troupes regularly visit Trinidad and Tobago. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago, since January 2011, has relaxed visa requirements for Indian nationals for tourism and business purposes, if the period of stay does not exceed 90 days.

The outlook for bilateral trade between the two countries has considerable potential. Indian exports have grown exponentially from US\$ 8.8 million in 2001 to approximately US\$ 420 million in 2008-09. However, during the last two years bilateral trade has declined on account of shortfall of LNG exports of Trinidad and Tobago to India, and also due to global economic recession. Currently they stand around US\$ 140 million in 2010-11. Indian exports include drugs and pharmaceuticals, iron and steel, petroleum products, IT services, auto components and gems and jewelry.

Trinidad and Tobago is rich in oil and gas resources and has the largest and most vibrant economy in the Caribbean. Indian companies have evinced interest in investing in gas and petrochemicals sector. India also offers 30 ITEC training slots annually to Trinidad and Tobago nationals for training in Indian institutions.

The visit of the Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister was preceded earlier this year by the first Joint Commission meeting chaired by External Affairs Minister and his counterpart in November in New Delhi.

During the visit, as is customary, we expect several MoUs to be agreed upon and signed. The details of these will be provided in case any of you would require further information on that.

With that I close my opening remarks, except for one other mundane matter of information and that is, many of you know that External Affairs Minister will be visiting Israel and Palestine from 9th to 11th and we will have a separate background briefing on that before External Affairs Minister's visit.

Thank you very much for the time provided. In case you have any questions, we will try to answer them.

Question: When is she meeting our Prime Minister?

Joint Secretary (Latin America & Caribbean) (Shri Dammu Ravi): On the 6th. That is tomorrow. She came today early in the morning. Tomorrow is the official day of engagements when she will call on the President, Vice-President, will hold talks with the Prime Minister; the External Affairs Minister will call on her.

Officer on Special Duty (XP): All her engagements in Delhi are tomorrow, and then she proceeds to Jaipur. So, her day of engagements in Delhi is tomorrow.

Question: In which areas are the MoUs likely to be signed?

Joint Secretary (LAC): There are five MoUs that have now been finalized. One is in culture, a CEP; one in technical education; two pertaining to Department of AYUSH - one is for technical cooperation in traditional medicine and the second one is for establishing an Ayurveda Chair in the University of West Indies; and the fifth is Bilateral Air Services Agreement.

Question: Is she going to Bihar? What are her engagements there?

Officer on Special Duty (XP): Yes, she will be in Bihar on January 11. She is to visit Bhelupur, that is her ancestral village. If you want all the details, we will provide them to you. It is a ten-day itinerary with various details, which we can surely provide to you.

Question: Can you tell us briefly the importance of the visit of the Prime Minister to India, the importance of the country itself ?

Officer on Special Duty (XP): Let me try and summarise it. As I mentioned to you, she is the first woman of Indian origin to head a Government of a country. That by itself is an important issue that we have for the first time a woman of Indian origin heading a Government in another country visiting us. The second thing is in the Caribbean, which consists of several small states and island states, Trinidad and Tobago is the largest. It also has the most vibrant and open economy in that region. The third thing is that there are cultural and historical links between Trinidad and Tobago and us. And there are people of Indian origin who constitute a significant number there. And finally, there are increasing number of Indian companies who are interested in investing in the oil and natural gas sector in that country. Also, she is accompanied by seven Ministers in various areas. So, you would understand the areas of interest that they are interested in cooperating with India are vast. For all these factors we think that this is an important visit.

Question: What is their stand on the United Nations Security Council?

Officer on Special Duty (XP): They were supportive of India for the nonpermanent membership and they voted for us. As regards the permanent membership, many of the smaller countries constitute and work together as groups, and they work within what is called the CARICOM. It consists of various other countries in the region. CARICOM has a generic view on this rather than Trinidad and Tobago individually. They work within the parameters of that view in the United Nations.

Question: Are there any Indian oil companies already in collaboration with the companies there ?

Joint Secretary (LAC): Already there are a few Indian companies which are present. ArcelorMittal is already there, they are in the steel, and they have been there for a long time. Essar is interested. They are in exploratory talks in terms of setting up units there. The Indraprastha Gas Limited (IPL) is also very much interested in talks. Reliance is interested to invest about a billion dollar in a bitumen plant. So, basically in oil, fertilizers, chemicals. And these are at the negotiations stage and we hope they will mature in course of time.

Question: Any agreements expected to be signed during the visit?

Joint Secretary (LAC): There are five MoUs and agreements put together to be signed. The details will be known only tomorrow. But I have already mentioned the two in the traditional medicine, one bilateral air services agreement, CEP and the EEP, technical education.

Question: Just want a clarification on the CARICOM stand on UNSC reforms. I believe they have only asked for expansion in the nonpermanent seats category or expansion in the permanent seats category with no veto.

Officer on Special Duty (XP): I am not aware of the update, but you are right that they are a group of small countries and for them the primary requirement is an expansion of opportunities for smaller countries to be represented more on the Security Council. So, you are right that their focus largely is on those areas which are of interest to them. However, as individual countries, many of them are not opposed to an expansion of the Security Council both in the permanent and nonpermanent category. But you are right that on the veto they have a fairly strong position.

Joint Secretary (LAC): They have also expressed their support for permanent membership for India.

Officer on Special Duty (XP): The Trinidad and Tobago, not the CARICOM.

Joint Secretary (LAC): Of course, all the CARICOM members have a united position. But I think Trinidad and Tobago has come out in the open to say that they will support India for the permanent membership.

Thank you very much.



490. Remarks by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh during the joint media interaction with Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago.

New Delhi, January 6, 2012

Your Excellency Prime Minister Ms. Kamla Persad Bissessar,

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Media,

It is an honour for me to welcome Prime Minister Kamla Persad Bissesar on her first State visit to India. Her visit has a special importance in our bilateral relations as Prime Minister Bissessar has the unique distinction of being the first woman Head of Government from the Indian Diaspora. She is also the Chief Guest of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas this year.

Prime Minister Bissessar and I had very productive discussions. We have a complete meeting of minds on all issues, including on the future direction of our partnership.

We reiterated our intention to augment the scale of our bilateral trade and investment relations which presently do not correspond to the excellent political and people-to-people relations that our two countries enjoy. In this context, we agreed to encourage enhanced economic engagement between our business communities. We also decided to vigorously pursue the thrust areas for bilateral trade and investments identified by the Inter-Governmental Joint Commission in its meeting in November 2011. These include hydrocarbons and renewable energy, agriculture, IT and communications, hospitality, health, pharmaceuticals and tourism. We believe that mutually beneficial partnerships can be forged in all these areas.

I thanked Prime Minister Bissessar for waiving off visa requirement for the Indian passport holders. This measure will help in further development of our trade and tourism links. The Air Services Agreement that has been concluded today would also help strengthen these contacts.

Similarly we hope that cooperation in the Health sector, especially in Traditional Medicine, will receive a big push through the two MoUs that have just been signed.

Strong cultural and education links between our two countries provide the foundation for our relationship. The Technical Cooperation Agreement in the field of Education and the Cultural Exchange Programme signed today will facilitate greater academic and cultural exchanges.

We have also agreed to enhance our bilateral technical cooperation through

exchange of experts. Towards this end, Government of India has agreed to enhance the annual ITEC scholarship slots for Trinidad and Tobago from current 30 to 50.

Prime Minister Bissessar and I also exchanged views on regional developments and multilateral issues. We share similar views on threats to international security from terrorism, piracy and drug trafficking. Further we agreed that the challenges of climate change and global economic situation should be addressed in a concerted manner with greater commitment from the developed world.

We also agreed to work closely on the reform of the United Nations. We deeply appreciate the support of Trinidad and Tobago for India's Permanent Membership in an expanded United Nations Security Council.

I look forward to continuing to work together with Prime Minister Bissessar on further enhancing close friendship and partnership between India and Trinidad & Tobago for the benefit of our two peoples.

I invite Prime Minister Bissessar to make her remarks.



491. India – Trinidad and Tobago Joint Statement on the State Visit of the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago.

New Delhi, January 6, 2012.

The Honorable Ms. Kamla Persad-Bissessar, Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago paid a State Visit to India from January 5-14, 2012 at the invitation of the Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh. Prime Minister Ms. Kamla Persad-Bissessar was accompanied by her spouse Dr. Gregory Bissessar and a high-level Ministerial and Business delegation.

2. Prime Minister Ms. Kamla Persad-Bissessar was accorded a ceremonial reception in New Delhi on January 6, 2012. She paid homage to the Father of the Indian Nation Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat. She called on the President of India Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil and the Vice-President of India Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari. The Prime Ministers of India and Trinidad and Tobago held talks and the Indian Prime Minister hosted a Banquet in honor of the visiting dignitary. Minister of External Affairs of India Shri S.M. Krishna called on the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago. Prime Minister Ms. Kamla Persad-Bissessar and her delegation will also visit Jaipur, Agra, Jodhpur, Kolkata, Buxar and Mumbai.

3. The Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago will be the Chief Guest at the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in Jaipur from January 7-9, 2012. The Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago is the first woman of Indian origin to become a Head of Government in the wider Diaspora which is a source of inspiration to the Diaspora. Prime Minister Ms. Kamla Persad-Bissessar will be conferred the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award in recognition of her contribution to the cause of the Diaspora in the development of relations between India and Trinidad and Tobago.

4. Prime Minister Ms. Kamla Persad-Bissessar will visit the Kolkata Memorial Monument from where her ancestors had set sail for Trinidad and Tobago in the middle of the 19th Century. She will also visit her ancestral village of Bhelupur in Buxar district of the State of Bihar.

5. Discussions between the Prime Minister of India and the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago were held in a warm and friendly atmosphere with full mutual understanding, characteristic of the close relations between the two countries. The official talks covered bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest.

6. The two sides expressed satisfaction that the bilateral interaction and partnership between India and Trinidad and Tobago encompassing political, economic, trade, investment, energy, tourism, agriculture, science & technology, medical, education and culture was progressing in a positive direction. At the

same time, the Leaders of the two sides noted that there was considerable potential towards further development and consolidation of the historical relations between the two countries and agreed to work together for further enhancement of the multi-faceted relations to a higher level. Leaders recalled that the bilateral relations between India and Trinidad and Tobago were anchored on shared democratic values, respect for human rights, mutual understanding and cooperation and a similarity of views on major international issues.

7. During the visit, the following Agreements were concluded: a Bilateral Air Services Agreement; an MoU on Cooperation in Traditional Indian Medicine; an MoU on setting up of a Chair on Ayurveda in the University of West Indies; Programme of Cultural Exchanges and; Technical Cooperation Agreement in the field of Education.

8. Prime Ministers of India and Trinidad and Tobago highly appreciated the results of the first meeting of the Joint Ministerial Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation between the two countries which was held at the Foreign Ministers level in November 2011 in New Delhi. They welcomed the results of the Ministerial Joint Commission which is an important institutional framework for providing a direction to the development of bilateral cooperation.

Trade, Economic and Investment

9. The two sides expressed satisfaction at the growing engagement between India and Trinidad and Tobago in trade and investments. They noted that bilateral trade has a vast potential which needs to be tapped with renewed efforts by encouraging participation in each other's trade fairs, business seminars and conclaves and exchange of business delegations. They agreed to diversify trade and investments to prospective areas such as conventional and renewable energy, SMEs, ICT, Pharmaceuticals & Medical equipments and consumables, Health, Wellness Tourism, Ayurveda, Entertainment, Shipping among others.

10. The Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago welcomed the announcement by the Indian side to increase the number of ITEC scholarships from the current number of 30 to 50 commencing the year 2012.

Energy

11. The two sides noted that the importance of energy security to cater to their development needs. They reiterated their interest to collaborate in the energy sector for a mutually beneficial partnership. In this context, they noted Trinidad and Tobago's strength in the energy sector and the possibilities for closer technical and commercial cooperation between the two countries in this regard. Both sides welcomed the fact that Indian companies from the public and private sectors have expressed interest in investing in Trinidad and Tobago.

They agreed that at the invitation of Trinidad and Tobago, an Indian delegation led by the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas would visit Trinidad and Tobago in the near future to further concretise areas of mutually beneficial cooperation.

12. The two sides expressed support for closer bilateral interaction in the utilisation of renewable and alternative sources of energy and appropriate technologies as a basis for sustainable development and as part of the global effort in addressing the challenges of Climate Change.

Information Technology

13. Both sides noted the growing importance of Information and Communications Technology as a powerful catalyst in the development of their economies. The Trinidad and Tobago side expressed its keenness to transform its country into an inter-connected, technologically advanced society with modern information and communication systems for economic growth and social progress. They expressed their interest for partnership with the Indian IT sector in the development of an Information Technology Park which will drive innovation, conception and design of efficient technologies. The Indian side agreed to encourage the Indian IT sector, both public and private, to collaborate with Trinidad and Tobago in its endeavour to develop an efficient IT industry.

Health Sector

14. The Trinidad and Tobago side expressed its interest to develop Trinidad and Tobago as a hub of medical and healthcare tourism in their region. The Indian side agreed to assist Trinidad and Tobago in this endeavour. The Indian side also agreed to develop the Indian system of traditional medicine, especially Ayurveda in Trinidad and Tobago. The Trinidad and Tobago side welcomed the Indian proposal to set up a Chair in Ayurveda in the University of West Indies.

Education

15. Both sides expressed their interest to intensify educational linkages, especially in the technical and higher education areas through use of IT enabled services such as e-Education. In this regard they underscored that the bilateral Technical Cooperation Agreement in the field of education would facilitate closer academic ties.

Tourism

16. Both sides recognised that the vast tourism potential in each other's countries needs to be fully realised through cooperation in training in travel and hospitality sectors and through greater tourist exchanges between the two countries. They noted that the Bilateral Air Services Agreement signed during the visit would facilitate better air connectivity between the two countries and

help in the people-to-people exchanges and trade. The Indian side appreciated the decision of the Government of Trinidad & Tobago for according visa waiver facility to Indian citizens for a period of 90 days. Both sides recognised that this will further enhance business and tourist movement between the two countries.

Films

17. The Trinidad and Tobago side underlined the growing importance of its creative industry, notably in the areas of Fashion, Film and Animation. They invited India's participation in the development of these areas through transfer of technology, investment and training. It was agreed to explore mutually beneficial opportunities in these sectors through institutional linkages and involvement of Bollywood production units.

Arts and Culture

18. Both sides recognised that the historical and cultural linkages between the two countries are being further strengthened through the Mahatma Gandhi Centre for Cultural Cooperation in Port of Spain set up in 1996. The Trinidad and Tobago side expressed its appreciation for the active role of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations in the promotion of Indian culture and arts through various activities as well as through setting up of Chairs on Contemporary Indian Studies and Hindi. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the conclusion of the Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP) for the period 2012-14 noting that it will give fresh impetus to the existing cultural ties.

International Developments and Multilateralism

19. The two sides exchanged views on a broad range of regional and international issues of mutual interest. They discussed developments in South Asia and the Caribbean region. They reaffirmed their commitment to fight hunger and poverty, promote democratic values and foster economic development and emphasised the importance of implementing the Millennium Development Goals.

20. The two sides emphasised the central role of the UN in maintaining global peace and security; promoting the economic and social advancement of all people; and for meeting global threats and challenges. Both sides expressed the need to implement the process of UN reforms to make it more representative, legitimate and effective. They agreed that any expansion and restructuring of the Security Council must reflect contemporary realities, increased transparency and democracy and include developing countries in both categories of membership. The Trinidad and Tobago side reiterated its support for India's permanent membership in an expanded UNSC.

21. Both sides strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations

and agreed to cooperate in the international communities' joint endeavour in eliminating the menace of international terrorism. They also noted their cooperation in the UN in this regard and urged the international community to adopt a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism at the earliest.

22. The two sides recognised that Climate Change is a global challenge with strong economic, environmental and social dimensions. It impacts all countries, but is particularly severe for developing countries, given their vulnerabilities, inadequate means and limited capacities to adapt to its effects. They called on developed countries to take the lead in mitigation efforts and provide the necessary means of implementation, including financial and technological support.

23. The two sides expressed deep concern over the international economic and financial crisis and agreed that the current situation demands restructuring of the international financial and monetary system. They underlined that the voice of emerging and developing economies, in the international financial and monetary system, should be heard in order to avoid new and potentially more calamitous crises in the future and contribute to the inclusive growth.

24. The Prime Minister of Republic of Trinidad and Tobago sincerely thanked the Prime Minister of the Republic of India for the warm hospitality extended to her and the accompanying delegation. She invited the Prime Minister of India to pay a State Visit to Trinidad and Tobago. The invitation was duly accepted.



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

492. Response of Official Spokesperson on the question of depiction of map of India on the US State Department website.

New Delhi, January 4, 2012.

“The Government is aware of the gross inaccuracies, in the map of India, on the US State Department website. The Government has consistently rejected incorrect depiction of India’s borders on maps used by the US Government. It has used every opportunity to convey to the US side its concern in this regard, and has asked that these maps be corrected. We shall reiterate our position to the US.

The Government takes this opportunity to reaffirm that the entire State of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and has consistently conveyed to the international community that maps of India should depict the boundaries of our country correctly.”



Responding to the Indian reaction the State Department in Washington posted a new map of India on its website reflecting its longstanding official position on the Indian geographical boundaries, after acknowledging of having made a “good up” in this regard

**493. Speech by Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai at the Center for Strategic and International Studies on “Building on Convergences: Deepening India-U.S. Strategic Partnership”
Washington D.C., February 6, 2012.**

Dr. John Hamre,

Ambassador Karl Inderfurth,

friends,

Dr. Hamre, thank you for your kind words of introduction and for setting the stage so eloquently for a discussion on India-U.S. relations. It, indeed, is a great honour and privilege to be hosted at the Statesmen's Forum at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a center of great eminence and scholarship, and one that now has a special link to India through the CSIS Wadhvani Chair for India-U.S. Policy studies.

I am fairly sure that I am here purely as a guest – as I am no statesman. Particularly not in Truman's definition. But I am returning to Washington DC - more than 25 years after I had done a three-year tour of duty at our Embassy here. Besides the iconic architectural marvels of this city and the reassuringly familiar feel of the Embassy Row, much has changed in this city. The K-street is much richer now. And yet much remains as it was particularly the vigour of your debates, and the fact that they encompass the entire globe.

While change is a constant companion of time, it is also true that since the mid eighties, the world has seen more profound political, economic, technological and strategic changes than we would normally expect in a period of two or three decades. Yet through these changes the significance of the US has not altered. But India's ongoing transformation and the new India-U.S. relationship are both part of what has changed, and both can have a considerable impact on the shape of the world in the 21st century.

When I returned to Delhi last July to prepare for my current assignment, I had the good fortune to begin with the second India-U.S. Strategic Dialogue, which Ambassador Nirupama Rao, then our Foreign Secretary, was coordinating so ably. I was struck by the depth and diversity of our partnership; the comfort and candour in our dialogue; and, the extensive support it enjoyed across a broad spectrum of public opinion, particularly among those looking to the future. Some of us are absorbed with the present which is of course a bridge to the future, but it became evident to me that what was perhaps unprecedented and novel in our relationship ten years ago is even right now part of the normal and the routine. There are many here who have experienced or participated in that change, and

few would understand it as well as Karl Inderfurth, who was handling this account at critical times.

We spent the first decade of this century in building this relationship – addressing the constraints of the past and laying the foundation for the future. It was an ambitious enterprise that required great political investment in both countries. And, even as our relationship has matured, it continues to be infused with dynamism and momentum.

In the year since President Obama's visit to India in November 2010, we have sustained an unprecedented level of bilateral engagement, launched new strategic consultations that cover key regions of the world; begun our first trilateral consultation with Japan; advanced our cooperation on non-proliferation and nuclear security; deepened counter-terrorism and intelligence cooperation; launched a new Homeland Security Dialogue; made steady progress in our partnership on export controls, non-proliferation and nuclear security; concluded the largest defence deal yet in our bilateral relations, sustained exercises and broadened defence strategic dialogue; taken forward the incipient cooperation for development in third countries, especially Africa; held a very successful Higher Education Summit in Washington DC; and, made innovation driven progress in areas such as clean energy, food security and healthcare. We resumed negotiations on a Bilateral Investment Treaty and expanded opportunities for economic cooperation through measures like the Infrastructure Debt Fund and tariff reductions on products with potential for bilateral trade.

Indeed, I do not think that we have had as much convergence, or spoken more transparently and extensively with each other, as we do now on some of the most important issues in our engagement: terrorism, and key regional issues, Afghanistan, Myanmar and the future of Asia Pacific.

These developments would constitute a remarkable year in any bilateral relationship. Yet, there are, in both countries, questions about the state and the direction of our relationship. Some of this, as we all realize, comes from the fact that the relationship no longer derives its intensity and excitement from the pursuit of one transformational idea, and has matured into a solid, broad-based relationship. There are, of course, tangible issues – in the U.S., worries about the commercial implementation of the civil nuclear agreement and lingering disappointment with one major defence contract; In India – there is wariness that relationship may be turning transactional, with an emphasis on immediate returns rather than upward trends. There is anxiety about protectionist trends in the U.S., especially in the IT industry that has been the bridge between our two economies so far. And, in both countries, developments in West Asia have raised questions whether our approaches, if not interests, are consistent, at least in the immediate future. It is important to address these issues.

As Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh said, the India-U.S. civil nuclear initiative is a symbol, instrument and platform of a transformed India-U.S. relationship. We are committed to translating the success of our diplomatic partnership in changing the global nuclear order into an equally productive commercial cooperation in civil nuclear energy. We have the reality of our law passed by our Parliament. And, as we have said before, we will provide a level playing field to U.S. companies, and are prepared to address specific concerns of U.S. companies within the framework of that law. We have remained engaged and must now take practical steps to advance our cooperation, as we have done over the past year. We have just had a round of discussions between our legal experts. The commencement of discussions between the Indian operator, NPCIL, and U.S. companies in regard to an Early Works Agreement is an encouraging development.

Our defence procurement in India has to be based on the best techno-economic choice, in accordance with procurement guidelines, and it must also meet the test of Parliamentary scrutiny on procurement process – an obligation not unfamiliar to you in Washington DC. It also bears repeating that our defence trade has gone from negligible levels a few years ago to a cumulative value of USD 9.0 billion in the last four-five years, and is set to expand further. On both sides, we are making continuous progress in understanding each other's procurement and approval process; extending our engagement from simple trade to technology transfer and joint research, development and production.

Our dialogues on regional issues have been expanding. Let me start with the developments in West Asia in 2011 which may have taken us all by surprise. In our discussions we were all trying to comprehend the underlying causes and the forces involved, and striving to grasp the consequences and sense the outcomes of changes that generated both hope and concerns in a region of global significance. Six million Indians live in that region; they constitute the largest expatriate group and obviously their welfare is matter of high priority. The region is critical for our economy, contributing over a 100 billion dollars by way of export markets, over 40 billion dollars in remittances and more than two-third of our petroleum imports. This in a country dependent on imports for 75% of its oil consumption. Peace and stability and a climate of moderation in the region are absolutely vital for India.

We not only have strong political and economic ties with countries in the region, but also enjoy a warm relationship with their people. Since before the time when India became one of the earliest destinations for the three great religions from West Asia, India and the West Asian countries have shared close and natural ties as neighbours. Ties of religion continue to bind us. India has always had and will remain sensitive to the interests, aspirations and rights of the people in West Asia. And, we do expect that their governments, too, will respect their

rights and respond to their aspirations. However we look at the developments there, we are all united by the desire for peace and stability in the region and we must seek to forge the broadest possible consensus on our collective response.

It also follows from our stakes in the region that we do not wish to see the spread of nuclear weapons in West Asia. India's position on the question of Iran's nuclear programme is well known and our votes in IAEA speak for themselves. We believe that while Iran has rights to peaceful uses of nuclear energy, it must also fulfill its international obligations as a non-nuclear weapon state under the NPT. We would like to see the issue resolved peacefully through negotiations. We also hope that negotiations between P5+1 and Iran would resume soon and contribute to a positive outcome. Iran is our near neighbor, our only surface access to Central Asia and Afghanistan, and constitutes a declining but still a significant share - currently under 10% - of our oil imports. For us, there are also broader and long term geo strategic concerns that are no different from what we face elsewhere in the Asia- Pacific region. Our relationship with Iran is neither inconsistent with our non-proliferation objectives, nor is it in contradiction with the relationships that we have with our friends in West Asia or with the United States and Europe.

These are important, even if difficult, issues and one of the heartening aspects of India-U.S. relationship has been that we are able to discuss them respectfully and candidly, with a sense of appreciation of each other's perspectives, and a recognition, I believe, that while the choices that each makes may have a bearing on the other, they are not directed against each other.

Beyond that, we continue to be guided by the larger vision for our strategic partnership and the value of all that our two sides have built together. In India, we are confident that the long term framework of our partnership will continue to become stronger and more broad-based. Let me highlight the priorities.

India and the United States can and must strengthen their economic partnership. The flow of trade in goods and services, and investments in both directions has grown several times in the past two decades. Today we have almost \$ 40 bn of US imports, both goods and services. Indian businesses have invested perhaps 26 bn in the US in 5 years. All this has created new job openings in the US. It is also natural that as the Indian economy continues to grow and modernize, as the U.S economy recovers its momentum and as the global economic situation improves, our trade and investment relations will surge to higher levels. India's planned infrastructure spending of USD 1.0 trillion in the next five years; the modernization of our agriculture sector; our shift to clean energy; the implementation of the civil nuclear agreement; the burgeoning defence trade; cooperation in higher education; and, the growing ability of the Indian companies to compete in the U.S. market could take our economic ties to an entirely new level.

We remain committed to pursuing economic reforms in India in their broadest sense. The debate in India is not a question only about economic growth, efficiency and openness, but about equity, empowerment and opportunities for a large section of the population, which feels left behind during the country's two decades of rapid economic growth.

We are of course affected by the international debate on globalization and its discontents. We do hope the current economic challenges in the US would not lead to protectionism and that concerns of Indian IT industry will be addressed quickly. NASSCOM estimates that Indian industry employs over 100,000 in the US up from 20,000 six years ago. It supports 200,000 other jobs including indirect ones, apart from enhancing the competitiveness of some US industries. Most Indian companies are setting up development centers. Indian IT industry contributed \$ 15 billion in taxes over the last 5 years. This success story should not be set back by stringent visa regulations which act as a non tariff barrier. According to a back of envelope calculation – Indians paid over \$ 200 million in visa fees. Perhaps \$30-\$50 million has been taken from young aspiring Indians working in businesses whose US visas were rejected. The pink slip has become a greenback! It needs reiteration that the targets of these discriminatory actions are precisely those who have contributed intellectually to the climate of reform in India, and who have been votaries of strong India-US relations.

As our economic ties deepen, we will obviously have a growing range of policy and regulatory concerns with each other. But, we have in place an elaborate set of bilateral mechanisms to address them. While we should expeditiously conclude a Bilateral Investment Treaty, we must look beyond it, too. The United States is the only advanced economy in the world with which India has not concluded or is pursuing a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.

So, we should not only focus on expanding trade and investment, but also use the power of innovation to make our economies global leaders in the 21st century, and at the same time, address the needs of the poorest sections of the population in the world and find solutions to the challenges of clean energy, food security, health, education. It is gratifying that we have powerful examples of innovative India-U.S. partnerships, often forged by the youth of our two countries. Initiatives like the S&T Forum, S&T Endowment Fund, the Joint Clean Energy Research Center and the Singh Obama Knowledge Initiative, the Nehru-Fullbright Programme, are collaborative ventures of great importance. The enthusiastic response in both countries to these mechanisms demonstrates the enormous potential for collaboration between our two countries.

Energy security is of such vital economic and strategic significance for us that we must treat it as a priority in itself. We have a number of financial, technological and exploratory initiatives with the U.S. in clean and renewable energy, and

energy conservation and efficiency. And, as part of our wide-ranging official energy dialogue, we also plan to launch a dialogue to share experiences and perspectives on low carbon growth. I believe that we also need to build on the potential for increasing natural gas production in India. This energy source could be a significant bridge to a future based on clean energy. In the transition period, we have to balance our requirements for massive industrial, infrastructural and transport growth without expanding our carbon footprint excessively.

We must also extend the benefit of our cooperation to other countries, building on our incipient cooperation on food security in Africa or the Open Government Platform that we are developing jointly for application in other interested countries. We must do this not merely as a moral imperative of making economic development more broad-based and inclusive globally, but also for the strategic reason of promoting stability and security in vulnerable parts of the world, and to underline the strength of our democratic and liberal values.

Our partnership is important for building a stable, prosperous and secure Asia-Pacific region - or, as some here have begun to call it, the Indo-Pacific region. This is a region of unprecedented transitions and unsettled questions, but what is clear to most of us is that many of the greatest opportunities as well as challenges of the 21st century lie in this region. India's engagements with Southeast and East Asia, and, increasingly, the Pacific, have expanded over the past two decades. It is an engagement characterised by strong bilateral ties extending from Myanmar to Australia; deepening linkages with regional organisations, especially ASEAN; a web of comprehensive economic partnership agreements and ambitious plans of surface and air connectivity. While our Look East Policy began with a strong economic emphasis and content, we now have growing strategic and security engagement in the region.

China is our largest neighbour, a major country in the Asia Pacific region and a country with great global influence. We have considerable challenges in our relationship, but also enormous opportunities for mutually beneficial partnership at the bilateral and global levels. We will continue to invest in building a stable and cooperative relationship with China that is mutually beneficial, and also a source of regional stability and prosperity. There are a number of global and regional challenges on which India, China and the United States must work together. We welcome the proposal Secretary Clinton made last July in Delhi for a trilateral dialogue between India, China and the United States.

The Indian Ocean is central to India's economy and its security, and it is also a region of growing global strategic attention. India does not want to see this ocean emerge as a contested common or remain vulnerable to natural disasters, piracy or instability in coastal or littoral states. For this reason, we not only have robust bilateral economic and security relationships in the region, but through

regional initiatives like Indian Ocean Naval Symposium and the IOR-ARC, we are seeking to promote comprehensive economic cooperation.

Maritime security, more broadly, has emerged as a key national security priority. We believe that maritime security requires, first and foremost, a collective affirmation of the principles of freedom of navigation, unimpeded commerce and peaceful settlement of maritime disputes, in accordance with international law. This must be an important priority for regional diplomatic and political efforts, and it is an area of growing importance in the India-U.S. relationship.

The future of Afghanistan and Pakistan will continue to engage our two countries. Their future is inseparable from the destiny of India and our region, and, therefore, India has a vital stake in their stability and progress. With Pakistan, we will continue our endeavour to seek a peaceful, cooperative and normal relationship.

Over the past year, India and the U.S. have had close consultation and coordination on our shared vision of a stable, democratic and prosperous Afghanistan. It is a vision that can ultimately only be realised by the people of Afghanistan, but they need the support, assistance, facilitation and sustained commitment of the international community. The quest for a settlement in Afghanistan must ensure that the enormous sacrifices and efforts of the past decade are not in vain; it must build on the progress and change that Afghanistan has experienced in the last ten years; and, it must embrace all sections of Afghan society, including women and minorities.

Any landlocked country's fortunes are linked with its neighbours; in the case of Afghanistan, it is even more so. So, we believe that Afghanistan's regional economic integration - whether we describe it as the New Silk Road Initiative or as Ambassador Rao has called it, the Grand Trunk Road Initiative, or by any other name- it is important for Afghanistan's and the wider region's stability and prosperity.

India's commitment to Afghanistan is reflected in our Strategic Partnership Agreement of October 2011; our two billion dollars of assistance; our support for building Afghan capacity for governance, security and development; Afghanistan's preferential access to the Indian market and our efforts to improve its connectivity to the world; our commitment to invest in Afghanistan's mining sector; and our willingness to use regional cooperation frameworks with the other neighbours of Afghanistan including Pakistan and Iran. We should also explore avenues for collaboration between India and the U.S., with others such as Japan, for Afghanistan's development, including through development of its natural resources.

Terrorism remains a major security challenge for India and the U.S.. Our convergence on the source and the nature of the threat, emanating from India's

neighbourhood, has never been greater; and, our cooperation on combating and protecting our people from terrorism has never been stronger than today. This is a very important aspect of our relationship, with a strong public resonance, and one that we must continue to strengthen in all its dimensions.

We should continue to further strengthen our growing partnership in leading international efforts on non-proliferation, disarmament and pursuing the goals of Nuclear Security Summit. India was pleased to host the Sherpas meeting of the Nuclear Security Summit in January.

We must also continue to work together to reform and adapt the global architecture of governance, security and non-proliferation to reflect contemporary realities and enable our two countries to work together more effectively for our shared interests.

Taken together, this is a rich and broad canvas of priorities that also address some of the core interests of India and the United States. The question that is often asked is whether our two sides can translate our shared goals into a sustained and effective strategy of engagement and cooperation.

India's enduring commitment to strategic autonomy is a reflection of its democratic tradition and a conscious policy given our external environment and national development goals. But, it does not mean that India will not assume its international responsibility, nor is it mutually exclusive to building a strong strategic partnership. Indeed, it is natural that our shared values and the wide range of convergent interests will lead to deepening partnership of shared endeavours.

However, given our different circumstances, history, location and levels of development, we will occasionally have differing perspectives and policies. But, this can be a source of great value and strength in our dialogue; and, it also enables us to work together for a broad global consensus on issues of common interest. But, for that, we should attach real value to each other's perspectives and appreciate each other's interest and sensitivities; and, when we differ, we should be able to speak candidly and respectfully to each other, and insulate the vast common ground between us from the differences in our relationship.

We must remember that while we may have occasionally different perspectives, we are also united by a fundamental stake in each other's success, because in succeeding individually, we can advance our common interests and inspire a world mirrored in our ideals.

And, even if our two governments did nothing, it would still be an extraordinary relationship, because of the growing ties of kinship between our people and the vitality of private partnerships of enterprise, innovation, research and education across every field of human endeavour.

But, I believe that we have the political momentum, public goodwill, a comprehensive architecture of engagement, comfort and confidence in the relationship, the experience of bold and ambitious undertakings, a proven capacity to work through challenges and, as we have seen in recent years, a growing habit of taking tangible steps on a regular basis to advance our cooperation.

So, as I look ahead, we will continue to consolidate and affirm our strategic partnership, by completing existing projects and focusing on the wealth of new opportunities that we have. We should continue to stay in close touch on the current challenges in the world, in our neighbourhood and beyond. And, we should, above all, continue to strengthen and expand the long-term strategic framework of our relationship, so that we can fully harness the boundless opportunities that this relationship has for our people and the substantial benefit that it can bring to this world.

Thank you.



494. Press Release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on the visit of Foreign Secretary to Washington D.C.

New Delhi, February 14, 2012.

Shri Ranjan Mathai, Foreign Secretary, visited Washington D.C. from 6-8 February 2012. In addition to co-chairing the annual Foreign Office Consultations with U.S. Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Wendy Sherman, he called on Deputy Secretary of State William Burns; Secretary of State Hillary Clinton also joined the meeting briefly. He also met Deputy National Security Advisor Denis McDonough, Deputy National Security Advisor for International Economic Affairs Michael Froman, Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan Marc Grossman, Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs Robert Hormats, Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs Maria Otero, Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation Ellen Tauscher and Under Secretary for Commerce Eric Hirschhorn.

2. Foreign Secretary also had wide ranging meetings in the U.S. Congress, including with Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Chairman, House Foreign Affairs Committee; Representative Howard Berman, Ranking Member, House Foreign Affairs Committee; Representative Mike Rogers, Chairman, House Permanent Select Intelligence Committee; Senator Richard Lugar, Ranking Member, Senate Foreign Relations Committee; Senator John McCain, Ranking Members, Senate Armed Services Committee; and, Senator Joseph Lieberman, Chairman, Senate Homeland Security Committee. Rep Steve Chabot, Chairman, and Rep Gary Ackerman, Ranking Member, of the House Sub-committee on Middle East and South Asia, and Representative Dana Rohrabacher also joined the meeting with HFAC Chair.

3. Shri Mathai delivered an address on "Building on Convergences: Deepening India-U.S. Strategic Partnership" in the Statesmen's Forum at Central for Strategic and International Studies on 6 February 2012.

4. During the visit, the two sides reaffirmed the India-U.S. global strategic partnership and reiterated the commitment of their governments to further strengthen and expand the relationship. They reviewed bilateral relation and expressed satisfaction with progress in their engagement across the full spectrum of bilateral agenda, including in political and strategic consultations; defence, counterterrorism, intelligence and homeland security; trade and investment; energy, including in civil nuclear energy; science, technology and innovation; higher education; high technology trade; and, people-to-people ties. The two sides discussed ways to further deepen bilateral ties and plan for the third round of India-U.S. Strategic Dialogue, co-chaired by External Affairs Minister and U.S. Secretary of State, which is to be held in Washington D.C. in the summer of 2012.

5. Foreign Secretary's meetings in the U.S. Administration and Congress also provided an opportunity for discussion on multilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest.



495. Response of Official Spokesperson to reports about stationing of US Special Forces personnel in India.

New Delhi, March 2, 2012.

“The U.S. Government has neither sought nor has the Government of India approved stationing of U.S. Special Forces personnel in any capacity in India. The two countries occasionally conduct short duration Special Forces exercises in India and the U.S. in the context of their counter-terrorism cooperation and capacity building.”



The Ministry of External Affairs and the Defence Ministry were responding to media reports of a March 2 statement of a top Pentagon general that crack U.S. military troops were based in India besides Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and the Maldives to counter threats from organisations such as the Lashkar-e-Taiba. Coming up with the denials after U.S. Pacific Command (Pacom) chief Admiral Willard made the claim in a prepared statement at a U.S. Congressional hearing, the MEA said India interacted with the American Special Forces only during joint exercises here and abroad while the Defence Ministry asserted that U.S. special forces teams have never been stationed in India in the past, nor are such teams stationed in the country presently. “We have currently special forces assist teams — Pacific assist teams is the term — laid down in Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Maldives, as well as India,” Admiral Willard had told the Congressional hearing in response to a question on co-operation with India on counter-terrorism issues.

496. Joint Media Conference by External Affairs Minister and US Secretary of State.

New Delhi, May 8, 2012.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Syed Akbaruddin): Good morning, ladies and gentlemen of the media. I welcome you to this media interaction. As is usual, we will begin with brief opening remarks.

I now invite the External Affairs Minister of India Shri S.M. Krishna to make his opening remarks.

External Affairs Minister (Shri S.M. Krishna): Madam Secretary, it is a great pleasure to welcome you back to Delhi. I am glad that you decided to visit India on your way back to Washington DC. This is a sign of our close friendship.

It also underscores the importance of regular consultations between our two Governments at a time of enormous challenges and far-reaching changes taking place in the world.

Secretary Clinton and I reviewed the entire gamut of our bilateral relations. We expressed satisfaction with the progress in our relationship and are optimistic about the future. The emerging global trends only reinforce our shared conviction in the importance of this relationship for the future of our two countries and the shape of the world in this century.

We have an extraordinary frequency and depth in our dialogue and engagement. We continue to make tangible progress across virtually every area of bilateral cooperation. We expressed hope that our economic relationship, which is very important to both countries, would grow much faster and realise its enormous potential.

There are issues on both sides. I did convey our concerns about the continuing difficulties on mobility of professionals, especially for our IT companies, and protectionist sentiments in the U.S. with regard to global supply chain in services industry. I want to thank Secretary Clinton for her personal attention to the welfare of Indians and Indian students in the U.S.

Secretary Clinton and I also had a good discussion on the path to fostering commercial cooperation in civil nuclear energy. I assured her of India's commitment to provide a level-playing field to all U.S. companies, within the framework of national law and our international legal obligations. We were pleased that US companies are engaged in substantive discussions with the Indian operator, Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited. We hope that they will make early progress towards contractual steps.

Our strategic consultations have a global character, with convergence of views on a range of global and regional issues.

We discussed our vision for Afghanistan. We stressed the need for sustained international commitment to build Afghan capacity for governance, security and economic development, and to support Afghanistan with assistance, investment and regional linkages. Recent attacks in Kabul highlight once again the need for elimination of terrorist sanctuaries in the neighbourhood and the need for stronger action from Pakistan on terrorism, including on bringing to justice the perpetrators of Mumbai terrorist attack. We also discussed our respective relations with Pakistan.

I conveyed our vital stakes in peace and stability in the Gulf region and wider West Asian region, given the six million Indians who live there and the region's importance to our economy.

We also discussed the importance of peaceful settlement of the Iranian nuclear issue through dialogue and negotiations, based on the position that Iran has rights as a member of NPT, but it must also abide by its obligations as a non-nuclear weapons state under the NPT.

Secretary Clinton and I had a fruitful discussion on the Asia Pacific and Indian Ocean region, including relations with China, and developments in countries in India's immediate neighbourhood. We exchanged views on our recent interaction with our Bangladeshi counterpart also.

Finally, we look forward to a productive Strategic Dialogue in June in Washington DC, not only to show case the extraordinary progress in our engagement, but also outline how we intend to take our strategic partnership to a new level.

Thank you.

US Secretary of State (Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton): Thank you very much, Minister Krishna, and thank you for your warm welcome. And let me congratulate you on the completion of fifty years in active public service.

I am delighted that we are continuing to work together on such a broad range of important issues affecting our two countries. I was also delighted to see the Prime Minister yesterday. It is always a pleasure to be back in Delhi and to reaffirm what President Obama has called one of the defining partnerships of the 21st century.

The United States and India are two great democracies with common values and increasingly convergent interests. In our meetings today we have worked to focus our agenda and prepare for the strategic dialogues in June. Let me touch on four key lines of action we discussed.

First, we have to continue expanding trade and investment between our countries. We have come a long way. When I first visited India in 1995, trade stood at nine billion dollars, and this year we expect to surpass 100 billion dollars. And I actually believe there is much more potential to unleash. We should be working toward having one of the world's largest trading relationships, and we need to continue to reduce barriers and open our markets to greater trade and investment.

As part of this, we discussed our landmark civil nuclear agreement. I and Minister Krishna reiterated India's commitment to ensure a level-playing field for US companies. We welcomed the fact that the Nuclear Power Corporation of India and leading US companies are engaged in direct conversations on how to move forward together.

Second, we need to deepen our security cooperation. Our militaries are conducting training exercises unprecedented in scale and scope. We have expanded our work on behalf of our joint fight against terrorism and violent extremism. And our Navies are cooperating to combat piracy, patrol the sea lanes and protect the freedom of navigation.

Third, we have to work to meet the challenges and seize the opportunities in South and Central Asia. I updated the Minister on the new Strategic Partnership Agreement that President Obama signed with President Karzai, and I expressed our strong appreciation for India's support for the Afghan people's efforts to build a more peaceful and prosperous future and its intention to host a conference in late June to encourage greater private sector investment in Afghanistan.

We also look to India as a partner in the broad international effort to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons, the best way to achieve this diplomatic solution that we all seek, is for the international community to stay united and to keep the pressure that has brought Iran back to the negotiating table on Iran until we reach a peaceful diplomatic resolution.

I welcomed the progress India is making to reduce its purchases of oil from Iran, and hope to see continuing progress because we believe that if the international community eases the pressure or wavers in our resolve, Iran will have less incentive to negotiate in good faith, or to take the necessary actions to address the international community's concerns about its nuclear programme.

Finally, we need to work together to promote a shared vision for the Asia-Pacific, especially as we head toward the East Asia Summit in Cambodia this November.

I have reaffirmed to the Minister, and continue to speak out in favour of India's Look East Policy and its growing role across the region, particularly in support of democracy and economic reform in Burma. As an experienced democracy, India can provide key support. And greater trade and transit between India,

Bangladesh, Burma – the countries of South East Asia – will fuel even more political and economic progress and growth.

So, our strategic interests are indeed converging and so must our efforts. I am looking forward to welcoming the Minister when he comes to Washington in June for the next round of our strategic dialogue.

So, again, let me thank you, Minister, for your partnership. And let me again thank the Government and people of India for the warm welcome and hospitality.

Thank you.

Official Spokesperson: The two Ministers will take a few questions.

Question (Mr. Richard Wolf, USA Today): Secretary Clinton, I would like to ask you in particular about the latest underwear bomb plot in Yemen and how that relates to other terrorist issues in Pakistan involving Ayman al-Zawahiri, involving Hafiz Saeed; and your thoughts also on the rise of the Haqqani Network in Afghanistan; whether you feel that the efforts against terrorism are indeed still working or there is something else needed.

US Secretary of State: Richard, that is obviously an incredibly important question that is on the minds of not only our Government but of course the Indian Government because we both know the tragedies and losses that come with terrorism on our soil. So, we have increased our cooperation between India and the United States and we are going to continue to do everything we can not only to prevent terrorists from carrying out their evil acts of violence but also to try to convince people not to be recruited into terrorism which is a very much of a dead end, literally and figuratively, when it comes to pursuing any kind of political or ideological aims. In democracies like ours people should be in the market place of ideas. If they have views, they should put them to the test of the debate, the dialogue and the political process.

With respect to the plot that was discussed in Washington, as the White House said, the device did not appear to pose a threat to the public air service, but the plot itself indicates that these terrorists keep trying, they keep trying to devise more and more perverse and terrible ways to kill innocent people. And it is a reminder as to why we have to remain vigilant at home and abroad in protecting our nation and in protecting our friendly nations and peoples like India and others.

With respect to the question on the terrorist groups that still operate out of Pakistan, we are committed to going after those who pose direct threats to the United States, to Afghanistan, and to our allies in Afghanistan. We are also cooperating closely with India regarding the threats that emanate against them.

The 166 people killed in Mumbai during that horrific terrorist attack in 2008,

included six Americans. So, as part of our Rewards for Justice Programme we have offered a ten million dollar reward that could lead to the arrest or conviction of Hafiz Saeed for his role in those attacks. Our Rewards for Justice offer demonstrates our seriousness in obtaining additional information that can withstand judicial scrutiny, and that leads to arrest or conviction, and brings the perpetrators and the planners of the Mumbai attacks to justice.

This effort that we are pursuing is not just about the United States. Combating violent extremism is something we all agree on, and we need to do more, and we look to the Government of Pakistan to do more. It needs to make sure that its territory is not used as launching pads for terrorist attacks anywhere including inside of Pakistan because the great unfortunate fact is that terrorists in Pakistan have killed more than 30,000 Pakistanis. So, it is very much about the people of Pakistan and their right to go to a market, or go to a mosque, to live their lives.

We need stronger, more concerted efforts on behalf of Governments and societies against the scourge of terrorism. Terrorism is a tactic, it is a losing tactic. But we have to prevent as much death and destruction as possible as we uproot and destroy these groups and convince those whom they recruit, that that is no longer a decision that should be made.

Question (Mr. Abhisar Sharma (Aaj Tak): Secretary Clinton, it is interesting that you talk about the ten million bounty on Hafiz Saeed. My question to you is that, in order to sound politically correct in Pakistan, is the US indulging in doublespeak on the issue of Hafiz Saeed? I would like to draw your attention to what Ambassador Munter said in Islamabad that there is no exclusive bounty on Hafiz Saeed.

And my question to Foreign Minister Krishna is, did you raise this issue because this is contrary to the things that were told to our Government by the US Ambassador in India?

US Secretary of State: I am sorry, I do not really follow your question. We have a Rewards for Justice Programme that we have used quite successfully for a number of years. It has led to evidence and information and tips that we have used to bring terrorists to justice. We have used it in Pakistan; we have used it around the world. So, this is not unique; this is not a special case.

We wanted to raise the visibility and make it very clear that the United States had reason to believe that Hafiz Saeed had been one of the principal architects of the attack against Mumbai. And, therefore, we wanted to send an unmistakable message of solidarity with India, but not only with India solidarity with people everywhere who will not tolerate the continuation of terrorism and want to see terrorists brought to justice wherever they may be.

External Affairs Minister: Secretary Clinton has come out I think very eloquently as to how the United States has made up its mind to fight terrorism across the board. Even in our discussions this morning over breakfast we did talk about terrorism, and all that terrorism brings into this region and to the other regions of the world as well. Hence, India and the United States have strong cooperation on combating terrorism. In addition to the growing intelligence exchanges and cooperation, we also have a Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism, Counter Terrorism Cooperation Initiative, and a Homeland Security Dialogue. So, we always keep in close contact, and thereby we are trying to checkmate terror from wherever it emanates.

Question (Mr. Shaun Tandon, AFP): I wanted to follow up a little bit on the comments on Iran, its nuclear programme, and about oil. Madam Secretary, in your conversations here in India, are you confident that India is doing more? You commended Indian efforts. Do you think India has done enough to become exempt from the sanctions that will come into place on June 28th?

Question: Mr. Foreign Minister, if I can follow that up, do you agree with the strategic view of the United States when it comes to Iran, the idea that Iran is a global threat? And do you agree with the use of a domestic US law to try to influence Indian policy on this?

US Secretary of State: Let the Minister go first.

External Affairs Minister: In the contemporary context that is a very important question. Iran is a key country for our energy needs. But we have to look at the Iran issue beyond the issue of energy trade. In the first place we have to think about the security and stability in the Gulf region. India has vital stakes in the Gulf region. Six million Indians live and work in the Gulf region and beyond. It is one of the critical destinations of our external trade - over 100 billion US dollars in exports, and over 60 per cent of oil imports, and a major source of remittances. There are ties of religion, culture and civilization that bind us to the region. There is turbulence in wider West Asian and North African region with uncertain outcomes. Hence, we have a strong interest in peaceful and negotiated settlement of issues relating to Iran's nuclear programme. Our position on the nuclear issue has been clear, and it has always been consistent.

With respect to our energy, we are dependent on imports to meet bulk of our requirements. India's imports are growing on an average by about ten million tonnes annually. Given our growing demand it is natural for us to try and diversify our sources of imports of oil and gas to meet the objective of energy security.

Since you asked a specific question about Iran it remains an important source of oil for us, although its share in our imports are declining which is well-known. Ultimately, it reflects the decision that refineries make based on commercial,

financial and technical considerations. We have discussed our position and our perspectives on energy security, and these discussions will continue. As far as India is concerned, we subscribe to and rigorously implement the UN Security Council Resolutions. This issue, however, is not a source of discord between our two countries.

US Secretary of State: Shaun, as the Minister said, the United States and India share the same goal. We both want to prevent Iran from getting a nuclear weapon. And India has been a strong partner in urging Iran to live up to its international obligations and to use the P5+1 talks that began again in Istanbul and will meet again this month in Baghdad to demonstrate unequivocally the peaceful intent of its nuclear programme. As I said in Calcutta yesterday, we do not believe Iran would be back at the negotiating table unless there had been the unrelenting pressure of the international sanctions. And this pressure must stay on if we want to see progress toward a peaceful resolution.

So, we commend India for steps its refineries are taking to reduce imports from Iran. We have also been consulting with India and working with them in some areas on alternative sources of supply. So, we have had a very good discussion of these issues during my visit. Our Energy Coordinator, Ambassador Carlos Pascual, will be here with an expert team next week to continue these consultations. But there is no doubt that India and the United States are after the same goal.

Question (Mr. Ashish Singh, Star News): My question is for both Secretary of State Ms. Clinton and for External Affairs Mr. S.M. Krishna.

Madam, to you first. Both of you discussed Afghanistan issue also. Could you, Madam, say in your assessment how you see the current situation of Afghanistan? And after the western forces start pulling out from Afghanistan, what role do you see India playing in Afghanistan? And to you, Sir, could you also respond to the same question as to what role do you see India playing in Afghanistan after western forces start pulling out from Afghanistan?

US Secretary of State: First let me say that our consultations with India and Afghanistan are very substantive and helpful. As you I am sure recall, India entered into a strategic partnership with Afghanistan last year. We have just signed our Strategic Partnership Agreement when President Obama went to Kabul to do so with President Karzai. We have made clear that we intend to remain an active presence in Afghanistan. We will support Afghanistan's security and stability. We will contribute to building their capacity in their Government, and enhancing their economic growth and development. I think that the phrasing you used is technically perhaps correct that after 2014, the NATO ISAF mission of combat will end. But the United States and NATO will maintain a commitment

of security and development support. That will continue. I think the details of that are being worked out on our side, speaking just for the United States, with the strategic agreement. And now we will negotiate a security agreement.

There are a couple of milestones up ahead. At the NATO meeting in Chicago in about two weeks there will be a reaffirmation of our commitment to Afghanistan, both to the transition to Afghan-led security and then after 2014. The Indian Government will host a private sector conference to encourage more private sector investment in Afghanistan in June. Japan will host a donor conference to encourage more philanthropic contributions and government contributions in July. So, the international community is very engaged. I think we all understand that it is imperative we continue to work together to provide as much support for a stable, secure Afghanistan moving forward.

External Affairs Minister: Afghanistan has made significant progress in the last decade. The United States has made enormous contribution. Afghanistan is at a crucial juncture as it begins to assume greater responsibility for the governance, development and security. The most important signal that the international community has to give is a strong, sustained commitment to Afghanistan. With that, I am confident that Afghanistan will become a sovereign, independent, united and economically viable state capable of defeating terrorism, and resisting interference from outside. We see the US-Afghanistan Strategic Partnership Agreement in that spirit.

We will continue to support Afghanistan on the basis of our own Strategic Partnership Declaration of October, 2011. Elimination of safe havens in Pakistan is indeed vital for success in Afghanistan and regional security and stability. We remain supportive of any reconciliation effort that is fundamentally acceptable to us as long as it is led and owned by Afghan people, that upholds the redlines and embraces all sections of Afghan society, and that does not fritter away the gains of the past decade. The international community along with India wishes Afghanistan all well.

Official Spokesperson: Thank you very much.

With that we come to the end of this media interaction. Thank you.



497. Statement by Official Spokesperson on US Exemption on Iran Sanctions.

New Delhi, June 11, 2012.

In response to a question relating to Sanctions on Iran, the Official Spokesperson said:

“We have seen the US notification exempting Indian financial institutions from the application of the provisions of U.S. domestic law for energy-related transactions with Iranian Central Bank and other financial institutions designated by U.S. Government. This is a decision taken by the U.S. Government under its domestic law.

India and the United States have a growing strategic partnership. The India-US Strategic Dialogue on June 13 will once again demonstrate the strength of our relationship and the extraordinary breadth of our bilateral cooperation, based on our shared values and convergent interests.”



498. Keynote address by External Affairs Minister at the 37th US - India Business (USIB) Leadership Summit.

Washington D.C., June 12, 2012.

'Securing the 21st Century Partnership'

Mr. Micahel Froman, Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy NSA for International Affairs,

Mr. Terry McGraw, Outgoing Chairman of USIBC,

Mr. Ajay Banga, Incoming Chairman of USIBC,

Mr. Rony Somers, President, USIBC

Mr. Adi Godrej, President, Confederation of Indian Industry,

Mr. Francisco D'Souza and Mr. Rajesh Subramaniam, Board Members, USIBC, and

Distinguished guests

I am honoured to speak at the annual summit of U.S.- India Business Council. I thank Mr. Froman for his leadership on promoting economic relations. I also thank the outgoing Chairman Terry McGraw for ably focusing on current challenges and pointing us to long term opportunities. I congratulate Ajay Banga for taking over the reins of the Council at an important juncture in our commercial engagement. His life and career embodies everything that infuses India-U.S. relationship with so much promise and potential.

U.S.-India Business Council was formed at a particularly difficult moment in our relationship in the mid-seventies. The initiative was both economic and strategic in nature. It rested on the logic that in pursuing closer economic relationship, our companies, entrepreneurs and professionals would serve as a bridge to a broader and deeper relationship between our countries.

Nearly four decades later that vision has met the test of time. The private sector in our two nations has been the harbinger of change, indeed one of the catalysts in the transformation of India-U.S. relationship into a strategic partnership of great depth and diversity. The ballast our businesses provide will continue to keep our relationships growing steadily and rapidly. And, I hope that the U.S.-India Business Council will continue to promote India as much as the U.S. in its endeavors.

This is a time of vulnerability and uncertainty in the global economy. This is also a phase of challenges and opportunities for our two economies, too.

In India, there are evident concerns about economic parameters. Measures taken in response to an earlier phase of the global economic crisis, international turbulence and volatility, and policy challenges, have all contributed to the current situation. There are also complex and unresolved issues of equity, sustainability and opportunities and achieving the right balance between various sectors of the economy – these issues have been at the heart of political and policy debate in India.

Questions have been raised about economic policy and commitment to implement reforms. Doubts have been expressed whether the story of Incredible India will remain credible!

These sentiments are not new. Over the past two decades of extraordinary change in the Indian economy, there have been periods when the growth seemed to lose its steam and the agenda of reform seemed to slow. But, time and again, our economy rebounded with new vigor, on the strength of strong fundamentals, and supported by sound policies and prudent economic management.

In an era of global inter-dependence, not everything is within the powers of national governments. But we are confident that we will restore investor confidence and regain economic momentum and growth.

Our confidence stems not just from the strong fundamentals of our economy, but, also from the fact that virtually every political party in India has been at some point part of the reform process. We have to respond to the aspirations of an increasingly young, empowered and energised India that has experienced enormous change in a short span of time, and we will do so. But, we will also need a stable and supportive international environment, including an open and growing U.S. market, and the flow of capital and technology.

We are also optimistic because we are purposefully seeking to shape our external environment in support our national development goals. There are stirrings of change in our neighbourhood. We are working with Pakistan to define a new paradigm of trade relations. We are supporting Afghanistan with investment, development partnership and regional integration. We will host an investors' conference at the end of June in Delhi, to which, I hope, some of you will come. Across South Asia, we are seeking relationship of shared prosperity through increased trade, assistance and connectivity.

With Myanmar, we are not only rediscovering our natural economic partnership, but also building a bridge to Southeast Asia, with which we have a robust and matured economic engagement. We are building strong economic ties and seeking improved market access with China. Our exports to West Asia have expanded at a faster rate than our imports from there.

The vision of bringing Central Asia's gas to South Asia is turning into a reality,

but our connection with the region will go beyond hydrocarbons. From Australia to Africa, our businesses are seeking new sources of minerals and energy, but we also see ourselves as partners in the development of industry, infrastructure and human resources, particularly in Africa.

North America has emerged as an important source of gas and potentially of oil for world markets, and we hope that the U.S. Government will be liberal in permitting gas exports to India. This will be in our mutual economic and energy security interests. And, we are building a web of trade and economic arrangements that stretches from Japan to Canada.

I also have great confidence in the future of India-U.S. economic partnership. I know that this is a time when a degree of skepticism has entered into the sentiment of the business on both sides. I am aware of the concerns of the U.S. businesses; USIBC has been forceful in articulating them !

For our businesses, too, there are pressing issues: whether it is the worsening environment for mobility of professionals, the protectionist sentiments against the global supply chain in services industry, the refusal to even consider a Social Security Agreement that affects the lives of 300,000 non-immigrant Indian professionals in the United States, the unresolved market access issues, or, the persisting presence of India in the Super 301 Priority Watch List and the U.S. Department of Labour's list.

It is, in part, natural, if not inevitable, that as our economic engagement grows; the range of issues that we face will also expand. But, it is also true, that as our inter-dependence deepens, it becomes even more important to address the issues with a sense of urgency and purpose.

The progress that we have made gives us the confidence to deal with the challenges in our relationship. Our trade in goods and services has reached a milestone by crossing 100 billion US dollars last year. India has been one of the fastest growing destinations for U.S. exports.

The U.S. remains a major source of investment in India. Indian companies, too, have established presence in at least 40 states in the U.S, with a significant part of their investments going into the manufacturing sector, and generating more than 80% of their employment locally from the United States.

We have recently launched a strategic dialogue on energy security. We have agreed on a dialogue on sustainable manufacturing and on standards. Later this month, our Finance Minister will lead the Financial and Economic Partnership Dialogue. We are negotiating a Bilateral Investment Treaty and we have just had another round of extensive dialogue last week in Delhi.

A decade ago, lack of familiarity, trust and confidence made U.S. industry an

unlikely partner for our defence requirement. Now, in the last four years, defence contracts for U.S. companies have amounted to nine billion US dollars. As we seek to expand this relationship further, it must increasingly rest on the foundation of technology transfer, as well as joint research, development and production.

We remain committed to transforming the success of our diplomatic partnership in changing the global nuclear order into an equally fruitful commercial partnership. We welcome the ongoing progress in the dialogue between Indian operator and the U.S. companies. Our high technology trade will also grow as the Indian industry grows in sophistication and begins to take advantage of liberalization in U.S. export controls for India.

India's planned investment of more than a trillion US dollars in infrastructure development over the next five years offers enormous opportunities for expanding our economic partnership. Commerce Secretary Bryson's visit to India with a strong infrastructure delegation in March this year and the launch of first Infrastructure Debt Fund in India, with a corpus of 2 billion US dollars, augurs well for our cooperation.

In the coming years, one of the largest waves of urbanization in the world will take place in India. This alone will create enormous economic opportunities, from smart grid to energy efficient buildings to the recently launched Dunkin Donuts!

I have faith in the future of India-U.S. economic partnership, because I have seen, from my time as the Chief Minister in Bangalore, pioneering models of partnerships between Indian and U.S. firms. These ventures have helped modernize India's economy and shaped the global knowledge economy. They have also made enormous contribution to U.S. economy and employment. We, in India, have to foster an environment that nurtures these collaborations. The U.S. too, I hope, will remain supportive of these models of partnership.

I am also inspired by the outstanding partnerships of innovation, research and development that are being forged across a truly broad range of areas. These include healthcare; agricultural productivity and the cold supply chain; clean and renewable energy and energy efficiency; higher education; and, delivery of services. They are generating hope, transforming lives, creating prosperity and addressing global challenges.

Their impact encourages us to set higher ambitions. And, working with the industry, we can set our sights even higher. Indeed, the areas I have mentioned are also the priorities identified by the India-U.S. CEO Forum and will command a lot of attention at the Strategic Dialogue tomorrow.

Indeed, the power of innovation would be the driver of our economic partnership.

Its success will be measured not only in terms of growth, but also its capacity to usher in change.

A strong economic relationship is an important dimension of the vision of global partnership outlined by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and President Obama. It is a partnership that continues to grow.

We are working together, and with others, to build a secure, stable and prosperous Asia Pacific and Indian Ocean regions, including through the evolving regional architecture. We consult each other regularly on all major regions and issues in the world. We are united in our political and diplomatic efforts to affirm the principles of freedom of navigation and unimpeded commerce, in accordance with international law, and peaceful settlement of maritime disputes. We are engaged in helping build a strong future for Afghanistan.

Our defence engagement is strong and growing, as underscored during Secretary Panetta's visit to Delhi last week. Our intelligence and counter-terrorism cooperation is deepening, and we have shared interest in the elimination of terrorist infrastructure and safe havens from our neighbourhood.

Our growing cooperation on cyber security is important for our increasingly inter-dependent economies. We have productive engagement and growing cooperation in multilateral forums on international disarmament and non-proliferation. We appreciate the continuing U.S. leadership in seeking India's full membership of the multilateral export control regimes.

India and the United States have built a comprehensive architecture of engagement. But, we have also built something more priceless – goodwill and friendship; mutual confidence and respect; and, candour and comfort in our dialogue; and a belief in the value of this relationship for our two countries and the importance of this partnership for the world.

Our high mutual expectations, natural in a relationship driven by values, lead to occasional disappointment. But, this only underscores that neither side is prepared to settle for what we have achieved, but continues to strive for more. And, it is my belief that once we have a relationship defined by those qualities, we will reach the destination we seek and achieve the goals we set for ourselves.

So, tomorrow, it will be my privilege to chair the third strategic dialogue with Secretary Clinton. It will be an opportunity to reaffirm our shared vision and values that brings our two countries together; to celebrate what we have achieved in the past three years and before; and, to renew our commitment and reinvigorate our efforts to keep striving towards the peak of our potential.

Thank you.



499. Press Release of the Ministry of Human Resource Development on the Indo – US Dialogue on Higher Education-unveiling the Initiative “Connect to India”.

New Delhi, June 13, 2012.

The second Indo US Higher Education dialogue was held in Washington, United States yesterday with Union Human Resource Development Minister Shri Kapil Sibal and U S Secretary of State Ms Hillary Clinton as the co-chair.

Opening the dialogue, Shri Sibal said the digital world is challenging the lecture-driven teaching traditions of the university. With open content and open-access, we are seeing the early emergence of a meta-university. The Internet and the Web will provide the communication infrastructure, while the open-access movement and its derivatives will provide much of the knowledge and information infrastructure. The meta university will reinterpret the concept of a University as not just a traditional, physical space of learning, but as a repository of knowledge and information that can be delivered in multiple ways, and can be accessed from anywhere, at anytime.

Speaking on the need to appreciate, manage and preserve our diversity through education and learning by experience, the Minister said global students would understand and learn about management of diversity in India far better than elsewhere in the world. Towards this end, Shri Sibal said he proposed to launch a “Connect to India” initiative that will make available opportunities for students in the U.S to spend some time in our quality institutions for learning about our life, society, culture, economy, polity and business.

U S Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said the Dialogue not only represents the commitment of both the governments but also of both societies to provide more opportunities to the youth to achieve their aspirations. Secretary Clinton highlighted three main focus areas :

- Work force development
- Research in grand challenge areas like sustainable development, energy, public health;
- Developing open education resources

The Higher Education Dialogue chalked out the future strategy for effective partnerships for research and innovation as well as Community colleges and skills, which are very high on India's development agenda.

Both sides appreciated that there is immense scope of working together on various strands in Research and Innovation, particularly in the identified areas

of challenges for which discussion on modes of collaboration, collaborative models, and governance and management issues were deliberated. Both sides also committed resources for these initiatives.

Some of the areas identified for research and innovation are:

- Public health including medical technology, green energy and environmental studies
- Cyber security- Leveraging technology for education leading to e-learning
- Development of Meta University
- Increasing connectivity through NKN
- Educational Technology
- Connect to India programme
- Sharing of best practices in innovation and incubation

The meeting was followed by the announcement of awards under the Singh - Obama knowledge Initiative and the presentation of web portal on Indo US higher education developed by AICTE was presented.



500. Joint Statement on the U.S.-India Strategic Dialogue-2012.**Washington D.C., June 13, 2012.**

India's Minister of External Affairs Shri S.M. Krishna and U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton met in Washington, DC, on June 13, 2012, for the third annual U.S.-India Strategic Dialogue. The leaders reflected on the remarkable expansion and growth of the bilateral relationship since the inaugural Strategic Dialogue in 2010. They committed to further broaden and deepen the U.S.-India global strategic partnership and charted a vision for the future, centered on promoting shared prosperity, peace and stability.

Secretary Clinton was joined by Ambassador to India Nancy Powell, Director of National Intelligence James Clapper, Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy Director Dr. John P. Holdren, Deputy Secretary for Homeland Security Jane Lute, Deputy National Security Advisor Michael Froman, USAID Administrator Raj Shah, Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues, Melanne Verveer, and other senior officials. Minister Krishna was accompanied by Minister for Health and Family Welfare Ghulam Nabi Azad, Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Prime Minister's Public Information Infrastructure and Innovation Advisor Sam Pitroda, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Women and Child Development Krishna Tirath, Minister of State for Planning, S&T and Earth Sciences Ashwini Kumar, Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai, Ambassador to the United States of America Nirupama Rao, Home Secretary R.K.Singh, Director of Intelligence Bureau Nehchal Sandhu, Secretary for Higher Education Ashok Thakur and other senior officials.

On the margins of this Strategic Dialogue, an unprecedented number of sub-dialogues have taken place, including the Global Issues Forum, S&T Joint Commission Meeting, the Counterterrorism Joint Working Group, the Higher Education Dialogue, co-chaired by Secretary Clinton and Human Resource Development Minister Kapil Sibal, Cyber Consultations, the Information and Communications Technology Working Group, the Women's Empowerment Dialogue, Homeland Security Consultations and other events. In addition, U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta visited India on June 5-6, 2012.

Recognizing that the India-U.S. relationship draws its strength and dynamism from shared values, the breadth and diversity of the engagement and growing links between the people of the two countries, leaders of both countries have placed promotion of closer ties between the people, private collaborations and public-private partnerships at the center of the Strategic Dialogue.

Strategic Cooperation

The United States and India have engaged in comprehensive regional consultations that touched on nearly every region of the world.

The United States and India have a shared vision for peace, stability and prosperity in Asia, the Indian Ocean region and the Pacific region and are committed to work together, and with others in the region, for the evolution of an open, balanced and inclusive architecture. They reaffirmed their support for regional forums like East Asia Summit, ASEAN Regional Forum and ASEAN Defense Ministers Meeting Plus, and committed to regular consultations in this regard. The two leaders also welcomed the two rounds of trilateral dialogue between India, the United States and Japan, launched after the second Strategic Dialogue in July 2011, and the ongoing East Asia Dialogue. The United States welcomed India's actions to strengthen regional economic connectivity. Both sides intend to continue to support efforts that promote regional trade, transit, and energy linkages. Secretary Clinton welcomed India's growing engagement in the Asia Pacific. They agreed to further enhance their consultations on the Indian Ocean region. Minister Krishna welcomed the U.S. interest in becoming a dialogue partner with the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC), and conveyed that as the current Chair, India will take it forward with other IOR-ARC members.

Secretary Clinton and Minister Krishna affirmed the importance of maritime security, unimpeded commerce, and freedom of navigation, in accordance with international law, and the peaceful settlement of maritime disputes. The two sides agreed to continue to consult closely on key global issues, including bilateral exchanges and information sharing in areas such as counternarcotics, countering piracy, maritime safety, and humanitarian assistance/disaster relief. Determined to curb the problem of piracy off the coast of Somalia, both governments planned to improve coordination of their anti-piracy efforts. They also planned to cooperate in addressing the problem of hostage-taking by pirates.

The two leaders stressed the importance of sustained international commitment to Afghanistan as it assumes full responsibility for governance, development and security. Noting that India and the United States have each signed Strategic Partnership Agreements with Afghanistan, Minister Krishna and Secretary Clinton welcomed their productive joint consultations on Afghanistan and intend to seek new opportunities to intensify their consultation, coordination and cooperation to promote a stable, democratic, united, sovereign and prosperous Afghanistan. They intend to explore opportunities to work together to promote Afghanistan's development, including in areas such as agriculture, mining, energy, capacity building and infrastructure. Noting the importance of women's economic empowerment for Afghanistan's economic success, they plan to work to further increase their ongoing vocational training and empowerment initiatives. To support their efforts in Afghanistan, they agreed to hold a trilateral dialogue with the Government of Afghanistan.

They welcomed the announcement at the 2012 NATO Summit in Chicago of progress in the security transition process and the participants' commitment to

supporting Afghanistan's security and development needs into the "transformation decade" (2015-2024). Secretary Clinton welcomed India's hosting of the Delhi Summit on Investment in Afghanistan on June 28 in New Delhi and both leaders looked forward to the July 8 Tokyo Conference on Afghanistan. The two leaders discussed the vision for enhanced regional connectivity through South and Central Asia. They reiterated the importance of taking concrete steps to promote expanded private investment and trade in Afghanistan. They acknowledged the critical importance of improving Afghanistan's integration and linkages within the South and Central Asia region and welcomed the ministerial meeting in Kabul on June 14. They acknowledged that success in Afghanistan requires, in addition to building up Afghanistan's capacity to defend itself, an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned reconciliation process. They reiterated that success in Afghanistan and regional and global security require elimination of safe havens and infrastructure for terrorism and violent extremism in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The two leaders agreed to continue the dialogue on West Asia and Central Asia.

Secretary Clinton and Minister Krishna expressed satisfaction with the progress in defense relations, which is an important dimension of their strategic partnership. They noted that India and the United States have conducted many military exercises and exchanges in the last six years across all uniformed service branches as well as with civilian relief and development agencies. The two leaders noted that Government of India has awarded defense contracts worth \$9 billion in recent years to U.S. companies. Reflecting the United States' support for India's continued military modernization, both sides reaffirmed their desire to strengthen defense cooperation through increased technology transfer, collaborative joint research and development, and co-production of defense items. They also welcomed the progress made in the Defense Policy Group (DPG) and the resumption of the Political Military consultations between the two sides.

Reflective of the United States' deep commitment to pursuing the fullest possible accounting of all Americans missing from past conflicts, the United States appreciated Government of India's support for the renewal of missions to recover the remains of missing U.S. service members killed in air crashes during World War II.

The two sides expressed satisfaction with the Strategic Security Dialogue held in February 2012 in Washington on a wide range of issues on the international arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation agenda and their strengthened consultations in various multilateral forums. Both sides welcomed the successful conclusion of the Seoul Nuclear Security Summit in March 2012 and expressed continued support for the early start of negotiations on a Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty in the Conference on Disarmament.

The two sides welcomed progress towards the full implementation of the historic

Civil Nuclear Initiative including the Memorandum of Understanding signed between Westinghouse and the Nuclear Power Corporation of India (NPCIL) committing both sides to negotiate an Early Works Agreement for the preliminary licensing and site development work associated with construction of the new Westinghouse reactors in Gujarat state, and the ongoing progress between General Electric-Hitachi and NPCIL on their Memorandum of Understanding.

India expressed appreciation for the strong support extended by the United States for India's full membership in the four multilateral export control regimes – Nuclear Suppliers Group, Missile Technology Control Regime, Wassenaar Arrangement and Australia Group. The United States welcomed steps India has taken in pursuing outreach with each of the regimes.

Counter-terrorism, Intelligence, Homeland Security and Cyber Security

Building on the progress in cooperation on counter-terrorism and related homeland security issues since the inaugural Homeland Security Dialogue Ministerial between Home Minister Chidambaram and Homeland Security Secretary Napolitano in May 2011, the United States and India committed to implementation of a detailed action plan intended to share best practices, facilitate the exchange of operational approaches, and promote the development of concrete capacity building programs to secure our respective countries. The two governments also plan to exchange visits across the full range of homeland security issues to address port and border issues, transportation, illicit finance and counterfeit currency, cyber crime, megacity policing and capacity building.

The United States and India committed to continue to collaborate closely on technology approaches to security issues, including science and technology arrangements, to foster closer cooperation. They noted progress in cooperation and exchanges under the Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation between the Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) of the U.S. and India, including the first bilateral exercise to be scheduled in the fall of 2012.

Recognizing the growing threats and challenges in cyberspace, they welcomed the second round of Cyber Consultations held on June 4, led by their respective national security councils, during which the U.S. and India exchanged views and best practices on a broad range of cyber issues in the interest of advancing security and the effective and timely sharing of digital evidence and information to support counter-terrorism and law enforcement. The delegations agreed to form a working group chaired by the State Department and the Ministry of External Affairs to further discuss the issue of international norms in cyberspace and global Internet governance. The group would provide a forum for consultations will also in advance of important international events related to cyberspace.

Secretary Clinton and Minister Krishna welcomed the decision by India's Ministry of Human Resource Development to set up a Center of Excellence in Cyber

Security and the dialogue between leading Indian and U.S. universities to enter into cooperation in the proposed Center.

Secretary Clinton and Minister Krishna lauded the growing collaboration on counter-terrorism in the 13th meeting of the India-U.S. Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism held on June 1 in Washington D.C. and the outcomes of the 2nd meeting of the Coordinating Committee of Global Forum for Counter Terrorism (GCTF) held in Istanbul on June 6-7. They reiterated their commitment to further strengthening bilateral and multilateral counter-terrorism cooperation, including through intelligence sharing, information exchange, operational cooperation, and access to advanced counter-terrorism technology and equipment. They reiterated their commitment to bringing to justice the perpetrators of the Mumbai terror attack in November 2008 and to comprehensive sharing of information on the investigations and trials relating to that attack.

Energy and Climate Change

Secretary Clinton and Minister Krishna welcomed the progress in India-U.S. cooperation in the energy sector, including in the areas of clean and renewable energy, and energy conservation and efficiency.

They welcomed the selection of three public-private consortia for funding under the U.S.-India Joint Clean Energy R&D Center, announced by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and President Obama in November 2010, with annual commitment of \$5 million each from the two governments and matching private contributions from the winning consortia, to promote research and development in the areas of advanced biofuels, solar energy and energy efficiency in buildings.

They also welcomed the new five-year, \$20 million technical assistance partnership between USAID and the Indian Ministry of Power and the Indian Ministry of New and Renewable Energy to accelerate the scale-up of clean energy technologies.

They noted that the Partnership to Advance Clean Energy (PACE), launched by President Obama and Prime Minister Singh in November 2009, has mobilized more than \$ 1.7 billion towards a wide range of clean energy projects. They expressed appreciation for the efforts of several U.S. agencies to support development and deployment of clean energy projects. They confirmed that both countries would continue to exchange best practices on low-carbon growth strategies to support a greener and more prosperous future.

They welcomed the productive discussions between India and the United States on energy security in May 2012 and planned to continue this conversation, through the Energy Dialogue and other appropriate forums. The two sides also agreed to continue exchanges on assessment of shale and other unconventional

gas resource potential in India and on hydrocarbon potential in the Indian Ocean and other regions, and its impact on global energy security. Recognizing the importance of natural gas as a bridge fuel to a clean energy future, the United States reiterated its support as India seeks to secure stable supplies of natural gas. Minister Krishna stressed India's interest in import of LNG from the U.S. and requested the U.S. Government to permit such exports to India.

Secretary Clinton and Minister Krishna acknowledged broad collaboration on a range of bilateral climate change related programs, including those aimed at addressing adaptation to climate change, sustainable management of forests including reduction of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, the U.S.-India task force on hydro-fluorocarbons (HFCs), and our respective domestic research programs in the area of black carbon.

Secretary Clinton and Minister Krishna commended the progress made at the Durban climate change conference in December 2011. They also affirmed their commitment to address climate change at the multilateral level, including through the work of the Ad hoc Working Group on Durban Platform for Enhanced Actions under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. They stressed the need to enhance international cooperation under appropriate multilateral bodies to address emissions from the international civil aviation and maritime sectors.

Education and Development

Secretary Clinton and Minister Krishna applauded the expansion of the U.S.-India Higher Education Dialogue, which made significant strides in fostering cooperation between the two countries in higher education, research and innovation, and community colleges. The United States and India plan to hold the next annual Higher Education Dialogue in 2013 in India.

They welcomed the announcement of the award of the first eight grants under the Obama-Singh Knowledge Initiative, which aims to strengthen teaching, research, and administration of both U.S. and Indian institutions through university linkages and junior faculty development. The next call for proposals will be announced in July 2012, with both governments having committed \$5 million dollars over 5 years.

The two leaders also applauded efforts by both governments to continue to expand educational opportunities and cooperation, including through the Fulbright Nehru Program for students and scholars. These include India's goal of establishing 100 community colleges in India; the announcement of the C.V. Raman Fellowship, under which the first tranche of 300 junior faculty members would be placed for post-doctoral research in American higher education institutions; India's launch of a higher education web portal to provide a platform to disseminate information and foster educational and research collaboration

and exchanges, such as India's new Connect to India program to facilitate more American students in Indian universities; and new private sector pledges in support of the United States' Passport to India Initiative, which seeks to increase the number of American students participating in internships in India.

Secretary Clinton and Minister Krishna noted that the third meeting of the Women's Empowerment Dialogue held in February 2012, focused on women's social and economic empowerment, political participation, early childhood education, skill development of women and girls, and strengthening of institutional linkages and exchanges. The U.S. welcomed India's proposal to organize a regional South Asia Women's Entrepreneurship Conference that will bring key policy makers, women entrepreneurs, civil society organizations, private sector institutions, and corporations together to work on concrete actions to expand women's economic participation in the region and beyond.

Economic, Trade and Agriculture

Secretary Clinton and Minister Krishna noted that bilateral trade in goods and services continues to grow and will likely reach \$100 billion by the end of 2012. They lauded the launch of the first Infrastructure Debt Fund in India, with a corpus of \$2 billion, through the participation of Indian and U.S. financial institutions and welcomed the March 2012 visit to India by U.S. Commerce Secretary John Bryson with a private sector delegation of infrastructure companies as important steps to strengthen bilateral trade and investment in India's planned investment of \$1 trillion in its infrastructure sector.

The two leaders recognized that steps should be taken promote greater bilateral trade and investment flows, including facilitating greater movement of professionals, investors and business travelers, and encouraging research and innovation that further strengthen economic partnership between the two countries.

The Secretary and Minister called for an expeditious conclusion to negotiations toward a high standard Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) as a key part of the effort to deepen the economic relationship, improve investor confidence, and support economic growth in both countries. They welcomed consultations by experts from both governments on manufacturing best practices and policy.

They welcomed the decision of the two governments to launch a dialogue on Sustainable Manufacturing and another on Enhancing Cooperation in Standards under the Commercial Dialogue. They noted the conclusion in February 2012 of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Labour and Employment and U.S. Department of Labor for skill development, youth development, occupational safety and health, and mine safety and health.

The two leaders reiterated their governments' efforts to foster cooperation in

research, development and innovation in agriculture, especially on agricultural productivity, envisaged in the Agricultural Dialogue. They welcomed the recent agreements between agricultural universities in India and U.S. universities for agricultural research, and the proposed collaboration to create a Regional Center of Excellence at the National Institute of Plant Health Management in Hyderabad.

Secretary Clinton welcomed Minister Krishna's proposal for a "Conversation between Cities" later this year to discuss urban challenges and their solutions in the 21st century and to foster greater economic ties, understanding and friendship between the people of the two countries.

Science & Technology, Health and Innovation

Secretary Clinton and Minister Krishna reviewed the outcomes of the second Science and Technology Joint Commission Meeting, held on June 11, which covered bilateral research cooperation on basic and applied sciences, atmospheric, environment and earth sciences, health and medical services, STEM education, facilitating technology commercialization for societal impact and retention and advancement of women in science and engineering. They applauded the first award of grants by the U.S.-India Science and Technology Endowment Board for entrepreneurial projects that commercialize technologies to improve health and empower citizens, which include a partnership to create a cold-chain storage solution to keep farmers' produce fresh. They noted the ongoing activities of U.S.-India Science & Technology Forum, now in its eleventh year, which have brought together 11,000 Indian and U.S. scientists and technologists.

The two leaders welcomed the rich array of public and private science and technology cooperation between U.S. and Indian institutions and partners.

These include the new initiatives between India's Department of Science and Technology and U.S. National Science Foundation on a Virtual Institute on Mathematics and Statistical Sciences and DST-NSF Summer Internship; the recent initiative (PC3) of the Department of Electronics and Information Technology and U.S. NSF to jointly fund collaborations between universities and institutions in the two countries on the application of electronics and IT for societal challenges, which has already resulted in five collaborations in the areas of wildlife management, air quality, water sustainability, healthcare and smart electric grids; India's recent commitment of more than \$100 million to the California Institute of Technology's Thirty-Meter Telescope Project; the exchange of weather and monsoon forecasting, climate change information and global precipitation under the Civil Space Working Group; and the collaborative project of the U.S. National Science Foundation and the Indian Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Science & Technology to develop a Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory, with a likely contribution of USD 100 million from India. The two sides also intend to explore opportunities for

cooperation in the study of groundwater information systems and Decision Support Systems for optimal management of groundwater resources. The two sides plan to host the next Civil Space Joint Working Group in Washington, D.C. in the summer of 2013.

The two leaders acknowledged the June 9 launch of the Global Ring Network for Advanced Applications Development (GLORIAD), the first direct U.S.-India advanced science and education network supporting enormous data flows between the U.S. and India. Funded by the U.S. National Science Foundation, and as part of a public-private partnership featuring a \$6M contribution by Tata Communications and housed by the International Centre for Theoretical Sciences (ICTS) of the Tata Institute for Fundamental Research in Bangalore, the new link is part of the NSF-funded advanced global GLORIAD network. Designed to support the most advanced big-data research today - as well as education and health-related research, GLORIAD's Indian partners at the ICTS are also launching the first open, science-driven, science-managed network exchange in India.

Secretary Clinton and Minister Krishna lauded the completion of 25 years of the Vaccine Action Programme, a collaborative research venture between the two countries; welcomed the establishment of the Global Disease Detection India Center, announced by Prime Minister Dr. Singh and President Obama in November 2010; the proposed collaboration between the Department of Biotechnology of India and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on stem cell regenerative medicine research; and collaboration between the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Indian Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on Diabetes Research. These are part of the wide-ranging collaboration between the two countries in the health sector.

The Secretary and Minister appreciated the December announcement of the USAID and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) partnership to establish the Millennium Alliance, an innovative development concept to leverage Indian creativity, expertise, and resources to support solutions to benefit vulnerable populations across India and around the world.

The two sides plan to hold an Innovation Roundtable on development challenges and solutions in New Delhi in the later part of 2012. The last roundtable was held in September 2010.

Global Partnership

Secretary Clinton and Minister Krishna commended the progress the two sides have made in implementing the initiatives for international partnership for development and capacity building announced by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and President Obama in November 2010.

Secretary Clinton and Minister Krishna took note of the March release of an open-source web portal—the “Open Government Platform” (OGPL)—developed under the India-U.S. Dialogue on Open Government. OGPL allows any nation to download free software and create a site that provides its citizens access to government data for innovation, economic development, and transparency. Secretary Clinton and Minister Krishna welcomed OGPL’s planned extension to additional countries, starting with Rwanda.

They welcomed the progress in their collaborative efforts to support agricultural development in Africa through initially offering training at Indian agricultural institutions through USAID support to Kenya, Liberia and Malawi.

They also welcomed progress in the initiative for capacity building and training for election management in interested countries.

Secretary Clinton and Minister Krishna lauded the initiative of the U.S. and India to host, along with the Government of Ethiopia and UNICEF, a Call to Action on June 14-15 in Washington, D.C., to launch a global movement to end preventable child deaths—A Promise to Keep—to demonstrate both countries’ commitment to leadership on this global priority, extending toward ambitious targets in 2035.

People –to-people ties

Secretary Clinton welcomed Government of India’s plans to open a Cultural Center in Washington, D.C., noting the powerful U.S.-India connections provided by the nearly three million Indian-Americans in the United States, as well as the more than 100,000 Indian students studying in U.S. universities.

The United States announced the launch of a new online philanthropy platform, a natural extension of the deep and vibrant people-to-people ties between the United States and India, providing private donors in the United States with information to help make decisions about contributing to NGOs in India more effectively (ProjectIndiaGiving.org).

Secretary Clinton and Minister Krishna appreciated the many actions taken to facilitate the travel of U.S. and Indian citizens, including the planned opening of India’s Atlanta consulate in 2012, the second round of the U.S.-India Consular Dialogue on March 22 in New Delhi, a new interview waiver pilot program to further streamline U.S. visa processing and facilitate legitimate travel between the two countries. The Secretary and Minister discussed various issues relating to inter-country adoptions and expressed the hope that these would be dealt with in a transparent and humane manner to protect the welfare of adopted children.

They also appreciated the establishment of the “Indian Ministry of Culture

Vivekananda Chair” at the University of Chicago and an agreement signed between the Ministry of Culture and the Art Institute of Chicago for the “Vivekananda Memorial Program for Museum Excellence” for upgrading the skills of Museum Professionals of India as part of commemoration of the 150th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.

The next meeting of the Strategic Dialogue is planned in New Delhi in 2013.



501. Opening Remarks by External Affairs Minister at the Plenary Session of India-US Strategic Dialogue.

Washington D.C., June 13, 2012.

Opening Remarks

Madam Secretary Hillary Clinton,

Distinguished members of the United States' delegation

It is a great pleasure for me to join you in chairing the third India-U.S. Strategic Dialogue. I want to thank you for hosting the dialogue and for your warmth and hospitality.

We also sincerely appreciate the efforts that your team and our Embassy here have put into making this, literally, an India-United States fortnight in Washington, with all the other bilateral meetings scheduled in the past two week! It speaks to the depth of our relationship and the diversity of our engagement.

Madam Secretary,

I am particularly honoured to be joined by my distinguished Ministerial colleagues –Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Mr. Montek Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Mrs. Krishna Tirath, Minister of State for Women and Child Development, Mr. Ashwini Kumar, Minister of State for Planning, S&T and Earth Sciences, and, Mr. Sam Pitroda, Public Information Infrastructure and Innovation Adviser to Prime Minister. I am pleased to be joined by several of our most senior officers in the Government.

Even by the high standards of India-U.S. relationship, we have had an unprecedented intensity of engagement over the past year. Yet, the Strategic Dialogue is a unique opportunity to bring together all the threads of our cooperation that constitute the extraordinarily rich tapestry of our relationship.

Madam Secretary,

Our two sides have a shared vision that our global strategic partnership could be one of the most important or defining relationships of the 21st century.

In July 2009 in Delhi, we started a new chapter in an already exciting story of India-U.S. ties. Our bilateral engagement as well as global developments over the past three years has only strengthened our mutual commitment to the partnership.

In every field – political, strategic, security, defence, intelligence, nuclear cooperation, space, trade and investment, energy, science and technology,

higher education and empowerment – we are making tangible and continuous progress.

What was once novel and unprecedented in our relationship is now routine and normal. In the process of our engagement, we have built something more precious – friendship, goodwill, trust, mutual confidence, candour and belief in the importance of a successful partnership.

Sometimes there are questions and doubts about the relationship. They are inevitable in something so unique and new. But, I believe that having settled the question of whether India and the U.S. can or should work towards a close relationship, the questions we ask now are how to harness the full potential of that relationship.

If we go by the investments that the two governments are making, and the energy and enterprise of our people, we are on the right track. But, as I say, we have reasons to be satisfied, but not complacent. So, we hope in the course of today, we will chart the course ahead, both for the immediate future and the long term.

Thank you.



502. Opening Remarks by the External Affairs Minister at the Media Briefing on the third India – US Strategic Dialogue.

Washington, D.C., June 13, 2012.

I am in Washington DC to co-chair the third India-U.S. Strategic Dialogue with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. As you know, the Strategic Dialogue is the principal platform to bring the different strands of the broad-based and diverse agenda of bilateral engagement and pursue the vision of India-U.S. Global Strategic Partnership, outlined by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and President Barack Obama.

I was accompanied by Minister for Health and Family Welfare Ghulam Nabi Azad, Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Prime Minister's Public Information Infrastructure and Innovation Advisor Sam Pitroda, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Women and Child Development Krishna Tirath, Minister of State for Planning, S&T and Earth Sciences Ashwini Kumar, Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai, Home Secretary R.K.Singh, Secretary for Science and Technology, Secretary for Higher Education Ashok Thakur, Director of Intelligence Bureau Nehchal Sandhu, and other senior officials. Secretary Clinton was joined by her ministerial colleagues and senior officials.

There were several dialogues on the margins of and preceding the Strategic Dialogue.

Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister for Human Resource Development, IT and Telecommunication, chaired the Higher Education Dialogue with Secretary Clinton on June 12. Minister for Science and Technology co-chaired the Joint Science and Technology Commission Meeting with Dr. John Holdren, President Obama's Advisor on Science and Technology. Minister for Health and Family Welfare will co-convene with Secretary Clinton and UNICEF, a Call to Maternal and Child Care Action on June 14-15 in Washington, D.C.

A number of sub-dialogues were scheduled on the margins of this Strategic Dialogue, including the Global Issues Forum, Homeland Security Consultations, Strategic Intelligence Dialogue, the Counterterrorism Joint Working Group, Cyber Consultations, Information and Communications Technology Working Group, the Women's Empowerment Dialogue, Dialogue on Health Cooperation and other events.

I also delivered the key note address at the Annual Summit of the U.S.-India Business Council on 12 June 2012 in Washington DC.

Today, I had a restricted meeting with Secretary Clinton, during which we discussed key bilateral and regional issues. I also raised humanitarian dimensions

of the Karie Shepherd case.

We then chaired the Plenary Session, which had discussions on five themes:

- Strategic, Defence, Homeland Security, Counter-terrorism and Intelligence
- Economic, Energy, Climate
- S&T, Innovation and Health
- Higher Education and Empowerment
- Regional Strategies and linkages

The Joint Statement issued today is reflective of the tangible and continuous progress that we are making in every field, including political and strategic consultations, defence, intelligence, counter-terrorism, homeland security, trade and investment, civilian nuclear energy, space, science and technology, agriculture, higher education and empowerment.



503. Press Release of the Ministry of Human Resource Development on the grant of Awards for Obama – Singh 21st Century Knowledge Initiative.

New Delhi, June 13, 2012.

In a milestone in the educational partnership between India and the United States, a joint working group of India and the United States have selected eight (8) institutional partnership projects for the first Obama-Singh 21st Century Knowledge Initiative awards. The announcement was jointly made by Shri Kapil Sibal, Union Minister for Human Resource Development and Ms Hillary Clinton, US Secretary of State, in Washington, United States yesterday. The initiative aims to strengthen collaboration and build partnerships between American and Indian institutions of higher education.

The projects selected are as follows:

(A) Indian-led partnerships:

1. Mahatma Gandhi University

Project Title: An Interdisciplinary and Community Oriented Approach toward Sustainable Development

Partner Institutions: Brown University, Duke University and Plymouth State University

2. Banaras Hindu University

Project Title: Paradigm Shift in Energy Scenario for the 21st Century toward Renewable Energy Sources required for both India and the U.S.

Partner Institution: University of Pittsburgh

3. Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur

Project Title: International Program for Sustainable Infrastructure Development

Partner Institution: Virginia Tech University

4. Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi

Project Title: Resource Building for Ecosystem and Human Health Risk Assessment with Special reference to Microbial Contamination

Partner Institution: Drexel University

(B) U.S.-led partnerships:

5. Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Project Title: Capitalizing on the Demographic Dividend: Enhancing Talent Development Capacity for India and the U.S. in the 21st Century

Partner Institution: Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai

6. University of Montana

Project Title: Impacts of Climate Change and Changes in Socio-Economic Structure on Traditional Agriculture and the Development of Sustainable Communities among Indigenous Populations

Partner Institution: Bangalore University

7. Cornell University

Project Title: Implementing Reformed Curriculum in Emerging areas of Agriculture and Food Security in Two State Agricultural Universities of India

Partner Institutions: University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad and Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel University of Agriculture and Technology, Meerut

8. University of Michigan

Project Title: The Joint Development of a Master's Degree in Education for Health Professions Faculty in the United States and India

Partner Institution: Maharashtra University of the Health Sciences

Each project will receive an award of approximately \$250,000 that can be utilized over the three year grant period, with the aim of encouraging mutual understanding, educational reform, and economic growth, as well as the development of junior faculty at Indian and American institutions of higher learning.

Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and US President Barack Obama had announced the Obama-Singh Initiative in November 2009 as an affirmation of their commitment to building an enhanced India-U.S. partnership in education. Each government pledged \$5 million for this endeavor, for a total of \$10 million.

To implement this initiative, the Governments of India and the United States established a bi-national Obama-Singh Initiative joint working group (JWG). The JWG provides the final approval for all grants awarded through the Obama-Singh Initiative. The JWG will allocate the \$10 million over the course of a five year period awarding 8 – 10 university partnership grants annually. Grants to universities will be approximately \$250,000 for activities to take place over a maximum of 36 months.

This year, the thematic areas stipulated for proposal consideration included: Agricultural Sciences and Food Security; Energy; Sustainable Development; Climate Change; Environmental Studies; Education and Educational Reform; Public Health; Community Development and Innovation.



504. Media Interaction of US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and External Affairs Minister S.M Krishna after their meeting.

Washington D.C., June 13, 2012.

Secretary Clinton: Good afternoon. It has been a great pleasure to welcome Minister Krishna and his distinguished delegation to Washington. We have had an excellent meeting of the Strategic Dialogue between our two nations covering a wide range of bilateral, regional, and global issues, and I will just touch on a few highlights.

First, I want to put this third Strategic Dialogue into a broader context. India and the United States have a strong foundation of friendship and cooperation. But today we are seeing something new. The strategic fundamentals of our relationship are pushing our two countries' interests into closer convergence.

By strategic fundamentals I mean not just our shared democratic values, but also our economic imperatives and our diplomatic and security priorities. For example, in order to grow and prosper in today's world, both the United States and India need an open, free, fair, and transparent global economic system. We both seek security and stability in South Asia and the Asia Pacific. And we both see the importance of a coordinated international response to violent extremism and other shared global challenges.

What does this mean for our partnership? Well, today there is less need for dramatic breakthroughs that marked earlier phases in our relationship, but more need for steady, focused cooperation aimed at working through our differences and advancing the interests and values we share. This kind of daily, weekly, monthly collaboration may not always be glamorous, but it is strategically significant. And that is, after all, what this dialogue is all about.

On the economic front, we reviewed the progress that we've made together, and acknowledged there is still more room for growth, investment, and business ties. We need to advance negotiations on a bilateral investment treaty, further reduce barriers to trade and investment in our two countries, create more hospitable environments for companies to do business.

And I was pleased that just yesterday, Westinghouse and the Nuclear Power Corporation of India signed an agreement that will speed construction of new power plants in Gujarat and help India meet its energy needs. I look forward to additional deals involving other leading American companies, including General Electric. And we will work together to ensure these projects are implemented to produce real benefits for citizens and businesses alike.

We also covered a number of serious concerns such as counterterrorism, cyber-

security, and sustainable development. We discussed cooperation in Afghanistan and the importance of working together with other partners to help build a peaceful and prosperous South Asia. Both the United States and India have signed strategic partnership agreements with Afghanistan to demonstrate our enduring commitment, and today we agreed to move forward with a formal trilateral consultation among our three nations. I told Minister Krishna how much we appreciate India's efforts in Afghanistan and the region and how much we are looking forward to the investment conference that India will host later this month in New Delhi.

We also discussed the steps that the governments of India and Pakistan are taking to open up avenues for trade, investment, and movement of people. And I applaud the leadership that Prime Minister Singh and Prime Minister Gilani have demonstrated.

We paid particular attention to the future of the Asia Pacific region and our strong support for India's Look East Policy. We will work together through key multilateral institutions such as the East Asia Summit and the ASEAN Regional Forum. And the United States really welcomes India's support for our participation as dialogue partner in the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation.

And finally, we worked through some of the issues that we have fielded in common because of the concerns about Iran's continuing search for a nuclear weapon, and India has made it clear that – Iran, like all countries, must live up to their international obligations and, as I reported to Congress this week, India has taken steps to diversify its sources of imported crude by reducing purchases of Iranian oil. We recognize the important energy needs that India has, and we're working with India, not only to ensure stable oil markets, but to do more to open up other sources of energy for India.

Now, on all these and other key issues, we are working to convert common interests into common actions. And we have to follow through. But I was very encouraged by what we heard today. Things that don't make the headlines but are so critical, such as yesterday's first ever higher education dialogue, making it easier for U.S. and Indian researchers, students, faculty to take advantage of the educational resources and opportunities in both countries. And we announced the first eight grant recipients of the Obama-Singh 21st Century Knowledge Initiative.

Our Science and Technology Joint Commission are working on improving our linkages in science and engineering and data sharing. We have a new agreement signed in the health area to boost research on diabetes. And, for the first time, we agreed to share the U.S.-India Open Government Platform software that promotes transparency and accountability with a third country partner, Rwanda.

The list is very long and the Minister and I will be making a comprehensive report – he to the Prime Minister, I to the President – of everything that's been happening in all of the various aspects of this incredibly important dialogue.

But I want to thank my partner and colleague in this work for his leadership and his attention that has translated this idea into a very important reality for both our countries.

External Affairs Minister : Thank you, Secretary Clinton. It is always a pleasure for me to come back to Washington, D.C. because it is in this city that I have spent a couple of years of my very interesting interaction into American politics. And I had the pleasure of meeting some of great Americans who have led this country subsequently in subsequent years.

And it is always an added pleasure for me, personally, to meet with Secretary Clinton. I always derive so much of comfort and so much of inspiration, if I may say so, Secretary Clinton.

Three years back, we started on this journey of this strategic dialogue. And this is the third year in succession that we are representing our two great countries. And let me convey that we had a very productive strategic dialogue. I want to thank all my ministerial colleagues and senior officials for their participation. Our presence here speaks to the extraordinary depth and diversity of our engagement, which is ever increasing. The relationship between our two countries and our two vibrant democracies, one the oldest and the other one the largest. Secretary Clinton and I expressed confidence about realizing the enormous potentials of our economic ties and addressing the concerns on both sides, which I had outlined at USIBC yesterday.

We welcome the tangible progress on nuclear energy cooperation, as was mentioned by Secretary Clinton with the signing of the MOU between NPCIL and the Westinghouse. I think this should put at rest some of the interpretations and some of the confusion that was prevailing in the immediate aftermath after we signed the nuclear accord. But I'm glad that things are now behind us—nuclear commerce is now beginning to expand itself and we hope more Indian and American companies will be involved in the course of the coming months.

We, Secretary and I, support the growing emphasis on defense technology transfers and co-development and co-production in our expanding defense relationship. I have informed Secretary Clinton of our willingness to receive a team of officials to visit India for the search and recovery of the remains of the MIAs from World War II. Stronger and more effective cooperation in counterterrorism, homeland security, cyber security, and intelligence in recent years is an important aspect of our strategic partnership. India's interest in further access to Headley and Rana in accordance with our legal procedures for the investigations into the Mumbai terror attack of November 2008 was raised.

We recommend the broad portfolio of cooperation in clean energy. I also sought a liberal U.S. regime for gas exports to India, which would be in our mutual economic and energy security interest. We agreed to strengthen the impressive array of our programs in higher education, health, science and technology, innovation, agriculture and women's empowerment. We have made tangible progress in these areas.

As Secretary Clinton has pointed out, our discussions demonstrated yet again our shared interest and convergent views on a range of regional and global issues. We are committed to build Afghan capacity for governance, development, and security, and to unlock its economic potential through regional integration. We again stressed the importance of elimination of safe havens in Pakistan for Afghanistan's security and the region's stability.

We discussed the Gulf region and West Asia, including our concern about the growing violence in Syria. Secretary Clinton updated me on the P-5+1 talks with Iran. I conveyed India's vital interest in settlement of the Iranian nuclear issue through dialogue. There are six million Indians who live in this region, which is also of critical importance to our economy. We shared perspectives on the profound changes taking place in Myanmar, and also I briefed her on Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's recent visit to Myanmar.

Friends, we continue to intensify our dialogue on Asia Pacific and the Indian Ocean region. As also associated regional architecture. We affirmed our mutual interest in maritime security. Secretary Clinton welcomed India's growing engagement in the Asia Pacific. I welcomed the U.S. interest in becoming a dialogue partner with IOR-ARC. I told her that as the current chair, we will take it forward with other IOR-ARC members.

Our meeting today yet again underscored the global dimensions of our relationship and added new momentum to our partnership. Thank you.

Secretary Clinton: Thank you.

MS. NULAND: Let's take two questions a side today. We'll start with CNN, Jill Dougherty.

QUESTION: Thank you. Madam Secretary, you and Minister Lavrov of Russia appear to be calling each other liars. In essence, you are saying that Russia is providing helicopters – in fact, the word was used “en route” today – en route to Syria. Minister Lavrov completely denies that; he says they're providing air defense systems but everything that they are providing does not violate international laws. Then he threw it back at you and said that the U.S. indeed is providing arms and weapons.

So you can't both be right. Who is?

Secretary Clinton: (Laughter.) Well, I was very clear yesterday about our concerns regarding the continuing military relationship between Moscow and the Assad regime. We have repeatedly urged the Russian Government to cut these military ties completely and to suspend all further support and deliveries. Obviously, we know, because they confirm that they continue to deliver. And we believe that the situation is spiraling towards civil war, and it's now time for everyone in the international community, including Russia and all Security Council members, to speak to Assad with a unified voice and insist that the violence stop, and come together with Kofi Annan to plan a political transition going forward.

It is something that we believe is in everyone's interests, most particularly the Syrian people. And Russia says it wants peace and stability restored. It says it has no particular love lost for Assad. And it also claims to have vital interests in the region and relationships that it wants to continue to keep. They put all of that at risk if they do not move more constructively right now.

And I would emphasize that the United States has provided no military support to the Syrian opposition, none. All of our support has been medical and humanitarian to help relieve the suffering of the Syrian people, a total of \$52 million so far. We have also provided nonlethal support to the opposition, including things like communications gear.

So rather than having a long distance debate with my colleague with whom I work on so many issues on a regular basis, I would urge that we follow the lead and request of Kofi Annan and come together to try to implement the pillars of his plan, including a framework for a political transition. And that is what we have been advocating for and that is what I stand ready to do.

MS. NULAND: Next question, Lalit Jha from PTI.

Question: Thank you, Mr. Minister. After three rounds of Strategic Dialogue with the U.S., where is the relationship between the two countries headed towards? A strong relationship between India and the U.S.? What is the signal or message you are sending to the world or the region?

And Madam Secretary, three years ago, you addressed the USIBC, your first speech on India. You have said this is the beginning of India-U.S. 3.0. After your opening remarks today, is it the beginning of India-U.S. 4.0, and what it would look like? And if you – do you agree with recent remarks by Secretary Panetta in New Delhi that India needs to do more in Afghanistan? What is that India needs to do?

Mr. Minister, is – (laughter) —

Participant: A fourth question.

Question: Does – India has a redline in Afghanistan which you say to U.S., “No, we can’t do this?” And finally – (laughter) – India has made a request for giving access to Rana and Headley, the two who were involved in the Mumbai terrorist attack. Is the U.S. ready to give them access again? Thank you.

Secretary Clinton: Do you want to start, Minister? I don’t know where to start. (Laughter.)

External Affairs Minister: Well, where did you start? (Laughter.)

SECRETARY CLINTON: Yeah. I will take a stab at it because it’s one of those multipart questions – let me try.

First of all, as to the Strategic Dialogue, we go from strength to strength. I’m actually quoting the Minister today. Because we believe strongly, and we have evidence to prove it, that our relationship is deepening and broadening. The extraordinary work that has been done between the last Strategic Dialogue and today’s on so many issues, which we will memorialize in our report and certainly make public, demonstrates the depth of cooperation between our two countries. And it’s not only government to government; we’re bringing in civil society, we’re bringing in academia, we’re bringing in the private sector. So I, for one, believe that we may be surpassing 3.0. We may be onto something that is quite unique and very important, and I appreciate your asking.

Secondly, on Afghanistan, I was briefed on the work that India is doing with Afghanistan. We very much appreciate India’s commitment to help build a better future for the Afghan people, helping them with more than \$2 billion for development, supporting the New Silk Road Initiative, hosting the investment conference at the end of the month, providing security training and support. I am very pleased that Afghanistan is getting this kind of encouragement and tangible support because it’s in everyone’s interests that Afghanistan be as secure and stable as possible.

With respect to information sharing, it is our policy and practice to share information, and we do that. But I’m not going to go into details because we think that our cooperation on intelligence sharing, on homeland security issues, on counterterrorism, has gotten to a new level. It is very important to both of our countries. But it’s also important that we support the work that is done by our professionals and our experts in protecting both of our countries, and I think we are satisfied that that is occurring.

External Affairs Minister: Well, the Strategic Dialogue that has taken place with the United States in the last three years has been extremely beneficial to India. The tangible outcomes of the broad-based discussions we had and a vast

array of issues are listed in the joint statement that has been issued. If I am to list some of the most important areas where we have moved ahead at the third Strategic Dialogue, I would unhesitatingly single out higher education, science and technology, innovation, women's empowerment, and clean energy.

I was very impressed with the way the Dialogue on Higher Education, which represented not only government but a vice chancellor was there and the academia – representatives from the academia were also there. I think this is an important moment in the most positive direction that not only the two governments are involved in the Strategic Dialogue but the civil society. As was put by Secretary Clinton, the civil society is also involved, the academia is also involved, the people are also involved.

So hence, I think this Strategic Dialogue derives its basic strength from this, and we will certainly continue to take this forward. There have been some useful outcomes, as were mentioned about by Secretary Clinton the agreement between Westinghouse and the NPCIL, and the shared interest and convergent views on a range of regional and global issues that were evident in our talks today. I may add– it provided new momentum for our global strategic partnership.

But with reference to Afghanistan, well, India's role has always been a very constructive approach. Afghanistan falls in the larger neighborhood of India. And we have civilizational, historical, and trade connections and cultural ties with that country and with the people of Afghanistan. And President Karzai, when he came last October to Delhi, we signed a strategic partnership with Afghanistan. And the whole purpose behind that is to convey to the people of Afghanistan that the Afghan problem has to be solved under Afghan leadership.

Yes, they need external support to the extent that is possible. And that external support will not be available to Afghanistan indefinitely. And that is the reason why we have impressed upon Afghanistan and other countries who are well-meaning friends of Afghanistan that we need to equip Afghanistan with a security force which is – which consists of Afghans, – trained by others but basically Afghan-led and Afghan manned And so I think we will continue to do that. And then I am sure that Afghanistan will be able to find a solution within the four corners of their constitution, and we wish them well.

MS. NULAND: Next question, CBS, Cami McCormick.

Question: Thank you. Madam Secretary, if we could go back to Syria for just a second, I'm wondering how bad have relations between the U.S. and Russia gotten over this. There are some might – who might argue that it's almost become as much about the U.S. and Russia poking each other than it is about the real issue here. And how has that taken away, in your opinion, from what the real goal is? And you always say diplomacy is key in this area.

And secondly, if Syria is spiraling towards civil war, what does that say about the UN observer mission there? Are you concerned about their safety? Would they remain in there in the same capacity if and when you are ready to say it is a full-blown civil war?

Secretary Clinton: Well, look, I think that everyone knows we have a very comprehensive relationship with Russia. We have worked well together on a range of important issues in the last three and a half years. The so-called reset that President Obama and President Medvedev led at the beginning of this Administration has been quite constructive and positive for certainly the United States and Russia and the larger world.

We disagree on Syria. Now, it's not the only issue we disagree on, but it is one where people are being killed every single day, where violence is escalating, where the government has engaged in these brutal assaults against unarmed civilians, including children. We disagree.

And we were encouraged when Russia, along with the other members of the Security Council, supported Kofi Annan's plan. And we have been working very hard with many nations to translate that plan into tangible steps that can be taken. And it's clear that the voices of the entire international community need to be clear in the message to Assad, that it is time for him to participate in saving his own country from a downward spiral into even greater violence. And as part of Special Envoy Kofi Annan's plan, that includes a political transition.

So we've had numerous discussions, and we are remaining hopeful that Kofi will be able to bring a relevant group of nations and multinational organizations together to find a way forward. So we will state our position very clearly and support Kofi Annan.

And we do so in part because we are worried about the UN mission. We think that the events of the last week, where UN observers have been put at risk, even in positions where they were attacked either intentionally or unintentionally in the midst of the conflict, are worrisome. And I've talked about this last week with Kofi. He does not want to put these brave men and women who are trying to help protect civilians into situations that are absolutely untenable and dangerous to them.

So all of these concerns have to be addressed, and I think it's time for the international community, including Russia, to come to the table and be constructive in trying to find a way forward.

MS. NULAND: Last question, Narayan Lakshman from the The Hindu.

Question: Thank you. And I have only one question for each of you. (Laughter.)

My first, Mr. Minister, my question is on the economic linkages between India and the U.S., a key pillar of the Strategic Dialogue, where there appears to be pressure on India to open up access to some of its markets more rapidly and also some disappointments with India's decisions in the nuclear sector, at least until recently, and defense sectors. How would you explain India's views on these matters? And on the flipside, did you query the U.S. side on concerns that India may have regarding U.S. policies that affect its economic interests?

And Madam Secretary, to you —

Secretary Clinton: One each. (Laughter.)

Question: Yeah, just one each. (Laughter.)

When you and Minister Krishna stood at the same podiums in 2010, you described the relationship as an affair of the heart. And since then, however, there have been various ups and downs. And for example, again until recently, slow progress on civ-nuke and India's concerns maybe about protectionism and the Iran question. So given the strong stand that both these countries have on issues of mutual interest. Do you see any changes that you might propose to the model, so to speak, that the U.S. has for this relationship?

Secretary Clinton: Well, with respect to affairs of the heart, they usually have ups and downs. (Laughter.) But that does not make them any less heartfelt — (laughter) — or any less of a commitment. And so I feel as strongly today as I did two years ago. And I think that it's always a temptation to zero in on what the differences are. That is understandable and it certainly is to be expected by the press. That's part of your job. But whether it's one country or another or, in particular, India, I always look at the totality of the relationship. And I would be never in a position to say we don't have differences. How could two great nations with our histories and our political systems — these raucous, incredibly pluralistic democracies — not have differences? That would be quite odd if that were the case.

But there is no doubt that our values and our interests are converging, that we have a view of this relationship that is in keeping with the perspectives and histories that bring us together in the 21st century where we are finding so much more common ground that we are working on together.

So I'm very positive about our relationship, and we will continue to work through the differences as they arise.

External Affairs Minister: Well, I am conscious of the fact that there is a degree of skepticism regarding the prevailing sentiment of business and economic content of our relationship. I have listed some of our pressing concerns in my

speech yesterday. I have also been sensitized to the concerns articulated by U.S. business. In times of vulnerability and uncertainty for the global economy, expression of such views are not unusual. However, as I said yesterday, the Indian economy will restore investors' confidence and regain the growth momentum.

I have great confidence in the future of our economic partnership. Our ties of trade, investment, and innovation are growing in both directions. Our defense and high-technology trade is ever expanding. Indian plans to invest more than a trillion dollars on infrastructure development in the coming five years will provide enormous business opportunities which the U.S. companies can consider exploiting. Openness and growth in the U.S. economy will also support stronger economic ties. And we have assured everyone who would be interested in making investments in India that there is going to be a level playing field and there will be total transparency.

And with these two parameters being ensured, I am sure that a number of companies from outside India would be willing to participate in this great developmental journey that India is setting on. And I am sure that the United States and India strategic relationship is going to be helpful in this journey.

Question: Madam Secretary —

Secretary Clinton: Thank you all. Thank you.



505. Response of the Official Spokesperson to a question on the incident involving US Naval Vessel off the coast of UAE.

New Delhi, July 17, 2012.

“The U.S. Government has officially confirmed that a U.S. Navy vessel fired shots at a fishing vessel near the port of Jebel Ali, Dubai at about 3.00 PM UAE local time on 16 July 2012. According to UAE officials, one Indian fisherman was killed in the firing incident and three other Indians were injured. We are deeply saddened by the loss of life of the Indian fisherman and the injuries sustained by the others. Our thoughts are with their families.

Our Embassy in Washington D.C. has been in touch with the United States Government since midnight IST yesterday. Our Embassy in Abu Dhabi is working with local authorities to carry out full investigation into the circumstances leading to this unfortunate and tragic incident. The Acting Consul General is in Jebel Ali to provide all necessary assistance.

The U.S. Ambassador to India Nancy Powell telephoned Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai this morning to convey her regret for the loss of life and assured that the U.S. Government would conduct full investigation.

We will stay in regular touch with U.S and UAE authorities to ascertain full facts and take appropriate further action in the matter”.



According to media report Mr. Dahi Khalfan Tamin, the Dubai's senior police officer told the UAE daily *the National* that “the primary investigation confirms that the boat was in its right course and did not pose any danger. The shooting was clearly a mistake.” However the U.S. Navy said that it was forced to open fire as a last resort, after the fishing boat failed to heed an entire protocol of warnings. The Indian embassy in Abu Dhabi was working with local authorities to carry out a full investigation into the incident. The Indian Ambassador to UAE said: “We have made the request and the UAE authorities have already begun the investigation on their own.” Contrary to the U.S. position that the event occurred 30 miles (48 km) south-west of Dubai as reported in *The New York Times*, the UAE authorities maintained that the fishing boat was shot “near the mouth of the Jebel Ali Port in the Emirate of Dubai.”

In the meantime the U.S. government has officially confirmed that shots fired from its Navy vessel had killed the Indian and injured three more off a Dubai port. The U.S. Ambassador to India Nancy Powell telephoned Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai on July 19 to convey her regret for the loss of life and assured him that the U.S. government would conduct a full investigation. India was handed an unconditional apology for the July 16 killing of Tamil Nadu fisherman by a U.S. Navy ship when U.S. Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Wendy Sherman met with Indian Ambassador Nirupama Rao in Washington on July 20th. At their meeting, Ms. Sherman was quick to “convey her personal condolences and deep regrets for those Indian nationals killed and injured off the coast of UAE by a U.S. Navy ship on 16 July,” according to an official statement by the Indian Embassy in Washington.

506. Response of Official Spokesperson to a question regarding attack on U.S. Consulate in Benghazi (Libya).

New Delhi, September 12, 2012.

In response to a media query on the attack on U.S. Consulate in Benghazi the Official Spokesperson said:

“We are deeply shocked at the attack on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi. India strongly condemns the violent acts which unfortunately resulted in the death of the US Ambassador to Libya and other officials. Foreign Secretary Shri Ranjan Mathai has spoken to the US Ambassador in Delhi and conveyed our condolences at the tragic loss of life.”



The spokesman was referring to the attack on the American Consulate in Benghazi, where a violent mob protesting against a film made in the United States, alleged to be derogatory to Prophet Muhammad, killed the American Ambassador and three other diplomats.

507. Congratulatory message of President to the US President Barack Obama on his re-election as President of the United States.

New Delhi, November 7, 2012.

Your Excellency, President Barack Obama,

It is with great pleasure that I extend to you my hearty congratulation on your re-election as the President of the United States of America.

The mandate for a second term has been given to you by the people of the United States of America in the highest democratic traditions of your country.

India and United states share a bilateral partnership which has deepened and intensified in diverse and critical areas of co-operation during your first term in office. Ours is a relationship based on shared democratic values of individual liberty, pluralism and respect for the rule of law. We have built a strategic partnership in areas of shared interest, including matters relating to international peace and security, technological co-operation and in strengthening institutions of global governance. We look forward to the further progress of our co-operation in all these areas during your second term.

I take this opportunity to convey to Mrs. Michelle Obama, your daughters and to you, personally, my best wishes for your continued good health and success in the years ahead.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurances of my highest consideration.



508. Congratulatory Message of Prime Minister to President Obama on his re-election as President of the United States.

New Delhi, November 7, 2012.

“It gives me great pleasure to convey to you my warmest congratulations on your re-election as the president of the United States. The renewed confidence that the people of your great country have reposed in you is as much a tribute to your qualities of head and heart as it is an indication of the faith that the American people have in your leadership. Your mandate gives you a historic opportunity to continue to work for the welfare of the American people as also for global peace and progress at an admittedly difficult juncture, not just for the U.S., but indeed for the world at large.

Over the last four years, consistent with our vision of a global strategic partnership between India and the United States, the ties between our two democracies have seen sustained growth. We have not only advanced cooperation across the full spectrum of our bilateral relationship, but also deepened our engagement in the pursuit of global peace, stability and prosperity.

I have personally valued our friendship and I look forward to continuing our rewarding association in order to build further on the enduring foundations of our shared values and the accomplishments of the past four years. I have no doubt that there is much more we can do together to further strengthen the India-U.S. partnership and thereby advance peace and stability, expand mutual economic opportunities, harness the potential of science and technology, innovation and higher education and empower our people to address global challenges.

My wife joins me in wishing you and Mrs. Obama, as well as Malia and Sasha, good health, success and happiness as you prepare for a new term in office.”



509. Congratulatory Message of the Government of India on the U.S. Presidential Election.

New Delhi, November 07, 2012.

1. Results of the election for the next President of the United States show that President Barack Obama has been re-elected for a second term of four years.
2. The Government and people of India send their congratulations to President Obama on his winning a second mandate from the people of the U.S.A. who have expressed their will in the great tradition of democracy in their country. President Shri Pranab Mukherjee and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh are separately sending messages of congratulations to President Obama upon his re-election.
3. India and the U.S. have developed extensive bilateral cooperation and partnership based on shared values based on belief in democracy, the rule of law and pluralism. We look forward to continuing to deepen and widen the engagement between India and the U.S. in the years ahead.



510. Response of the Official Spokesperson on Statement of Interest filed by U.S. State Department on Immunity for Pakistan's ISI in District Court of New York.

New Delhi, December 19, 2012.

In response to a media query on the Statement of Interest filed by the U.S. State Department on immunity for the ISI and two former DGs of ISI in the Eastern District Court of New York, in the civil case of wrongful death filed by U.S. family members of victims of the Mumbai Terror Attacks, the Official Spokesperson stated:

“We have noted that the US Department of State has taken the position in a US Court that the Pakistani ISI be accorded immunity from the civil suit on the Mumbai terrorist attack of November 26, 2008.

For India, it remains of vital importance that justice is done and that those who organized and perpetrated this horrible crime be brought to justice, irrespective of the jurisdiction under which they may reside or be operating. It cannot be that any organization, State or non-State, that sponsors terrorism enjoys immunity.

Our position has been made known to the United States consistently .

India is not a party to the civil suit filed in the Eastern District Court of New York. The details of what was conveyed to the Court by a sovereign Government are a matter for that Government to explain.

From our perspective, this decision is a matter of deep and abiding concern. The leadership of the U.S. has publicly stated its commitment to counter terrorism, to dismantle terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and to bring those responsible for the Mumbai terror attacks to justice. In this context the decision of the U.S. authorities in this case is a cause of serious disappointment.”



INDIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS - 2012

SECTION - IX

EUROPE

AUSTRIA

511. Press Release of the Planning Commission on the signing of an Agreement on Technology Cooperation in the Shipping and Port Infrastructure Sectors with Austria.

New Delhi, October 3, 2012.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Technology Cooperation in the Shipping and Ports Infrastructure was signed today between India and Austria. The MoU was signed by Shri G. K. Vasani, Minister of Shipping with Mrs. Doris Bures, Austrian Federal Minister for Transport, Innovation & Technology in New Delhi.

While welcoming the Austrian Minister, Shri Vasani recalled that traditionally, India – Austria relations have been warm and friendly. There has been regular exchange of high level visits between the two countries during which the special emphasis is put on strengthening economic and commercial cooperation and scientific cooperation.

Austria derives its importance by virtue of its active role in international organizations. With its central location in the heart of Europe and historical linkages and legacy with the countries of the region, Austria is also well placed to serve as a gateway to emerging market economies in Central & East Europe. Cutting edge technology is Austria's forte in several niche areas of interest to us, particularly in infrastructure.

Shipping continues to dominate as the world's most efficient means of transportation and it is the endeavour of the Ministry of Shipping to take necessary initiatives to recognize, reward and promote quality whenever and wherever it is found within the industry.

New technologies for implementation of International Ship & Port Security code, use of radio frequency identification in logistics and transport planning and optical character recognition in terminals to speed up the processing of containers in and out are the areas where Austrian expertise could be utilized in India.

Realtime Kinematics (RTK) measurements of tides and currents for facilitations of berth to berth navigation in Gulf of Kutch and Gulf of Khambhat could be developed with Austrian expertise.

Since more than 300km of Danube river in Austria is used for navigation purpose with a well-developed and regulated inland waterway system their experience and expertise in the field of Inland Water Transport would be beneficial to the development of Inland Water Transport in India.

The Minister also hoped that signing of the MoU will pave way for sharing appropriate know-how, scientific knowledge and research and development capabilities between the two countries. It will enable the Indian organizations in the Ports and Shipping Sectors to acquire latest knowledge and technology etc. from Austria.



BELGIUM

512. Press Release on the Visit of Deputy Prime Minister of Belgium.

New Delhi, August 7, 2012.

The Belgian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and European Affairs Mr. Didier Reynders is visiting India from August 1-5 and 8-12, 2012.

Apart from New Delhi, Mr. Reynders is visiting Agra, Udaipur and Jaipur.

Mr. Reynders will discuss bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest with Shri S.M. Krishna, Hon'ble Minister for External Affairs on 8 August 2012 in New Delhi.

Mr. Reynders has had meeting with Shri Anand Sharma, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce, Industry and Textiles, Shri Mukul Roy, Hon'ble Minister of Railways and Dr. Karan Singh, President, Indian Council of Cultural Relations. In Rajasthan, Mr. Reynders will meet Ms. Margaret Alva, Hon'ble Governor of Rajasthan.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Ministry of Railways, Government of India and the Ministry of Mobility of Kingdom of Belgium on 2 August 2012.

India and Belgium enjoy warm and friendly relations. High level visits between the two sides have provided the much needed impetus to bilateral relations, particularly to economic interaction. The economic content of the relationship between India and Belgium continues to grow. In 2011, bilateral trade reached • 13.2 billion making Belgium the second largest trade partner for India in the goods sector within the EU.

Next year (2013) will be a significant year for India-Belgium relations as it coincides with Europalia - India festival to be held in Belgium, for which India has agreed to be the partner country. A number of cultural activities are being planned for this event.



513. Opening remarks by External Affairs Minister at the Joint Media Interaction with the visiting Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Belgium.

New Delhi, August 8, 2012.

Your Excellency Mr. Didier Reynders Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and European Affairs of Belgium,

Friends from Media,

I am indeed delighted to welcome His Excellency Mr. Reynders Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and European Affairs of Belgium, who is on a visit to India.

Deputy Prime Minister Reynders and I have just held useful discussions on the entire gamut of our bilateral relations, and also touched on our cooperation in further strengthening the strategic partnership with the European Union. Discussions were held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere, which characterizes the warmth of our bilateral relations.

India and Belgium share a relationship that has stood the test of time. As two vibrant democracies, we share many common values and have a similarity of world view. Both countries are committed to the rule of law, freedom of the press, protection of human rights, and independence of judiciary. These common values provide a good foundation on which our strong bilateral relations rest.

Today, we also reviewed our political relations and agreed to maintain the momentum of high level visits, both in the bilateral as well as in the European Union context.

We have noted that, despite global economic slowdown, there is substantial increase in our bilateral trade, which has now crossed the 13 billion Euro mark in 2011. Belgium has now emerged as the second largest trading partner in goods sector within the European Union. I have mentioned the need to diversify the trade basket to make our commercial cooperation more sustainable and reflective of strengths of our two countries. In addition, our interest to collaborate in newer areas, particularly in infrastructure and energy sector, including port development, renewal energy, both solar and wind power, has also been conveyed.

The visit of His Excellency Mr. Didier Reynders provided the opportunity to sign a Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in the railway sector.

Several Indian companies have made substantial investments in Belgium especially in the IT and software sector. Belgium has the potential to emerge as a hub for their European operations. There is also enhanced interest in Belgium in the many new opportunities that are available in India.

There has been increasing interest in Belgium in different aspects of Indian culture. India will look forward to its participation as the partner country in Europalia-2013. This would be the largest Indian festival in another country in recent times.

My discussions with His Excellency also covered regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest.

Thank you.



BELARUS

514. Press Release on the visit of Prime Minister of Belarus Dr. Mikhail Myasnikovich.

New Delhi, November 15, 2012.

His Excellency Dr. Mikhail Myasnikovich, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Belarus, paid a working visit to India on 13-14 November 2012.

1. The Prime Minister of Belarus was the guest of honour at the inauguration ceremony of the 32nd India International Trade Fair 2012 in New Delhi. During the inauguration, the visiting dignitary had a wide-ranging discussion with Shri Pranab Mukherjee, President of India. The President warmly recalled his interaction, as the External Affairs Minister of India, with President Lukashenko, during the latter's state visit to India in 2007. Prime Minister Myasnikovich, accompanied by the Minister of Commerce and Industry of India, Shri Anand Sharma, inaugurated the special pavilion of the Republic of Belarus at the India International Trade Fair. Belarus has been designated India's partner country at the Trade Fair this year and more than 60 Belarusian companies and organisations are participating in the Fair, showcasing their scientific and technological prowess.
2. Prime Minister Myasnikovich met with Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India, and held detailed talks focussed on raising bilateral cooperation to a qualitatively higher level. Both leaders agreed to give a strong fillip to bilateral relations, particularly in the areas of fertilisers, pharmaceuticals and science & technology. Shri. Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Jaipal Reddy, Minister of Science & Technology, Shri. Pratik Patil, Minister of State for Coal and Shri Sudhir Mittal, Secretary, Department of Fertilisers also called on the visiting dignitary.
3. A Joint India-Belarus Business Forum was organised on the occasion by India's apex chambers of commerce and industry, CII, FICCI and ASSOCHAM. The business forum was addressed by the Belarusian Prime Minister and the Indian Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Ms. Daggubati Purandeswari. Three business level contracts were also concluded.
4. Bilateral documents in the fields of energy, fertilisers, pharmaceuticals, education, media and information technology were signed in the presence of the Prime Minister of Belarus.
5. India and Belarus reviewed the progress in bilateral cooperation and agreed to intensify dialogue and cooperation in the trade, economic and industrial spheres and focus on the areas of fertilisers, pharmaceuticals, science and technology, information technology, education, culture and sports. Both sides agreed to

expeditiously resolve outstanding issues of bilateral trade and promote two-way investment flows and the setting up of joint ventures. Both sides also exchanged views on a number of regional and international issues of mutual concern and agreed to continue their close cooperation at international and multilateral fora.

The visiting dignitary invited the President and the Prime Minister of India to visit the Republic of Belarus at their convenience.



GERMANY

515. Press Release of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on India – German Trade.

New Delhi, May 9, 2012.

The Union Minister of Commerce Industry and Textile Shri Sharma informed that the bilateral trade between India and Germany has more than doubled over the last 5 years to reach nearly US\$ 23.64 billion last year. After a bilateral meeting with Dr. Philipp Roessler, German Federal Minister of Economics & Technology of Germany in Berlin today, Shri Sharma expressed confidence that the trade target of Euro 20 Billion by 2012 will be surpassed. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in his opening statement at Joint Press Interaction in Berlin in December 2010 said “German excellence in the manufacturing and infrastructure sectors is well known. We welcome the steady growth of German investments in India. Despite the economic downturn, we are hopeful that the target of achieving bilateral trade of 20 billion Euros by 2012 will be achieved” Shri Sharma said today “Our leaders had set for a target of Euro 20 Billion by 2012 and, I am confident that we will surpass their expectations.” India asked for better collaboration between India and Germany in the field of generics. After the meeting Shri Sharma said “generics constitutes just about one-fifth of German pharmaceutical industry, but the recent moves of German Government to promote the use of generics affords enormous opportunities of collaboration with Indian Pharma companies, which have acquired global repute in developing affordable generic medicines.” Both Ministers reviewed the economic and commercial relations between India and Germany. They discussed issues relating to bilateral trade and investments and suggested ways of expanding these linkages. Following the bilateral meeting, Minister Shri Anand Sharma and Minister Dr. Philipp Roessler joined the meeting of German and Indian CEOs. The Minister congratulated the German Minister on the successful organization of the ongoing German Year in India. The year of Germany in India, titled ‘Germany and India: Infinite Opportunities 2011-2012’ was launched in September 2011, will end in November 2012. The two Minister will be inaugurating ‘Days of India’ in Germany at the Hamburg Port Festival on May 11, 2012. The Days will begin in May 2012 and will end in March 2013. “This is indeed a splendid way of commemorating the 60th Anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Germany” said Shri Sharma. Speaking on the areas of collaborations, Shri Sharma pointed out “Small and medium enterprises which form the backbone of Indian industry, employing 26 million people, contributing to 45% of our manufacturing output and 40% of total exports would benefit

immensely through a technology collaboration with Germany.” Speaking on mutual investments Shri Sharma said that there are more than 1600 Indo-German collaborations and over 600 Indo-German joint ventures in operation. BMW has emerged as one of the largest selling luxury cars in India. Indian corporate leaders have been equally enthusiastic about investing in Germany, given the welcoming investment climate and the natural synergy which exists between the two countries. “Indian corporate entities invested over US\$ 6 Billion in Germany. Indian industry majors such as Tata Motors, Bharat Forge, Suzlon and the Mahindras group, Wipro, Infosys have all established their base in Germany. There are 215 Indian companies active in Germany employing over 24,000 people” added Shri Sharma.



516. Joint Press Interaction of External Affairs Minister and German Foreign Minister.

Bengaluru, June 22, 2012.

Deputy Secretary (XP) (Shri Bishwadip Dey): Ladies and gentlemen from the media, I welcome you to today's media event. To begin with, the Hon. Ministers would make brief opening statements following which both Ministers have kindly agreed to take a few questions.

May I now request Shri S.M. Krishna, Hon. External Affairs Minister of India to make his opening remarks.

External Affairs Minister (Shri S.M. Krishna): Your Excellency Dr. Westerwelle, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany, members of the media, it's a privilege to have you, Foreign Minister, in our midst today.

Foreign Minister Westerwelle and I had very cordial and extensive discussions on various issues pertaining to our bilateral relations as well as the G20 process, the global financial crisis, reform of the global institutions including United Nations Security Council, the global threat of terrorism, and other issues of mutual interest.

India and Germany share traditionally warm relations based on strong foundations of mutual trust, cultural links and respect for democratic ideals. There has always been admiration and appreciation in India for German technology and creativity. Similarly, Indian culture and philosophy have been of interest to German thinkers and philosophers.

In addition to the traditional areas of cooperation like trade and economics, new areas of thrust are education, innovation and research in cutting-edge sectors. They have emerged as important areas of our bilateral relationship.

Indo-German bilateral relations encompass the entire gamut of political, strategic, economic, scientific and technological, cultural, higher and vocational educational, and civil society interaction. My discussion today with His Excellency provided an opportunity to discuss our bilateral relationship extensively.

Despite the ongoing global crisis, our bilateral trade with Germany has been growing steadily over the last few years, and has crossed 18 billion Euros in 2011. Going by this trend, we are optimistic about achieving the target of 20 billion Euros for the remaining part of the year. This has been set out by our leaders.

Friends, we are currently celebrating the successful completion of 60 years of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Germany. This positive milestone has provided us yet another opportunity to showcase our economic, scientific and cultural ties through yearlong festivals in both our countries. A

variety of cultural, economic and commercial events are being undertaken as the Year of Germany in India and the Days of India in Germany. I hope that these celebrations will serve as yet another catalyst in the intensive ongoing interaction between India and Germany and in promoting people-to-people contacts between our two friendly nations.

When the idea of the distinguished Foreign Minister of Germany coming to India, the venue as to where we meet certainly came up. I knew that Excellency Westerwelle was traveling to Bangalore after Delhi because he was due to inaugurate the Consulate office in Bangalore. Then I thought it would be desirable that the venue gets shifted to Bangalore itself for this bilateral meeting.

Excellency Foreign Minister Westerwelle, this happens to be my hometown. This is a city about which, in spite of the traffic jams, I take great pride for the tremendous contribution that they have made particularly in information technology and human resource development.

On a personal note, I have known you for three years now and I have had interactions with you on various multilateral forums. And it is a great pleasure to welcome you to my home city of Bangalore. I hope you and your delegation will have a very comfortable stay.

Thank you.

Foreign Minister of Germany (Dr. Guido Westerwelle): Thank you so much Your Excellency Minister Krishna and ladies and gentlemen Excellencies:

First of all I would like to express my personal gratitude for this great gesture inviting me to your home city Bangalore, and I would like to say this not only for diplomatic reasons. We arrived last night and I would like to say how impressed we are about the hospitality which we received here in Bangalore. Thank you so much. It is a great personal gesture and we are honoured and we are delighted that you invited us to Bangalore.

I would like to ask the media and the journalists to deliver our personal gratitude, the gratitude of our delegation for the hospitality. People of Bangalore are overwhelmingly friendly and we are really glad that we are happy to be here. Thank you so much.

And I would like to say that Bangalore is one of the cities which is very well-known worldwide and especially in Germany because Bangalore and the whole region showed a breathtaking success story in the last years and this has a lot to do with the leadership, the political leadership and of course the discipline and the precious work of the people of Bangalore. Therefore, Minister Krishna, dear friend, it is a great honour to be here. Thank you so much for the invitation. It is really our pleasure that you could receive us in your beautiful home city.

Our two nations are linked by a strategic partnership based on common values. The ongoing German Year in India shows the quality of our relations. Government consultations in spring 2013 will offer another opportunity to intensify our cooperation.

I would like to ask the journalists for your understanding that I repeat a few sentences in my native language because we have in our delegation also some German colleagues, some German journalists. ... (*German language*)...

We had substantial and productive talks on a number of issues such as the reform of the United Nations. India and Germany, both countries share the same goal. We think we have to restructure the architecture of the United Nations and we think that the United Nations like we see them now, especially the Security Council, they reflect, they mirror the situation and the world's architecture like it has been. But now time has changed. The situation has changed. We think the situation in the world, the architecture of the world, what we have now, should be represented in the Security Council also with the permanent membership.

We discussed of course other issues. On Afghanistan I assured His Excellency Minister Krishna that our commitment to Afghanistan will not stop in the end of 2014 after withdrawal of international combat troops. In the interest of long-term stability in Afghanistan and in the region, we will continue to support Afghanistan with civil assistance and by training. In this context we appreciate very much that India will soon host a private sector conference to encourage more private investments in Afghanistan. We share this philosophy, we share this policy because we know security and development are two sides of the same coin.

I sharply condemn the hostage-taking at the hotel in Kabul. I deeply regret the loss of innocent lives. The terror will not stop us to work for a better future of Afghanistan. ... (*German language*)...

Of course we also discussed other global issues. Development in Syria concerns all of us. And of course we agree that it is necessary to support the efforts of Kofi Annan to find a political solution to the conflict.

We also discussed the situation in Iran and with Iran. We agree that Iran has of course the right to use nuclear energy for civil reasons. But it also has to fulfill its international obligations concerning the transparency and nature of its nuclear programme.

His Excellency mentioned that we of course also discussed the situation in Europe. Both Head of Governments, Prime Minister Singh and Chancellor Merkel, just met in Los Cabos in Mexico on the occasion of the G20 meeting. I would like to repeat what I just said to His Excellency Minister Krishna. For us there is

no doubt that we have to work hard for the future of Europe and for the stability of our European currency. But I am optimistic and I am full of confidence that we will manage this debt crisis. It is not a Euro crisis. It is a debt crisis which morphed into a crisis of confidence.

The Euro is a currency. The European economy is stable and successful, especially the German economy is doing excellent. And I would like to say what our philosophy is. Our policy is built on three pillars. All three pillars are part of our strategy to overcome this debt crisis. It is solidity and fiscal discipline because we think you cannot solve a debt crisis by making it easier to take up new debts. Second is solidarity. I think the size of solidarity Germany shows in this debt crisis is respectable and remarkable. And third, we agree that it is necessary to stimulate growth. Growth is one of the key issues, one of the key answers to this debt crisis in our European continent.

Germany is India's most important trading partner in the European Union. In Bangalore alone 150 German companies are active. We want to further deepen our economic relations. An important step would be quick conclusion of a free trade agreement between the European Union and India. We will continue to work on this. ... (*German language*)...

Thank you so much for your attention. Thank you so much once again Minister Krishna for your invitation and for your hospitality. I am very grateful for being here, and it is good to be back in India. Once again, thank you so much.

Deputy Secretary (XP): Hon. Ministers have kindly agreed to take a few questions.

Question (Indian Media): Mr. Krishna, this question is for you. You spoke about the two countries celebrating sixty years of establishment diplomatic relations between the two countries. If you could just give us a brief as to how these celebrations are really panning out, some detail on that?

Foreign Minister of Germany: Shall I say ... (Inaudible)... First of all, the fact that I am here shows you that we really think that this diplomatic tradition is very important for both countries. We have the German Year in India; we have the upcoming Indian Days in Germany. This shows you there is a lot on the agenda to celebrate this anniversary of sixty years of our diplomatic relations.

Please allow me to add one point. We think the diplomatic relations are important. We think good friendship and a good partnership between the Governments are important. But the most important issue in our relationship is the exchange of our people, is especially the exchange of the young generation, is education, is exchange of students, is the whole area of education, science and research. And I could not imagine a better city in India to underline and to underscore this

issue because I think this is our future. Our future is good connection between our societies and the people know each other, and they understand each other, even if they have a totally different cultural background and if they grew up in totally different circumstances. This is from my point of view what we have to increase. And what we are strongly working on is the exchange of the young generation, especially of course of the students.

Question (German Media): I have two questions, one going to Mr. Krishna. Are you satisfied with the European crisis management, or do you expect from Europeans further more?

One question to Mr. Westerwelle. There will be a delay in the German ratification process on the European Rescue Fund. So, the President won't sign the laws ... (*Inaudible*)... due to Constitutional concerns. So, what does that mean? What will be the consequences? And can Germany and can Europe afford its delay?

External Affairs Minister: I think I entirely agree with Foreign Minister Westerwelle when he expounded the strength of the bilateral relationship between our two countries. I think the relationship assumes special significance in the light of what has been happening in Europe in recent months. Europe is of particular concern as it accounts for a significant share of global economy and is also India's major trade and investment partner.

The sovereign debt crisis and the banking crisis now on the horizon has grave implications not only for the European community but for the entire global economy. And what we have heard from Foreign Minister Westerwelle is reassuring in terms of Germany's commitment. Germany which has one of the strongest economic presence in the world, and when they say that they are going to stand by the European community I think that goes a long way in creating the right kind of psychological impact that is needed in overcoming a crisis of this kind.

A crisis in the European banking system can choke trade, finance quite quickly, and end up choking economic growth not just in the Eurozone but in the world at large. I think there is need to substantially expand the resource base of multilateral development banks so that they have the firepower to help developing countries in pursuance of their developmental goals.

Foreign Minister of Germany: If you please allow, I will answer that question in both languages – in English and in my native language. Thank you so much.

It is not up to me to comment on decisions by our Federal President. I can only say that the Government for its part will do what it can so that the Fiscal Compact and the ESM will enter into force as quickly as possible. We know our responsibility for Europe and of course for the economy in the world. This is

also our responsibility not only to our partners like in India, it is our responsibility as one of the leading economic centres in the world for the world.

Deputy Secretary (XP): With that we come to the conclusion of this media interaction. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.



ICELAND**516A. Agreement signed between India and Iceland****New Delhi, November 23, 2012.**

S. No.	Name of the document	Indian Signatory	Iceland Signatory
1.	Agreement on "Arrangements on Gainful Occupation for members of Households of Diplomatic staff"	Sh. Rahul Chhabra, Joint Secretary (Central Europe), Ministry of External Affairs	H.E. Mr. Gudmundur Eiriksson, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary



ITALY**517. Shooting by the Italian Marines on Indian Fishermen on the Kerala coast.****(i) Press Release on the External Affairs Minister's telephone conversation with the Italian Foreign Minister.****New Delhi, February 18, 2012.**

External Affairs Minister Shri S.M. Krishna received a call from the Italian Foreign Minister His Excellency Mr. Giulio Maria Terzi di Sant'Agata at 2000 hrs today. The telephonic conversation related to the incident on February 15, 2012 when two Indian fishermen were shot dead by personnel on board the Italian merchant vessel Enrica Lexie off the coast of Kerala in south-west India. Minister Terzi conveyed his deep regret at the loss of the lives of the two fishermen and expressed his desire that both countries should work together to find a mutually acceptable procedure to establish the facts beyond any doubt and determine responsibilities.

External Affairs Minister conveyed to the Italian Foreign Minister that it was unfortunate that innocent lives had been lost which could have been avoided had the naval personnel on board Enrica Lexie been careful and exercised restraint. He told his Italian counterpart that our information clearly indicated that the Indian fishermen were not carrying any arms or ammunition on board their vessel. Indian fishing vessels do not carry these on board but only fishing nets and the fish they catch. He said that the law should be allowed to take its course.

Minister Shri S M Krishna informed the Italian Foreign Minister of his telephonic conversation with the Chief Minister of Kerala who conveyed the strong public opinion and agitation in the state of Kerala at the loss of the innocent lives and the need for an urgent resolution of this issue.

Minister Shri S.M. Krishna emphasized that the personnel on board Enrica Lexie, particularly the Captain of the ship and the two concerned personnel involved in the shooting, should fully cooperate with the concerned Indian investigating authorities. He hoped that the issue will be satisfactorily resolved.

(ii) Media Statement by External Affairs Minister during the visit of Foreign Minister of Italy**New Delhi, February 28, 2012.**

Your Excellency Foreign Minister Terzi of Italy,

Distinguished Members of the Media,

His Excellency Foreign Minister Terzi and I, along with our delegations, have held very fruitful discussions today. We reviewed our bilateral relations and exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest in a cordial atmosphere.

We met in the backdrop of an unfortunate incident involving death of two Indian fishermen and the subsequent detention of two Italian navy personnel. There is strong public opinion on both sides. Minister Terzi and I agreed that we need to clear the air so that people in both countries are reassured of our will and commitment to strengthen our partnership. We are of the view that our relations are mature and based on strong foundations. This gives us the ability to address challenges together.

India values its relationship with Italy. Italy occupies an important and central position in Europe. There is enormous scope to further consolidate and strengthen our bilateral ties. I had visited Rome last June and had the privilege to participate in the 150th Anniversary celebrations of the unification of your great country.

The Government of Prime Minister Monti has undertaken in a short period of time bold and challenging fiscal and economic measures, which have been applauded both in Europe and internationally. We wish Italy the very best in their efforts.

The economic and trade relations are central to our relationship. We have a vibrant bilateral trade and economic relationship with Italy. Italy is now India's 5th largest trading partner in the European Union. Our bilateral trade grew at the remarkable rate of around 28% to reach 7.21 billion Euros in 2010, and it grew further by 24% during January-October of the last year compared to same period in 2010. There is also enormous opportunity for expansion of Italian investment in India. We would like to see these to grow, to achieve their full potential. Both sides will continue work in this direction.

With the rich cultural heritage that exists in both countries, there is also potential for growth in the tourism sector. We have good cooperation in Defence and S&T sector. As two ancient civilizations with a rich cultural heritage, we would like to see our cultural contacts with Italy expand.

People-to-people relations are the firm foundations on which other aspects of bilateral relations can be consolidated.

Minister Terzi and I acknowledge the contribution of the vibrant Indian community in Italy.

I also thanked Minister Terzi for assuring me of his personal attention to alleviate the difficulties being faced by members of the Sikh community in Italy. We appreciate the measures taken by the Italian government and look to Italy's continued support in resolving this issue.

(iii) Prime Minister's telephonic conversation with Italian Prime Minister.

New Delhi, March 7, 2012.

The Italian Prime Minister Mr. Mario Monti called the Prime Minister today regarding the tragic incident off the coast of Kerala which led to the loss of two precious lives. The Italian Prime Minister condoled the deaths of the two fishermen and expressed regret at the incident. The two leaders reaffirmed the importance of deepening relations between India and Italy and agreed that the issues that had arisen following the incident should be resolved amicably in accordance with law and in the spirit of friendship that characterizes relations between the two countries. The two leaders said that they were looking forward to meeting each other at the forthcoming Nuclear Security Summit in Seoul.



518. Press Release of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry on the proposal to liberalize visa regime between India and Italy. New Delhi, February 28, 2012.

Giving a new impetus to the economic engagement with Italy, the Union Minister of Commerce, Industry and Textiles Shri Anand Sharma has set a deadline for joint working groups to prepare their recommendation for upcoming meeting of India-Italy Joint Economic Commission to be held in June 2012. India and Italy have five working groups on Infrastructure, Manufacturing, Innovation and Science, ICT and Pharmaceuticals. Officials have been asked to explore the possibility of two more working groups on Tourism & hospitality and Agro-processing. In his meeting with the visiting Italian Foreign Minister Mr Guilio Terzi di Sant' Agata here today, both sides also agreed to announce a Joint Business Forum in the upcoming visit of the Indian Minister to Italy.

While apprising the visiting Minister about the recent developments in the Indian economic policy environment, Shri Sharma invited Italian industry to be a partner in the proposed National Manufacturing and Investment Zones. "May be a consortium of Industry from Italy can become a partner in at least one of the NMIZs," said the Minister.

Shri Sharma emphasized that implementation of a liberalized Business Visa regime will lead to even greater levels of cooperation and partnership between the business communities of the two countries. During Shri Sharma's visit to Rome in February 2011 the Italian side had assured full cooperation in realizing a liberalized business visa regime, within Schengen parameters. India is giving Italian citizens multiple entry long duration (one year) business visa. Shri Sharma suggested that apex business chambers should be the nodal agency for certifying the candidates for long duration business visa. Italian Minister assured to streamline the process of visa and informed that already there is a significant rise in number of business visa.

Both sides emphasized the need to strengthen institutional arrangements between the two country. Shri Sharma Informed the Foreign Minister about the tie up between Milan Polytechnic with Institutions in India with regard to collaboration in the field of design. India will participate as Partner Country in Milan Expo 2015.

Later Shri Sharma and the Italian Minister interacted with select Italian business leaders from the fields of Infrastructure, defence, constructions, engineering,

Both sides expressed satisfaction over the growing trade and investment between the two countries as reflected in the 2010-11 figures, where overall trade with Italy touched US\$ 8.81 billion, showing a growth of 21.27% in 2010-11 from the

earlier year. Exports to Italy in 2010-11 registered a growth of 33.85% at US\$ 4.55 billion. Imports from Italy saw a growth of 10.20% at US\$ 4.26 billion in 2010-11 as compared to 2009-10. The overall trade has registered a growth of 20.02% during the period 2011-12 (Apr-Dec). Exports registered a growth of 11.82% valued at US\$ 3.55 billion and imports registered a growth of 28.12% valued at US\$ 4.12 billion over the corresponding period in the last year.

The top sectors of exports which witnessed growth in F.Y. 2010-11 are Transport Equipments, Petroleum, Readymade garments, Electronic Goods, Machinery & equipments, etc. Petroleum products (18149%) and Electronic Goods (303.14%) saw the maximum growth. The top sectors of imports from Italy are Machinery, Machine Tools, Project Goods, Iron & Steel, Electronic Goods etc. In imports machine tools (64.36%) and artificial resins (35.71%), saw the maximum growth.



MONACO

519. Press Release of the Ministry of Finance on India Signing a Tax Information Treaty with Monaco.

New Delhi, August 1, 2012.

Government of India and Government of Principality of Monaco have signed a Tax Information Exchange Agreement (TIEA) yesterday. The agreement was signed by the Minister of State for Finance, Shri S S Palanimanickam from Indian side and Counsellor of Government for Finances and Economy, Mr. Marco Piccinini from Monaco side. This is the ninth TIEA being signed by India.

Salient features of this agreement are-

- It is based on international standard of transparency and exchange of information.
- Information must be foreseeably relevant to the administration and enforcement of the domestic laws of the Contracting Parties concerning taxes and tax matters covered by the agreement.
- The requesting State has to provide some minimum details about the information requested in order to justify the foreseeably relevance criteria.
- Information is to be treated as secret and can be disclosed only to specified person or authorities, which are tax authorities or the authorities concerned with the determination of tax appeal.
- It also provides for disclosure of information to any other person or entity or authority or any other jurisdiction (including foreign Governments) with the written consent of the competent authority of the requested Party.
- There is a specific provision that the requested Party shall provide upon request the information even though that Party may not need such information for its own tax purposes.
- There is a specific provision for providing banking and ownership information.
- There is a specific provision for Tax Examination Abroad where authorities of one State can present in the tax examination of taxpayer in the other State.
- Upon entry into force, the Agreement allows exchange of information forthwith.



Netherlands

520. Press Release of the Ministry of Finance on the signing of a Protocol between India and Netherlands to amend the DTAC.

New Delhi, May 25, 2012.

The Convention between the Kingdom of Netherlands and the Republic of India for the avoidance of double taxation and for the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income and on capital was signed on 30th July, 1988 (DTAC). Both India and Netherlands have concluded a Protocol to amend the Article 26 of the DTAC concerning Exchange of Information to bring it in line with the international standards.

On 10th May, 2012, India and Netherlands have signed the Protocol at The Hague, Netherlands. The protocol was signed by Ms. Bhaswati Mukherjee, Ambassador of India to The Netherlands and Mr. F.H.H.Weekers, state Secretary of Finance, Netherlands. The Protocol will replace the Article concerning Exchange of Information in the existing DTAC between India and Netherlands and will allow exchange of banking information as well as information without domestic interest. It will, now, allow use of information for non-tax purpose if allowed under the domestic laws of both the countries, after the approval of the supplying state.



NORWAY

521. Statement by Minister of State Smt. Preneet Kaur in response to the calling attention motion in Lok Sabha on the subject of the incident of separation of two children from their parents in Norway

New Delhi, March 29, 2012.

Two young Indian children, three year old Abhigyan Bhattacharya and one year old Aishwarya Bhattacharya were taken away from their parents Shri Anurup Bhattacharya and Smt. Sagarika Chakraborty, an NRI couple residing in Stavanger in Norway by the Norwegian Child Welfare Service (CWS) of the Stavanger Municipality and placed in emergency foster care in May 2011.

The ostensible reason given by CWS for this drastic action included "fear of possible violence against the children and lack of adequate parental care". The parents moved the Family Court to get the children back. The initial decision of the Court went in the favour of the parents. The CWS, however, obtained a stay for the deferment of the implementation of the decision of the Family Court. Accordingly, the children continued to stay in foster care. In its judgment delivered on November 28, 2011, the Family Court accepted the recommendations of the CWS that the (i) children be placed in long-term foster care and (ii) parents be given limited visitation rights. The parents filed an appeal before the Stavanger District Court on December 20, 2011.

After the decision of the Family Court, the parents approached the Embassy of India in Oslo to take up the matter with the concerned authorities and the complete details of the case were made available to the Indian Embassy in the third week of December 2011. Around the same time, the Ministry of External Affairs was also apprised of the issue. Since then the matter has been taken up strongly and repeatedly with the Norwegian Government in Oslo and by the Ministry of External Affairs with the Norwegian Ambassador in India. The External Affairs Minister spoke to his Norwegian counterpart on January 23, 2012 and sought the early return of the children to India to enable them to be brought up in familiar surroundings under the loving care of their extended family which was in their best long-term interests. External Affairs Minister also sent a written communication to his Norwegian counterpart immediately thereafter.

In view of the delay on the matter and on learning that the Stavanger Municipality had applied for extension of the Residence Permits of the two children beyond March 8, 2012 without the consent of the parents, the External Affairs Minister took the exceptional step of sending Secretary(West), Ministry of External Affairs as his Special Envoy to Norway from February 26-29, 2012. The Special Envoy

of the Minister carried a letter from External Affairs Minister addressed to the Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs. He also met the Minister of Children, Equality and Social Inclusion and other concerned senior officials. In all these discussions, he conveyed the concern of the Government of India on the continued stay of the children in foster care and urged them to resolve the case expeditiously by taking a humane approach and to send the children back to India so that they could be brought up in their own cultural, linguistic, religious and natural milieu and social environment which was best available in their extended family. It was also conveyed to the Norwegian authorities that this was in the best long-term interest of the children.

The CWS proposed a solution in early February 2012 which, while meeting the Norwegian legal requirements, would result in the children returning to India under the care of their paternal uncle. Accordingly, the uncle, Mr. Arunabhas reached Stavanger on February 3, 2012. The CWS held several meetings with the uncle to "evaluate him". After discussions with the uncle and with the Embassy of India as also the Special Envoy, the CWS announced on February 28, 2012 that the care of the children could be awarded to the uncle, if the Court so agreed. The hearing of the Court was provisionally fixed for March 23, 2012. To prepare their case, the CWS asked for the help of the Indian Embassy in Oslo to obtain information regarding the judicial system and legislative and institutional mechanisms available in India for protecting the best interests of the children. This information was collated and sent to the CWS through the Embassy of India in Oslo on March 13, 2012.

Unfortunately, the Court hearing which would have considered this solution was postponed by the CWS after certain developments "led them to conclude that the parents of the children and their families were not united." This has led to a set back to the entire process of the resolution of the case. We do hope that this is only a temporary delay.

On March 23, 2012, the parents and the paternal uncle signed an Agreement which was notarised by the Embassy of India. This Agreement has been presented to the CWS to enable it to submit it to the Court on the date of hearing.

The matter was discussed in the meeting which Prime Minister had with the Norwegian Prime Minister in Seoul on March 26, 2012.

The Government continues to believe that the long term interest of the children would be served better if they grow up in their own social, religious, cultural and linguistic milieu. The Government of India will continue to engage with the Norwegian authorities on this matter.



ROMANIA

522. Press Release of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry the re-launching of the India – Romania Economic Engagement by the signing of the 17th Joint Economic Committee protocol at Bucharest.

New Delhi, February 2, 2012.

Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Union Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, led the 17th Joint Economic Committee (JEC) at Bucharest in Romania and signed the protocol with his counterpart Minister. During the meeting Minister Scindia urged Indian industry to use the opportunities presenting themselves in Europe for investments and cutting-edge technology ventures. Minister M. Jyotiraditya Scindia stated that, India is confident that it will anchor global economic recoveries in the coming years. Romania is actively looking at diversifying its economy and Indian corporates can play a significant role as enablers in this process. A business delegation with diverse interests like oil and natural gas, power equipment, IT, alternative energy, textiles, pharmaceuticals, supply chain management, tourism, electric buses accompanied the Indian Minister.

In a bilateral meeting with his counterpart Mr. Ion Arton, the Romanian Minister for Economy, Trade and Business Environment Minister Scindia expressed hope to double bilateral trade and economic cooperation in the next three years by 2015. The JEC which met after a hiatus of 8 years resolved to promote investments and JVs in areas of supply of equipment for metallurgy and energy industry, cooperation between Micro small and medium enterprises, Transport and infrastructure field, IT and ITES, cooperation in technical textiles, and Tourism.

Joint working groups in the Hydrocarbon and SME sectors were held on the sidelines of the JEC. In the hydrocarbon sector both sides agreed to encourage cooperation in upstream and downstream hydrocarbon sector including in training, capacity building and research & development, supply of equipment for exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbon and other technical assistance. India offered its expertise in the service sector and expressed interest in Joint exploration with Romanian National Company Petrom. In the SME working group both sides agreed on information sharing, facilitating institutional cooperation; business and trade delegations to explore Joint Ventures, technology transfer and investment opportunities.

Even in the midst of the EU crisis, during the current fiscal 2011-12, bilateral trade between India and Romania has grown by 6%. Shri Scindia urged Romanian companies to continue the trend of supplying competitively priced inputs to

Indian industry and invited them to participate in the 'India Show' in the Brno Engineering Fair in the Czech Republic in October 2012, where over 150 Indian Engineering companies will participate.



RUSSIAN FEDERATION

523. Press Release on the India and Russia Foreign Office Consultations.

New Delhi, February 23, 2012.

Comprehensive Foreign Office Consultations between India and Russia were held in New Delhi on 23 February 2012. Shri Ranjan Mathai, Foreign Secretary and H.E. Mr. Andrei I. Denisov, First Deputy Foreign Minister of Russian Federation led delegations of senior officials for the talks.

2. The two sides reviewed in detail, developments in bilateral relations since the last India-Russia Summit in Moscow in December, 2011. Strategic sectors of cooperation such as nuclear energy, space and defence were discussed, along with other issues of bilateral significance in the economic, consular, protocol and cultural areas. The senior officials also discussed preparations for commemorating 65 years of diplomatic relations between India and Russia, which will be observed on 13 April, 2012.

3. Regional and global issues were reviewed comprehensively during the consultations. Both sides discussed in detail the situation in Afghanistan, the Middle East, Iran and other regions. Shri Mathai and Mr. Denisov also discussed bilateral cooperation in multilateral fora including UN, G-20, SCO, East Asia Summit and BRICS- particularly the next BRICS Summit in New Delhi. They agreed to continue close consultations, including through focused meetings on specific issues and regions.

4. After the consultations, H.E. Mr. Denisov called on Shri S.M. Krishna, the External Affairs Minister.



524. Felicitations from Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Vladimir Putin on his election as President of the Russian Federation.

New Delhi, March 6, 2012.

The Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh has congratulated Prime Minister Vladimir Putin on his victory in the presidential elections in Russia.

The text of the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's congratulatory message is as follows:

"I have the honour to convey my warmest felicitations following Your Excellency's impressive victory in the presidential elections held in Russia on March 4. Your success in these elections is an affirmation by the Russian people of your vision of a strong, prosperous and democratic Russia.

India and Russia have enjoyed the strongest of relations in recent years. We have always recognised Your Excellency as a special friend of India and deeply appreciated the personal commitment and attention that you have brought to nurturing the India-Russia strategic partnership over the last 12 years. It is a matter of great satisfaction that both our countries share a common vision on a range of international issues and that our partnership contributes substantially to international peace and security.

As you prepare to assume your new responsibilities, I look forward to working closely with Your Excellency to strengthen further our strong and close relationship. I also look forward to welcoming Your Excellency in India later this year for the next India-Russia Summit."



525. Press Release on the Seventh Meeting of the India-Russia Joint Working Group on Combating International Terrorism.

New Delhi, April 11, 2012.

The seventh meeting of the India-Russia Joint Working Group (JWG) on Combating International Terrorism was held on April 11 in New Delhi. It was co-chaired by Mr. Asoke Kumar Mukerji, Additional Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs of India, and Ambassador Alexander Zmeevsky, the Special Representative of the President of the Russian Federation on International Cooperation in Combating Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime. The delegations comprised the representatives from relevant Ministries and agencies of both countries. The Head of the Russian delegation called on the Foreign Secretary of India, Shri Ranjan Mathai.

The discussions were held in an atmosphere of trust and mutual understanding. The parties emphasized that their cooperation in countering new challenges and threats is an integral part of the Indian-Russian special and privileged strategic partnership, expressed mutual concern about the continuous threat of cross-border terrorism, and reaffirmed their commitment to consolidate bilateral interaction in the fight against this global scourge.

The parties also underlined the role of international efforts in preventing and suppressing terrorism including the consistent implementation of the UN Global Counterterrorism Strategy and the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council. They noted the importance of the early conclusion of the negotiation process aimed at agreeing within the framework of the UN General Assembly on the draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) that was put forward by India.

The sides noted that India and Russia have a significant capacity for developing their interaction in countering the criminal proceeds laundering and financing terrorism, and establishing a partnership dialogue within the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and modeled on it the Eurasian Group (EAG) on Combating Money-Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism .

The parties expressed their concern about the issue of drug trafficking which undermines peace and stability in the region. They also noted the need to step up their interaction on the basis of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Cooperation in Combating Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and their Precursors signed on November 8, 2007.

The appropriate agencies of India and Russia will continue to actively engage in the dialogue to enhance the exchange of information and experience related to countering new challenges and threats.

The Joint Working Group on Combating International Terrorism will hold its eighth meeting in Moscow in 2013.



526. Speech by External Affairs Minister at the Closing session of the Conference on the occasion of the 65th Anniversary of India-Russia Diplomatic Relations.

Moscow, April 13, 2012.

Your Excellency Margulov, Deputy Foreign Minister

Your Excellency Kiselev, Director General of Russian Post

Ambassador Ajai Malhotra

Distinguished Rector Bazhanov

Distinguished members of the Academia,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me immense pleasure to be here today to participate in this Conference being held to commemorate the 65th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic ties between India and Russia. Today, India and Russia share a 'special and privileged' Strategic Partnership that has provided sustained and visible benefits to both our countries.

I belong to a generation of Indians who can vividly recollect the special role the former Soviet Union (and subsequently the Russian Federation) played in India's quest for security and economic development. In hindsight, I feel that it was almost pre-ordained that our partnership would become special and privileged one day. After all we formally established our diplomatic ties almost four months before India actually gained its independence.

In the period soon after independence, the remarkable expansion in our bilateral economic ties helped lay the foundations of India's present industrial structure. The expansion in military technical cooperation in the late 1960s, and the signing of the Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation in August 1971, were important milestones in building India's security environment.

The Declaration on Strategic Partnership between India and Russia, signed in October 2000, recognized the realities of the new century. It imparted a qualitatively new character and long term perspective to the multifaceted bilateral cooperation that we have gradually nurtured in the political, economic, trade, scientific and cultural fields.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, both our countries recognize that we have a special responsibility to help shape the emerging global order, into one that is truly multi-polar, based on

the principles of international law and mandated through global institutions which operate on the basis of consensus.

The world is witnessing a profound transformation, and a shift in the global balance of power. Our relationship is serving as an anchor of peace and stability at the global level.

Recent times have brought to light certain new challenges and threats, directly or indirectly impacting upon the lives of individuals, governments, countries and the world as a whole. These global challenges make it imperative that we further intensify our dialogue and cooperation.

For me personally it is a source of immense satisfaction, that despite the great geographic distance between our two countries, we have succeeded in building genuine ties of goodwill, warmth, friendship and mutual respect not just between the governments and political leadership in both countries but at the people-to-people level. This is the true bedrock on which the India-Russia strategic partnership rests.

I wish all gathered here to continue their good work towards deepening this great India-Russia friendship. My felicitations to all on this landmark occasion.

Thank You.



527. Message from the External Affairs Minister to Foreign Minister of Russia on the occasion of the 65th anniversary of establishment of India-Russia Diplomatic Relations.

New Delhi, April 13, 2012.

External Affairs Minister felicitated Foreign Minister of Russian Federation Mr. Sergei Viktorovich Lavrov on the occasion of the 65th anniversary of establishment of India-Russia Diplomatic Relations.

The text of his letter is as follows:

“I have the honour to convey my warm felicitations to Your Excellency on the occasion of the 65th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Russia.

Over the last six and a half decades, our multi-dimensional relationship has evolved in different ways, but deep friendship and trust has always been the hallmark of our ties. Our unique bonds have been nurtured and reinforced with every succeeding generation, enjoying a strong positive consensus across the political and social spectrum in both countries. From Soviet assistance in India's early industrialization and security endeavours, to a strong partnership in joint development and design in strategic sectors, the India-Russia 'special & privileged' strategic partnership is today a model of depth and understanding for any two nation states. As emerging and responsible stakeholders in an ever-changing international system, our close relations serve as an anchor and a pivot of durable peace, a just global order and of multilateral stability.

I look forward to working with you closely in the years to come, to take forward our special and privileged strategic partnership to a qualitatively higher level.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.”



528. Speech by the External Affairs Minister at the Inauguration of the Indian Film and Cultural Festival in Moscow

Moscow, April 13, 2012.

His Excellency Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Igor Morgulov,

Ambassador Ajai Malhotra,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to be here at the inauguration of "Open India", a Festival of Modern Indian Cinema and Culture, which marks the beginning of the celebrations commemorating the 65th Anniversary of the India-Russia Diplomatic Relations.

India and Russia share a 'special and privileged' partnership which has stood the test of time. In the past six and a half decades, our relations have gained enormously in strength and content.

Ours is a symbiotic relationship which has produced concrete and dramatic results in the widest possible fields of cooperation. Both our countries today have a broad vision for our future, bolstered by deep mutual trust and convergence of views on many bilateral, regional and international issues.

The depth of our unique friendship has, indeed, been possible due to the guidance and direction provided by our leaders over the years.

However, the close bonds are not limited to the political or the strategic level. This tradition permeates down to the cultural and people-to-people contacts which have been nurtured and continuously reinforced over these 65 years.

Cultural cooperation has played a pivotal role in bringing our peoples closer. Leading personalities in the field of literature, performing arts and related fields in both countries have left their indelible impressions in history.

The influence of Leo Tolstoy on Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore's following in Russia are well chronicled. The great painter and thinker, Nikolai Roerich and his son Svetoslav Roerich made India their home.

The rich tradition of Indology in Russia and of Russian studies in India has produced a budding generation of academic scholars. I believe that interest in Indian dance, music, yoga is very popular here, not to mention the abiding interest in Indian films. The organization of regular and reciprocal Festivals has also achieved memorable results.

Cognizant of these deep ties, during our Prime Minister's visit to Moscow last December, we decided that the 65th Anniversary of the establishment of our diplomatic relations would be an appropriate occasion to celebrate the spirit of the joy and camaraderie between our peoples. I am, therefore, especially delighted to be part of the opening event of this Anniversary here today.

Indian Cinema and film personalities have immense appeal across the globe. In Russia, as we all know, Raj Kapoor was a house-hold name once and continues to be as popular as ever.

I am hopeful that this film Festival shall not only provide a glimpse of quality entertainment to the audiences here, but also pave the way for further cooperation between the film industries of our two countries.

I am optimistic that this film Festival shall also set the tone for the rest of the year and for the many programmes that have been planned. I would like to express my deep appreciation to the Government of the Russian Federation for their support in organizing the celebrations.

I wish all success to the Festival "Open India" in Russia. I have great pleasure in declaring the Festival open.

Thank you.



529. Remarks by Foreign Secretary at the Russian Embassy Reception to mark the 65th Anniversary of India-Russia Diplomatic Relations.

New Delhi, April 17, 2012.

Please accept my felicitations on the momentous occasion of the 65th Anniversary of establishment of India-Russia diplomatic relations. Our External Affairs Minister was in Moscow last week and has already flagged off the celebrations for this landmark event on 13 April. I am happy to be present at the beginning of an exciting year ahead. I wish to thank Ambassador Kadakin for his role in pushing this relationship forward as a genuine friend of India. Of the last 65 years of our relationship Ambassador Kadakin has been personally involved for almost 45.

2. We speak today of 'special and privileged' Strategic Partnership between India and Russia. This unique and multi-dimensional relationship did not come about suddenly. It has been built brick-by-brick over the last 65 years, keeping the mutual interests of both our peoples foremost in mind. That is why it has produced concrete and constructive results in the widest possible fields of cooperation. In the decades gone by our relations have gained enormously in strength. I am happy that this evening many of the bricklayers are present, as are some of those who provided the mortar to hold the bricks in place.

3. Deep friendship with trust has been the hallmark of our ties. The unique bond has been nurtured and reinforced with every succeeding generation. It has also enjoyed broad positive consensus across the respective political and social spectrums.

4. From Soviet assistance in India's early industrialization and defence consolidation, to a strong symbiotic relationship in joint design & development in key strategic sectors, the India-Russia 'special & privileged' Strategic Partnership is today a model worth emulating for any two nation states. This deep-rooted Partnership is also underpinned by regular dialogues and bilateral mechanisms at all levels. There are so many levels that one is reminded of the Matryushka doll! But that is why our cooperation has become institutional - whether you speak of defence or space or hydrocarbons or nuclear energy. And it has produced steady benefits accruing to both countries.

5. It is very important to note that the relationship between our peoples has also expanded. Ambassador Kadakim has drawn attention to the spiritual links that bind us. The academic and artistic contacts have also been most significant. Over 5000 Indian students are in Russian universities and institutes. Private sector business relationships are also growing fast and at all levels. Cultural ties remain strong with great appreciation for each others music, dance and old traditions.

6. At the global stage, India and Russia today share common visions and converging goals for an ever-changing global order. As emerging and responsible stakeholders in a dynamic international system, we benefit from each others strength and strategic autonomy. Our relations serve as an anchor and as a pivot of durable peace, a just global order and of multilateral stability. There has been greater convergence and commonality of views between India and Russia on issues of global and regional significance. This is evident in the Dec 2011 Joint Indo-Russian Joint Statement, the New Delhi BRICS Declaration and the Moscow RIC Joint Communiqué. We value Russia's support on major forums where India is not yet a permanent member, like the SCO, NSG and the UNSC.

7. At this important threshold, I reaffirm that we in India will work together with Russian colleagues to further enrich the scope of our interactions and take our Partnership to new heights. The rapid progress in both our economies and societies has opened newer opportunities for cooperation that did not exist before. Our relations with Russia have stood the test of time and they rest on a firm footing.

8. I also looking forward to this 65th Anniversary year as an important opportunity to enhance our people-to-people contacts. I wish the celebrations a grand success.



530. Press Release of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry on India-Russia Trade.

New Delhi, June 21, 2012.

The Union Minister of Commerce, Industry and Textiles Shri Anand Sharma today addressed a group of political and business leaders from Russia and India at the third "India-Russia Business Dialogue" which was held under the umbrella of the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum 2012.

Speaking on the historical bonds between the two nations, Shri Sharma said that India and Russia today share a "special and privileged strategic partnership" which permeates the entire spectrum of economic activity.

Highlighting the fact that the GDP of both the countries is over US\$ 3 trillion, Shri Sharma further added that the bilateral trade between India and Russia in 2011 was in the range of US\$ 9 billion. "We have set for ourselves an ambitious target of reaching US\$ 20 billion by 2015. However, there is a need to diversify the trade basket between our countries as the current profile of trade is dominated by commodities with large imports of iron, steel, fertilizer and oil from Russia. We need to expand the trade basket to have more value added products," he underlined during the event.

India is also planning to invest US\$ 1 trillion in the infrastructure sector alone in the next five years. For this, Shri Sharma welcomed Russian participation to build a strong infrastructure base in India. "We are also building gas and oil pipelines and Russian companies have considerable expertise in pipeline construction technologies which will greatly be valued. In the telecom sector, of course, we have seen the emergence of flourishing partnerships between India and Russia which will see investments of over US\$ 1.5 billion in the coming years" said Shri Sharma.

During his address, Shri Anand Sharma informed that India aims to double its food processing capabilities in the next five years with the establishment of 64 fully equipped Agro Processing Zones and Food Parks. He said that Russia "can be an invaluable partner to develop cross sectoral linkages in the entire value addition chain from agriculture to retail, packaging and logistics." "I am confident that the coming weeks will see the emergence of political consensus on liberalizing FDI in Multi-brand retail which will open immense opportunities," Shri Sharma added.

With the rolling out of the National Manufacturing Policy last year, Shri Sharma showed his interest to invite Russian companies both in the development of industrial townships as well as in investments which will flow into these zones.

We are keen to participate in the Pharma 2020 program of Russia where Russian

Government has ambitious plans in developing pharmaceutical industry with an objective to reducing healthcare cost," said Shri Sharma.

The event was co-chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister of Russian Federation, Mr. D. Rogozin. Mr. Cheremin, Chairman, Business Council for Cooperation with India; Mr. Adi Godrej, President, CII; Mr. Ajai Malhotra, Ambassador of India to Russian Federation and business leaders from Russia and India attended the event.



531. Opening Remarks of External Affairs Minister at the Media Interaction with the Deputy Prime Minister of Russia.

New Delhi, July 17, 2012.

Your Excellency Deputy Prime Minister Rogozin,

Friends from Media,

Today, I had the privilege to welcome His Excellency Mr. Dmitry Rogozin, Deputy Prime Minister of Russian Federation. I had very productive discussions with him. We continued a conversation we started in Moscow in April this year.

We are delighted that Deputy Prime Minister Rogozin has been nominated earlier in the year to be my counterpart Co-Chair of our Inter-Governmental Commission. Mr. Rogozin is full of fresh ideas and brings a new energy to our relationship and we value his contributions.

Today's was an inter-session meeting of the two Co-chairs of the bilateral Commission, where we focused on the economic aspects of our relationship. We also discussed cooperation in some strategic sectors.

We exchanged constructive views on various aspects of India-Russia trade and investment cooperation. We sought definite solutions to certain outstanding problems confronting our business communities and explored ways to enhance our trade turnover.

We agreed to redouble our efforts to achieve the 20 billion US Dollar trade target that we have set for ourselves by 2015. The figures for the first quarter of this calendar year are encouraging, but clearly more needs to be done.

Today we also reviewed progress on some of our new initiatives that we had promised to undertake since the Annual Summit in 2011. They include the joint drive to harness the benefits of modernization and industrial cooperation by pooling in the vast human and scientific resources of the two countries. Both sides have since set up a Joint Working Group on this subject and the first meeting is to take place shortly.

Russia is today the leading force behind the increasingly integrating Eurasian economic space. To forge greater contacts, we have agreed to jointly study a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) with the Belarus-Kazakhstan-Russia Customs Union.

In my discussions with Deputy Prime Minister Rogozin, we also outlined the milestones that should be reached prior to the visit of H.E. Mr. Vladimir Putin, the President of the Russian Federation, to India for the 13th India-Russia Annual Summit, later this year. In that context, we reviewed the progress being made

by the various Working Groups in the economic areas reporting to the IGC under its elaborate institutional mechanism.

I have invited H.E. Mr. Rogozin to visit New Delhi later for the full-fledged 18th Session of the IRIGC meeting. We will then have the opportunity to review in detail these important areas of our cooperation and set the future course of our 'special and privileged' strategic partnership.

Thank you.



532. Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson on the visit of Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin.

New Delhi, October 11, 2012.

.....the visit of Mr. Dmitry Rogozin, the Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation who will be here from the 13th to the 15th of this month. Mr. Rogozin will primarily be here for the meeting of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation. This is the eighteenth session of the Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission.

The Inter-Governmental Commission is a vital pillar of the special and privileged partnership between India and Russia. It includes a wide spectrum of representatives from various Ministries and agencies. It integrates inputs from six Working Groups. For those of you who are interested, these Working Groups relate to economic and trade cooperation, energy and energy efficiency, tourism and culture, science and technology, information technology, and modernization and industrial cooperation. The outcomes of this session will feed into the annual summit between India and Russia for which President Putin is expected to visit India later during the year.

During his stay in New Delhi, Mr. Rogozin will also call on the Prime Minister apart from his bilateral meetings with the External Affairs Minister.

Question: This is on IRIGC-MTC. Defence Minister of Russia was supposed to come on the 4th. He came eventually on the 10th. The reason given was that President Putin required him there. The fact is that on 4th Gen. Kayani was there, he was hosting Gen. Kayani actually. So, what is your take on that? Secondly, what are the major talking points when this IRIGC meets?

Official Spokesperson: First of all I do not think we have any reason to doubt what the Russians have themselves put out. Since then the Defence Minister has been here, he has met our Defence Minister, and there is much water flown under the bridge. So, let us not go back to an issue of speculation which was there some time ago.

As regards what will be the areas of discussion, I think I have listed them but I will list them again. It is all aspects of economic and trade cooperation. For those of you who are interested, our trade this year has expanded I think about 38 per cent compared to last year. As you are aware, perhaps our goal is to have a trade of about 20 billion US dollars by 2015. Last year we were somewhere around 8.8 billion. This year in the first six months it was a little above six billion US dollars. So, there has been an increase. Trade will be a major area of discussion. The entire expanse of energy issues, hydrocarbons will be areas of

discussion. As regards science and technology, we have a robust exchange between our Department of Science and Technology and the concerned Russian agencies. So, these will all be areas. There will also be some areas relating to banking, there are areas relating to civil aviation, and a whole host of areas. If you would like further details, I will share them with you.

Question: Ruble and Rupee used to be a huge controversy. Has it been sorted out with the Russians now?

Official Spokesperson: This is an old story.

Question: During Mr. Rogozin's visit, will issues relating to Kudankulam nuclear reactor 3 and 4 and nuclear liability law be discussed and resolved?

Official Spokesperson: Mr. Rogozin is an important leader of Russia. He was here, if you remember, last time in July and at that stage these matters were raised. While these do not form part of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation, we do expect as two important leaders during high-level meetings they will always have issues to discuss and we do expect this to be an issue of discussion between them but not as part of Inter-Governmental Commission. They will also have a bilateral meeting separately and we expect that all issues including this which is an important issue of our cooperation will figure.



533. Press Release of the Ministry of Defence on the meeting of the India – Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military, Technical Cooperation.

New Delhi, October 12, 2012.

The twelfth meeting of the India-Russia Inter-governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation was held in New Delhi today. The Indian delegation was led by the Defence Minister Shri AK Antony and the Russian delegation was led by Shri AE Serdyukov, Defence Minister of the Russian Federation.

During the meeting of the Commission, which was conducted in a spirit of mutual cooperation and understanding, the two sides expressed readiness to take all necessary measures to further expand the cooperation on a mutually beneficial basis.

The Commission endorsed the Protocols of the meetings of the Working Group on Shipbuilding, Aviation and Land Systems, (WG SALS) and the Working Group on Military Technical Cooperation (WG-MTC) which were held in New Delhi on 27-28 August, 2012 and 30-31 August, 2012 respectively. The Commission appreciated the work done by the Co-Chairmen and Members of both the Working Groups and noted with approval the significant progress made in promoting bilateral military technical cooperation between the two countries.

The Commission noted that during the period under review, the two countries have taken various steps to deepen interaction in the development of defence technologies, modernization of military equipment and joint manufacture of military-purpose products. The two sides confirmed that such cooperation involves the strengthening of interactions between the Armed Forces, defense industry enterprises and research agencies of the two countries.

The Commission reviewed and discussed the status of some of the major issues in Military Technical Cooperation. Earlier, immediately after his arrival this morning, Mr. AE Serdyukov visited Amar Jawan Jyoti at India Gate and laid a wreath in the war memorial. Later he was accorded a tri-services Guard of Honour at the Lawns of South Block. Shri Antony also hosted a lunch in honour of the visiting Russian Defence Minister and his delegation.



534. Opening Remarks by External Affairs Minister at the Joint media interaction following the 18th India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission Meeting.

New Delhi, October 15, 2012.

Your Excellency Dmitry Rogozin, Deputy Chairman of the Russian Federation,
Friends from Media,

I held wide-ranging and very substantive discussions today with Deputy Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation, His Excellency Mr. Dmitry Rogozin. This was my third meeting with H.E. Mr. Rogozin in six months. It reflects the attention he pays to relations with India. We are thankful to him for his keen interest in promoting our relationship.

India's relations with the Russian Federation are a key priority of our foreign policy. The Inter-Governmental Commission is the main mechanism that helps us to comprehensively review our special and privileged Strategic Partnership. We recognised that even though there has been a significant increase in bilateral trade of 38% in the first half of this year, our trade linkages have not kept pace with our cooperation in several strategic spheres.

Today, we discussed our policy level concerns and willingness to facilitate greater exchanges between our businesses. We agreed to make greater efforts to stimulate trade with a resolve to overcome any hindrances at the Governmental level.

Friends,

We welcome Russia's formal membership of the World Trade Organisation. We hope that this would result in greater trade and investment flows bilaterally. Our growing economy and major initiatives in terms of the national manufacturing policy and infrastructure development projects such as the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor offer good prospects for Russian investors and businesses. In this context, I also informed Deputy Chairman Rogozin of the measures taken recently to liberalize foreign direct investment norms in prospective sectors of retail, civil aviation, telecommunication and insurance.

We reviewed our robust collaboration in the field of Science & Technology and welcomed the operationalization of the offices of the India-Russia Joint Technology Centres in our two countries. We also emphasised on strengthening contacts in the IT and hydrocarbons sector. We see the energy sector as an important area for expansion of cooperation between our two countries.

The first meeting of the Joint Working Group on Modernization and Industrial

Cooperation was held earlier in August this year. It is a promising new area where both countries can harness potential benefits based on strong and knowledge-based comparative advantages.

We welcome the organization of the Festival of Russia in India and the 'Days of Moscow' in Delhi, to be held later this month. We envisage these as important events for deepening our people to people contacts and for mutual understanding.

The meeting today also laid the groundwork for the forthcoming visit of His Excellency Mr. Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, for the 13th India-Russia Annual Summit.

Thank you.



535. Joint Media Interaction of External Affairs Minister and Deputy Chairman of Russian Federation after the meeting of the 18th session of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission.

New Delhi, October 15, 2012.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Syed Akbaruddin): Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen of the media. I welcome you to this media interaction. As usual, we will begin with opening remarks.

May I now request the External Affairs Minister of India to make his opening remarks?

External Affairs Minister of India (Shri S.M. Krishna):Your Excellency Dmitry Rogozin, Deputy Chairman of the Russian Federation; Members of the Russian Delegation and the Indian Delegation; Friends from the Media:

I held wide-ranging and very substantive discussions today with Deputy Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation, His Excellency Mr. Dmitry Rogozin. This was my third meeting with His Excellency Mr. Rogozin in six months. It reflects the attention he pays to relations with India. We are thankful to him for his keen interest in promoting our relationship.

India's relations with the Russian Federation are a key priority of our foreign policy. The Inter-Governmental Commission is the main mechanism that helps us to comprehensively review our special and privileged Strategic Partnership. We recognized that even though there has been a significant increase in bilateral trade by about 38 per cent in the first half of this year, our trade linkages have not kept pace with our cooperation in several strategic spheres.

Today we discussed our policy level concerns and willingness to facilitate greater exchanges between our businesses. We agreed to make greater efforts to stimulate trade with a resolve to overcome any hindrances at the Governmental level.

We welcome Russia's formal membership of the World Trade Organization. We hope that this would result in greater trade and investment flows bilaterally. Our growing economy and major initiatives in terms of the national manufacturing policy and infrastructure development projects such as the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor, offer good prospects for Russian investors and businesses. In this context, I also informed Deputy Chairman Rogozin of the measures taken recently to liberalize foreign direct investment norms in prospective sectors of retail, civil aviation, telecommunication and insurance.

We reviewed our robust collaboration in the field of Science and Technology

and welcomed the operationalization of the offices of the India-Russia Joint Technology Centres in our two countries. We also emphasized on strengthening contacts in the IT and hydrocarbons sector. We see the energy sector as an important area for expansion of cooperation between our two countries. The first meeting of the Joint Working Group on Modernization and Industrial Cooperation was held earlier in August this year. It is a promising new area where both countries can harness potential benefits based on strong and knowledge-based comparative advantages.

We welcome the organization of the Festival of Russia in India and the 'Days of Moscow' in Delhi, to be held later this month. We envisage these as important events for deepening our people-to-people contacts and for mutual understanding.

The meeting today also laid the groundwork for the forthcoming visit of His Excellency Mr. Putin, President of the Russian Federation, for the 13th India-Russia Annual Summit to be held in the month of November.

Thank you, Your Excellency.

Deputy Chairman of Russian Federation (Mr. Dmitry Rogozin): I would like to return the compliment and say that it is a pleasure to work with you.

The Russian side has a positive estimate of the result of our mutual work. The session has passed in an atmosphere of friendship, openness, dialogue and mutual understanding, and we are ...(Inaudible)... out to take mutual decisions.

Of course it is very important to set the goals for trade, economic, scientific, technical, and cultural cooperation as well as to promote new ...(Inaudible)... joint projects. The best indicator of that is the raising of the volume of our interaction, as said by our political leaderships, and achieving a strategic goal to raise the volume of our turnover to 20 billion US dollars by 2015.

Of course in the situation of economic instability and turmoil we can see that we have all the opportunity ...(Inaudible)... to achieve this strategic goal by our relations of Russia and India. And the example to that is the growth of our turnover, which has increased by 30 per cent since January to August as compared with the last year in the same period. Currently this figure is more than seven billion dollars and we expect it to be raised to ten billion dollars by the end of 2012. It is a very important psychological milestone for us and we believe that we can achieve it.

Now I would like to speak about some practical results achieved at the session of our Commission, which agreements we have achieved. First we will continue our closest technological cooperation within nuclear energy. The first unit of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant is ready to be launched as we expect that the second unit would be able to be launched at the end of the next year.

I would like to once more highlight the idea which I have expressed in many publications in the Indian media. It is that the Russian experience in the nuclear energy is very rich including the negative experience which the USSR has. And we have learnt our lessons from that. So, the new nuclear power plant in Kudankulam is the safest in the world. The requirements for safety and security are of the highest level.

In the new situation which was described by Minister Krishna, that is Russia's accession to the WTO, we have exchanged our views and investment projects, the existing and the forthcoming, which would help us to achieve and develop the investment cooperations on their own.

It is very important to understand the responsibility and liability of both our countries equating the favourable and stable investment climate for as far as mutual investments are concerned. We should allow our business community to see the green light in order to begin active interaction and conclude major conference of the territories of our two countries.

And so I would like to express the hope that we will be able to resolve the situation, the current difficult situation in the Russian investments in the company Titanium Products Pvt Ltd and the company System Shyam Teleservices in India.

And we have objectively accepted and acknowledged that we yet have not learnt to fully implement the huge potential of our intervention in high-tech fields. I gave an example and I would repeat it that one job, for example, in the air industry creates sixteen more jobs in the related fields and industries. So, we will have to follow the huge steps to the possibility of developing our cooperation and interaction in the high-tech field which would allow Russia and India to have achieved certain independence in that industry.

And of course I cannot but mention the current annual Russian-Indian Forum for Trade and Investments which is going to take place today in New Delhi which is very important for our relations and which hosts many existing investors and businessmen, but not only them, also those investors who are new. And we will be always supporting the work of this Forum because it is very important for the Russian and Indian relations that not only the selected business people would be present there but also the middleclass. It is very important that the middleclass community would establish the direct connections which would help us to achieve the new quality of our economic relations with India and also of our political relations which are based on mutual trust.

Official Spokesperson: The two Ministers have agreed to take a few questions.**Question (Indian Media):** My question is for the Indian Foreign Minister. Sir, we heard about Kudankulam Nuclear Plants ? I was wondering if

cooperation on Kudankulam 3 and 4 was discussed. There seem to be differences of opinion under which agreement 3 and 4 should be constructed. What is the way forward? Was that discussed?

External Affairs Minister: Of late, Kudankulam has come up in a major way in the media. You may recall that a roadmap for construction of Russian-designed nuclear power plants in India was signed during the visit of the then Prime Minister Putin to India in 2010. We believe that if we have to sustain our strong economic growth, we have to constantly address the issue of energy security in which nuclear energy plays a very critical and important role. This is true for all our nuclear energy partners. We see a large and growing role for Russia in the development of nuclear power plants in India both in terms of equipment and technology. Technical experts from both sides continue to hold regular discussions on issues pertaining to all aspects of our cooperation in this field. Today we did discuss the preparatory work for Units 3 and 4 of the KKNP. The credit agreement for Units 3 and 4 was finalized between our agencies in July this year. A further techno-commercial agreement is still being negotiated by our experts, and I have no doubt we will come to a mutually acceptable resolution on this issue.

Question (Russian Media): My question is to both the co-chairmen. This problem has been touched upon already. We said that the inter-governmental level of our achievements, the inter-governmental level agreements, is developing quite well between Russia and India. However, the relations between our business circles are not that good, and there are problems that might be emerging. It is enough to remember the problems with the Systema company. And the question is what would the governments of the two countries do so that business would be confident that its activities would be protected, and would take full part in the development of Russia and India relations, especially in the middle business.

Deputy Chairman of Russian Federation (Mr. Dmitry Rogozin): I would like to say that the main things that we have to ... (Inaudible) ... on are the three main characters. The question that has been asked is very important and I have mentioned already that in the relations between Russia and India, not only the selected business people and companies should take part, it should be an event en masse because people should have the belief in the ideals of the relations between the two countries and should gain good result from it including the material benefit. What to do? We have to take into account three factors. First, I would like to say that the governments should demonstratively, and I would like to highlight this word demonstratively, help the business representatives to solve the issues that emerge during this contact with bureaucracy because business is indivisible from the state, business is citizens, business is people who create products, it is our taxpayers. So they cannot be regarded separately from the State as well. So, the Governments of India and Russia should work to

support this people, it is very important to support. And I would like to say that the Government of Russia should support both Indian and Russian business circles as well as the Government of India should do the same, support Indian and Russian business circles, to create the positive climate of our interaction because good money can be made only in calm situation. If there are scandals, they would scare of the business communities. So, I repeat that we need to help business solve its matters because the government should protect business.

The second factor, we should never reconsider the rules of the game after the game has begun, and we should follow the rules till the game is over, and only then should we go back to the discussion. It is important to fulfill the agreements achieved.

The third factor which we have also mentioned and discussed with the Minister of the Foreign Affairs of India is that the cooperation in high technological field should be moved from only military to the civil cooperation which would allow the middle and small business to enter this field of industry because satellites, aircraft, communication systems, can be positive and profitable not only for the military specialist but for civilians as well, which would help us to raise the technological cooperation between all the layers of business including small and middle, as I have just said. This is what should be aimed at.

External Affairs Minister: I entirely agree with the Deputy Prime Minister that it is necessary for the Governments to demonstrate that they have the will to pursue the relationship and then take this relationship and add economic content to this relationship. So far the political relationship has been on very solid ground. Now, coming to economic relationship, I think efforts are being made by both Governments and by both businesses that it is necessary taking the size of our economies into consideration and then looking at the figures that are available with us for this year, I think it is far far below the potential that is hidden in the Indian economy and of course the Russian economy. It is necessary for our businesses not to be intimidated by certain obstacles which do come up in a democratic society where we have the due process of law and where anyone can take a matter to a court of law and thereby delay the movement of that particular project. Now that Russia has entered the World Trade Organization, this certainly will provide a huge impetus for businesses in both of our countries, major, medium and small businesses. The Government of India is fully with these businesses so that they could pursue the policy of enlarging the economic cooperation.

One particular issue which often comes up is the Systema controversy. That is right now in a court of law pending adjudication. So, it would not be fair for me to make any comment. But that is a ... (Inaudible)... I think the courts will give its finding. Depending upon the findings given by the courts of law, we can work out

a strategy as to how we can pursue what we have conveyed to the peoples of both countries that the economic relationship is going to become stronger between our two countries. We will have to await the outcome.

Official Spokesperson: With that we come to the end of this interaction. Thank you very much.



536. Press Release on the 18th India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission Meeting.

New Delhi, October 16, 2012.

The Eighteenth Session of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC) was held in New Delhi on October 15, 2012. The Indian side was led by the Minister of External Affairs and the Chairman of the Indian side of the Commission, H.E. Mr. S.M. Krishna. The Russian side was led by the Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of the Russian Federation and the Chairman of the Russian side of the Commission, H.E. Mr. D.O. Rogozin.

2. During the meeting, the entire spectrum of India-Russia trade, economic, scientific, technological and cultural cooperation was reviewed. Both sides expressed optimism at the increase in bilateral trade turnover during the year. It was, however, acknowledged that the level of economic engagement was not commensurate with the potential which exists. The meeting was marked by a constructive approach towards resolving some outstanding concerns related to specific investments and projects. The main outcomes of the Inter-Governmental Commission (IGC) discussions are:

- It was agreed to carry forward the initial momentum gained from the newly constituted Working Group of Modernization and Industrial Cooperation. The focus of this new mechanism, which held its first meeting earlier this year, is to harness benefits from newer and innovative commercially-viable technologies.
- In addition to traditional sectors for bilateral trade and investment, newer arenas were identified for future growth and development. Some of these include civil aviation, infrastructure, audio-visual & entertainment services and micro, small & medium enterprises.
- The two sides agreed to bolster greater inter-regional cooperation between the two countries, encouraged by the recent successful visits from either side by official representatives and business communities of certain regions/States.
- The conclusion of a long-term purchase agreements for LNG between Indian and Russian energy companies in the past one year indicates that further synergies can be achieved in the energy sector.
- With the conclusion of over 500 joint projects in the field of Science & Technology, this remains one of the important pillars of the IGC framework. The opening of the two India-Russia S&T Centres in Moscow and Gurgaon

in the last year can contribute in a constructive manner to deepen this engagement.

The next session of the IRIGC-TEC will be held in Moscow in 2013.

DPM Rogozin visited India on 13-15 October 2012. He was accompanied by senior officials of the Russian Government and more than 80 business representatives. During his visit, DPM Rogozin called on the Prime Minister. He also co-chaired the 6th India-Russia Forum for Trade and Investments (Oct 15, New Delhi), an active B2B forum between the two countries, along with the Indian Co-chair, the Commerce, Industries and Textiles Minister H.E. Shri Anand Sharma.

The interactions on October 15 also served to review the preparations for the forthcoming visit of the President of the Russian Federation, H. E. Mr. V.V. Putin to India for the 13th India-Russia Annual Summit.



537. Remarks by Foreign Secretary at the 6th Indo-Russian Dialogue.

New Delhi, November 22, 2012.

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. I am delighted to join you for this sixth Indo-Russian Dialogue promoted by the Observer Research Foundation and RUSSKIY MIR. It is indeed a challenge to bring any fresh insights to such an august gathering of specialists and cognoscenti. Many of you have lived through the extraordinary years of our relations with Russia. I thought what might be most useful would be for me to share with you some perspectives on the current state of our relationship, which remains from Indian perspective perhaps the most vital, most decisive of our strategic partnerships .

2. We celebrate this year the sixty-fifth year of diplomatic relations between India and Russia -these relations even pre-date India's independence! With the Soviet Union, independent India had one of its most enduring partnerships, which reached its zenith with the Indo-Soviet Treaty of Friendship that we signed in 1971. Even today, in this dramatically re-defined post-Cold War world, our relations with Russia remain a key priority for India's foreign policy, and one which adds decisive value to our national capacities. We also like to believe that India continues to be as relevant to Russia. Our 'special and privileged' strategic partnership today rests on a strong edifice built upon traditional pillars of cooperation. Besides, Indo-Russian ties enjoy tremendous support in the public and across the political spectrum, in India as well as in Russia.

3. The timing of this event is excellent; this is the season of Russia in India. Last month, we hosted Deputy Prime Minister Rogozin, who visited India to co-chair our bilateral inter-Governmental Commission, which incidentally is one of the largest and most elaborate mechanisms we have with any country in the world. In case you think that is a cliché, just come and see our inter-Ministerial on Russia. Every Department of Government of India is there. The last round was another occasion to review our cooperation in every sector, to have candid exchanges and to constructively address some of the challenges that confront us. Earlier in the month, the Russian Defence Minister also came across to co-chair the military-technical commission, which assessed the state of health of our defence partnership. Again, Russia is the only country with which we have such a mechanism of annual ministerial review of defence relations; underlying its special role in defence perspective. And of course, we were privileged to see a scintillating display of Russian culture, music and the Bolshoi, for the Festival of Russia and Days of Moscow in Delhi that concluded just this month. We are

now in the thick of preparations for the visit of President Putin to India next month. The annual summit mechanism we have with Russia is again unique, and reflects the multi-dimensional nature of our strategic partnership, of which President Putin is himself one of the architects. His visit will therefore be both symbolic and substantive, indeed as his previous visits have been.

4. In our strategic partnerships, we have today a tripod or 4 legged stool – political dialogue (starting from the highest level) which encompasses sharing of views – to counter terrorism cooperation; defence, civil, nuclear energy and space. Estimates say that close to 70 percent of our military hardware remains of Russian origin. And it is still necessary to have a reliable partner for hardware as it provides the wherewithal to deal with challenges. More importantly, we have moved to a phase of joint design and development, and of multi-year joint collaboration programmes, with substantive sharing of critical technologies. This is what makes our defence partnership unique and will sustain it over the next decade. I foresee this relationship diversifying and deepening as both India and Russia embark on modernizing their defence capabilities. We often hear rumblings in the media, both here and in Russia, whenever a big-ticket defence deal does not go the Russia way or when Russia collaborates with others. I am confident that our ties are much too mature to be shaped by individual deals in India's competitive defence space, or by Russia expanding horizons.

5. Russia is equally a valuable partner in our national civilian nuclear energy programme. Despite the challenging events in recent times when the safety of nuclear technology has globally come in for extra scrutiny, Unit 1 at Kudankulam will be commissioned shortly and will be a tangible first milestone of our nuclear cooperation. Enough scientific studies have been undertaken and experts have given us credible assurances on the high safety and security parameters of this plant.

6. Similarly, in the space sector, we have collaborated on technologies which can integrate into platforms that India is developing. Access to the whole spectrum of GLONASS signals by Indian agencies is a major component of our space cooperation. This is matched by robust cooperation on important projects like Chandrayan 2, the Human Space Flight and YOUTHSAT.

7. So much for strategy. As we are all aware it is economy which makes the world go round. We therefore need, as was mentioned, to get over nostalgia for the past and look to the future which will be moulded by economic realities. What will determine the future of our economies is how rapidly we can innovate and improve our productivity and efficiencies and manage resources. With a carefully nurtured qualified talent pool and a network of reputed institutions, our cooperation in the sphere of Science & Technology has produced achievements we can be proud of. The Integrated Long Term Program for S&T cooperation is

again a unique model which we have tried to replicate in other global scientific ties. I understand we have already undertaken more than 400 joint projects in areas ranging from basic sciences to cutting edge technologies. We again see scope for further improvement since, at least India, needs to play catch up with other countries who are investing heavily in research & development. A major challenge is also how to apply these from the laboratory to the assembly line and use them for the greater public good. The great record of Russian science (just recall the extraordinary achievements of the Academicians) makes this a partnership of great value.

8. In this very optimistic scenario, a major disappointment has been the inability of our trade and economic ties, led by our private players, to match the strategic ties led by our Governments. The fact that our private sectors are still not enthused enough to make major forays into each other's trillion plus dollar economies, defies reason. The Governments keep trying to create the right enabling conditions. We have for instance, identified a few sunrise industries which we can focus on: these include pharmaceuticals, information technology and space-based navigation systems for civilian purposes. In terms of logistics, the Government of India has been vigorously pursuing the idea of streamlining the North-South Trade Corridor which can link Mumbai to St. Petersburg, with a 40 percent cut in cost and time. We are pushing for a joint investment fund that could promote infrastructure projects in both countries. The Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation as well as the B2B India-Russia Trade Forum, which meet annually, have been making efforts to come up with such creative solutions to meet the increasingly stiff task of raising our trade levels from the current around US dollar 10 billion to US dollar 20 billion by 2015.

9. We also seem to be making incremental progress, at a pace below expectation, might I say, in the hydrocarbon sector, where immense potential lies buried literally under the ground. Indian companies have proven their technical competencies in the past and are currently operating in many corners of the world. With over a decade of joint operations, our oil & gas entities are ever keen to explore Russia's vast energy resources and this will prove vital for both our future energy supply security, and equally, for Russia's energy demand security.

10. I would add that I believe Russian capability can be used in other areas – for better understanding of geology, for the development of gas reserves in India, and as a partner for pipeline development. We need to give urgent importance to our own energy sources and I am glad we are talking to other countries about new possibilities of reserves in the Indian Ocean basins and research on exploration of gas hydrates.

11. We need to work closely together with our Russian friends to push some major investment projects. While we seek to constructively engage on some investment episodes which have become irritants, we must ensure that they do not become deterrents for further forays. We need to look beyond and capitalize on the opportunities which will come with Russia's accession to WTO and by the expansion of the Eurasian Economic space, a vision which President Putin himself is pioneering. We hope to start focussed discussions soon on a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) with the Customs Union between Russia, Kazakhstan and Belarus.

12. On the bilateral front, therefore, the narrative of our relationship in this 65th anniversary year, is of "continuity with enriching changes", a qualified take on one of the sessions, which I am told shall be discussing India-Russia ties.

13. On the global stage, Russia remains India's trusted friend and confidante. Russia's overt support for India's permanent membership of the UNSC, the NSG, SCO and the APEC are extremely vital for us. Moreover, Russia has often tried to persuade others while endorsing India's credentials. This is an outcome of the unique tradition of political proximity that we have cultivated over the years. At the ground level of course, our Foreign Offices frequently interact to discuss and coordinate positions on issues of regional and international interest. We have held discussions on the situation in South Asia, and on the developments in West Asia and Central Asia. We will continue our close consultations.

14. During this dialogue, I understand that the some global themes are also being analysed through the prism of India-Russia relations. I would be very interested to hear of the outcomes of these discussions on issues of contemporary relevance. Let me touch briefly on a few of these.

15. At the Delhi Summit earlier this year, we made an attempt to define the role of the BRICS in articulating issues of concern to the developing world, and to demonstrate our capacity to deal with issues of global peace, stability and development. Our leaders have endorsed an ambitious Action Plan at the Delhi Summit to take our cooperation forward. The BRICS countries today comprise new growth poles in a multi-polar world. As part of BRICS, we continue to serve as a catalyst in finding solutions to global challenges- the role of Russia in this forum is critical.

16. At the Foreign Office level, we have been having regular consultations on Afghanistan, especially before the major international conferences. Russia has been appreciative and encouraging of India's capacity-building and developmental efforts in Afghanistan. Both our countries also have largely similar views on the developing situation there and the solutions that need to be sought. We appreciate

the role played by Russia on this under the SCO framework, which we believe can play an important role in post-2014 Afghanistan.

17. I am sure our Russian colleagues would share their take on the Arab Spring. Our posture in the Security Council has been guided by our long standing ties with the region, our desire not to interfere in the internal affairs of States and our stance of being non-prescriptive. We have called for restraint in the use of coercive measures against people who should be permitted to freely articulate their aspirations. We believe that societies cannot be re-ordered from outside through military force and that people in all countries have the right to choose their own destiny and decide their own future.

18. It is deeply encouraging to see that India-Russia contacts include annual events like this one- focussing on the independent opinions of our vibrant civil societies, on the meeting of our minds. I wish the 6th Indo-Russian Dialogue all success.



**538. Joint Statement on the 13th India-Russia Annual Summit:
“Partnership for mutual benefit and a better world”**

New Delhi, December 24, 2012.

The President of the Russian Federation, H.E. Mr. Vladimir V. Putin, paid an official visit to India on December 24, 2012 at the invitation of Prime Minister of the Republic of India H.E. Dr. Manmohan Singh for the Annual Summit between two countries. During the visit, President V. Putin met the President of India H.E. Mr. Pranab Mukherjee and the Prime Minister of India, H.E. Dr. Manmohan Singh. The Chairperson of the United Progressive Alliance Ms. Sonia Gandhi and the Leader of Opposition Ms. Sushma Swaraj called on President H.E. Mr. V. Putin.

The Prime Minister of India and the President of the Russian Federation stressed the importance of further progressing the special and privileged strategic partnership between the two countries. They expressed satisfaction that the year 2012 was marked by an intense bilateral dialogue, regular top and high-level meetings and multifarious cultural activities to mark the 65th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and the Russian Federation. The two leaders reviewed the progress made in all important areas of cooperation, including in sectors such as energy, trade, high technology and military-technical cooperation. The sides noted that they shared common views on all the important issues of regional and international cooperation.

The sides welcomed the conclusion of bilateral documents on Foreign Office consultations; cultural exchanges; science, technology and innovation; telecommunications; financing of projects and promoting investments. Significant contracts were also concluded in the sphere of military-technical cooperation.

The sides welcomed the reinvigoration of parliamentary exchanges and noted the visit by a delegation of the Russian State Duma Group of Deputies on December 4-8, 2012 to India as also the scheduled visit by a delegation led by the Chairperson of the Russian Federation Council to India in February 2013.

Promoting Trade and Investment

The sides expressed satisfaction at the substantial increase during 2011 and 2012 in bilateral trade and agreed to enhance efforts to achieve the target of US\$ 20 billion bilateral trade by 2015. India welcomed Russia's recent accession to the World Trade Organization and the both sides agreed that it provided further opportunities to augment bilateral trade and investment and business-to-business linkages. In this context, they called upon Russia-India Chief Executive Officers Council's meeting at the earliest.

The sides agreed to work out a list of priority investment projects and a road

map for their implementation. They favour discussions between India and the Eurasian Economic Commission on a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement between India and the Customs Union of the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation.

The sides noted the outcomes of the successful meeting of the 18th session of the India - Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technical and Cultural Cooperation on October 15, 2012 in New Delhi. They welcomed the outcome of the first session of Joint Working Group on Modernization and Industrial Cooperation held in New Delhi on August 27-29, 2012, aimed at greater mutual participation in modernization, infrastructure development and industrial projects in the two countries. They also welcomed recommendations of the Joint Working Group on trade and economic cooperation. They stressed on further opportunities in the fields of pharmaceuticals, power, steel, food products, automobiles, engineering goods, fertilizers and directed the respective authorities to promote and facilitate bilateral trade and investment.

Deepening Energy Partnership

The sides reviewed the progress in bilateral cooperation in the development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and reiterated their commitment to implementing the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on cooperation in the construction of additional nuclear power plant units at Kudankulam site as well as in the construction of Russian designed Nuclear Power plants at new sites in the Republic of India, concluded on December 5, 2008; the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on Cooperation in the Use of Atomic Energy for Peaceful Purposes and the Road Map for the Serial Construction of the Russian designed Nuclear Power Plants in the Republic of India, concluded on March 12, 2010.

The sides noted with satisfaction the progress in regard to the commissioning of the first unit of the Nuclear Power Plant at Kudankulam and agreed to take the necessary steps to expedite the completion and commissioning of the second unit. Expressing satisfaction over the signing of the Protocol for the grant of State Credit from the Russian Federation to the Republic of India for works, supplies and services for construction of Units 3 & 4 at Kudankulam and related fuel supplies, the sides agreed to conclude expeditiously the negotiations on the techno-commercial offer for the construction of Units 3 & 4. The sides also reiterated their commitment to incorporating the best technology in construction of nuclear power plants with a view to ensuring and maintaining the highest safety standards. The sides welcomed the outcome of the first meeting of the Joint Working Group between Department of Atomic Energy and State Corporation Rosatom in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy held in Moscow in July 2012.

Both sides noted the complementarities between India and the Russian Federation in the energy sector as a major buyer and supplier of hydrocarbons and reviewed the ongoing efforts to establish joint cooperation ventures between Indian and Russian companies. They confirmed their intention to continue the implementation of the Inter-Governmental Agreement on Cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector signed on December 21, 2010. The Indian side reiterated its interest in equity participation through ONGC-OVL in existing and new projects in Siberia, Russia's Far East and the Arctic Shelf.

Indian Oil PSUs expressed interest in acquiring equity stake in discovered / producing assets and in proposed LNG liquefaction projects in Russia along with Russian oil and gas companies as well as in procuring Russian crude oil and off-take of LNG for India. The sides agreed to intensify efforts to enhance mutual investments in exploration and production of oil and gas in both the countries and joint ventures in upstream and downstream activities in India, Russia and third countries.

The Indian side noted the difficulties being faced by Imperial Energy and hoped that the ensuing tax reforms would help the Company to turn around.

The sides noted that to promote exploration and production cooperation between the two countries, it was essential to source oil and gas from Russia and leverage the market and downstream business in India with involvement of respective oil and gas companies of both the countries, ONGC Videsh in Russia for upstream business and Rosneft in India for downstream business.

Both sides noted that the gas supply to India by Gazprom Group will be a stable and reliable source of resources for the development of Indian gas market. Both sides welcomed the conclusion of long term LNG Sales and Purchase Agreement for the supply of 2.5 MMTPA of LNG between "Gazprom Marketing and Trading Singapore" and GAIL and expressed hope for continuation of cooperation in the sphere of LNG supply.

Science and Technology Cooperation

The sides noted with satisfaction that both Moscow and Delhi-NCR branches of the India-Russia Science & Technology Centre (IRSTC) had been set up and were working in close coordination to intensify interactions between Indian and Russian scientific/industrial institutions and shared the view that the IRSTC could play a prominent role in successful commercialization of Indian and Russian technologies in the two countries. The sides encouraged the ongoing dialogue on identified technology platforms which are of mutual benefit.

Both sides noted with satisfaction that the Memorandum of Cooperation between Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India, and the Ministry of

Education and Science of the Russian Federation in Science, Technology and Innovation had been concluded, to support bilateral projects. In addition to the flagship Integrated Long-Term Programme (ILTP) for cooperation in the areas of science, technology and innovations, the sides agreed that this MOU would provide an effective mechanism, particularly for universities and academic, research and industrial institutions, to collaborate. The sides expressed satisfaction over the implementation of the project in the area of technology solutions for fly ash management and utilization.

Education

The sides reviewed the status on recognition of diplomas of Indian students studying in Russian educational institutions. Expressing satisfaction at the ongoing educational exchanges between the two countries, the sides agreed to accelerate the conclusion of Inter-Governmental Agreement on mutual recognition and equivalence of educational documents and degrees.

Cultural and humanitarian exchanges

In the context of the rich cultural heritage and their mutual appreciation and interest for each other's culture, arts and the centuries-old bonds of friendship between India and Russia, the sides appreciated the joint celebrations of the 65th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and the Russian Federation and supported continued holding of annual reciprocal cultural festivals alternately in India and Russia. The sides welcomed the signing of Cultural Exchange Program for 2013-2015. They also encouraged enhanced cooperation between the think-tanks and academia of the two countries.

Both sides welcomed the increase in the exchange of tourists. The Indian side informed the Russian side that the number of tourist visas issued to Russian citizens travelling to India increased by 24% in 2011 and were expected to increase by further 20% in 2012. The Russian side also noted that the number of tourists from India to Russia more than doubled in 2012 as compared to 2011.

Promoting Ties in Space

The sides agreed to continue their mutually beneficial cooperation in the space sector, including lunar exploration and establishment of ranging station for satellite navigation.

Stepping Up Military-Technical Cooperation

Both sides emphasised that the traditionally close cooperation between the two countries in the defence and military-technical field was a major pillar of the India-Russia strategic partnership and a reflection of the trust and confidence

that has built up between the two countries. The sides welcomed the outcomes of the Twelfth Meeting of the India - Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation held on October 10, 2012 in New Delhi. They expressed satisfaction at the regular bilateral interactions, ongoing military-technical cooperation and 'INDRA' exercise between the defence forces of the two countries held in August 2012 and in December 2012. The sides also noted that the frigates INS "Teg" and INS "Tarkash" were commissioned and delivered by Russia to India in 2012. The sides also took note of the progress made in the joint development and production of high technology military equipment and projects such as Fifth Generation Fighter Aircraft, Multi-Role Transport Aircraft and BrahMos Supersonic Missile. Both sides discussed measures required to ensure expeditious delivery of the aircraft carrier "Vikramaditya" to India. The Russian side assured that requisite measures would be taken in this regard.

Coordination on International and Regional Issues

The sides reaffirmed their will to work closely with the aim to consolidate central role of the United Nations in maintaining global peace and security and promoting economic and social advancement of all peoples. They stressed that international efforts to address global threats and challenges should be based on the rule of the law anchored in the UN Charter to ensure their legitimacy, impartiality, transparency and accountability. The two sides agreed to continue consultation and coordination on international and regional issues so as to support efforts for strengthening global peace, security and stability. They also expressed satisfaction at their cooperation in the UN including in the Security Council during India's presence as a non-permanent member since January 1, 2011. Both sides reaffirmed the need for UN Security Council reform in order to make it more representative and effective in dealing with emerging challenges and agreed that any expansion of the Security Council should reflect contemporary realities. In this regard, the Russian Federation reiterated its strong support to India for a permanent seat in a reformed UN Security Council.

Combating Terrorism

The Prime Minister of India and the President of the Russian Federation recalled the Moscow Declaration between India and Russia on International Terrorism signed on November 6, 2001 in Moscow, and reaffirmed that international terrorism is a threat to peace and security, a grave violation of human rights, and a crime against humanity. Both sides reaffirmed the need for all States to combine efforts to vanquish terrorism. They agreed that there was no justification whatsoever for any act of terrorism, and those multi-ethnic democratic countries like India and Russia were especially vulnerable to acts of terrorism. The sides strongly condemned those who provide safe havens and sanctuaries for terrorism and reiterated that States that aid, abet or shelter terrorists are as guilty of acts

of terrorism as their actual perpetrators. India and the Russian Federation reaffirmed the central role of the United Nations in the combat against international terrorism and in this context called for an early completion of the negotiations on the UN's draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

Supporting Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Efforts

India and Russia, as responsible states, possessing advanced nuclear technologies, share the objective of preventing proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, including preventing their possible acquisition by terrorist groups. Both sides agreed on the need for all states possessing nuclear weapons to accelerate concrete progress on the steps leading to global nuclear disarmament in a way that promotes international stability, peace and undiminished and increased security for all.

Both sides welcomed the recent bilateral consultations on disarmament, non-proliferation and export control issues held in Moscow in August 2012, which allowed exchange of views and assessments on a range of current issues. Both sides expressed interest in the strengthening of multilateral export control regimes as an important component of the global non-proliferation regime. Russia also took into positive consideration India's interest in full membership in MTCR and Wassenaar Arrangement. The Russian side reiterated readiness to assist and promote a discussion and positive decision in the Nuclear Suppliers' Group on India's full membership in the NSG, and welcomed India's intention to seek full membership. India underscored its determination to actively contribute to international efforts aimed at strengthening nuclear non-proliferation regime.

While recognizing the inherent right of states to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, India and the Russian Federation stressed the need for all states to comply with their respective obligations on non-proliferation. The sides support the central role of the IAEA and its safeguards system in promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, in accordance with its statute. The sides intend to support international efforts aimed at promoting peaceful uses of nuclear energy as part of a proliferation-resistant architecture of international cooperation, based on strict implementation of non-proliferation obligations. As supplier states, the sides support multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle at the IAEA.

Both sides support international efforts for ensuring the peaceful uses of outer space through appropriate confidence building measures and legally binding measures. Strengthening Security Cooperation in Asia and the Indian and Pacific Ocean Regions

The sides noted that the economies in the Indian Ocean and Pacific regions were increasingly becoming the main drivers of global economic growth and prosperity and that it was important for India and Russia to work towards the

creation of a transparent, open and inclusive regional architecture and equitable cooperation in the Asia Pacific region based upon the universally agreed principles of international law and giving due consideration to the legitimate interests of all States.

The sides underlined that they view the mechanism of the East Asia Summits as a leaders-led key forum for dialogue on broad strategic political and economic issues of common interest and concern with the aim of promoting peace, stability, and economic prosperity in Asia-Pacific. They underscored the importance of enhancing mutual understanding and ensuring peace, stability and security in the region in addressing trans-national and non-traditional security issues, including terrorism, extremism, weapons of mass destruction proliferation, illicit drug trafficking, organized crime as well as the need for strengthening maritime security in accordance with the universally accepted principles of international law.

The sides stated that the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) had emerged as an important factor for regional security, stability and cooperation in the Eurasian region. The Russian side reiterated its support to India's intention to join the SCO as a full-fledged member and stood for joint efforts with other SCO members to accelerate the process of India's entry into the Organization.

The sides stated that there are multifaceted formats of regional cooperation successfully functioning in the Asia-Pacific Region such as the mechanism of interaction between Russia, India and China, which promotes strengthening positions of our countries in global and regional affairs and assists to shape common approach to urgent world problems.

The sides noted the successful holding of the 11th Russia-India-China trilateral Ministerial meeting on April 13, 2012 in Moscow and agreed to advance practical cooperation in trilateral format in areas such as emergency response, health care, energy, agriculture, business, innovation and high technology. The Indian side conveyed it would host the next Ministerial meeting in 2013.

The sides noted the successful conduct by Russia of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit in Vladivostok in 2012. Russia reaffirmed that India's potential joining of APEC would further promote and intensify trade and investment cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. Russia reiterated its support for India's membership in APEC after consensus within APEC on expanding the Forum's membership is reached.

The sides underlined the importance of the ASEAN regional forum (ARF) and the ASEAN Defence Ministers' meetings – Plus (ADMM-Plus) as key components of a robust, effective, open and inclusive regional security architecture.

Promoting Cooperation among Emerging Economies

The sides welcomed the successful conduct of the fourth BRICS summit in New Delhi on March 29, 2012. They noted that BRICS play an important role in a multi-polar world order and a more harmonious international system based on international law, equality, mutual respect, cooperation, coordinated action and collective decision-making. BRICS countries have also played an important role in promoting international economic and financial stability. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to the Delhi Action Plan of 2012 BRICS Summit as a solid base for progressive development of BRICS. The sides are convinced that the forthcoming Durban Summit will contribute to strengthening of the role of BRICS in the world arena.

Situation in Syria

The sides expressed concern over the deteriorating security situation and continued violence in Syria and called upon all the parties to stop violence and engage in all inclusive national dialogue in order to resolve the conflict through peaceful political means on the internationally approved political and legal basis including the UN Security Council Resolutions 2042 and 2043 and the Joint Communiqué of the Geneva Action Group.

Stabilizing the Afghan Situation

The sides support the efforts made by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to establish a peaceful dialogue with the armed opposition, provided that the process goes on under the Afghan leadership and that the fighters meet the redlines enunciated by the international community: the recognition of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, renunciation of violence and breaking with al-Qaeda and other terrorist organizations. They consider it necessary to continue the UN Security Council sanctions regime as an essential anti-terror tool.

The sides noted with satisfaction the growing global understanding of the important role played by the neighbouring states of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, states and organizations of the region, and urged to focus the efforts in the region on the development and improvement of sound structures of regional cooperation, like the SCO, CSTO and SAARC amongst others. In this regard, they also recalled the holding of the Delhi Investment Summit on Afghanistan in June 2012 to promote investments into Afghanistan. They expect that the international community in their efforts in this regard will respect the decisions taken by the countries of the region in the framework of these organizations.

The two sides recognised that the main threat to Afghanistan's security and stability is terrorism, and that this threat also endangers regional and global

peace and security. In this regard, they recognised the regional dimensions of terrorism and extremism, emphasizing the need for joint and concerted efforts and cooperation among the regional countries to address the challenge of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including the dismantling of terrorist sanctuaries and safe havens, as well as disrupting all financial and tactical support for terrorism.

The sides recognise that drug production and narcotrafficking are the major source of funding for terrorists' networks that requires collective action against the producers and traffickers of illegal drugs. They agreed to continue to take effective measures against the illegal production and trafficking of opiates and other narcotics. To this end, the two sides pledged to focus on the implementation of the Paris Pact Vienna Declaration.

Iran's Nuclear Programme

The sides expressed concern over the situation emerging around Iran's nuclear programme. They reiterated their call for a comprehensive and long-term settlement of the situation through exclusively political and diplomatic means by promoting dialogue. The sides noted in this context that unilateral sanctions are counter-productive. They recognized Iran's right to develop research, produce and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in conformity with its international obligations. They urged Iran to comply with the provisions of the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions and extend full cooperation to the IAEA.

Recovery and Strengthening of Global Economy, Reforming the International Financial Architecture

The two sides noted that the global economy continued to face multiple challenges and agreed that multilateralism was indispensable to resolve these challenges. They support the G20 as the premier forum for international economic cooperation in playing a greater role in global economic governance. Both sides emphasised the need to better coordinate macroeconomic policies of the G20 members to ensure strong, sustainable and balanced growth in the global economy. India welcomed Russia's Presidency of the G20 and both sides agreed to intensify consultations and coordination on the G20 process during the Russian Presidency.

Both sides reiterated the need for a more representative and legitimate international financial architecture, with an increase in the voice and representation of emerging market economies and developing countries. The two sides underscored the need to push ahead expeditiously with the reform of the IMF agreed in 2010, so that it becomes the basis for the Fifteenth General Review of quotas to be completed no later than January 2014.

The sides emphasised the need for strengthening the international monetary

system – one that is resilient to future turmoil – that can serve the interests of the world community and support the development of emerging market economies and developing countries.

Environment/Sustainable Development

The two sides welcomed the outcome of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) held in Rio de Janeiro from June 20-22, 2012 and agreed to work together for the expeditious implementation of the follow-up processes agreed therein. They stressed the importance of enhancing international efforts to combat climate change under the aegis of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The sides expressed satisfaction at the results of the 18th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change/ 8th meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol held in Doha, Qatar, from November 26 to December 8, 2012. Russia expressed its appreciation for India's hosting of the 11th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Hyderabad, India, on October 8-19, 2012.

The India-Russia Summit was marked by an atmosphere of traditional friendship and mutual understanding. The President of the Russian Federation expressed his appreciation to the leadership of the Republic of India for the hospitality and warm welcome in New Delhi and invited the Prime Minister of the Republic of India to pay an official visit to Russia. The invitation was accepted with pleasure.



539. List of Documents signed at the 13th India-Russia Annual Summit

December 24, 2012

List of documents signed at the 13th India-Russia Annual Summit

S. No	Name of the Document	Details	Indian Signatory	Russian Signatory
1.	Protocol on Foreign Office Consultations 2013-14	The Protocol is an instrument to continue the tradition of close political consultations between the two Foreign Offices. The current Protocol outlines seventeen different broad themes for such exchanges. The bi-annual Protocol mechanism enables frequent contacts and promotes broad-based understanding between the various wings of the two Foreign Offices.	Shri Salman Khurshid, External Affairs Minister	Mr. S. Lavrov, Minister for Foreign Affairs
2.	Memorandum on Cooperation between the Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India and the Ministry for	The Memorandum shall facilitate deepening cooperation in the field of innovation and S&T, through implementation of joint programs or projects involving educational, R&D and	Shri Jaipal Reddy, Minister for Science &	Mr. Dmitry Livanov, Minister for Education

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| Education and Science of the Russian Federation in Science, Technology & Innovation | industrial institutions. It also stipulates formation of a Working Group to implement the provisions of this MoC. | Technology and Science | |
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3. Cultural Exchange Programme between the Ministry of Culture of the Republic Of India and The Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation for the Years 2013 - 15
- The document envisages enhancing bilateral cultural contacts through exchanges in performing arts, films, archives, museums and conservation, literature and language and through organization of reciprocal Festivals. It is in continuation to the previous CEP 2009-12. It also aims to preserve and promote the legacy of the Roerich Estate in Kullu (Himachal Pradesh), an important icon of cultural cooperation between the two countries.
- Smt. C.K. Katoch, Minister of Culture
- Mr. Vladimir Medinsky, Minister of Culture
4. Memorandum of Understanding to Promote Direct
- MoU envisages investments upto US\$ 2 billion in important

Investment between bilateral projects or Russia and India companies, privatization and other opportunities. Mr. Kirill Shri Pratip Chaudhuri, RDIF is a US\$ 10 billion sovereign-backed Russian private equity fund established by the Russian Government to co-invest alongside global institutional investors. Since its inception in 2011, it has led investments totaling US\$ 1.5 billion in Russian companies together with some of the largest asset managers in the world.

Dmitriev,
Director-
General,
Russia
Foundation for
Direct
Investments

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5. Memorandum of Understanding between Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd., New Delhi, India & Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd., New Delhi, India and NIS-GLONASS, Russia
- The MoU envisages a pilot project to assess the usage of the Russian Global Navigation Satellite System (GLONASS – the Russian equivalent of GPS) using the capabilities of BSNL /MTNL ground
- Shri R.K. Upadhyay, Chairman & Managing Director, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd., & Shri
- Mr. Alexander Chub, Director-General, OAO

for conducting the infrastructure. A.K. Garg, "NIS"
 proof of concept Success of the pilot Chairman &
 through pilot project project may provide Managing
 for providing the insights for wider Director,
 Satellite based applicability of Mahanagar
 navigation services GLONASS Telephone
 signals in the future in Nigam Ltd.
 areas such as disaster
 management,
 telephony and long-
 distance communications.

Military-Technical Contracts

6. Contract for Delivery of 71 Mi-17V-5 helicopters An order for procurement of 59 Mi-17 v5 MLH was agreed to in Feb 2010, which was subsequently increased to 71. The current contract is in context of the order.
7. Contract for Delivery of 42 technological kits for SU-30MKI aircraft licensed production The Protocol-II on licensed manufacturing of additional 42 SU-30MKI aircraft units was signed during Annual Summit 2011. The current contract is a follow up to this Protocol.

Business level Contracts

8. Strategic Cooperation Agreement between Tata Consultancy Services Ltd. and Joint Stock Company "Navigation The Agreement shall establish and strengthen technology partner relations between the two enterprises in software development, systems integration, product engineering, professional services for and marketing of NIS products and TCS Solution frameworks. The areas of cooperation visualized concern sectors such as information

	Information Systems” technology enabled services, telecommunication (NIS) of Russia	systems, manufacturing etc
9.	Joint Venture Agreement between Elcom Systems Private Ltd. and OAO “Vertoleti Rassi” (JSC “Helicopters Russia”)	The joint venture aims to set up in India, a modern industrial facility for manufacturing of Russian models of helicopters (Ka- and Mi- brands). The JV will serve as an industrial base for hi-tech rotorcraft products from Russia to India and shall contribute to the development of the domestic aerospace industry. The enterprise will be eligible for implementing offset projects under various procurement tenders in India. JSC “Russian Helicopters” is a leading player in the global helicopter industry engaged in the business of modern civilian and military helicopters and training of aviation personnel. Elcom Systems is an established entity in the Indian telecommunications, security and navigation sectors.
10.	Memorandum of Understanding for Joint Venture arrangement between Elder Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Mumbai and Pharm Eco of Russia	The joint venture company will engage in the manufacturing, marketing and distribution of pharmaceuticals in Russia and other countries and envisages an investment of at least US\$ 100 million. PharmEco will have 51% stake in the joint venture while Elder Pharmaceuticals will own 49% in the joint venture company.

New Delhi December 24, 2012



540. Statement by the Prime Minister to the media at the 13th India-Russia Annual Summit.

New Delhi, December 24, 2012.

Distinguished Representatives of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my great pleasure to welcome His Excellency President Vladimir Putin to India for the 2012 India - Russia Annual Summit. President Putin is a valued friend of India and the original architect of the India-Russia strategic partnership. I conveyed to President Putin our deep appreciation for his long-standing and personal commitment to this partnership.

This morning, we undertook an extensive review of our multi-faceted bilateral cooperation, especially in energy, defence, space, trade and investment, science and technology, education, culture and tourism. The documents signed during this visit will further strengthen the framework for our cooperation

The development of our nuclear energy programme has been a key pillar of our strategic partnership. Construction of Unit 1 of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project is now complete, and power generation will commence shortly. India appreciates deeply the support extended by Russian engineers and scientists in this project. We look forward to the completion of Unit 2 next year.

Negotiations for the construction of Units 3 and 4 at Kudankulam have made good progress. We intend to continue implementing the Roadmap for cooperation in the nuclear energy sector that was signed during President Putin's visit in 2010 as the then Prime Minister of Russia.

Our energy cooperation also extends to the oil and natural gas sectors. I conveyed to President Putin India's interest in deepening cooperation in this area, including through mutual investments and joint projects in third countries.

Russia is a key partner in our efforts to modernize our armed forces and enhance our defence preparedness. A number of joint design, development and production projects are underway in high technology areas. We expressed satisfaction that these projects are progressing well.

I congratulated President Putin on Russia's accession to the World Trade Organization. Russia's deeper integration into the global economy will present more opportunities for the business communities in both countries. Our bilateral trade has grown by over 30% this year. There is still untapped potential in areas such as pharmaceuticals, fertilizers, mining, steel, information technology, civil aviation, telecommunications, infrastructure, food processing, innovation and

services, which we will work to exploit. We have asked our inter-governmental and business level groups to recommend specific steps for enhancing bilateral trade and investment flows.

Our science and technology cooperation remains robust. President Putin and I welcomed the operationalization of the India-Russia Joint Science and Technology Centres in India and Russia, which can assist the development and commercialization of promising technologies, including in nano-technology, bio-medicine and super-computing. I particularly welcome the agreement on cooperation in using the GLONASS satellite navigation system that has just been signed.

.We also discussed regional and global issues, on many of which there is a marked congruence in our approach. Our consultations in international fora, such as the UN Security Council and BRICS, have deepened during the year. I congratulated President Putin on Russia's assumption of the Chair of G-20. We look forward to working closely with Russia in promoting reform of global economic and international structures of governance.

India and Russia share the objective of a stable, united, democratic and prosperous Afghanistan, free from extremism, terrorism and external interference. We reviewed the ongoing developments in Afghanistan, and agreed to work together against threats posed by extremist ideologies and drug trafficking. We also discussed the situation in West Asia, and agreed to continue consultations.

This year marks the sixty-fifth anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Russia. We deeply value Russia's steadfast friendship and support for India, unaffected by global developments. This relationship has a special place in the hearts and minds of Indians and India remains committed to further deepening it.

.I once again extend a very warm welcome to President Putin and his delegation, and wish him and the people of Russia the very best for the New Year.

Thank you



SPAIN

541. Press Release on the Visit of External Affairs Minister to Spain.

New Delhi, April 17, 2012.

External Affairs Minister Shri S.M. Krishna will visit Spain from 19th to 21st April 2012 for bilateral discussions with Mr. Jose Manuel Garcia - Margallo, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Spain. During his visit to Spain, External Affairs Minister will meet Mr. Artur Mas, President of the Government of Catalonia, and Mr. Gilbert Saboya Sunyé, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Principality of Andorra. External Affairs Minister will also call on His Majesty, the King Don Juan Carlos of Spain.

2. Relations between India and Spain are cordial. There have been regular high level Ministerial and official visits from both sides. India-Spain economic, trade and investment relations have grown substantially in the last few years and the India-Spain bilateral trade in the year 2011 stood at US \$ 5.84 billion. Spain is the 13th largest investor in India with total FDI at US \$ 820 million. Spain was also the Partner Country at the 17th edition of the Technology Summit and Technology Platform organized by the Department of Science and Technology in New Delhi in November, 2011. The Chief Minister of the Basque Province, Mr Patxi Lopez, visited India in March 2012 to see projects being implemented by his Province in India and to seek business opportunities. He was accompanied by a large business delegation. The Basque Province and Catalonia contribute substantially to the trade turnover with India. India has also helped in the setting up of the Casa de la India in the University of Valladolid in Spain. The Casa constitutes a new platform for the dissemination of Indian culture in Spain.

3. The External Affairs Minister will interact with representatives of the Indian community, which is estimated to number about 50,000 in Spain.

4. During his visit to Spain the External Affairs Minister will chair a Conference of Heads of Indian Missions based in Europe. Ms. Preeti Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs, will also address the Conference.



542. Media Briefing by Official Spokesperson and Joint Secretary (Europe West) on visit of the King of Spain.

New Delhi, October 23, 2012.

Official Spokesperson (Shri Syed Akbaruddin): Good afternoon friends, thank you very much for coming this afternoon. I have one announcement to make. I have with me Joint Secretary (Europe West), Ms. Ruchi Ghanashyam, who will speak to you on the topic of the announcement that I have to make.

The announcement is about the visit of His Majesty King Juan Carlos I of Spain to India. He will be on a state visit to India from October 24 to 27. He will be visiting Mumbai and Delhi during the course of that visit. While in Delhi the King of Spain will be accorded a ceremonial welcome on 26th October. That is his day of engagement, and he will have several other engagements on 26th of October. These engagements of course will include delegation-level talks with the Prime Minister. The President of India will host a banquet in his honour, and we will have several calls and meeting which will be explained by my colleague.

As you are perhaps aware, India and Spain have approximately a five billion dollar bilateral trade. This represents a growth area as far as bilateral trade is concerned of about 18 per cent over the previous year. Spanish investment in India is about 1.15 billion dollars and Indian investment in Spain is about 605 million Euros. We hope that the visit of the King of Spain will carry forward the process of high-level interaction between our two countries and deepen the relations.

I have nothing further to announce, and I will ask Joint Secretary (Europe West) to speak a little bit about the visit and then respond to any questions that you may have on the forthcoming visit. Over to you, Ruchi.

Joint Secretary (Europe West) (Ms. Ruchi Ghanashyam): Thanks Akbar, and thank you all for coming here today.

JS (XP) has just given you the brief outline. I think he left the various calls in Delhi to me. These would include the call by Hon. Vice-President, by Hon. External Affairs Minister, call by the Hon. Chairperson of UPA and the Hon. Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha. His Majesty will leave Delhi on 27th October.

He will be accompanied by senior Cabinet Ministers as well as a team of Spanish businessman from the infrastructure, transport, services, energy, industry and technology sectors. Discussions would focus on bilateral, regional, and international issues of mutual interest. Given the strong economic delegation accompanying His Majesty, discussions are likely to have a strong economic and investment related focus as well.

As JS (XP) already explained, India and Spain have a bilateral trade close to US dollars five billion which represents a growth of almost, this was in 2011, 18 per cent over 2010. Spain has been a reliable partner in terms of investments as well. Spanish investments in India amount to over 1.15 billion US dollars, while India also has investments of around 605 million Euros in Spain.

Some discussions may also take place over the defence sector. India and Spain have common concerns over terrorism. Spain has also suffered terrorist attacks, for example the March 2004 attack on a crowded commuter train in Madrid. Both countries are concerned about the threat of piracy.

Spain is dealing with the debt and Eurozone crisis which has also affected a number of countries in Europe as also many countries around the globe. However, Spain is a 1.3 trillion dollar economy with a broad industrial base and strength in a number of areas of interest to India.

India and Spain also have a very good, robust, vibrant ongoing cooperation in the area of culture. There is a lot of interest in Indian culture in Spain. The Spanish royal family has a long and abiding interest in Indian culture. The Casa de la India is a unique platform for dissemination of Indian culture in Spain. The Cervantes Institute promotes Spanish language in India. The Sixth India-Spain Tribune Meeting was recently organized in New Delhi by the Indian Council of World Affairs.

These are some of the important areas that bind India and Spain together. The visit of His Majesty is expected to give a fillip and a further boost to our bilateral relations with Spain.

Thank you.

Official Spokesperson: We will begin with questions on the visit of King Juan Carlos, and then move on to anything else that you would like to ask.

Question: Do we have any plans to get Picasso's La Guernica from the Madrid Museum and organizing any Spanish festival in India? A lot of people have read Cervantes' Don Quixote in the childhood. Anything connected with that? We see a lot of Spain in films in Tamil films and all that. But are you doing anything about that?

Joint Secretary (Europe West): I do not think I would be in a position to comment on what the Spanish Embassy may be planning to do India. There is a lot of ongoing activity which I have outlined. The visit of His Majesty would surely encourage further exchanges in the cultural arena between the two countries.

Question: I am from Spanish News EFE. I have a couple of questions. One of them is, India and Spain are discussing the debt and Eurozone crisis. In that

case, what would be the Indian advice to Spain at this moment? Second, I would like to know if India has any comment to make about the perspectives in the Basque Country and Catalonia in which we have regionalist leaders talking about a referendum. The same thing is happening now in Scotland. But I do not know if India has any official position over these issues.

Joint Secretary (Europe West): The Eurozone crisis is an important crisis that is engaging the attention of world leaders. So, as I mentioned, we would be very much looking forward to the perspectives of Spain and how Spain is dealing with this. As for internal issues in Spain, I do not think I would like to comment on that.

Question: You said that the Spanish royal family has this long and abiding interest in Indian culture. Can you illustrate it a bit?

Joint Secretary (Europe West): This is not His Majesty's first visit to India. He was the Chief Guest at the Republic Day celebrations in 1982. Prior to that, they have made private visits as well. They take a lot of interest in India. It is not a hidden interest. They have a lot of interest in India. This helps in cementing the two nations, the two peoples together.

Question: Can you elaborate a little bit more as to why he is going to Mumbai?

Joint Secretary (Europe West): Why would the Spanish side choose to go to Mumbai? That would be speculating. So, I do not know if I should really be commenting on that. All I would say is that Mumbai is an important commercial centre of India, and His Majesty is accompanied by a strong economic and business team.

Question: You mentioned that there would be some talk of cooperation in the defence sector. What kind of cooperation do we have? Do we have anything at this point and how are we planning to take it forward?

Joint Secretary (Europe West): There is some ongoing cooperation. But I think it would be incorrect for me to go into the details of what kind of defence areas we may be discussing about. It is a little premature at this stage for me to get into the details.

Question: You also spoke about concerns both countries have regarding terrorism and piracy. What is the kind of cooperation that we can expect in terms of terror cooperation and cooperation with regard to piracy?

Joint Secretary (Europe West): We are talking to a number of countries on international cooperation on terrorism. India and Spain will also definitely look at this issue which is an issue that affects everyone around the globe.

Question: What is the ongoing defence cooperation between the two countries?

Official Spokesperson: I think the areas of cooperation at this stage are very minimal. The idea that she was trying to indicate was that there will be discussions because the Defence Minister is here in the team. The outcome will be provided to you when we have an outcome document of the visit. At this stage we do not want to further add to what is available in the public domain on that.

Question: I think they are part of this consortium, EADS on MMRCA? Has Spain raised this issue with India on the MMRCA? Germany has already said that it is not a closed deal for them?

Official Spokesperson: If I can mention, the last time we had high-level consultations was when the External Affairs Minister visited Madrid, I think it was sometime in April, and at that stage this issue did not come up. And if your question is further that whether they will raise it, I think we will have to wait for an answer for that.

Thank you very much.



543. List of Documents signed during the State Visit of King of Spain to India

New Delhi, October 26, 2012.

S. No.	Document	Indian Signatory	Spanish Signatory	Remarks
1	Protocol for amending the Convention and Protocol between India and Spain for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income and on capital	Ministry of Finance, India Shri P. Chidambaram, Minister of Finance	Ministry of Finance, Spain Mr. Jose Manuel García-Margalloy Marfil, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation	Amending the Convention and Protocol between the India and Spain for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion, which was signed on 8 February 1993 in New Delhi.
2	Memorandum of Understanding on Defence Cooperation	Ministry of Defence, India Shri A.K. Antony, Hon'ble Minister of Defence	Ministry of Defence, Spain Minister of Defence, Mr. Pedro Morenés Eulate	Facilitate defence cooperation between Indian and Spain by exchanging defence related experience, information, encouraging visits of personnel, collaboration In defence industry and other similar areas of cooperation. Promoting efficient and environmentally sustainable transport systems and to

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| | | | | nstitutionalize a technical and scientific cooperation in the fields of road infrastructure, construction, maintenance and management of roads. Exchange information between Government officials and specialists of the Highway Departments in the field of transportation by road, and promote and develop the relations between enterprises (consultancy, engineering and road transport service provider companies) to enable transfer of technology in the field of road and road transport. |
| 3 | Memorandum of Understanding on Roads and Road Transport Sector | Ministry of Road Transport And Highways, India Shri C.P. Joshi, Hon'ble Minister of Road Transport and Highways and Minister of Railways | Ministry of Public Works And Transport, Spain Minister of Public Works and Transport, Ms. Ana Pastor Julián | |
| 4 | Agreement between India and Spain in the field of Audiovisual Co-production | Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, India Smt. Ambika Soni, Minister of Information and Broadcasting | Institute of Cinematography and Audiovisual Arts and the Competent Authorities of the Autonomous Communities Mr. José Manuel García- | Promote and facilitate the co-production of films between the two countries. A film co-produced in compliance with this Agreement shall be deemed to be a national film in the territory of each country and shall be |

- 5 Memorandum of Understanding between the Indian Railways and RENFE- OPERADORA AND ADIF of Spain on technical cooperation in the field of railway sector
- Indian Railways, India Represented by Shri C.P. Joshi, Hon'ble Minister of Road Transport and Highways and Minister of Railways
- RENFE Operadora and ADIF (Spanish Railways Infrastructure Manager), Spain Minister of Public Works and Transport, Ms. Ana Pastor Julián
- Margallo Marfil, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
- fully entitled to all the benefits which are granted under the laws and regulations of each country.
- To promote cooperation and information exchange in the areas of High Speed Railway, upgradation of speed of passenger trains on existing lines, improving safety of train operations, modernization of Rolling Stock, construction and maintenance technologies for fixed infrastructure – Track, Bridges, Tunnels, OHE, Power Supply Systems, Signaling and Telecommunications and other cooperation in railway related technology developments.

New Delhi

October 26, 2012



544. Press Release issued by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting on the signing of the Audio – Visual Cooperation Agreement with Spain regarding enhanced bilateral cooperation in the film sector.

New Delhi, October 26, 2012.

India and Spain today signed an Audio visual Co-production Agreement seeking to improve cooperation between the two countries in the audio visual sector. The Agreement was signed between Smt. Ambika Soni, Minister for Information & Broadcasting and Mr. Jose Garcia Margallo Y. Marfil, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Kingdom of Spain. The agreement establishes a legal framework for relations regarding cooperation between the two countries in the audio visual field thereby facilitating the development of the audio visual industry. The framework for co production includes feature films, documentary and animation films.

The agreement provides opportunities for both the countries to pool their creative, artistic, technical, financial and marketing resources to co-produce films. The co-production would provide an opportunity to create and showcase 'soft power' of our Country. It would also lead to generation of employment among artistic, technical as well as non-technical personnel engaged in the arena of film production including post-production and its marketing, thus adding to the country's GDP. The utilization of Indian locales for shooting raises the visibility/prospects of India as a preferred film shooting destination across the globe. It will also lead to inflow of foreign exchange into the country and transparent funding of film production.

Currently, as part of the initiative, the Government has signed co-production agreements with Government of Italian Republic in 2005, with Government of UK of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in 2005, with Federal Republic of Germany in 2007, with Federal Republic of Brazil in 2007, with Republic of France in 2010, with Government of Republic of New Zealand in 2011, with Government of Republic of Poland in 2012



SWITZERLAND

545. Press Release of the Ministry of Finance on the Mutual Agreement between India and Switzerland for liberal interpretation of the Identity Requirements for providing information under DTAA.

New Delhi, April 30, 2012.

Mutual Agreement between the Competent Authorities of Republic of India and the Swiss Confederation for liberal interpretation of the identity requirements for providing information as per Article 26 of the Agreement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation (DTAA) with respect to income as amended by the 2010 Protocol was signed on 20th April, 2012 by Mr. Sanjay Kumar Mishra, Joint Secretary, Foreign Tax & Tax Research division, Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance for the Indian side and Mr. Juerg Giraudi, Head of the Division of International Tax Affairs, Swiss Federal Department of Finance, Switzerland. After approval of the Cabinet on 23rd March 2012, this Mutual Agreement has been signed on 20th April, 2012 but the liberal interpretation to Article 26 of the DIM as agreed upon in this Mutual Agreement will apply from the date on which the amending Protocol which was signed on 30th August, 2010, has come into effect i.e., 01.04.2011.

The salient features of this mutual agreement are:

- As per the existing treaty, the requesting State has to compulsorily provide the name of the person under examination and the name of the foreign holder of the information as part of the identity requirements without which the information will not be shared by the other country. This was a restrictive provision and not in line with the international standards.
- Switzerland, now, has agreed to provide liberal interpretation on the identity requirements that it is sufficient if the requesting state identifies the person by other means than by indicating the name and address of the person concerned, and indicates to the extent known, the name and address of any person believed to be in possession of the requested information.
- This Agreement is beneficial to India because it gives liberal interpretation to the identity requirements for exchange of information which India will be seeking from Switzerland and is in line with international standards. The conditions as clarified by Switzerland, will enable India to get information even if we have only limited details regarding the person having bank accounts in Switzerland.



UNITED KINGDOM

546. Response of the Official Spokesperson on India- UK relations.

New Delhi, February 8, 2012.

In response to a question, the Official Spokesperson stated the following:

“ Relations between India and UK are warm and friendly and have stood the test of time. India appreciates cooperation extended by UK in a number of areas, which have contributed to India's overall development efforts, particularly through capacity building, exchange of best practices, knowledge sharing and sharing of technology and technical expertise. The bilateral cooperation between India and UK has been and remains mutually beneficial.



The spokesman was referring to the media reports of adverse reaction in the United Kingdom to India choosing French fighter aircraft for a multi-billion dollar purchase for the Indian Air Force.

547. Press Release of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry on agreement between India and the UK to push for Trade and Investment.

New Delhi, April 16, 2012.

Shri Anand Sharma, Commerce, Industry and Textiles Minister who is in London for the 8th round of India-UK Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) Meeting, today held official meetings with his British counterpart Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, Dr. Vince Cable and the Chancellor of the Exchequer Mr. George Osborne in addition to leading the Indian deliberations at the JETCO. Shri Anand Sharma and Dr. Vince Cable addressed the JETCO meeting. The FICCI and CII have led industry delegations of leading businessmen from India to the meeting. The JETCO was established on 13 January 2005 in New Delhi to steer the strategic economic partnership between the two countries following the historic Joint Declaration "India-UK towards a new and dynamic partnership" between Prime Ministers Dr. Manmohan Singh and Tony Blair in September 2004 in London. The JETCO has been conceived as a business driven institutional framework to enhance trade and investment both ways. Shri Anand Sharma and Dr. Vince Cable had led the respective delegations at the 7th JETCO meeting last year in New Delhi. Today's meeting saw both industry and Government come together for healthy discussions in the Joint Working Groups on the themes of Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering, Education and Skills Development, Investment and Innovation and Logistics. The outcomes of these deliberations were presented by the leaders of the groups in the plenary session. Outcomes of the discussions in the Britain-India Infrastructure Group (BIIG), which has been meeting separately were also taken onboard during the Plenary Session.

Both sides agreed to concentrate on Education and Skills Development and innovation and healthcare technology, particularly cardiology. In the advanced manufacturing and engineering sector the meeting identified several projects like collaboration between BAE systems and Mahindra & Mahindra, JV between Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and Rolls Royce and collaboration between Bhushan Power & Steel and CDE Asia Limited for immediate implementation. The Ministers also participated in the release of a Compendium on partnerships in Skills and Education and the launch of a dedicated website of the UK- India Skills Forum.

During the bilateral meetings with Dr. Vince Cable and George Osborne Shri Anand Sharma highlighted the scope for greater cooperation between the two countries in trade and investment, particularly in critical areas like infrastructure, healthcare, skills development, advanced manufacturing and innovative

technologies. Shri Sharma referred to the need for improving the regulatory environment for investments. He pointed out that Indian companies who want to acquire companies in the UK have been facing considerable delay and long legal hassles. He highlighted the concerns of Indian companies who want to visit UK for business meetings and also the long delay in obtaining Visa by Indian nationals. Shri Sharma also flagged the issue of the restrictions imposed on non-EU immigration into the UK which is adversely affecting the operations of Indian companies in the UK. He specifically referred to the UK Border Agency treating Intra Company Transfers of IT experts, professionals and highly skilled workers as prospective immigrants which has affected has badly affected the performance of Indian companies operating in the UK. He also expressed concern that this move may force Indian companies, especially IT companies to relocate to other European capitals. Shri Sharma appreciated the UK Government's intention to reduce net immigration "to tens of thousands" and clarified that Indian experts coming to the UK leave the country after completion of their contractual obligations with their employers in the UK and therefore they cannot be treated as economic migrants. He highlighted the vast contributions of Indian professionals to the UK economy. He also informed the Chancellor that stoppage of Post Study Work Permits to students has not found favourable to Indian students who are not able to recover the cost of their education in the UK universities and therefore they are now looking for options to study in other countries. He stressed that this development is expected to impact the UK universities where at present over 40,000 Indians students have been studying.

Dr. Vince Cable emphasised the British Government's desire to further strengthen the ties with India. He highlighted the importance of economic collaboration by protecting and creating jobs through trade and investment for economic recovery. He referred to the Global Investment Conference which the British Government is organizing at Lancaster House one day before the London Olympics started, as an initiative to drive the world economy out of the crisis. It is understood that Prime Minister David Cameron had personally invited Shri Anand Sharma to attend this Investment Conference. Dr. Cable thanked Shri Sharma for agreeing to take part in the conference and the Panel discussion on the theme "Regional Growth, Opportunities, Trade and Foreign Direct Investment". He also discussed about the visit of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to London during this year at a mutually convenient time as it is will arrive at important decisions to further push the ties.

Mr. George Osborne told Shri Sharma that for the British Government led by the Conservative party, enhancement of relations with India has been a top priority. He added that this was reiterated by Prime Minister David Cameron on several occasions including last month in New Delhi during his televised address at the India Today Conclave and the launch of 'Great Britain' campaign in India. It

would be UK Government's endeavour to create a long lasting partnership with India in all areas of polity for building our two economies stronger. He underlined that UK and India are close allies in the comity of international business and coordinate common issues in fora like WTO, IMF, G-20, etc. Mr. Osborne also briefed Shri Sharma about the sovereign debt crisis in the Eurozone and the decisions arrived at the recent summits in Brussels for the return of Europe-led global growth and recovery. He also referred to his fruitful meeting with Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Finance Minister, in New Delhi during the UK-India Economic and Financial Dialogue in the beginning of this month where several issues of mutual interest were discussed. He clarified that the UK Government thereafter has taken the decision not to make any change in the Intra Company Transfers for the next two years and that there will not be any increase in the salary cap for such transfers. He acknowledged the contributions of Indian people and praised the performance of Indian companies. He added that UK remains keenly interested in getting highly qualified professionals from India.

In his address at the JETCO plenary session of over 150 businessmen from both countries at the Royal Society here, Shri Anand Sharma congratulated the Joint Working Groups in identifying concrete projects and tangible results which are critically important for India's development and inclusive growth. He urged them to focus on implementation of the identified deliverables, building upon the decisions taken during the New Delhi meeting. He expressed satisfaction that trade and investment between the two countries have been growing despite the global economic crisis and serious sovereign debt crisis in the Eurozone, He underlined that India is committed to continue to grow in the trajectory of robust growth for the next 25-30 years. He reiterated that the Government of India is committed to create investor friendly environment in the country through the FDI route, implementation of the new National Manufacturing Policy and creation of enabling financial framework for investment outward investment by Indian companies abroad and for foreign companies in India. Shri Sharma invited the British companies to investment in the infrastructure development projects in various parts of India including the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor and Bangalore-Chennai corridor.



548 Joint Press Statement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer of UK and the Finance Minister of India after the Fifth Round of UK-India Economic and Financial Dialogue.

New Delhi, April 2, 2012.

We, the Finance Ministers of the UK and India, met today in the fifth round of our annual Economic and Financial Dialogue. The talks included senior representatives of our Finance Ministries and regulatory bodies. We discussed ways to strengthen our mutual cooperation and further boost trade and investment between our two countries

Both sides agreed that while the global economy has stabilized in recent months, growth will remain subdued and at risk from a series of threats. UK and India share a common commitment to play their part to support the recovery, ensure financial stability and restore confidence. Both countries remain determined to deliver necessary fiscal consolidation plans to secure sustainable public finances.

Both sides welcomed the exchange of ideas in financing infrastructure as part of the Dialogue, noting that both countries share a common aim of increasing the role of institutional investors in infrastructure financing.

Both sides also discussed the importance of developing deep and efficient capital markets to support infrastructure financing in India. Foreign capital can play an important part in this process.

Both sides supported the progress on the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) roadmap for foreign banks in India and UK side welcomed the desire by the Indian side to resolve outstanding issues, including those on tax, of the RBI's subsidiarisation proposals for foreign banks.

Both sides discussed the steps that are being taken to simplify and harmonise financial services legislation including through the work of the Financial Sector Legislative Reforms Commission (FSLRC) in India, and the UK's ongoing implementation of the recommendations of the Independent Commission on Banking. Both sides agreed that there was a clear benefit to sharing experiences on this and welcomed the ongoing technical collaboration to assist the FSLRC in carrying out its mandate.

Both sides welcomed the Cannes Action Plan for Growth and Jobs agreed at the November 2011 Cannes Summit and are making progress in implementing these commitments, which remain fully relevant to the shared objectives of strong, sustainable and balanced growth. Both sides emphasized the importance of investment, in particular in infrastructure, to strengthen the global recovery and rebalance demand.

Both sides are committed to ensuring that the IMF is adequately resourced to play its systemic role in the international financial system in support of its entire membership and that the quota and governance reforms of the IMF are implemented within the agreed timelines.

Both sides agreed to remain committed to pursuing the financial regulatory reform agenda according to the time table agreed in G-20 in an internationally consistent and non-discriminatory manner. This will be monitored by the Financial Stability Board through its Coordination Framework for Implementation Monitoring. Both sides discussed the joint approaches to meeting these commitments and will continue to work together to strengthen the global financial system.

Both sides recognized the need for countries to sign the Multilateral Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters and engage in automatic exchange of information where legally required to improve tax compliance and decrease tax evasion.

Recognising the importance of open trade for the global economy, India and UK reaffirmed their commitment to refrain from protectionism. Both sides signaled their commitment to the WTO and agreed to consider new approaches to taking forward the Doha round, with a clear focus on delivering outcomes for the least developed countries.

Both sides confirmed their intention for India and the UK to continue to work closely to develop ever stronger links across a wide spectrum of issues in pursuit of the ambitious mutual aspiration to achieve a step change in two way trade. India and the UK welcomed the 40% year on year increase in the export of goods from the UK to India and the increase by 35.05% of exports from India to UK in 2011. Both sides continue to work towards enhancing this growth.

Both sides agreed to remain fully committed to resolving the remaining issues and are working towards concluding a mutually beneficial India-EU Broad based Trade & Investment Agreement at the earliest.

Both sides recognized the important role that small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) play in underpinning economic growth and employment in both our countries, and discussed the challenges they face, particularly in raising finance, and resolved to work together to promote trade and investment between the SME sectors of the two countries.

Today's dialogue reaffirmed the continued strength of the UK-India economic and financial relationship. Both sides agreed to continue to work closely throughout the year to follow through on their commitments and look forward to the next round of talks in 2013.



549. Joint Press Conference of External Affairs Minister and Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom.

New Delhi, November 8, 2012.

Deputy Secretary (XP) (Shri Bishwadip Dey): Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. I welcome you all to today's media event.

We will first have opening remarks by the honourable Ministers after which the floor would be open for questions. May I request Hon. External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid to make his opening remarks.

External Affairs Minister (Shri Salman Khurshid): Thank you.

I am delighted that we have with us Mr. William Hague, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of United Kingdom, a friend of India and a person that you are all familiar with, outstanding friend of our country. For me, I am privileged to have someone from my old University join me here in these august surroundings. I am indeed delighted that I am welcoming His Excellency as the first serving Foreign Minister in our country after I took office. I look forward to a very very significant and a very wholesome relationship of our working together both for bilateral and for multilateral issues.

We have discussed a wide range of subjects today and if I was to start talking about them, we would be here for well past lunch time. But the strengths that we have, we have emphasized those in the areas in which we need to move forward and look forward to moving forward. We have emphasized, we have looked at our partnership strengths, in the areas that include trade and investment, security, defence, education, science and technology. We do hope that in view of our enhanced strategic relationship, we will continue to move forward and further strengthen cooperation in strategic areas and to address all sensitive issues that concern us both and concern the world.

India has become the third largest investor in the UK, and that is good news. There are now 700 Indian companies in the UK. UK is the largest market in Europe for Indian IT services. UK is also the third largest inward investor into India. So, trade and investment is obviously the most important plank of our growing bilateral relationship.

Security, defence, and particularly counter-terrorism cooperation form again a very important aspect of our relations. To this expanding and ever expanding list we have added cyber security cooperation as well, a subject very dear to Secretary's heart. We recently held the India-UK Cyber Security Dialogue in London last month and Secretary Hague and I welcomed this new initiative

during our discussions. The Joint Statement on Cyber Cooperation will be issued immediately after this press interaction. This is an emerging area of cooperation between us that we will give high priority to.

I look forward to continuing this relationship and our discussions over lunch when we will have a chance to discuss regional issues and some more global issues.

Thank you very much.

Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of UK (Mr. William Hague): Thank you very much indeed. I am delighted to return to India and I am very grateful to my new counterpart His Excellency Shri Salman Khurshid for the warm welcome he has extended to me today. And I am pleased to be among the first Foreign Ministers to have the chance to discuss with him the many pressing challenges that we face together.

On our election in 2010, the British Government made clear that we would invest significantly in many ways in the UK-India relationship to build a stronger and wider and deeper partnership together. For us this is an essential pillar in our broader strategy to build far closer relations with the powers of the South and the East and the world. I have often said that I believe that 21st century more than any previous period will be shaped by India.

Since 2010 our partnership has truly become stronger, wider and deeper already, and we are on course to hit our target of doubling trade by 2015. British companies are leading the way, investing in India in key sectors such as energy, telecommunications and education. The largest single foreign investments into India are British by Vodafone and by BP. As the Minister has said, this is a two-way process. Indian companies have chosen to invest more in the United Kingdom than in the whole of the rest of the European Union combined with great success as Tata's investments in companies such as Jaguar and Land Rover have shown.

Beyond business, the finest minds in our two countries are increasingly working together for the benefit of both our nations and the world. Our joint Government-led research funding has now passed 100 million pounds compared to one million pounds three years ago. I am delighted that each year over 30,000 ambitious young Indians choose the United Kingdom for their higher education. And as home to four of the world's top ten Universities, I am confident that Britain offers these students the very best in their pursuit of knowledge.

I am also pleased by the progress we are making to strengthen our civil nuclear cooperation both commercially and through our research institutions. We have also agreed, as you have heard, a communiqué to steer our future cooperation

on cyber security. This agreement confirms our shared commitment to the core principles of liberty, transparency, freedom of expression and the rule of law in cyberspace.

Our diplomatic networks play a vital role in creating opportunities for partnership. Since 2010 we have agreed to open two new Deputy High Commissions in Hyderabad and Chandigarh. The British diplomatic presence in India is now more extensive than that of any other nation, and we hope to develop this further over the coming years. And our recent decision to re-engage with the Government of Gujarat now offers us the chance to strengthen our ties across the breadth of India.

Our partnership is not limited to cooperation on British or Indian soil. We have worked increasingly closely together on matters of international security, not only cyber security as we mentioned but counter-terrorism and the security of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials. We have also worked closely together with India during her tenure on the United Nations Security Council, and we look forward to the time when India has a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council. We also support India's membership of the International export control regimes.

I know that we will discuss a range of other foreign policy issues later including Afghanistan and also other issues in India's neighbourhood on which we greatly value India's counsel and cooperation.

We will discuss, I am sure, the situation in Syria where the British Government, we are appalled by the regime's brutal repression. I welcome India's support over recent months for a stronger role for the UN in bringing an end to the violence in Syria. I think we are both committed to pursuing a peaceful political transition and working to support the work of the UN-Arab League Special Envoy Lakhdar Brahimi in his efforts to achieve this.

So, ours is a genuine partnership of equals between the UK and India that we have done a lot to build up over the last two and a half years. But there are many more exciting opportunities, and we look forward to taking this on to the next stage and to being a partner of choice for India in many areas over the years to come.

Thank you.

Deputy Secretary (XP):Hon. Ministers have kindly agreed to take a few questions.

Question (Mr. Shailendra Wangu, ETV): My question is addressed to Secretary of State. Sir, what has changed now after twenty years that made UK to lift their travel advisory to the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

Secretary of State: What has changed is the situation on the ground. We take our travel advice very very seriously in the UK and we only change it if the facts have changed. Our travel advice is never political. It seeks to give genuine travel advice for the safety of travelers across the world. There has been an improvement in the situation. It is possible to say that people can travel to certain places that have been too difficult or dangerous for them to go to for a long time. That is obviously a good development. Our advice is always based on our understanding of the facts, and that is true in this case.

Question (Ms. Parul Malhotra, CNN-IBN): Mr. Foreign Secretary, there has been again speculation about the UK cutting development aid to India. Can you confirm if that indeed has been decided post 2015 and did it come up when you discussed issues with Salman Khurshid Sir and Mr. Chidambaram?

And to the External Affairs Minister, what is India's position on British aid? A former Minister, at that time Minister, said in Parliament that he felt this was peanuts. So, do we actually welcome British aid or we would much rather see it being used in other countries?

Secretary of State: Thank you for that question which I think is designed to create an argument between us, but it need not do so.

In the British Government this is the responsibility not of me but of my colleague Justine Greening the International Development Secretary. She has been here recently discussing these things. We have not been discussing this today although I did discuss it with the Finance Minister earlier today. I think the Governments of the UK and India has agreed on the way forward on this issue and my colleague Justine Greening will make a statement about this in the very near future. So, I do not want to preempt or cut across what she is going to say. You would not have long to wait to hear how we intend to proceed. We have had, she has had in particular, good and thorough discussions with our Indian colleagues.

External Affairs Minister: I can only add to you that if we did not discuss it, it did not merit discussion. We discussed a lot of trade, investment, cooperation, international, bilateral, multilateral. And I think that is how we see our relationship grow. Aid is the past and trade is the future. So, we are looking at the future. Every era, every moment in history has its own uniqueness and peculiarity and I think we should look at the immense potential that we have together. We are comforted in the knowledge that we seem to be working in the right direction and we certainly look forward to major things happening in the future.

Question (Mr. Sanjay Majumdar, BBC): In the absence of any clearly identified opposition group, are you concerned that radical Islamic groups could end up dominating the situation on the ground in Syria?

And to the Minister of External Affairs, are you comfortable with this idea of trying to unify the opposition groups in Syria and force out the Assad regime?

Secretary of State: I am concerned that the longer the crisis in Syria goes on, the greater is the opportunity for extremist groups to gain a foothold or to increase their strength or to recruit foreign fighters into Syria. This is why it is so important, so urgent to achieve a resolution of this crisis. And this is the case that we make to our colleagues on the Security Council including to Russia and China who vetoed our last resolution attempting to address this in July.

So, this is a danger. It is a serious danger. It is one of the reasons why it is important for opposition groups to work together as we are encouraging them to do. As you know, there is a meeting taking place in Doha. Our own Special Representative from the United Kingdom is at that meeting, is working with them. We want to see in the future a free and democratic Syria in which everybody will be able to discuss their differences, stand for election against each other. But in this terrible crisis for their country it is important that they come together with a common platform and a common ability to negotiate about the future. So, we strongly encourage them to do that. That is part of seeking a peaceful resolution to the crisis.

It remains of course a desperately urgent crisis. The humanitarian situation is deteriorating all the time. In the absence of a resolution of the crisis we will continue to step up our humanitarian assistance. We will give non-lethal support to the opposition and to opposition groups particularly in communications, equipment, water purification equipment, equipment that saves lives. And we will work with other countries on the day after Assad, what happens after Assad, because Syria will need a lot of help at that point. And we will be ready to provide some of that help.

External Affairs Minister: I think that I need not add too much to that. Stakeholders and people who have taken greater interest in Syria have the support of all peace-loving people. We do want a resolution and a quick resolution because the situation is beginning to look alarming. We have an interest in peace and we will continue to support all efforts that are being made to bring a peaceful resolution. It is a very difficult situation and we do not want to make it more difficult by adding anything that would not be very helpful. So, I think at present it is best to go by the efforts that are being made by the UN and to support the UN efforts. And in a sensitive manner whatever one can communicate between stakeholders to ensure that we move forward in the direction is something that we will continue to do.

Question (Ms. Parul Chanda, *The Asian Age*): Both Indian and UK are dealing with the issue of radicalization of a certain section of their population and its

consequent fall-out, terrorism. Can India and UK work together to deal with issues arising out of radicalization and how?

External Affairs Minister: I would like to put on record our appreciation for the sensitive cooperation that we have seen from United Kingdom. At different levels we are constantly in touch. This is a common concern for both of us and certainly it is for all our partners in the rest of the world. Of course you have to remain one step ahead of unwholesome forces which I hope that we will be able to do. There are issues that each nation has to tackle for itself vis-à-vis its own population. And I think that there are many ways in which my own personal experience is that UK does that wonderfully well in terms of inter-community bonding and social factors that emerge because of changing circumstances. We do the same for ourselves. We are a much larger country and, therefore, the effort required is much greater. Their effort would be perhaps more limited in terms of numbers that are involved. But I think we are both sensitive about these issues and we are addressing them both internally as well as bilaterally where there is a bilateral concern. I would say that there is no reason for anyone to feel concerned unduly. Matters are being taken care of, being addressed and addressed with reasonable success.

Secretary of State: This is a very important point. We have emphasized of course the tremendous economic opportunity and educational opportunities for our countries. But we have also been determined in recent years to intensify our cooperation on matters which helped maintain the security of the citizens of our countries. So, we have improved our cooperation on counter-terrorism in many different ways. We have discussed that this morning. We are also clear that we can continue to do more in that area. We hope there will be official level talks in the near future about this. Both our countries have terrible and tragic experience of terrorist attack. Both of us, therefore, have experience in the importance of counter-terrorism cooperation. Part of that of course is countering radicalization. Again there are lessons that we can share with each other. And that can be an important part of our discussions on these issues. So, yes is the answer to your question.

Deputy Secretary (XP): With that we come to the conclusion of this media event.

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.



550. Joint Statement on Cooperation between India and the United Kingdom on Cyber Issues.

New Delhi, November 8, 2012.

India and the United Kingdom upgraded their relations to a Strategic Partnership in 2004. As part of the India-UK Strategic Dialogue, it was agreed that the Foreign Ministries of our two countries would work together on areas of common interest in the cyber domain. The United Kingdom organised the London Conference on Cyberspace in 2011, which was attended at the Ministerial level by India. Subsequently, India and the United Kingdom have held the first structured dialogue on cooperation on cyber issues in October 2012.

Both India and the United Kingdom share the core principles of liberty, transparency, freedom of expression and the rule of law which apply in cyberspace. We have a shared interest in enhancing our bilateral cooperation in this area.

We have agreed to conduct our Cyber Dialogue in the following areas:

- Enhancing international cooperation to reduce the risk of threats from cyberspace to international security.
- Strengthening our bilateral cooperation to tackle cyber crime.
- Further strengthening our bilateral operational partnerships to identify and respond to threats from cyberspace and raise our mutual resilience.
- Collaborating on building skills and capacities to tackle threats from cyberspace and to use ICT for the objective of economic and social development.
- Using existing cooperation between our universities and business communities to develop synergy in research and development on cyber issues.
- Creating a global multilateral, democratic and transparent system of internet governance with participation of all stakeholders.

India and the United Kingdom agreed to conduct their Cyber Dialogue on a bi-annual basis to achieve these objectives.



551. Press Release on the meeting of the India-UK Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism.

New Delhi, November 22, 2012.

The 8th meeting of the India-UK Joint Working Group (JWG) on Counter Terrorism was held on November 20, 2012 in New Delhi.

India and the UK upgraded their relationship to a Strategic Partnership in 2004. The discussions of the JWG were held in an atmosphere of trust and mutual understanding. The two sides shared their respective threat assessments and informed each other of the measures taken by their governments to strengthen counter terrorism policies and structures. They also discussed the follow up on the Mumbai terror attacks of 26/11. The two sides also exchanged views on international developments, coordination in international fora and their bilateral cooperation in the area.

The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Asoke Kumar Mukerji, Special Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, India and Mr. Robert Hannigan, Director General, Defence and Intelligence, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, UK. The delegations comprised of representatives from relevant ministries and agencies of the two countries. The next meeting of the JWG will be held in the UK in 2013 on mutually convenient dates..



UKRAINE

552. Fourth Session of the Indo-Ukrainian Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological, Industrial and Cultural Cooperation

Kiev, June 1, 2012.

Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri E. Ahamed, led an inter-ministerial delegation to Ukraine for the Fourth Session of the Indo-Ukrainian Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological, Industrial and Cultural Cooperation, held on 31 May-01 June 2012 in Kyiv, after a gap of nine years. The official delegation included representatives from the Department of Science & Technology, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Department of Fertilizers and Department of Pharmaceuticals. Shri Ahamed was also accompanied by a twenty-strong business delegation from the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). Mr. Petro Oleksiyovych Poroshenko, Minister of Economic Development and Trade led the Ukrainian delegation.

2. Shri Ahamed called on the President of Ukraine H.E. Mr. Viktor Yanukovych on 31 May 2012. The Foreign Minister of Ukraine, H.E. Mr. Kostyantyn Gryschenko, who had visited India in November 2011, was also present during the call on President Yanukovych. The talks were held in a friendly and constructive atmosphere. Issues of mutual interest, including the proposed visit of the President to India, were discussed.

3. Shri Ahamed had a separate meeting with H.E. Mr. Petro Oleksiyovych Poroshenko, Minister of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine, during which the relations between the two countries in the agreed areas of cooperation were reviewed. H.E. Mr. Poroshenko accepted the invitation of Shri Ahamed to visit India. On 1st June 2012, the two Ministers signed the Protocol of the Fourth Session of the Indo-Ukrainian Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological, Industrial and Cultural Cooperation.

4. At the Fourth Session, the two sides reviewed the current status and future prospects of cooperation in trade and investment, heavy engineering, fertilizers, pharmaceuticals, mining and metallurgy, science and technology, power generation, transportation, agriculture, education, culture and tourism. Major decisions taken during the Session include the setting up of Joint Working Groups in mining and metallurgy, pharmaceuticals and healthcare, and, fertilizers. The two sides expressed satisfaction with the ongoing multi-sectoral bilateral cooperation. Both sides, however, emphasized the need to tap the vast untapped potential of cooperation in various sectors. The constructive deliberations during the Fourth Session had been a major step forward in charting the way ahead in this regard.

5. The business delegation accompanying Shri Ahamed included representatives from the pharmaceutical, tourism, steel, power, aviation, heavy engineering, automobiles and other sectors.



553. Statement of Prime Minister to the media during the State Visit of President of Ukraine.

New Delhi, December 10, 2012.

Distinguished representatives of the media,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have great pleasure in extending a very warm welcome to His Excellency Mr. Viktor Yanukovich, President of Ukraine, on his first State Visit to India. His visit takes place as we celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Ukraine.

President Yanukovich and I have undertaken a comprehensive review of our bilateral relations. I conveyed to the President my satisfaction at the renewed vitality in our partnership in recent years and thanked him for his personal efforts and commitment to strengthen India – Ukraine relations. We have now agreed to forge a Comprehensive Partnership between our two countries.

Ukraine's expertise in defence technologies is well established and offers synergies with our own defence technology base. Our two countries are already undertaking a number of defence cooperation projects. The defence cooperation agreement that we have just signed establishes a new framework for expending this cooperation.

India's linkages with Ukraine in the field of space science date back to the commencement of our space programme. I am pleased that we are currently cooperating on advanced space launch vehicles. We have also broadened our scientific cooperation to draw upon the rich science and technology base that both countries possess. Today's agreement on science and technology cooperation will facilitate deeper engagement in this important area.

President Yanukovich and I also exchanged views on nuclear energy and nuclear safety, where we can learn a great deal from each other. The unfortunate Chernobyl accident has given Ukraine valuable insight and knowledge in dealing with this critical issue. Through the Agreement that has just been signed between the nuclear regulatory authorities of both sides, we have agreed to share our experiences in nuclear safety and radiation protection. I also complimented President Yanukovich for his initiative to host the Kyiv Summit on Safe and Innovative Use of Nuclear Energy in April 2011 on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Chernobyl accident.

Our discussions also focused on our bilateral commercial relations. Both of us noted that our bilateral trade has more than doubled in the last five years to nearly 3 billion dollars, though it is heavily weighted in favour of Ukraine. We

agreed to further strengthen our commercial relations and make them more broad-based and balanced. We have identified a number of areas such as fertilizers, pharmaceuticals, information technology, mining and heavy machinery for special attention. In this regard, I also conveyed to President Yanukovych India's interest in visa arrangements to facilitate travel by businessmen, professionals, students and people between the two countries.

President Yanukovych and I also exchanged views on regional and global issues. We also agreed to intensify our consultations in international forums. I have no doubt that this visit by President Yanukovych will set India-Ukraine relations on a firm course.

I once again extend a very warm welcome to President Yanukovych on his visit to India.



554. Joint Statement issued during the State Visit of President of Ukraine on “Forging a Comprehensive Partnership between India and Ukraine”

New Delhi, December 10, 2012..

1. His Excellency Mr. Viktor Yanukovich, the President of Ukraine is paying a State Visit to India from 09-12 December 2012 at the invitation of the President of India. President Yanukovich is accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising ministers, senior officials and leading representatives of the Ukrainian business community. During his stay in New Delhi, President Yanukovich held bilateral meetings with the President of India, H.E. Mr. Pranab Mukherjee and Prime Minister H.E. Dr. Manmohan Singh. The Vice-President of India, H.E. Mr. Hamid Ansari, External Affairs Minister H.E. Mr. Salman Khurshid and the Leader of the Opposition H.E. Mrs. Sushma Swaraj called on the Ukrainian President. The Ukrainian dignitary also addressed the Indo-Ukrainian Business Forum jointly hosted by the apex Indian chambers of commerce, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India. President Yanukovich is also visiting the city of Bengaluru.
2. The two sides signed agreements in the fields of legal assistance, defence cooperation, science and technology, nuclear safety and standardisation.
3. The two sides held detailed discussions in a friendly atmosphere, reviewed the status of bilateral cooperation and exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interest. They noted the significance of the visit, marking twenty years of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Ukraine. The sides acknowledged the accumulated potential of cooperation over the past decade and noted that President Yanukovich's discussions with the Indian leadership had infused fresh vigour into the bilateral relationship. They agreed on having regular high level political contacts to maintain the momentum generated by the visit.
4. The two sides agreed on the imperative to develop a meaningful relationship of bilateral engagement by better leveraging significant complementarities existing between the two countries in key areas of mutual interest, such as civil nuclear cooperation, defence and space technology, fertilizers, healthcare and pharmaceuticals, agriculture and food security, industrial engineering and mining. They agreed to enhance interaction at the political, official and business levels to achieve this objective. Given the existing enormous potential to enhance ties between the countries, the two sides felt that it was time for India and Ukraine to forge a comprehensive partnership and agreed to draw up a joint action plan for this purpose.

5.

Trade and Economy

6. The two sides reviewed the current level of bilateral trade of around USD three billion and noted the significant growth of nearly 50% in 2012 as compared to 2010. They agreed to make all-round joint efforts to enhance the bilateral trade further. Both sides also took note of the decisions taken during the fourth session of the India-Ukraine Intergovernmental Commission held in June this year in Kyiv. They agreed to streamline the existing mechanism for trade and economic dialogue on a regular basis and reaffirmed their intention to boost bilateral investment. They emphasised the need for the Intergovernmental Commission to meet regularly on an annual basis and directed that its fifth session be held in 2013 in New Delhi. The sides further directed that all constituent working groups of the Intergovernmental Commission should meet before its next session. The two sides agreed that there was a need to facilitate broader engagement and more active contacts between business persons. In this context, the Indian side stressed the need to facilitate business visas.

7. The two sides noted that the current level of bilateral investment did not reflect the true potential of the commercial relationship and underlined the need for an active dialogue at the government and business levels on a regular basis to realize the enormous potential for bilateral investment flows and technology transfers. Recognizing the technological and engineering prowess of Ukraine and flagging India's liberalized policy of attracting foreign investment, the Indian side invited the Ukrainian side to consider investing in India's infrastructure development and the modernisation of its industries, especially in the steel and power sectors. The Ukrainian side raised the issue of market economy status for Ukraine in the context of anti-dumping proceedings. The Indian side stated that this issue was under examination.

Nuclear Sector

8. The two sides welcomed the signing of the agreement between the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board of India and the State Nuclear Regulatory Committee of Ukraine. They also emphasized the central role of the IAEA in strengthening international standards on nuclear safety. The Ukrainian side welcomed the assistance given by the Government of India to Ukraine in mitigating the impact of the Chernobyl tragedy, especially the grant of USD 1 million, which was announced during the Kyiv Summit for Safe & Innovative Use of Nuclear Energy in April 2011.

Defence Sector

9. The two sides welcomed the signing of the defence cooperation agreement

and expressed confidence that this would open new vistas of cooperation especially in the areas of research and development; joint design and development of systems and equipment; export to third countries; and transfer of technology. The agreement would also facilitate regular dialogue between the two sides in new areas of cooperation and smooth implementation of ongoing projects.

Space sector

10. The sides expressed satisfaction over the growing cooperation between their space establishments, particularly in the area of semi-cryogenic engine technology for large lift-off capacities. The sides noted the successful implementation of the framework agreement signed in 2005 and expressed the confidence that this cooperation would continue to grow.

Fertilizers

11. Both sides agreed that there was enormous scope for cooperation in the field of fertilizers of which Ukraine is one of the leading producers and India one of the leading importers. Both sides agreed to explore the possibility of long term mutually beneficial cooperation in this regard and noted that active discussions between the relevant government agencies and private entities were ongoing. The two sides agreed, in particular, to facilitate India's investment in the field of chemical fertilizers in the territory of Ukraine.

Pharmaceuticals

12. The Ukrainian side appreciated the contribution of the Indian pharmaceutical industry to the health sector of Ukraine where it ranks amongst the top suppliers of cost effective and quality medicines. The Ukrainian side acknowledged the positive response of the Indian side in assisting it to meet with health emergencies. Both sides agreed that cooperation in the pharmaceutical sector would continue to play an important part in their bilateral relations. The sides discussed the setting up of joint ventures and establishing medical standards. The Ukrainian side welcomed the further inflow of Indian investments in the pharmaceuticals sector. The sides agreed to study the issue of streamlining the process of registration of Indian pharmaceutical products and facilitating access to the Ukrainian market.

Science and Technology

13. Both sides welcomed the conclusion of the bilateral agreement for cooperation in science and technology. They noted with satisfaction that 10 joint research and development projects are being implemented under the Programme of Cooperation in Science & Technology for the period 2012-14 in the areas of astrophysics, renewable energy, chemistry, materials science, medical science and biotechnology. The two sides confirmed their readiness to

hold the sixth joint meeting of the India-Ukrainian Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation in 2013 and to facilitate regular exchanges of young Indian and Ukrainian scientists.

Education and Culture

14. The Ukrainian side welcomed the establishment of the ICCR Chair of Indian Studies at the Institute of International Relations of the Taras Shevchenko National University in Kyiv. The two sides agreed that it was essential to promote regular exchange of academics and encourage study of topics of mutual interest which would serve to deepen mutual cooperation and understanding. They agreed to further enhance the cultural links between the friendly peoples of the two countries. The sides agreed to hold the Days of Ukrainian Culture in India in 2013 and the Days of Indian Culture in Ukraine in 2014.

15. Recognizing that the number of Indians studying in Ukraine has grown considerably over the past five years, with more than 3500 Indian scholars pursuing higher studies, the two sides agreed to negotiate and conclude agreements for mutual recognition of medical and non-medical degrees and to promote mutual educational exchanges. The Indian side requested the Ukrainian side to facilitate the issue of visas to Indian students and also their registration by local authorities.

16. The two sides welcomed the scholarships made available by India under its Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation programme as also those offered through the Indian Council for Cultural Relations in diverse fields.

Facilitation of travel

17. The two sides welcomed the entry into force of the inter-governmental agreement on visa free travel for diplomatic passport holders as a major step towards a comprehensive visa facilitation regime between the two countries. They agreed to consider extending similar facility for holders of official passports. Both sides agreed to start discussions on draft texts of agreements on visa simplification and on social and other issues related to migration and to submit the relevant information on action taken to the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Commission.

UN Security Council

18. The two sides expressed their commitment to intensified negotiations on UN Security Council reform, including the expansion of permanent and non-permanent categories of its members so as to better reflect contemporary geopolitical realities. The sides noted that the G-4 proposal for reform and expansion of the UN Security Council also includes enhanced representation of Eastern European states among the non-permanent members. The Ukrainian

side expressed support for India's candidature for permanent membership in an expanded UN Security Council. The Indian side expressed its support for the candidature of Ukraine for a non-permanent seat of the UN Security Council for the term 2016-2017.

Nuclear non-proliferation

19. Acknowledging India's track record, Ukraine welcomed India's efforts to contribute to global non-proliferation regimes, including its aspirations to obtain membership in international export control regimes and the Nuclear Suppliers' Group.

Counter terrorism efforts

20. Both sides stressed the need to strengthen the international legal regimes to fight terrorism and, in this context, called for early adoption of a UN Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. Condemning extremism in all its forms and committing to continue to counter global terrorism, the sides agreed to work together to address this challenge. Reaffirming that international terrorism is a threat to global peace and security, the sides condemned those who support terrorism and underscored that those aiding, abetting and sheltering terrorists were as guilty of acts of terrorism as their actual perpetrators. They stressed the need to work jointly towards eliminating the menace of terrorism including exchange of information, data, financing of terrorism and related matters.

21. The Indian side thanked the Ukrainian side for its constant support in its fight against terrorism and for condemning the 2008 Mumbai terrorist attack. The Ukrainian side agreed that all those involved in this heinous crime should be swiftly brought to justice, wherever they may be.

Situation in Afghanistan

22. Both sides supported the emergence of a peaceful, democratic and prosperous Afghanistan. In this context, they underlined the need to effectively combat the menace of terrorism. The two sides supported the transition of security and governance currently under way in Afghanistan and called for capacity building of the Afghan National Security Forces and other institutions. Both sides supported an Afghan-led, inclusive and transparent peace process that adheres to the red lines agreed to by the Government of Afghanistan and the international community, i.e. respect for Afghan constitution, renunciation of violence and terrorism, and severance of ties with terrorist organizations.

Situation in the Middle East

23. The two sides discussed a range of regional and international issues of mutual concern including the conflict in Syria.

24. The two sides expressed concern at the deteriorating security situation and continued violence in Syria. They called on all the parties to stop the violence and engage in an all inclusive national dialogue in order to resolve the conflict through peaceful political means on the internationally approved basis of the UN Security Council Resolutions 2042 and 2043 and the Joint Communiqué of the Geneva Action Group.

25. The two sides expressed satisfaction at the candid and comprehensive exchange of views on global, regional and bilateral matters. They agreed to further intensify this dialogue.

26. The President of Ukraine thanked the Indian leadership for the warm hospitality extended to him and the accompanying delegation. He invited the President and the Prime Minister of India to visit Ukraine. The invitations were accepted with gratitude.



555. Documents signed during State Visit of the President of Ukraine to India

December 10, 2012

S. No.	Title	Signatory from Indian side	Signatory from Ukrainian side	Remarks
1	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on Cooperation in the Field of Defence	Shri A.K. Antony Minister of Defence	Mr. Dmytro A. Salamatin Minister of Defence of Ukraine	The Agreement will provide the framework for expanding our military technical cooperation on an institutionalized basis. It envisages mechanisms to be set up for promoting defence cooperation. It will pave the way for moving our relationship to a new plane, that of joint research and development in the future.
2	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of Ukraine on Co-operation in the Fields of Science and Technology	Shri S. Jaipal Reddy Minister of Science and Technology	Mr. Kostyantyn I. Gryschenko Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine	The agreement envisages regular meetings of a joint committee, exchange of scientists and holding of seminars, joint research programmes and contacts between scientific organizations. There are over ten ongoing joint research programmes and this agreement will allow for further expansion of collaboration in this area.

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|-------|--|---|---|---|
| 3 | Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Civil and Commercial Matters between the Republic of India and Ukraine | Shri Ashwani Kumar
Minister of Law and Justice | Mr. Kostyantyn I. Gryschenko
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine | The Treaty provides for reciprocal arrangements for service of summons, execution of decrees etc. In an environment of increased contacts and enhanced engagement it eases legal procedures in the field of consular affairs. |
| <hr/> | | | | |
| 4 | Agreement between Atomic Energy Regulatory Board, Government of India and the State Nuclear Regulatory Inspectorate of Ukraine for Exchange of Technical Information and Co-operation on Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection | Dr. Satinder Singh Bajaj
Chairman,
Atomic Energy Regulatory Board | Mrs. Olena A. Mykolaichuk
Head of the State Inspectorate for Nuclear Regulation of Ukraine | The Agreement flows from the continuing interaction between AERB and the Ukrainian nuclear regulator and will now allow them to cooperate in a structured format. The Agreement envisages cooperation in some very important regulatory activities, including legislative regulations, safety guides and technical criteria on nuclear safety; siting, design, construction, operation, decommissioning of nuclear facilities; waste management and environment impact etc. |
| <hr/> | | | | |
| 5 | Memorandum of Understanding in the Field of Standardisation, | Shri Afzal Amanullah
Additional Secretary and | Mr. Anatolii Maksyuta
First Deputy Minister of | MoU is in continuation of a similar MoU signed for a period of five years in 2005. It envisages |

Conformity Assessment and Quality between the Bureau of Indian Standards and the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine	Director General, Bureau of Indian Standards	Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine The	enhanced economic engagement through elimination of technical barriers to trade and economic relations.
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New Delhi , December 10, 2012



INDIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS–2012

SECTION-X

INDIA AND THE UN

INDIA AND THE UNITED NATIONS

556. Welcome Remarks by External Affairs Minister during the visit of UN Secretary General to India.

New Delhi, April 27, 2012.

Your Excellency Mr BanKi- Moon,

Secretary General of the United Nations,

I welcome you back to New Delhi, a city you know fairly well. A city from where you began your illustrious diplomatic career. We, in India, are delighted that a friend of India continues at the helm of the United Nations for a second term.

As a founder member of the UN, India values your dedication to the efforts of the UN and the leadership that you have provided to the organization.

As a mark of our firm commitment to multilateralism, India places great importance on working closely with you on the various global issues of peace and development.

The winds of change in the Middle-East, the worrisome situation in Syria, the dispute between Sudan and South-Sudan, the situation in Afghanistan are all issues where you have taken keen interest, and we look forward to work with the UN.

The fight against piracy, the need for international cooperation in counter-terrorism and the forthcoming major negotiations on sustainable development are for us a matter of priority. We look towards the UN, with its unique legitimacy as a universal forum, in facing these global challenges.

As a democracy with a firm commitment to human welfare and socio-economic development, including the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals we appreciate your efforts to build bridges between developing and developed countries and give voice to the world's poorest and most vulnerable people.

Let me assure you Mr. Secretary General that India is deeply committed to the United Nations and to strengthen its ability to play a central role in global affairs. You can be confident of India's support for you personally and for the United Nations.



557. Statement by Dilip Sinha, Permanent Representative of India to the UN Offices in Geneva, at the UN Committee on Science & Technology for Development (UNCSTD) open meeting on Enhanced Cooperation pertaining to the Internet.

Geneva, May 18, 2012.

Internet is a living entity, expanding, changing and evolving continuously. It has already become a critical resource affecting all activities of mankind.

2. It is evident from the interventions today by various stakeholders that we all share a common goal for the internet to foster free expression, innovation and expansion to enable it to respond to growing demands. India is committed to tapping the tremendous potential of cyber space and the tremendous opportunity it provides and to creating a citizen-centric and business-centric environment to connect all human beings to the information highway. However, given the nature of IT networks, continuous coordination is required by all stakeholders including governments to maintain its open character. India wishes to emphasise the need for global coordination to ensure that internet continues to be a free and secure medium for the whole world.

3. The World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) has recognized the need for an open and inclusive process involving all stakeholders, including countries and communities to voice concern on the international public policy issues pertaining to Internet and its Governance. WSIS has also mandated the process for Enhanced Cooperation to enable Governments on an equal footing to carry out their roles and responsibilities pertaining to the Internet.

4. The process of Enhanced Cooperation has been brought up in various fora by several countries including India, Brazil & South Africa (IBSA), reflected in the IBSA Joint Statement at the Open consultations on Enhanced Cooperation on December 14, 2010, and the G77 in the various meetings of the UN, including the annual session of the UN Committee for Science & Technology Development (CSTD) under the ECOSOC and the UN General Assembly (UNGA).

5. The Tunis Agenda mandates that Internet Governance should be multilateral, multi-stakeholder, democratic and transparent. It aims at keeping the Internet sustainable, robust, secure and stable and at promoting developmental agenda through the Internet.

6. There are major cross-cutting public policy issues such as internet freedom, cyber security, privacy of data, reliability of internet service, accessibility to trouble shooting, content, piracy, etc. that need to be discussed and addressed at some platform involving all stakeholders, if the objectives of the Tunis Agenda are to be attained.

7. India had made a statement during the 66th session of the UNGA, where we had made a proposal for setting up of a Committee on Internet related Policies (CIRP). This proposal may be seen in the light of the mandate enshrined within the Tunis Agenda.

8. India believes in the freedom of Internet and free deliberations on public policy for Internet Governance. In the light of the strategic nature of the Internet and its expansion, taking a global view in the overall interest of the global community on the issues of the public policy for Internet Governance would be the right approach. India would be pragmatic and flexible in its approach.

9. We would like a discussion on all aspects of internet governance that have been raised so far, without prejudicing the outcome. We consider that the setting up of a Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation will be an important step forward and we would like this to be included in the UN SG's report to the UNGA later this year.

10. The internet can and should be effective medium to inclusive growth in all countries, particularly developing countries. E-governance, e-commerce, infotainment, resource mapping and meteorological and other essential services are extremely useful tools for development and should be made accessible to all countries.

11. The ability of the existing internet infrastructure to be used globally for delivering programmes for development requires a free and secure internet. Creating a democratic internet governance structure will ensure a balance between private commercial and public policy interests and address developmental concerns.



558. Media Interaction by Foreign Secretary on India's priorities at 67th UNGA.

New York, September 27, 2012.

The current UNGA Session commenced on 18 September. This year, the General Debate including the addresses by the Heads of delegation is taking place from 25 September to 1 October. External Affairs Minister is scheduled to address the General Debate in the morning of 1 October. He will arrive in New York tomorrow.

The present UN General Assembly Session is taking place at a time when the world is facing continued economic and financial uncertainty and the Middle East and North Africa region continues also to be in a state of flux. During this GA session, India will actively pursue measures aimed at strengthening multilateralism while ensuring that the interests and concerns of the developing world form the basis of these endeavours. A major part of India's efforts will be directed towards maintaining development as a centerpiece of the UN's priorities.

During the 67th UNGA, our efforts will be to ensure that the post-2015 development agenda retains its focus on poverty eradication and inclusive growth. We will be pro-active on the evolution of the Sustainable Development Goals in an inter-governmental process visualized at Rio+20, ensuring the primacy of development and addressing environmental and social concerns of developing countries. We will also seek the early implementation of the financing strategy and the facilitation mechanism for transfer of technology to support sustainable development.

We will work on consolidating the progress achieved till date in the process of UN Security Council reform with a view towards its early realisation. In this regard, we hope to proactively engage with members in the intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform and to strive for an early expansion of the Council in both permanent and non-permanent categories of its membership. Yesterday, I participated in the G-4 Ministerial Meeting where we took stock of the progress achieved in the last year and considered how to take the process forward in this General Assembly. We agreed to inject greater political momentum and work together to give an impetus to the reform process.

We will continue to stress the need for a proactive campaign against terrorism and will work towards an early adoption of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. As Chairman of the UN Security Council's Committee on Counter Terrorism, we will urge all member states to ensure zero tolerance towards terrorism and to take urgent action to prevent and combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. We propose to focus on the issue of terrorist financing at the Counter Terrorism Committee's special meeting scheduled for November 2012.

Consistent with our long-standing policy, we will continue to emphasise India's commitment to universal, non-discriminatory, phased and verifiable nuclear disarmament, in a time-bound manner, as embodied in the Rajiv Gandhi Plan of Action.

India attaches high priority to combating piracy off the coast of Somalia. While continuing our anti-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden, we will urge the international community to address the serious problem of seafarers being taken hostage by pirates and the consequent humanitarian problems being faced by them and their families. India is also chairing the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) from September-December 2012 and we will use this opportunity also to highlight our concerns as well as to seek to achieve progress at the UN in the global fight against piracy.

India will hold the Presidency of UN Security Council in November 2012. It may be recalled that we last presided over the Council in August 2011. This time around, we plan to have a thematic debate on piracy, as well as a Meeting on the working methods of the Security Council during our Chairmanship.

External Affairs Minister will be participating in several high-level events during this segment of the General Assembly. These include: (i) a Ministerial Meeting of the India-Gulf Cooperation Council on 28 September; (ii) the annual Commonwealth Foreign Ministers Meeting on 29 September; (iii) a high-level meeting to commemorate 15 years of the Convention against Chemical Weapons on 1 October; and (iv) the informal meeting of SAARC Foreign Ministers on 2 October. He is scheduled to meet US Secretary of State Hilary Clinton on 1 October.

External Affairs Minister will also take part in events on 2 October at the UN being organized at the initiative of India on the occasion of the International Day of Non-Violence. While in the US, EAM will travel to Brown University on 28 September to deliver a lecture on India-US relations. He will also travel to Milwaukee and visit the Sikh Temple in Wisconsin on 4 October where he will meet with relatives of the victims of the Gurdwara attack that took place last month.

External Affairs Minister's visit to New York for the 67th UNGA Session will enable India's voice to be articulated and heard again in this important body, which is seeing the presence of a number of other world leaders. It will also enable External Affairs Minister to exchange views with many of his counterparts both in informal and formal settings.

Thank you.

Question: Response on the President of Pakistan reference to J& K in his UNGA address.

Foreign Secretary: Well, we have seen the reference to Jammu and Kashmir in the statement of the President of Pakistan . You know, our principled position on the issue has been consistent and is well known. The people of Jammu and Kashmir, which is an integral part of India, have peacefully chosen their destiny in accordance with democratic practices and they continue to do so. Question: Russian support for India's UNSC candidature and does it help the G4 as a whole.

Foreign Secretary: You see, on the G4 process, we have in fact issued a communiqué...a press statement after our meeting yesterday. I think it should be available. That, I think, clarifies where we are going as part of the G4 process. What I was referring to was a reference, which the Russian Foreign Minister made during a BRICS FMs meeting which I attended on behalf of India.

There, while debating this issue on the general title of UN Security Council reform which was part of a larger discussion on reform of institutions of global governance; we also discussed the IMF and other issues.

In his statement, the Russian Foreign Minister made a categorical statement that he supports India's candidature for permanent membership of the Security Council. So this is the context in which that statement was made.



559. Statement by External Affairs Minister at the General Debate of the 67th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

New York, October 1, 2012.

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am privileged to address the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Let me begin by congratulating you, Excellency, on your election to the distinguished office of President of the 67th session of the UN General Assembly. I would like to assure you of our constructive support to your work over the course of the coming year.

Mr. President,

We are assembled in New York at a time when we are faced with multiple global challenges that transcend national boundaries.

Developing countries are still to recover from the downturn in the global economy. Their quest for poverty eradication and sustainable development remains an uphill task. Food and energy security as well as health and education for their population remain daunting challenges.

The West Asia and North Africa region is seeing unprecedented socio-political upheaval. The question of Palestine remains unresolved.

And, threats emanating from terrorism, maritime piracy, drug trafficking and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction continue to multiply.

These challenges demand that we act to work for solutions in a concerted and coordinated manner. This is the only path to success.

Mr. President,

At the RIO+20 Summit, the international community renewed its commitment to sustainable development, recognizing poverty eradication to be the greatest global challenge.

And to act on this score, it unequivocally reaffirmed the sanctity of the RIO principles.

India remains committed to addressing Climate Change through a comprehensive, equitable and balanced outcome based on the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities.

We are hosting the 11th Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Hyderabad in less than two weeks from now. We seek the support of Parties to fashion an outcome that harmonizes a strong biodiversity action with our basic development objectives.

Mr. President,

The process to develop a set of Sustainable Development Goals has begun.

The MDGs must be integrated in the new framework so that the unmet development priorities continue to be the main focus.

In the interim, with still three years to go for the MDG target date of 2015, it is imperative to ensure that all efforts towards the achievement of the MDGs are made.

In the global discourse on the post-2015 development agenda, the focus ought to be on the word 'development'. It ought to be firmly entrenched in the understandings and principles of Rio+20 and be anchored in the intergovernmental process in the UN.

Priority must be given to the challenges of poverty, employment, food and energy, water, health, environmental sustainability, unsustainable lifestyles and above all, economic growth.

Ensuring gender equality and women's empowerment is essential to the pursuit of building inclusive societies. It is also an imperative for building strong and resilient economies. We are happy to support the efforts of the United Nations

We also need to pay particular attention to upgrading the skills of the youth and ensuring employment opportunities. Children and youth are our future. We need to invest in them to reap the demographic dividend to secure our future.

India remains firmly committed to scaling up our development partnership with Africa, including through the framework of the India-Africa Forum Summit.

Similarly, we will continue to build on our commitments for enhanced cooperation with the Least Developed Countries, the Landlocked Developing Countries, and the Small Island Developing States within the framework of South-South Cooperation.

Mr. President,

India is a multi-religious, multi-ethnic and multi-lingual society. Our civilizational ethos has been underpinned by peaceful coexistence and tolerance, values that Mahatma Gandhi placed at the core of India's national life. These principles are enshrined in our Constitution that provides the foundation for our secular, democratic and inclusive polity.

Mutual respect for deeply held religious sentiments is the bedrock of tolerance and coexistence. Unfortunate recent events have highlighted the need for enhanced dialogue among faiths and civilizations. Violence cannot lead to greater understanding. It is necessary to uphold norms of peaceful international discourse. In particular, the safety and security of diplomatic personnel should be fully respected.

Mr. President,

Terrorism remains one of the most potent threats to international peace and security.

The international community must adopt a 'zero tolerance' approach towards terrorism and focus on efforts to dismantle the infrastructure of terrorism including its invidious network of epicenters, training facilities and financing.

It is high time we demonstrated the necessary political will and agreed on a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism to strengthen the normative framework against the increasingly sophisticated and globalized terrorist challenge.

India continues to be gravely concerned by the menace of piracy and armed robbery at sea. Apart from major economic and commercial consequences of this scourge, it has serious humanitarian implications for the large number of seafarers held hostage by the pirates.

The need of the hour is once again concerted international action, under the UN auspices, with special attention being paid to address the welfare of seafarers and their families.

Mr. President,

Peacekeeping and disarmament are among the most unique pursuits of the UN because they embody the promise and innate potential of the organization to make the world a better place.

India has a proud history of participation in UN peacekeeping operations dating back to the 1950s, having taken part in as many as 43 peacekeeping operations.

The challenge before the international community today is to ensure that UN peacekeeping is adequately resourced and enabled to meet the realities of today, including in post-conflict and peacebuilding contexts. In this regard, we are hopeful that progress will be made in all outstanding issues between Sudan and South Sudan.

India is committed to achieving a nuclear weapons-free world. The principles of the Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan of 1988 for achieving nuclear disarmament in a

time-bound, universal, non-discriminatory, phased and verifiable manner remain relevant even after more than two decades.

There is need to forge a renewed consensus on non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament. There is also need for meaningful dialogue among all states possessing nuclear weapons to build trust and confidence and for reducing the salience of nuclear weapons in international affairs and security doctrines.

Measures must be taken to reduce nuclear risks, including the grave risks posed by terrorists gaining access to weapons of mass destruction, thus strengthening nuclear security.

The Conference on Disarmament – the international community's sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, deserves our support in discharging its mandate of negotiating treaties on issues on the international disarmament agenda.

Mr. President,

The crisis in Syria continues unabated and is a matter of serious concern for us. Any further militarization of the crisis can have catastrophic consequences for the region.

We urge all parties to commit themselves to resolving the crisis without any further bloodshed through an inclusive, Syrian-led political process that can meet the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people. We support the efforts of the UN and urge all sides to cooperate with the Joint Special Representative, Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi, in good faith.

Support for the Palestinian cause has been a cornerstone of India's foreign policy. We were privileged to receive President Mahmoud Abbas in India earlier this month. We support their aspirations for enhanced status at the United Nations.

It is imperative that there be an early realization of a sovereign, independent, viable and united State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital living within secure and recognized borders, side by side and at peace with Israel, as endorsed in the Arab Peace initiative, Quartet Road map and relevant UN resolutions.

Mr. President,

India desires constructive and friendly relations with all its neighbours. We have a vision of a peaceful, stable and prosperous region with enhanced cooperation and connectivity linking us with Central Asia, the Gulf and South-East Asia.

Within South Asia, we have sought to enhance bilateral relations individually with each of our neighbours and through the aegis of the SAARC.

We have embarked on a resumed dialogue process with Pakistan and advocate a step-by-step approach to normalizing our bilateral relations.

An unwarranted reference has been made to Jammu and Kashmir from this podium. Our principled position on the issue has been consistent and is well known. The people of Jammu and Kashmir have chosen and reaffirmed their destiny repeatedly through India's well established democratic processes. We wish to make it abundantly clear that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India.

India supports the Government and people of Afghanistan in their endeavour to build a peaceful, stable, democratic and prosperous country. We are ready to partner with the Afghan people as they rebuild their country in accordance with their own priorities and national circumstances.

The continuing existence of safe havens and sanctuaries for terrorists beyond Afghanistan's borders is the major impediment to the restoration of peace and security in Afghanistan.

India is committed to creating an enabling environment where the Afghan people can live in peace and security and decide their future themselves, without outside interference, coercion and intimidation.

Mr. President,

The United Nations and the norms of international relations that it has fostered remain the most efficacious means for converting today's challenges into opportunities.

We need to, however, ensure that the architecture of global governance reflects contemporary realities. Sticking to structures designed at the end of the Second World War only constrains multilateralism from delivering on its promises.

The most important and decisive step towards remedying this situation pertains to the UN Security Council, which must be expanded in both permanent and non-permanent categories.

The reformed Council must include countries that are capable and willing to bear additional burdens relating to the maintenance of international peace and security and be able to sustain global campaigns against new and emerging global threats.

Let me also stress that we must address, sooner rather than later, the incongruity of the lack of permanent membership from Africa.

Equally, India will promote and lend her weight for enhancing the voice and participation of developing countries in decision making in global economic and financial institutions.

The IMF's quota reform process must be accelerated with altered quotas reflecting contemporary economic weight.

Mr. President,

Speaking in this Assembly, on 14 October 1968, Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi, said, "The United Nations is the trustee of the world's peace and represents the hopes of mankind. Its very existence gives a feeling of assurance that the justice of true causes can be brought fearlessly before the world. This Assembly and the agencies of the United Nations should, in all that they do sustain those hopes and promote the causes of peace."

These words remain true to this day.

Let me conclude by assuring you Mr. President and the members of the General Assembly that India will continue to abide by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and strive to strengthen the United Nations.

I thank you.



560. Statement by External Affairs Minister at the High Level Meeting of the Organization for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) on “Fifteen Years of the Chemical Weapons Convention: Celebrating Success, Committing to the Future”

New York, October 1, 2012.

H.E. Mr Ban ki-Moon, UN Secretary General

H.E. Mr. Ahmet Uzumcu, Director General of the OPCW

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a pleasure to address this special meeting to mark 15 years of the Chemical Weapons Convention. This meeting provides us with an opportunity to take stock of the achievements and the challenges that lie ahead in the task of full and effective implementation of the Convention.

India views the Convention as a unique, multilaterally-negotiated and non-discriminatory disarmament instrument, which serves as a model for the elimination of an entire category of weapons of mass destruction. As an original signatory to the Convention, India attaches the utmost importance to the success of the Convention and its full and effective implementation. The international legal norm against the use of chemical weapons anywhere must not be breached.

Disarmament is a primary goal of the Convention and should remain the priority till the complete destruction of all chemical weapons. We have demonstrated our commitment and sense of responsibility by destroying all our chemical weapon stockpiles under OPCW verification within the timeframe prescribed by the Convention. Timely destruction of chemical weapons by all States Parties is critical for upholding the credibility and integrity of the CWC. We call on the remaining possessor States to fulfil their obligations within the shortest possible time.

India is the third largest country in terms of industry declarations and recipient of one of the highest number of industry inspections every year. We have implemented all our industry-related verification obligations. We also believe that the future verification efforts should continue to be guided strictly by the provisions of the Convention, without an undue burden on industry. Apart from National Implementation, which India views as key, Assistance and Protection as well as international cooperation are of interest to a large number of State Parties and deserve greater attention.

India has contributed to the working of the OPCW through participation in several of its subsidiary bodies, namely the Scientific Advisory Board, Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters and Confidentiality Commission. Our National Authority has played a key role in the discharge of our CWC obligations and in international cooperation and assistance programmes. We are privileged that the Permanent Representative of India to the OPCW is currently chairing the Executive Council.

The accession of 188 State Parties to the CWC is commendable and must spur our efforts towards universal adherence of the Convention. We commend the role of the Director General and the OPCW for their efforts in ensuring the smooth implementation of the Convention and for advancing the common goal of a world free of chemical weapons.

Thank you.



561. Address of External Affairs Minister at a Special Event to commemorate the International Day of Non Violence held on the sidelines of 67th UN General Assembly.

New York, October 2, 2012.

His Excellency Mr Vuk Jeremic, President of the General Assembly,
Ambassador Nazareth,
Permanent Representatives of Pakistan and South Africa,
Permanent Representative, Ambassador Hardeep Puri,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is a great privilege for me to preside over the celebration of the International Day of Non Violence at the United Nations today. I am delighted to welcome the President of the General Assembly amidst us. I thank His Excellency for sparing his valuable time to be with us.

It is an honour to be here to celebrate at the United Nations, the temple of multilateralism, the ideals of someone, who was perhaps the best possible proponent of "*Vasudhev Kutumbukam*" - *the world is one family*.

The world has known innumerable greats who won celebrated military victories. However, there is only one person who won the world's greatest battles for emancipation and empowerment not by waging war but by waging peace.

Mahatma Gandhi's arsenal included no arms and ammunition, but only "truth force" or *satyagraha*, which he described as, '*a force born of truth and the love of nonviolence*', his moral equivalent for a war.

When he was evicted from a moving train at a railway station in South Africa on 7 June 1893, a spark was lit which was to change the course of world history.

Excellencies and Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mahatma Gandhi is an ideal amalgam of so many opposing yet inspirational traits. He respected tradition, and yet he was also an iconoclast.

He was a political strategist who shunned conventional politics and held no office. He was deeply religious, but his was a religion that drew from every faith, a religion that was all inclusive.

He embodied spirituality, but his was a spirituality rooted in an abiding concern

for the poor and the deprived, of service to and empowerment of the disadvantaged and underprivileged.

He was impatient for cataclysmic change. Yet, he shunned violence in any form as an instrument to force the pace of change.

In his own words “nonviolence is mightier than the mightiest weapon of destruction, devised by the ingenuity of man”.

It is true that the world of today is vastly different from the world that Mahatma Gandhi lived in. But conflict and inequality continue to be an inevitable part of the human condition.

Mahatma Gandhi's greatest lesson to the world was that this need not be destructively so.

Conflicts can be resolved and inequalities can be contained. And, worthy means are needed for achieving worthy ends.

The Gandhian way is a real, live option, an option that informs and illuminates. We must have the courage and strength of mind to follow in his footsteps.

It is my fervent hope that the world will embrace Gandhian truth and action and that leading global multilateral fora, such as the United Nations, continues to be among its torchbearers.

I eagerly look forward to hearing Ambassador Nazareth on his thoughts on the 'non violent revolutionary'.

Thank you.



562. Statement by E. Ahamed, Minister of State at the General Debate of the Second Committee of the 67th UNGA.

New York, October 8, 2012.

Allow me to begin by congratulating you and your bureau on assuming the leadership of the Second Committee.

India associates itself with the statement delivered by Algeria on behalf of the G-77.

Mr. Chairman,

The task before the Second Committee this year is well laid out.

The key outcomes from the RIO+20 Summit on Sustainable Development Goals, Financing Strategy, Technology Mechanism, Strengthening of UNEP and the High Level Political Forum need to be pursued as agreed at Rio and implemented in a time bound manner.

Rio identified poverty as the greatest global challenge of our times and renewed our commitment to attaining the MDGs by 2015.

Achievement of these millennium aspirations must receive our highest priority and not slip even as we start working on the post-2015 development agenda.

Given that there are still more than a billion people worldwide who continue to live in extreme poverty and hunger, the post-2015 development agenda must be weaved around the absolute imperative of poverty eradication.

The post-2015 development agenda must remain anchored in the Rio principles, in particular common but differentiated responsibilities and equity.

The inter-governmental process on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) must be based in New York so that we can ensure inclusivity and wider participation of developing countries.

As we sit down to fashion the SDGs, we must do so with a clear idea in mind that they would form the crux of the Post-2015 agenda.

Discussions on the Post-2015 agenda have also seen some articulation on bringing in new issues including peace and security in the development framework.

We recognise that these are important issues and concerted efforts must be made to address them.

However, they should not be mixed with core development challenges as that would severely undermine efforts at achieving sustainable development.

Mobilisation of resources, be it ODA, technology transfer, trade or FDI, is critical to support the MDGs. In the post-2015 development agenda these issues must be brought to the centre of the development debate.

We recognise that the development landscape has changed over the years.

There are new actors such as the private sector, private foundations and civil society, all of which are now playing a significant role in development.

South-South Cooperation also has seen enhanced action and it must be allowed to grow within its own space and in accordance with its own principles. It cannot, however, be a substitute for North-South Cooperation.

Mr. Chairman,

The 11th Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity is underway in India.

We urge all Parties to work for a strong development oriented outcome and for early implementation of the Nagoya Protocol to ensure equitable sharing of the benefits of biodiversity.

Climate Change remains one of the most pressing challenges of our time.

India looks forward to a comprehensive, equitable and balanced outcome at the upcoming 18th Conference of Parties of the UNFCCC at Doha.

The central and essential deliverable at Doha is the Second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol.

This must begin on January 1, 2013 along with a meaningful completion of work under the track on Long Term Cooperative Action.

Moreover, the process and outcome of the Durban Platform, which has just commenced its work, must be, as agreed in Durban, under the Convention and in full accordance with its principles and provisions, in particular the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

The principles, provisions and the structure of the UNFCCC must be respected and form the basis of any international cooperation on climate change.

Mr. Chairman,

In spite of spirited efforts, the global economic situation remains one of deep concern. Unemployment, food and energy concerns are running high.

The continuance of economic vulnerabilities and new and emerging challenges

with intertwined complexities of globalisation demand an urgent reform of the structures of global governance.

It is imperative that developing countries are given due voice and participation in the decision making structures of the global economic and financial institutions, especially the Bretton Woods Institutions.

This would also address core concerns of the LDCs, SIDs, LLDCs and countries in Africa on debt sustainability, financial assistance, trade and development.

And, here at the United Nations, it is imperative that we move urgently on reform of the Security Council by expanding it in both categories, permanent and non-permanent, revitalize the General Assembly and strengthen the ECOSOC.

Mr. Chairman, in these uncertain times, the Second Committee has to assume a larger role in fashioning and guiding the global development agenda.

Under your leadership, I am confident that it would meet its expectations.

I thank you.



563. Statement by Shri E. Ahamed, Minister of State for External Affairs on Report of the Secretary-General on the Work of the Organization at the 67th Session of the UN General Assembly.

New York, October 9, 2012.

Mr. President,

I am privileged to address the General Assembly today. Allow me to begin by congratulating you on assuming the Presidency of the 67th General Assembly.

The Secretary-General's annual Report on the Work of the Organization covers the wide spectrum of issues that inform the activities of the United Nations.

It underscores the global and interdependent nature of the challenges we face. It shines a spotlight on the unfinished agenda of development and reform. It points to the turbulent times we live in. It reinforces our conviction that the need of the hour is genuine multilateralism.

The socio-political upheaval in West Asia and North Africa since last year has unleashed profound change and transition that the region is still coming to terms with. India is very concerned at the escalating situation in Syria. We support UN efforts to find a solution to the crisis through dialogue and an inclusive, Syrian-led political process.

It is a matter of regret that the question of Palestine remains unresolved and we support their request for an enhanced status at the United Nations. India firmly supports the aspirations of the Palestinian people to achieve a sovereign, independent, viable and united state of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital, living within secure and recognized borders, side by side and at peace with Israel.

Mr. President,

Even as we approach the finish line of 2015 for the Millennium Development Goals, there is already haste to look at the post-2015 agenda.

The quest for poverty eradication and sustainable development remains as salient as ever. Significant roadblocks still stand in the way of food and energy security, health and education for much of the developing world.

Countries are only tentatively emerging from the shadow of the worst economic and financial crisis since the Great Depression. The magnitude of the challenge is driven home by the fact that more than a billion people worldwide continue to languish in extreme poverty and hunger.

One thing abundantly clear is that unmet development priorities must be well

integrated in the new post-2015 framework. The RIO+20 Conference handed us a robust agenda on sustainable development. We must now train our energy on the best way to implement it in an inter-governmental setting.

As we embark on a process of framing Sustainable Development Goals, crucial issues such as that of resource mobilization, be it ODA, technology transfer, trade or FDI, must find appropriate priority and be enshrined in the principles of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR) and equity.

On Climate Change, India will work with others to design a comprehensive, equitable and balanced outcome at the upcoming 18th Conference of Parties at Doha, Qatar.

We ourselves are currently hosting the 11th Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Our expectation is that all Parties will work for a strong development oriented outcome and for early implementation of the Nagoya Protocol to ensure equitable sharing of the benefits of biodiversity.

In so far as our development partnership initiatives go, we are resolved to carry forward and expand our multi-faceted and vibrant cooperation with Africa, including through the framework of the India-Africa Forum Summit.

Similarly, we will continue to build on our commitments for enhanced cooperation with the Least Developed Countries, the Landlocked Developing Countries, and the Small Island Developing States within the rubric of South-South Cooperation.

Mr. President,

The international community has long acknowledged the ever present and pervasive threat posed by terrorism. No country, city or region is immune from this global scourge.

And yet, regretfully, we have failed ourselves by continuing to procrastinate on concluding the Comprehensive Convention against International Terrorism. It is high time that member-states summoned the necessary political will to agree on the CCIT as a sound legal framework for the fight against terrorism.

We need concerted global action. Such action should be predicated on 'zero tolerance' towards terrorism and aimed at systematically dismantling the infrastructure of terrorism.

Mr. President,

India has a proud and time-tested association with UN peacekeeping dating back to its very inception. We have contributed over 130,000 personnel so far to this flagship endeavour of the United Nations.

As peacekeeping moves forward, we must remain mindful of the challenges of operating in increasingly complex environments. Particular attention should be

paid to ensuring that complex mandates are matched by adequate resources so as to get the job done safely and effectively. In this process, it is of utmost importance that there is real, effective, and continuous consultation with Troop-Contributing Countries in framing and implementing mandates.

It is also not lost on us that to be enduringly successful, peacekeeping requires to be seamlessly dovetailed with peace-building efforts. The UN needs to pay better attention to evolving a cogent and coherent peace-building framework that takes into account the capacities at hand and the complexities on the ground.

Mr. President,

One final word on the Secretary-General's internal reform efforts. We have taken note of the initiatives to modernize and reform the Secretariat, including through large-scale business transformation projects such as the new enterprise resource planning system (Umoja), International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) and the Capital Master Plan. While each involves considerable investment, we see them as important drivers in modernising the UN.

Nevertheless, it is our deep-rooted conviction that the relevance of the United Nations ultimately hinges on more fundamental reform of its governance architecture that is frozen in another era that perpetuates the rights of the haves of the mid-1940s.

It is only through such governance reform that the UN can truly invigorate action on issues of pressing global concern, be it peace and security, climate change, development, or human rights.

Let me therefore conclude, Mr. President, by raising something that inexplicably does not find mention in the Secretary-General's report. That is, the important issue of Security Council reform where intergovernmental negotiations have seen much movement and a clear affirmation by an overwhelming majority of the member-states for expansion in both the permanent and non-permanent categories.

We regard the omission of the progress made in the intergovernmental negotiations on the issue as a significant drawback of the Secretary-General's report. We further hope to see it corrected in future reports.

In terms of the process itself, India looks forward to capitalizing on the momentum so far to see real, fruitful and productive negotiations in the current session of the General Assembly on this important reform.

I thank you.



INDIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS–2012

SECTION-XI

INDIA AT THE UNITED NATIONS

(i) SPEECHES IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL

(ii) SPEECHES IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY & OTHER FORA

**INDIA AT THE UNITED NATIONS
(i) SPEECHES IN THE SECURITY
COUNCIL**

564. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, at the UN Security Council meeting on “The situation in Somalia”, on January 11, 2012

Thank you.

At the outset, let me thank you, Madame President, for presiding over this important meeting. I would also like to place on record our appreciation for the participation of Commissioner Ramtane Lamamra and distinguished Ministers from Kenya, Uganda and Azerbaijan in today's meeting and for their valuable statements. I would also like to thank USG Lynn Pascoe for his briefing.

2. Madame President, the situation in Somalia is at a crossroad. Two decade long instability and insecurity have taken their political, economic and social tolls and will require concerted long-term commitment of the international community to assist the Somali people in their efforts for restoration of peace, security and economic development in their country.

3. Madame President, the Oeffective engagement of the international community during 2011 helped tide over the worst phase of the humanitarian crisis in Somalia. Some quarter of a million people, however, remain at risk and there is a need to persevere with our efforts to deal with the problem.

4. On the political front, the extended transition period has seen adoption of a comprehensive roadmap by the Transitional Federal Institutions in accordance with the June 2011 Kampala Accord. The implementation of the roadmap is critical, in particular the drafting and adoption of the Constitution, its endorsement by a Constituent Assembly, and parliamentary reforms, with a view to ending the transition in a timely manner by August 2012.

5. In this regard, we have noted that several concrete measures have been taken by the TFG. We welcome that the Technical Committee, comprising of representatives of the TFIs and regions and the international community, has met twice and agreed to track the progress through four sub-committees. On the other hand, the TFIs have missed a number of deadlines in implementation of the roadmap. The recent developments concerning the Speaker have the potential to derail the implementation of the roadmap and are, therefore, of serious concern. We, therefore, urge all stakeholders to resolve their differences and expedite the implementation of the roadmap.

6. On security front, we commend AMISOM and the TFG forces for the gains made against Al Shabaab. We also commend the Troop Contributing Countries for the sacrifices made by their soldiers in Somalia. Still, Al Shabaab has shown that it is capable of carrying out almost daily attacks, including against high 2 profile targets. In this connection, we welcome the operations

being undertaken by the Kenyan and Ethiopian forces in coordination with the AMISOM and TFG forces.

7. There is also a need for this Council to take further measures in support of the TFG to restrict the resources that Al Shabaab earns from use of ports and export of charcoal. We request that the Secretary General may submit a report to the Council on the requirements, in terms of naval and other assets, that would be required for the international community to be able to interdict vessels that visit Kismayo and other ports and profit Al Shabaab and pirates in Somalia. Such a report would allow the Council to take an informed decision on the request of the African Union concerning use of ports by Al Shabaab and pirates.

8. Madam President, since AMISOM is the mainstay of the efforts of the international community for dealing with the security situation in Somalia, it is necessary that AMISOM be further strengthened. AMISOM continues to face serious resource gaps. This Council should expeditiously and favourably consider the recommendations of the African Union and TCCs for the support extended by the United Nations and international community to AMISOM. Its funding must be made adequate, secure and predictable. It is also necessary to provide AMISOM with enablers and force multipliers like helicopter units, transport and engineering capabilities to AMISOM. We support their inclusion within the UN support package.

9. There is also a need for expanding the TFG forces and strengthening their capacities for long-term stability and security in Somalia. New recruitments have to be undertaken as well as full training and provision of proper equipment.

10. We call on the member-states to make uncaveated contributions to the UN and AU Trust Funds for AMISOM and enhance support for TFG forces. For its part, India contributed US\$ 2 million to the AU and UN Trust Funds without any caveats for AMISOM operations in 2011. We stand ready to provide further support to AMISOM.

11. Madame President, piracy off the coast of Somalia remains a serious problem facing the international community. As of 31 October 2011, the Somali pirates held 19 ships and 331 hostages. Combating maritime piracy is, therefore, an important issue intrinsically linked with the security situation in Somalia. So far, TFIs have paid little attention to this problem. We think that the benchmarks on piracy in the roadmap on transitional tasks should be expeditiously implemented by TFIs including in fields as demarcation of Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), establishment of operational coastguard and navy, adoption of a legal framework against piracy, hostage-taking, payment of ransom, etc. We also stand ready to help in capacity building of the TFIs and the states in the region for effective measures against piracy off the coast of Somalia.

12. Further, given the growing scope and expanding coverage of the problem, the international community has to think about adopting a comprehensive counter-piracy strategy. In our view, such a strategy should involve:

- UN-led anti-piracy force to conduct naval operations. This would help in greater coordination in anti-piracy operations by various naval forces.
- Enactment of national laws on priority to criminalize piracy as defined in the UN Convention of the Law of the Sea.
- Effective sanitization of the Somali coastline along with identifying of safe corridors and buffer zones.

13. India has already taken several steps including anti-piracy patrols in the Gulf of Aden since 2008 and has also deployed its ships in Eastern and North Eastern Arabian Sea. This has helped neutralize several attempts of piracy. While we will continue our counter-piracy operations, there is also an urgent need for the international community to address the serious problem of hostage-taking by pirates and consequent humanitarian problems faced by the hostages and their families.

14. In conclusion, Madame President, the situation in Somalia calls for enhanced engagement of the international community with the Somali federal and regional authorities to comprehensively address the multitude of problems in political, security, humanitarian and counter-piracy fields. This Council should stand ready to take the lead in all these efforts.

Thank you, Madame President.



565. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative of India to the UN, at the UN Security Council Debate on UN-AU Partnership, on January 12, 2012

Thank you, Madame President.

At the outset, I would like to thank the South African delegation for organising today's Debate. I would also like to put on record our sincere thanks to you, Madame President, and to President Jacob Zuma for chairing this session. I would also thank the Secretary General and the representatives of the African Union and the sub-regional organisations for their valuable statements. The presence of so many high-level dignitaries from capitals testifies to the importance of today's discussions.

2. We appreciate the initiative of the South African delegation to organise a workshop of the interested stakeholders in preparation for today's meeting which put in clear terms the steps that are required for enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union. These are also reflected in the resolution that is before the Council for adoption today and which we are privileged to have co-sponsored.

3. Madame President, as much as two-third of the active items on the Council's agenda concern Africa. About three-fourth of the Council's time is spent on African issues. It would, therefore, be no exaggeration to say that the success of the efforts of this Council in Africa will determine in significant measures its overall effectiveness in the implementation of its Charter-mandated role as the principal organ of the United Nations for maintenance of international peace and security.

4. In this connection, it is important for us to listen to Africa and its organizations so that the Council's activities are not only based on Africa's needs but also complement those of African countries and organizations. Cooperation with Africa will also enable the Council act with better understanding of the situation on the ground that would establish Africa's ownership of the solutions and promote lasting peace and security on the African continent.

5. Indeed, Madame President, Chapter VIII of the UN Charter recognizes the importance of the regional organizations and their role in matters relating to international peace and security. The Charter also provides a broad framework for this Council's cooperation with the regional organizations. We, therefore, support the strengthening of partnership between the United Nations and the African Union.

6. We think that this partnership should be based on long-term strategic and operational perspectives taking into consideration the complementarity of strengths that the two organisations possess. The focus should be on capacity-

building of African Union's peace and security architecture so that the AU becomes a more effective and capable partner of the UN system. In this connection, we welcome the establishment of the UN Office to the African Union (UNOAU) which should facilitate systematic and broad-based cooperation between the two organisations. We expect the Office to expeditiously establish formalized structures of interactions with different AU bodies and sub-regional organizations. Other steps, like annual dialogue between this Council and the AU Peace and Security Council, the SG's Ten Year Capacity-Building Programme for the AU, linkages between the UN and AU Secretariats, etc are also welcome and should facilitate regular consultation.

7. Madame President, the African Union has already proven beyond any doubt its ability to address the African problems. The AU High-level Implementation Panel for the Sudan has facilitated dialogue between the CPA parties. We continue to support its efforts for peace and security in Darfur through the Darfur Political Process (DPP). Similarly, AMISOM is the mainstay of international efforts to stabilize the situation in Somalia. The UN-AU Hybrid Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) has greatly helped in the improvement of the situation there, including through community welfare programmes.

8. For the success of these missions and for undertaking other joint missions in future, it is necessary that there be better understanding between the UN and AU at strategic and operational levels. This Council should be more forthcoming in extending support to the AU in critical areas of financial resources, force-multipliers and force-enablers as may be required by these missions.

9. Madame President, for an effective and enduring cooperation between the UN and the AU, it is necessary that the Council not adopt a selective approach to this cooperation. Partnership should not be restricted only to the areas of the Council's convenience but also extend to areas where there may be differences, and be based on mutual respect. This requires a mindset change in approach and demands expansion of the permanent membership to make the Council reflective of contemporary realities and increased representation from developing countries, including Africa. This will not only make this Council more representative but also enhance its ability to successfully address the challenges that the international community faces today.

10. Conscious of the AU's role in handling African issues concerning not only peace and security but also social and development-related, India has institutionalized its cooperation with the African Union. I would like to recall here the historic visit of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Addis Ababa in May 2011 to participate in second Africa-India Forum Summit signifying the importance of our relations with African states. Given the similarity of our objectives with those the AU, the summit further deepened the India-AU development partnership and also peace and security cooperation. India has

contributed US\$ 2 million, out of which US\$ 1.5 million through the AU, without any caveats for AMISOM operations. India is also providing credit lines of US\$ 5 billion for the next three years to help Africa achieve its development goals. India will provide an additional US\$ 700 million for establishment of new institutions and training programmes in consultation with the African Union and its institutions. India is offering 22,000 scholarships in various areas of capacity building to African nationals during the three year period of 2011-14.

11. Madame President, all these activities will enhance AU's institutional capacity, and help this Council as well, in dealing with African issues in partnership with the AU.

Thank you.



566. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri during Briefing on the Middle East (Syria) in UN Security Council on January 31, 2012

Thank you, Mr. President.

At the outset, I would like to thank you for organising this meeting at the request of the League of Arab States. I also take this opportunity to welcome in our midst today the Chair of the League's Ministerial Committee and Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Qatar, His Excellency Bin Jasim Bin Jaber Al Thani, and the Secretary General of the League of Arab States, Dr. Nabil El-Arabi. I would like to thank them for their comprehensive briefings on the League's efforts to resolve the crisis in Syria. I would also like to thank the Permanent Representative of Syria for his statement. Participation of the US Secretary of State, the Foreign Minister of France, the Foreign Secretary of the UK, the Foreign Ministers of Guatemala, Portugal and Morocco and Minister of State of Federal Foreign Office of Germany in today's meeting testifies to the importance of the subject of our discussion and deserves our appreciation.

2. Mr. President, Chapter VIII of the UN Charter provides for this Council's cooperation with the regional organisations for maintenance of international peace and security. In this context, we welcome today's meeting and think that it provides us a good opportunity to understand the role the League of Arab States is playing in resolution of the problem in Syria.

3. Mr President, the Syrian Arab Republic has historically played an important role in the Middle East by virtue of its geographic and strategic location, its diversity, and the genius of its people. Developments in Syria have implications for peace and stability in the wider region. We have, therefore, called for a peaceful and inclusive political process to address the grievances of all sections of the Syrian society since the beginning of the protests in March 2011. The problem in Syria is not merely security-related; it is primarily political and economic and emanates from the Syrian people's desire to play a greater role in shaping their destiny. Resolution of this problem cannot be found in violence or armed struggle and its violent suppression. Nor can a solution be reached through prescriptions from outside. The Syrian people demand and deserve empowerment so that a Syrian-led and Syrian-owned political solution can be found in an atmosphere free of violence and bloodshed.

4. Unfortunately, during the last ten months we have witnessed an increasing level of violence that has taken a heavy toll of civilians and security forces and caused destruction of civilian infrastructure. We unequivocally and strongly condemn all violence irrespective of whoever the perpetrators are and whatever justification is proffered. We also condemn all violations of human rights and rights of expression and peaceful assembly. India holds these rights among the

fundamental values that should be respected while ensuring stability and security of the society. India, along with its IBSA partners, conveyed this message clearly to the Syrian leadership when an IBSA delegation visited Damascus in August 2011. This message was also contained in the Council's PRST issued in August 2011 under India's Presidency.

5. We see the efforts of the League of Arab States in Syria in light of our support for a political resolution of the crisis. We had noted that the deployment of the League's Observer Mission across several areas in the country had had a calming effect and are disappointed that the Mission was suspended on 28 January on account of a serious deterioration in the form of continuing violence. The report of the Observer Mission that the League made available to the Security Council clearly states that there is an armed element to the opposition which is also responsible for a number of violent acts. The continued presence and deployment of the Observers could have helped reduce the violence and present a more accurate picture of developments especially since the monitors had also confirmed that a lot of information in the media is exaggerated and misleading. The report of the Observer Mission also made an important point that the mission needs to be accompanied by a political process to address the grievances of the Syrian people, something that we strongly support.

6. Mr President, we are firmly of the view that all sides need to cooperate with the League of Arab States. A political process must begin without any further delay. The process should be led by the Syrians and should respect Syria's sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity. The League of Arab States, as an important regional organisation, should play its required and historic role in promoting political dialogue among the Syrian parties. This dialogue can build upon the package of political reforms already announced by the Syrian leadership and also bring about necessary changes to the package of political reforms so that it finds acceptance among all sections of the Syrian society. The outcome of this dialogue cannot be prejudged. The outcome should also be acceptable to the widest segment of Syrian society for it to resolve the present crisis and be enduring.

7. Mr President, the international community, including this Council, should play a constructive role in the process of political dialogue among the Syrians. In this context, we welcome submission of a draft resolution to the Security Council. We will engage with fellow Council members so that the Council can speak with a unanimous voice in support of the initiative of the League of Arab States to expeditiously resolve the Syrian crisis.

Thank you.



567. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, Debate on UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) at the United Nations Security Council on February 08, 2012

Thank you, Mr President.

At the outset, I would like to thank ASG Edmond Mulet for his briefing and for the Secretary General's comprehensive report on UNMIK covering the period October 2011 to January 2012. I would also like to thank H.E. Mr. Vuk Jeremic, Foreign Minister of Serbia, and Mr. Enver Hoxhaj for their statements.

2. Mr President, we commend SRSG Zarif and UNMIK for their continuing efforts towards improvement in the situation in northern Kosovo and for the services the Mission is rendering in areas such as document certification, mutual legal assistance, determining the fate of missing persons, protection of architectural and religious sites, promoting UNESCO's activities, facilitation of Kosovo's interaction with INTERPOL, other international bodies and non-recognizing states. These services serve to better the lives of all Kosovars and should be continued in accordance with Security Council Resolution 1244 and other relevant decisions.

3. Mr President, as the Secretary General's report notes, the situation in northern Kosovo continues to be tense and potentially unstable. In order to deal with this volatile situation, we urge all UN bodies and international agencies to use persuasion and negotiation rather than force. Further, all sides must try to avoid taking unilateral steps to change the status quo. All sides should show creativity in finding a compromise on the contentious issues. In this connection, we appreciate the helpful position taken by the Government of Serbia on the issue of roadblocks and also on the proposed holding of referendum in northern Kosovo.

4. Mr President, we applaud the concerned parties as well as the European Union for successfully holding two rounds of dialogue in Brussels in November-December 2011 despite the prevailing tensions. We have noted that these talks have resulted in forward movement on the agreements reached previously and also in a new agreement on integrated management of crossing points. We hope that the implementation of these agreements would further facilitate daily lives of the Kosovars.

5. We have taken note with satisfaction that the lead prosecutor of the EULEX Special Investigative Task Force to investigate the allegations of organ trafficking has assumed office and has started his work in earnest. We reiterate our stand that a thorough and impartial investigation should be carried out into all aspects of this matter.

6. In conclusion, Mr President, I would like to express our support for SRSG Zarif and UNMIK. Other agencies in Kosovo – OSCE, KFOR, EULEX, etc – should continue to cooperate and coordinate with UNMIK in accordance with their respective mandates.

We reiterate the call to the parties to resolve all issues concerning Kosovo through consultation and dialogue without resort to unilateral action. Only thus can the aspirations of all Kosovars be met and lasting peace and stability be established in the region and create the enabling environment for socio-economic development.

Thank you.



568. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, following briefing by Mr Eamon Gilmore, Tanaiste and Foreign & Trade Minister of Ireland & Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in the United Nations Security Council on February 09, 2012

Thank you, Mr President.

2. I would also like to join other colleagues in welcoming H.E. Mr Eamon Gilmore, Tanaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland to the Security Council. I also thank him for his comprehensive briefing on the activities of the OSCE and its priorities in the months to come.

3. Mr President, India supports the role of regional organisations in maintenance of international peace and security and their cooperation with the United Nations under Chapter VIII of the Charter. Article 54 of the Charter enjoins upon these organisations to keep the Security Council fully informed of their activities for maintenance of international peace and security. We, therefore, welcome the briefing by the OSCE's Chairman-in-Office.

4. Mr President, Minister Gilmore has covered a wide canvas of issues, several of them concerning our immediate and extended neighbourhood. Naturally, these are of great interest to my delegation. We appreciate the work OSCE has been doing for promotion of security in its politico-military, economic, environmental, and human dimensions. It has addressed a wide range of security-related concerns, including arms control, confidence- and security-building measures, human rights, national minorities, democratization, policing strategies, counter-terrorism and economic and environmental issues. They have contributed to managing some of the important problems in the post-Cold War world.

5. In the last decade or so, the OSCE has expanded its activities significantly in our neighbourhood under the Asian Partners for Cooperation (APC) and Asian Contact Group. We have noted OSCE's cooperation with the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), of which India is a member, on matters related to confidence building measures and preventive diplomacy. We also welcome OSCE's partnership with Afghanistan in border security management and electoral assistance.

6. Mr President, we wish great success to the OSCE in its efforts and activities towards promotion of understanding, peace and security among member and partner countries. We also extend our good wishes to the Irish Chairmanship of the OSCE and to Minister Gilmore personally and hope that, under his stewardship, the OSCE will continue its important work.

Thank you, Mr President.



569. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative in Explanation of Vote on the UNGA Resolution on Syria on February 16, 2012

Thank you, Mr President,

Since the beginning of the crisis in Syria in March last year, India has been concerned at its implications within and outside Syria. We have been mindful of the important role that the Syrian Arab Republic has historically played in the Middle East. We think that prolonged instability and unrest in Syria have serious implications for peace and stability in the wider region. We have, therefore, since the beginning of the protests, called for a peaceful and inclusive political process to address the grievances of all sections of Syrian society.

2. We strongly condemn all violence, irrespective of whoever the perpetrators are. We also condemn all violations of human rights. India holds the rights of expression and peaceful assembly among the fundamental values that should be respected, while ensuring stability and security of society.

3. India has conveyed this message to the Syrian leadership, both bilaterally as well as along with its IBSA partners. We have impressed upon the Syrian side the urgent need to abjure violence and pay heed to the aspirations of the people of Syria. This message was also contained in the Council's PRST issued in August 2011 under India's Presidency. Unfortunately, the situation has continued to deteriorate. We have also witnessed several terrorist attacks in different parts of the country. Resort to violence by all sides in the crisis remains unabated.

4. We are firmly of the view that a political process for resolution of the present crisis should be led by the Syrians themselves. We believe that the main role of the international community, including this Assembly, is to facilitate engagement of the Syrian Government with all sections of Syrian society for an inclusive political process, taking into account the legitimate aspirations of all Syrians while ensuring respect for the country's independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity.

5. The League of Arab States, as an important regional organisation, should play its required and historic role in promoting political dialogue among the Syrian parties. Our support for the resolution adopted by this Assembly today is in accordance with our support for the efforts by the Arab League for a peaceful resolution of the crisis through a Syrian-led inclusive political process.

6. I would, however, like to express our regret at the procedure followed in this Assembly during the week in discussing the situation in Syria. Exceptions to established procedures are best avoided to maintain the credibility of any

institution. Also, it would do us immense good if there is greater readiness from all quarters to negotiate a text with a view to reaching a consensus.

7. Mr President, my delegation notes that the resolution just adopted expressly reaffirms that all countries should refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State or act in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations. The resolution also condemns all violence, irrespective of where it comes from, and calls for serious political dialogue between the Syrian government and the whole spectrum of the opposition under the auspices of the League of Arab States. We believe that the leadership of Syria is a matter for the Syrian people to decide. We call on all opposition forces in Syria to peacefully engage in constructive dialogue with the authorities.

6. In this connection, Mr President, we have noted the decision of the Syrian leadership to hold a referendum on a new draft constitution on 26 February and organise multi-party elections within next three months. We hope that this decision will create a new environment for peace and facilitate a political process.

I thank you.



570. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, on Open Debate on Impact of Transnational Organized Crime on Peace, Security and Stability in West Africa and the Sahel Region, at the United Nations Security Council, On February 21 , 2012

Thank you, Mr. President.

At the outset, I would like to welcome you to the Security Council and thank you for presiding over this session. I also want to commend your delegation's leadership in organizing this timely debate and for preparing a comprehensive concept paper for our deliberations today. I would also like to thank the Secretary General for his briefing on the subject and his several important initiatives to address the problems of transnational organized crimes in West Africa and the Sahel region. I would also like to thank Mr Yuri Fedotov, Executive Director of the UNODC, for his valuable statement.

2. Mr President, while countries in West Africa and the Sahel are more democratic today than in the past and have achieved respectable rates of economic growth, they continue to suffer from a number of problems which have political, security and socio-economic dimensions. The importance of an enduring peace, security and stability in West Africa and the Sahel region cannot, therefore be overemphasized. Addressing these problems will not only help the region but also have a positive effect on democracy and development in Africa as a whole. A number of countries in the region, including Mali, Senegal and Guinea Bissau, face crucial elections this year. We hope that elections will be held in a peaceful manner and further strengthen the roots of democracy in these countries and the larger region.

3. Over the last year, several problems in the region have got accentuated. The conflict in Libya has created new problems of proliferation of armed groups and weapons and thus exacerbated existing problems. These problems transcend national boundaries and may pose long-term threats. Transnational organized crimes, including illicit drug trafficking, piracy in the Gulf of Guinea and arms trafficking are undermining efforts of the governments and international community to ensure peace and stability.

4. The military operations carried out ostensibly for the protection of civilians have clearly resulted in millions of civilians in the Sahel, Maghreb and West African regions being adversely affected. They have resulted in deterioration of security, economic and humanitarian situations in the entire region. In a relatively short period of time, the countries in West Africa and the Sahel have had to contend with the influx of nearly half a million returnees as well as the large

inflow of arms and ammunition. The loss of remittances and high unemployment among the youth has exacerbated security problems as well as food insecurity and nutrition crisis. These have put tremendous burden on governments in the region and strained their limited capacity to deal with transnational organized crimes. Recovery from the after effects of these conflicts will require concerted action by the international community.

5. Mr President, a number of problems including proliferation of arms, terrorism, illicit drug trafficking, etc have a regional dimension and need to be tackled through regional cooperation. Illicit drug trafficking and its growing links to financing of terrorism, proliferation of weapons as a result of conflicts in Cote d'Ivoire and Libya, piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, etc demand action at the national and regional levels with the constructive assistance of the international community. The United Nations should lead the international efforts and focus on institution and capacity building and provision of adequate resources to the national authorities and regional and sub-regional organizations.

6. A comprehensive strategy to deal with the problems should include the creation of effective government institutions, particularly in the fields of security, law enforcement, SSR and DDR. Countries concerned should implement all legal and administrative measures to combat organized crime and related issues in accordance with Resolution 1373 and other relevant regional and international instruments. The promotion of democracy and the rule of law will not only help establish peace and security but also help in socio-economic development. Development and employment generation programmes should be undertaken so that the youth can be weaned away from criminal activities and their energies channelized properly.

7. Simultaneously, the strategy should facilitate regional cooperation under the auspices of the relevant regional and sub-regional organizations such as the AU and ECOWAS. In this connection, we welcome the efforts of the UN through UNOWA and UNODC to create synergies with the governments and regional organizations to tackle transnational organized crimes.

8. It is necessary that regional initiatives by ECOWAS and ECCAS should be implemented fully and technical support extended to develop coherent action plans for addressing transnational problems. Steps of regional and sub-regional organizations like the AU plan of action on drug control and crime prevention for 2007-12, ECOWAS Regional Plan of Action to Address Illicit Drug Trafficking, Organized Crime and Drug Abuse for 2008-2011, ECOWAS Counter-terrorism Strategy and West Africa Coast Initiative are welcome and need to be fully implemented.

9. In conclusion, Mr. President, we think that the UN should become a more

effective partner of the AU in resolution of African conflicts. The relevant UN agencies should support the regional and sub-regional organizations and assist in their capacity building and in facilitating their implementation. The UN offices in the region, including UNOWA, UNOCA and UNOAU, should look into practical and concrete ways to strengthen the efforts of the national governments and regional institutions and bring greater coherence and coordination.

I thank you.



571. Statement by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Deputy Permanent Representative, on The Situations in Timor-leste at the United Nations Security Council, on February 22, 2012.

I thank you, Mr. President,

for convening today's debate on the situation in Timor-Leste. I would like to extend a warm welcome to H.E. Mr. José Ramos-Horta, President of Timor-Leste, in the Security Council and thank him for his statement. I also thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Timor-Leste, Ms. Ameerah Haq, for her comprehensive briefing.

2. The Secretary General's latest report has provided us an opportunity to reflect on the latest developments as the UN Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) prepares to drawdown by the end of this year.

3. Mr. President, it is a matter of great satisfaction that the overall situation in Timor Leste remains calm and stable and the country is firmly on path to long-term peace, stability and development. We are encouraged by President Horta's assessment of the progress achieved so far.

4. This year would be an important milestone for the consolidation of democratic transition in Timor-Leste. As the country marks the tenth anniversary of restoration of its independence, presidential and parliamentary elections are scheduled later this year. The continued and active engagement of all political parties in the democratic processes and the forthcoming elections are an encouraging indicator of Timor-Leste's abiding commitment to democracy.

5. We are happy to note that there has been a steady progress towards organizing these elections and an enabling legislative framework has already been put in place. We are appreciative of the technical and logistical support extended by the UN and the international community towards holding these elections.

6. We compliment the Policia Nacional de Timor-Leste (PNTL) for its efforts towards institutional development and capacity building. The PNTL has successfully assumed the responsibility for the conduct, command and control of all police operations in the country. Forthcoming elections would be the final litmus test of its preparedness to maintain law and order in the country. As the transition progresses, it is important that UNMIT remains steadfast in its support to the PNTL in accordance with the wishes of the government.

7. Moving ahead, it is critical that there must be necessary legislative and operational framework in place for a clear delineation of authority between the military and the police so that they can effectively discharge their responsibilities under the overall command and control of civilian government.

8. We support the efforts of the government for enhanced regional engagement and for addressing developmental challenges confronting the country. We have noted with satisfaction that the overall economic growth, including proceeds from the oil and gas sector, continues to remain robust. Government's continuing focus on infrastructure and capital development would certainly be helpful in ushering rapid socio-economic transition in the country.

9. As UNMIT moves towards a drawdown by end 2012 and the government assumes full responsibility for various processes, the UN system and agencies present in the field must work in a coherent manner. All critical aspects related to transition - downsizing of UNMIT's police component post-elections, implementation of the Joint Transition Plan and contours of future UN engagement - must be decided in close consultation with the government. It is important that the transition must be guided and have the ownership of the Timorese government. We look forward to the UNSG's report after the elections.

10. Mr. President, India attaches great importance to its relations with Timor-Leste and we have sought to contribute to the country's development by providing expertise and training in areas of our competence and where we see complementarities in their application. India has extended its support to the Government of Timor Leste, including through assistance for purchase of equipment and materials related to socio-economic development and in human resources development sector. We are also partnering with the Government of Timor-Leste under the IBSA framework.

11. The progress achieved so far gives us confidence that we are moving in the right direction and UNMIT is well on path to become a success story. We appreciate the efforts by UNMIT, the international community and bilateral partners towards peace, stability and development in the country. We support the 3 Secretary General's recommendation for extension of UNMIT's mandate till end December 2012 at the current authorized levels. 12. Before I conclude, Mr. President, I would like to express our deep appreciation for the leadership of SRSG Ms. Haq and the dedication and hard work of her team in supporting the government and people of Timor Leste.

Thank you.



572. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, at the UN Security Council Open Debate on Women and Peace and Security, New York on February 23, 2012

Thank you, Mr. President.

At the outset, I would like to thank SRSG Margot Wallstrom for her comprehensive and valuable briefing and also for the report of the Secretary General on Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict. We welcome the SRSG's efforts and share the principles and objectives outlined by her. I would also like to thank the USG for DPKO and the representative of the NGO Working Group on Women and Peace and Security for their statements. We think that the deliberations today will promote our common interest in the subject.

Mr. President,

India has been actively participating in the debates of the Council on the agenda item 'Women and Peace and Security'. This is a cross-cutting issue having multi-sectoral dimension, and requires the active participation of all Member States. I would, therefore, like to thank you, Mr President, and the delegation of Togo for organizing this open debate that affords an opportunity to Member States to discuss the progress made in the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 1820, 1888 and 1960 and contribute to our ongoing consideration of the subject.

Mr President,

Today, it is estimated that close to 90% of current casualties in wars and situations of armed conflict are civilians, with the majority being women and children. Obviously, women bear a disproportionately large share of the burden of conflict, but have a marginal say in matters of war and peace. This is perhaps a function of the gender imbalance in our societies, reflected in positions of power and influence.

Despite this, women should not be viewed solely as victims of war. They also have to assume the key role of ensuring family livelihoods in the midst of chaos and destruction, and are particularly active in the peace movements at the grassroots level and cultivating peace within their communities. Therefore, the absence of women at the peace negotiating table is unconscionable.

Mr. President,

Some of the aspects highlighted by the landmark UNSC resolution 1325, in particular, the greater participation of women in areas of conflict prevention, peace negotiations and post-conflict reconstruction, are central to the issue.

Some solutions would need to emerge from the conflict affected societies themselves. Others are more long term and structural. They involve, *inter alia*, the encouragement of democratic ideals and practices, effective improvements in the economic and social conditions, and expansion of opportunities for education and productive employment. Situations of conflict vary. Each has its own causes and consequences. Clearly, there cannot be off-the-shelf remedies or panaceas. We need to take practical and effective steps to mitigate the impact of conflict on women and to enhance their ability to restore and preserve peace.

Mr. President,

It is a matter of deep regret that the international community has to repeatedly debate the issue of sexual and other forms of violence against women and girls in situations of armed conflict.

This abhorrent behavior has to be unequivocally, unambiguously and resolutely condemned, whether perpetrated by the parties to the armed conflict or others.

There should be no tolerance for gender-based violence. All such cases must be investigated and perpetrators prosecuted.

Some argue that human rights law and international humanitarian law do not offer enough protection to women and children. Such postulation is a bit extreme. Women's rights and needs have received the attention they deserve in the codification of international law.

The challenge is their effective implementation, and availability of adequate resources for capacity building wherever required. This alone will ensure the real impact of our efforts on the ground.

Mr. President,

By definition, it is States that are parties to the treaty-based system of international law. By and large, they respect them, and when they do not, penalties arise through the provisions of the relevant treaties.

The most egregious crimes against women in times of conflict, however, have been and are committed by non-state actors, often warring against governments; they obey no laws and are, as experience has shown throughout the last decade, immune to coercive and punitive measures.

This Council, therefore, needs to consider, in practical terms, how the non-state actors, which are responsible for the bulk of the crimes that continue to be committed against women, can be effectively tackled. Mr. President,

On the UN side, there has been modest progress in areas such as gender

mainstreaming in peacekeeping operations and training of peacekeeping personnel on gender perspectives. In this context, we commend SRSG Wallstrom for having brought a new synergy in addressing the issue of sexual violence in the situations of armed conflict.

My country has taken a lead in this process and been conscious of the need to incorporate essential elements of the gender mainstreaming policy in the pre-deployment training of its peacekeepers. India's formed police unit of 100 personnel in Liberia was the first of its kind among UN peacekeeping operations. As the largest troop contributing country in UN history, we are proud of the exemplary record of our peacekeepers. I might add that we are willing to increase our contribution of Female FPU's.

Mr. President,

The Secretary General has, in his report, referred to efforts to establish a framework of early warning indicators with specific reference to sexual violence in situations of armed conflict.

The UN has also come up with a set of indicators as global markers of progress in the implementation of Resolution 1325. We have taken note of these efforts.

The development of such indicators, benchmarks and guidelines should involve a process of broad inter-governmental scrutiny and approval before their eventual adoption.

In this connection, one has to be cognizant of the difficulty in obtaining credible and verifiable data from conflict situations.

Mr. President,

India will continue to contribute positively to UN efforts in protecting vulnerable sections, particularly women and children, in conflict and post-conflict societies.

I would also like to emphasize that the international community needs to enhance cooperation by providing new and additional financial resources, sharing of experiences, and capacity building in the areas of justice and the rule of law.

Mr. President,

The women and children in our lives assure our future. They must live in security. While there is much talk of the need to safeguard the interests of women and children, there is less talk of cooperative effort to ensure sustained economic growth which alone can eradicate the poverty and deprivation that cause their exclusion. Several studies point out that most of the global poor are women. Globalization has affected both men and women, but women bear the double burden of inequality and marginalization.

Empowering them is, therefore, both crucial and urgent. In considering the role of women in peace and security, this Council, I am certain, will bear in mind this wider perspective of women empowerment, development and peace.

I thank you.



573. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, at the UN Security Council debate on Piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, New York on 27 February 2012

Thank you, Mr. President,

At the outset, let me join others in commending you and your delegation for organizing this meeting on an issue that is becoming a major threat to maritime navigation, trade and economic activities in the Gulf of Guinea. I would also like to thank USG Lynn Pascoe for his briefing and for the Secretary General's report on the UN Assessment Mission on the subject. I would like to place on record our appreciation for the representatives of the Gulf of Guinea and the Economic Community of West African States for their valuable statements.

2. Mr President, the problem of piracy in the Gulf of Guinea was first discussed in the Security Council during the Indian presidency of the Council in August last year. Since then, there have been several new acts of piracy in the Gulf of Guinea and the problem has assumed greater proportion. Its impact is being increasingly felt by all littoral states and the seriousness is demonstrated by the participation of a number of delegations in today's Debate. I thank all participants for sharing their assessments with us.

3. Mr. President, piracy off both coasts of Africa shows the instability prevalent in the regions and the reach of organized terrorist and criminal groups. They are targeting oil and chemical vessels as well as oil drilling platforms in the Gulf of Guinea and employing severe violence against their captives. The region produces more than 5 million barrels of oil per day and three-quarters of world's supply of cocoa. Pirate attacks are thus adversely affecting the emerging oil industry of the region as well as the commercial shipping and mariners.

4. The Secretary General's report states that piracy in the Gulf of Guinea is already causing economic loss of US\$ 2 billion, which is a significant amount when compared to annual GDPs of countries in the region. As the regional stakeholders have said in their statements today, a large number of unemployed youth are becoming attracted to the business of piracy and maritime robbery. The evolving business model of piracy involves low cost and risk, but yields high returns. While socio-economic issues like poverty, unemployment, etc may be abetting piracy, main reasons have to do with limited institutional capacity of the countries in the region. Addressing problems like proliferation of weapons, poor naval infrastructure, weak law enforcement and prosecution systems, etc have to become integral to counter-piracy efforts. Otherwise, like piracy off the coast of Somalia, piracy in the Gulf of Guinea can fast assume intensity and proportion of an organized cartel in the countries of western Africa.

5. Mr President, India has been at the forefront of highlighting the menace of

piracy off the coast of Somalia and stressing the urgent need for the international community to work towards a comprehensive counter-piracy strategy. India is also concerned about the surge in piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, including its economic and social cost. While the two situations are quite different in proportion at this stage, it is quite possible that the failure of the international community to act decisively against piracy off the coast of Somalia could have spawned a new surge in piracy in the Gulf of Guinea.

6. Time has now come for the attention that this Council has been paying to the problem to translate into a concrete plan of action. This being a regional problem, it is necessary that action should involve full cooperation of the international community, led by the United Nations, with the countries of West Africa and regional and sub-regional organizations. In this connection, we welcome the steps that have been taken like establishment of sub-regional coast guard network in West and Central Africa, ECCAS strategy on maritime security, establishment of Regional Centre for Maritime Security in Central Africa (CRESMAC), creation of Gulf of Guinea Commission (GCC) and the Maritime Organization of West and Central Africa (MOWCA).

7. These initiatives have helped to create a platform for the governments to formulate a collective approach to the problem. Also, ECCAS maritime security strategy has yielded positive result in the Zone comprising Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Sao Tome and Principe. These efforts should be intensified and include joint counter-piracy efforts like patrolling and surveillance of the coastal waters, sharing of information and intelligence and capacity building of naval forces. In addition, strengthening of legal system to ensure effective and expeditious prosecution is also critical.

8. Sustained and full implementation of these efforts, Mr President, will be helped by greater coherence among the regional states and organizations. In this connection, we welcome the Secretary General's proposal to facilitate a regional summit of Heads of State. The United Nations should also assist in mobilization of resources. UN agencies in the region, particularly UNOWA and UNOCA along with UNODC and IMO, have an important role to play in regional counter-piracy efforts, as also in addressing related problems of terrorism, illicit trafficking of drugs and proliferation of weapons as they all conspire together to destabilize the region.

9. In conclusion, Mr. President, India stands ready to contribute to international efforts aimed at increasing effective cooperation among States in the region to tackle the threat of piracy and armed robbery at sea.



574. Statement by Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, at United Nations Security Council's Open Debate on Somalia on March 05, 2012.

Thank you, Mr President.

Let me begin by congratulating the UK delegation on the assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of March. I would also like to put on record our appreciation of Ambassador Kodjo Menan and the delegation of Togo for their stewardship of the Council during the month of February.

2. Mr President, the political, security and humanitarian situations in Somalia and their consequences, particularly the problem of piracy and hostage-taking, are of serious concern for the international community. Today's Open Debate is, therefore, a timely endeavour to comprehensively address the situation in Somalia. We appreciate the delegation of the United Kingdom for organizing this meeting and thank you personally, Mr Minister, for presiding over this meeting. I would also thank the Secretary General and his Special Representative Augustine Mahiga for their comprehensive and valuable briefings.

3. Mr President, few days back more than fifty countries, including my own, participated in the London Conference on Somalia. The Conference served a useful purpose in reiterating the support of the international community for comprehensive stabilization of the situation in Somalia, while taking stock of the progress made so far in political, security and humanitarian fields. The Conference also reminded us of the difficult challenges that lie ahead.

4. The last one year has been a mixed bag for Somalia. There have been significant gains made by AMISOM and Kenyan and Ethiopian forces in securing Mogadishu and other areas in south and central Somalia. The extended transition period saw the adoption of a comprehensive roadmap by the Transitional Federal Institutions in accordance with the June 2011 Kampala Accord. The effective engagement of the international community also helped tide over the worst phase of the humanitarian crisis. Still, millions continue to suffer from the crisis and the implementation of the roadmap has left much to be desired. In spite of the pressure it is under, Al Shabaab with its recent affiliation to Al Qaeda remains a serious threat to peace and stability in Somalia and the larger region.

5. There is, however, an opportunity today in Somalia that has not been available for years. The TFIs can consolidate the gains made by AMISOM and TFG forces by urgently addressing the issues of governance and basic services in areas recovered from Al Shabaab. This would also result in emergence of organized economic activities and employment generation. For this to materialize, the international community has to persevere and continue its support for the people of Somalia.

6. AMISOM being the mainstay of security-related operations in Somalia deserves our continued support. In this connection, we welcome the adoption of Resolution 2036 by the Council, which provides for force enablers and multipliers for AMISOM and also expands the UN support package. The resolution will make available more sustainable and predictable resources for the TCCs and assist in the full implementation of the new Strategic Concept of AMISOM, including its limited maritime component. This would help AMISOM sanitize the Somali coastline and deprive Al Shabaab of revenues earned from port facilities and export of charcoal. We hope that the Council will agree to include naval assets for CoE reimbursement when it considers the extension of AMISOM mandate later this year. India made an uncaveated contribution of US\$ 2 million in 2011 to the AU and UN Trust Funds for AMISOM. We stand ready to provide further support to AMISOM.

7. In parallel with AMISOM operations, Somali stakeholders have to build on the gains in the field of security through progress on the political track. The TFIs should rid themselves of internal divisions and focus their energies on implementing the Kampala Accord and the Roadmap. The drafting and adoption of a new Constitution and its endorsement by a Constituent Assembly in a timely manner as per the Garowe Principles should remain a priority task. This process should be as broad-based as possible taking into consideration the traditional social structure and security situation on the ground.

8. Mr. President, piracy off the coast of Somalia remains a serious problem for maritime security and trade. A large portion of the world's trade, including India's estimated at about US\$ 120 billion annually, passes through the Gulf of Aden. Piracy off the coast of Somalia is adversely affecting this trade, costing several billions due to re-routing of vessels into safer routes and increased costs of insurance and security. As we speak, a number of seafarers, including 33 Indians, remain hostage to pirates. Their humanitarian condition remains a source of serious concern to the government and people of India. What is more worrisome is that attacks by pirates have been increasing in spite of counter-piracy operations.

9. Given the growing scope and expanding coverage of piracy off the coast of Somalia, the international community has to think about adopting a comprehensive counter-piracy strategy. Such a strategy should involve effective sanitization of the Somali coastline, enactment of national laws on priority to criminalize piracy as defined in the UN Convention of the Law of the Sea and UN-led anti-piracy force to conduct naval operations and to coordinate anti-piracy operations by various naval forces. India, on its part, continues to undertake anti-piracy patrols in the Gulf of Aden and has deployed its ships in the Eastern and North Eastern Arabian Sea. So far, the TFIs have paid little

attention to this problem. We expect the TFIs to expeditiously implement the benchmarks on piracy in the roadmap on transitional tasks. We stand ready to help in capacity building of the TFIs and the states in the region for effective measures to combat piracy.

10. In conclusion, Mr President, for lasting peace and security in Somalia, economic development has to form an integral part of our efforts. The international community should expand its development assistance to Somalia so that the Somali people directly benefit from the peace dividend. India, on its part, will continue to extend help to Somalia in capacity building through human resource development. We have recently increased the number of scholarships for Somali students and experts. We have also contributed in the information technology sector in Somalia. We will continue to partner with Somali authorities as they work towards turning a new page.

I thank you.



575. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, debate on MINUSTAH, at the United Nations Security Council, on March 08, 2012.

Thank you, Mr President.

At the outset, I would like to join others in thanking SRSG Mariano Fernandez for his comprehensive briefing on recent developments in Haiti and for presenting the Secretary General's report on MINUSTAH.

2. Mr. President, despite periods of political uncertainty and resultant instability during the last year, Haiti has made notable recovery from the devastating earthquake of January 2010. Today, people living in camps are less than the number last year; more than 1 million people have been relocated so far, several hundred schools have been rebuilt, health services have improved and more than 100,000 temporary shelter units has been built to accommodate 400,000 affected persons, emergency food assistance now covers 4 million Haitians and 5 million cubic meters of debris have been removed. This would not have been possible without strong commitment and support of the international community. We commend the role played by the United Nations and its agencies as well as the Interim Haiti Recovery Commission.

3. The security situation has also improved though it remains fragile and suffers from insufficient policing capacity. Moreover, the country witnessed peaceful transfer of power last year reflecting on the faith of the Haitian population in democracy. The IMF noted in December 2011 that the economic situation in Haiti is improving and predicted positive GDP growth for the year 2012.

4. Progress in recovery and reconstruction has, however, been slowed down due to the continuing political uncertainty aftermath of elections last year. The delay in government formation for several months, lack of understanding between the two important organs of the government and avoidable controversies are unfortunately affecting the overall gains made on the recovery front. This has affected the donor confidence and OCHA's appeal was funded only 55 per cent in 2011. The political infighting has also delayed adoption of a number of legislative measures and preparations for elections to the Senate and local bodies appear stalled. The resignation of Prime Minister Conille last month has further exacerbated political tensions. We hope that the process of parliamentary approval for the new Prime Minister and formation of a new government will be completed soon.

5. Mr President, the need of the hour is for the Haitian leaders to set aside their differences and work collectively for an effective administration that can implement reforms necessary for economic growth and strengthen the capacity of rule of law institutions. Political stability is fundamental to effective governance, which alone can stimulate development, investment and confidence of the international community.

6. Given the prevailing situation, the role of MINUSTAH continues to be critical for recovery efforts, for ensuring overall security and stability and for capacity building of Haitian national institutions, particularly the national police. This will also help the national authorities deal with the reported emergence of new armed groups belonging to the disbanded army. We commend the leadership of MINUSTAH, its peacekeepers and engineers for doing excellent work in most demanding circumstances. MINUSTAH has provided security for the distribution of humanitarian assistance to some 4.3 million Haitians and helped provide temporary shelter to 1.5 million people. Military engineering companies have played a significant role in removal of rubble, repair of roads and setting up of temporary shelters. MINUSTAH's important role in assisting the authorities respond to the epidemic and hurricane can hardly be overemphasized.

7. We hope that the Haitian national institutions will gradually assume larger role and ultimately take over MINUSTAH's responsibilities. Against this backdrop, MINUSTAH should focus its efforts on supporting the political process, capacity building and consolidation of Haitian national institutions, including the national police force. Future force configuration of the Mission should be based on the overall improvement in the security situation as well as stabilization of the political and socio-economic situations.

8. Mr. President, India has contributed 3 Formed Police Units (FPUs) to MINUSTAH totaling 458 personnel. The performance of the Indian units has been widely appreciated in view of their exemplary dedication and devotion to duty. India also made a modest contribution to the efforts of the Haitian authorities to deal with the devastating earthquake in 2010. In the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, India made a cash contribution of US\$ 5 million to the Government of Haiti towards relief measures as a token of our solidarity with the people of Haiti. India is also contributing US\$ 500,000 every year since 2009 to the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), which continues to play an important role in recovery work in Haiti. We have also undertaken a waste management project under a joint IBSA (India-Brazil-South Africa) initiative. In addition, India will soon undertake a project for construction of low cost housing units.

9. In conclusion, Mr President, the continuing support of the international community coupled with stable and effective governance remains critical for sustainable peace, security, stability and development in Haiti. We remain committed to continue our support for the efforts of the Haitian authorities to rebuild the country. It is our hope that Haiti would soon emerge out of its current problems and move towards stability and development.

I thank you.



576. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, Debate on Situation in the Middle East: Challenges and Opportunities, at the United Nations Security Council, on 12 March 2012.

Thank you, Mr President.

Let me begin by welcoming you, Mr Foreign Secretary, and other Ministers to the Security Council. I would like to thank the UK delegation for organizing today's Debate to discuss developments in West Asia and North Africa over the last year. I would also like to thank the Secretary General and other distinguished speakers and you, Mr President, for the valuable statements. We have listened carefully to the views expressed and hope that today's deliberations will help the international community develop a more coordinated and consensual outlook to the serious challenges posed by developments in the region and beyond.

2. Mr President, for more than a millennium now, societies in West Asia and North Africa have played an important role in world history. By virtue of the genius of their peoples, their strategic location and, more recently, their natural resources, these societies have attracted considerable interest from far and wide. Over centuries, countries in the region have built multifaceted socio-economic and strategic linkages with the rest of world. Developments in the region have implications within and beyond the region and they naturally are of interest to the international community.

3. The relationship between India and the Arab world is unique with age-old historic and cultural connections. The impact of the Arab and Islamic world on India itself has been profound and far-reaching; giving rise to a composite culture that is rich in its diversity and enduring in its essential unity. The region is home to over 6 million Indians with some of our largest economic and trade linkages. It is also the most important source for our energy needs and, being in our extended neighborhood, vitally important to India.

4. The unrest in West Asia and North Africa, which began more than a year ago, has its roots in the desire of people to play a greater role in shaping their destiny, politically and economically. These aspirations will not be met through violence or armed struggle. Nor can a solution be reached through prescriptions from outside. In fact, given the history of foreign interference, such prescriptions will not only be suspect in the eyes of various segments of society but may also have the potential to exacerbate the problem.

5. Mr President, in dealing with developments in West Asia and North Africa, the international community needs to use all the tools of diplomacy at its disposal and be there to assist the concerned countries in transiting to an inclusive and

participatory polity while maintaining social stability and cohesion. Since the exact nature of grievances varies from country to country, there cannot be one set of measures that can be applied to all of them. The solutions of the problems in each country have to take into consideration the society's particular circumstances and the genius of its people. However, what is certain is that solutions cannot include intervention through military force or arming of the civilian population. Such a course of action will only fuel further bloodshed and instability and create new marginalized groups. This also risks breeding extremism and intolerance whose adverse consequences will be felt in the region and beyond.

6. I would like to recall what the Father of the Indian Nation, Mahatma Gandhi said, and I quote, "Non-violence is the greatest force at the disposal of mankind". Even during the course of the last year, we have seen that wherever changes have taken place without violence, not only has normalcy returned faster, the changes have been accepted by society as a whole. We are, therefore, of the considered view that the political leaders of the concerned countries in West Asia and North Africa should resolve the problem through inclusive internal political processes that meet the aspirations of their people in an atmosphere free of violence and bloodshed. The principles of national sovereignty, political independence and territorial unity and integrity must be respected. The international community should, including through the auspices of the United Nations, use diplomatic leverages and make available technical assistance in fields such as political, security and justice sector reforms, drafting of new constitution and legal frameworks, electoral institutions and conduct of elections, etc. Actions based on selective or partial interpretations of a mandate of the United Nations must be avoided to ensure that long-term political reconciliation is achieved among various sections of society through peaceful inclusive political processes.

7. Mr President, the international community also needs to be galvanized to expeditiously resolve the long-pending problem of the West Asian and North African region, namely the Arab-Israeli conflict, including Israeli-Palestinian problem. This problem cannot be allowed to be lost in the din and pre-occupations of other developments in the region. Quite apart from the fact that without resolution of this conflict, developments in West Asia and North Africa cannot be adequately addressed, we seriously run the risk of violence if the people of Palestine feel marginalized and sense a complete loss of attention to their plight. Their protests may get radicalized unless concrete action is taken to end the occupation of Arab lands so that all peoples in the region can live in peace in their respective homelands and build cooperative relations. Moreover, the call of the international community for democratic and political reforms sounds hollow to Palestinian and other people in the region living under occupation. In

this connection, some important and immediate measures need to be taken, including end to all settlement activities and favourable consideration by this Council of the Palestinian application for membership to this Organization.

8. Mr President, as the world's largest democracy, India supports measures by the countries in the region to address the grievances of their people in an atmosphere free of violence and bloodshed. India stands ready to share its experiences with the concerned countries in building democratic and plural political institutions and to partner with them in such fields as drafting of new constitutional and legal frameworks, judicial and security sector reforms, creation of impartial and independent electoral institutions and conduct of elections, human resources development, including training and technical assistance, etc.

9. India will continue to support this Council in meeting the challenge of assisting the countries in West Asia and North Africa so that they can implement required political reforms without recourse to violence and violation of fundamental human rights and build an inclusive political system that enables participation of all people. This alone will create long-term peace, security and stability within the region and beyond.

I thank you.



577. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, Debate on Unama, at the United Nations Security Council, on March 20, 2012.

Mr. President.

At the outset, I would like to thank you for scheduling today's debate on the situation in Afghanistan. I thank Ambassador Zahir Tanin, PR of Afghanistan for his statement. I would also like to thank Mr. Ján Kubiš, UNSG's Special Representative for his briefing and to the Secretary General for his latest report on Afghanistan.

2. Mr. President, It is now more than a decade since the international community came together to assist Afghanistan with the shared goal of eliminating terrorism and the safe havens and sanctuaries from where it is emanating, right from the source and to set the country firmly on the path to security, recovery, reconstruction and development. The progress made since then cannot be underestimated. However, the journey is far from over and much more needs to be done.

3. The last few months have witnessed important high-level regional and international engagements on Afghanistan. The Istanbul Conference provided a new impetus to regional cooperation. The outcome of the Bonn Conference, as embodied in the Bonn Conference Conclusions, was an expression of the international community's determination and political commitment to sustained long-term engagement with Afghanistan. The upcoming Conferences in 2012, including the NATO Chicago Summit in May on security, the follow-up Ministerial Conference in Kabul in June on regional cooperation, and the Tokyo Conference in July on development, will be instrumental in working out clearly defined and tangible commitments in the critical areas of security, governance, trade promotion, investment, development and regional cooperation. Afghanistan today confronts major challenges in these areas and will need considerable assistance for a long time, even beyond the transition period, to address these challenges.

4. First and foremost, concerns on the security front continue to remain paramount. The security gains achieved during the last decade are still tenuous and fragile. Terrorist violence shows no signs of receding and civilian casualties attributed to anti-government elements have continued to rise over the last five years, hitting a peak in 2011. Terrorism continues to find sustenance and support from a dangerous osmosis of ideologies, ambitions, training and operations among the syndicate of terrorism in the region with suicide terrorism as its main technique, and targets not limited to Afghanistan. We need concerted action to isolate and root out this syndicate of terrorism which includes elements of the Al Qaida, Taliban, Laskar-e-Taiba and other terrorist and extremist groups operating mainly from outside Afghanistan's borders.

5. Afghanistan needs assistance and support to build its capacity to tackle

the critical challenges of terrorism, including suicide terrorism, the religious extremism that fuels it, and the drug trafficking that sustains it. We must ensure that Afghanistan's security is ensured through non-interference in its internal affairs. As Afghanistan moves ahead with the transition process, we must take into account the conditions on the ground and the capacity of Afghanistan's security forces to preserve sovereignty, independence and territorial unity and integrity of their nation. We support all efforts for strengthening of the Afghan National Security Forces and this must go hand-in-hand with strengthening of their training and equipping, financing and development of their capabilities beyond the transition period.

6. Mr President, India fully supports an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned inclusive and transparent process of reconciliation as opposed to an internationally-led process, accompanied by an inclusive political process and intra-Afghan dialogue that should include renunciation of violence, cutting of ties to terrorist groups, abiding by the Afghan constitution with its protections for human rights, including the rights of women. It is important that any political settlement does not jeopardize the hard won gains of the last ten years and is acceptable to all constituents of the Afghan nation. It is also important that the ongoing transition must remain Afghan-led and Afghan-owned, must be multi-faceted and should ensure the protection and promotion of the human rights of all Afghans and lead to the strengthening of the Afghan state and its institutions.

7. With the gradual drawing down of international forces from their combat role, there are already signs of a transition recession. We need to find ways and means to ensure that Afghanistan does not feel abandoned by a withdrawal of assistance, at least in terms of quantity, if not quality, of international assistance required, post-2014. Afghanistan needs a comprehensive strategy for its domestic/national development that takes into account its Least Developed Country status, its land-locked situation, three decades of conflict and a continued existential threat to its future from terrorism. Such a strategy should include security cooperation, official development assistance, capacity-building and education, trade access, and foreign investment commensurate with its needs. I am happy to state that India is contributing in each of these areas. This is also the approach that we advocate for the Chicago, Kabul and Tokyo Conferences. We also need greater coherence, coordination and further streamlining of the international community's development-related efforts, including aligning of assistance with the Afghan national priorities.

8. In this context, we are appreciative of the comprehensive review of the UNAMA's mandated activities and the UN's support in Afghanistan and the UNDP's intent to channel 80% of its assistance through on-budget support. India appreciates and supports the work of UNAMA.

9. Mr. President, India has age-old historical, cultural, civilizational and

economic ties with our neighbour, Afghanistan. During the last decade, our relationship has been renewed and consolidated by our partnership in the rebuilding and reconstruction of Afghanistan. India has pledged up to US \$ 2 billion in development and humanitarian assistance. India signed a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Agreement with Afghanistan last October, looking at 2014 and beyond. The Agreement creates an institutional framework for our multi-faceted relationship, in the fields of political and security cooperation, trade and economic cooperation, capacity-building and education, and social, cultural, civil society and people-to-people relations. In November, 2011, we eliminated base line customs duties on virtually on imports from Afghanistan, and in December, a consortium of 7 Indian public and private sector companies were awarded the bid for 3 blocks of the Hajigak iron ore reserves.

10. We are happy to note the enhanced focus on regional cooperation. Today our investments in Afghanistan require a framework of regional collaboration for their success. SAARC, of which Afghanistan is a full member, is an important vehicle for regional economic cooperation within the South Asian region. Cooperation linking our region with Central Asia through Afghanistan could be a critical confidence building measure.

11. We firmly believe that Afghanistan's growth strategy has to be built upon its comparative advantage of abundant natural resources and its strategic geographical location. These would have to be the building blocks of our vision for Afghanistan as a hub linking Middle East and West Asia with Central and South Asia through trade and transit routes, railways and highways, energy pipelines and electricity networks, economic projects and cross-investments. This cooperation should not be only between governments, but have civil society and business as stakeholders. In this context, we are prepared to make long-term investments in Afghanistan as we have done with Hajigak.

12. In conclusion, Mr. President, India believes in a strong, independent, sovereign, stable, united, democratic and prosperous Afghanistan at lasting peace with itself and its neighbours. We look forward to a future for Afghanistan where the Afghan people can live in peace and security and decide their future themselves, without outside interference, coercion and intimidation. We must continue to work together with renewed vigour and unity of purpose towards strengthening efforts of the Afghan government in seeking solutions that are inclusive and led by the Afghan people themselves. It is with this spirit that India will continue to remain engaged with the international community's efforts in Afghanistan.

Thank you.



578. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, briefing on the 1737 Committee concerning Iran, at the UN Security Council, on March 21, 2012.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I would join other colleagues in thanking Ambassador Nester Osorio for presenting the 90-day report of the 1737 Committee. We commend his stewardship of the Committee and as also the professionalism with which the Committee has been implementing its mandate.

2. Mr President, the Panel of Experts is mandated to assist the Committee in the implementation of the relevant resolution and has to work under the direction of the Committee. We appreciate the work, including outreach activities, that the Panel has been doing and encourage it to continue its work in strict compliance with the relevant resolutions of the Security Council in an independent, objective, transparent and impartial manner. The Panel should also brief the Committee regularly on all its activities.

3. During the reporting period, the Panel has submitted several reports, including a quarterly update on the implementation reports of the Member States submitted during the period from 1 November 2011 to 31 January 2012. We thank the Panel for these reports, which we are carefully studying. In January this year, three members of the Panel visited India. They had a useful exchange of views with the concerned authorities in New Delhi.

4. Mr. President, India has consistently supported the right of all nations to peaceful uses of nuclear energy in accordance with relevant international treaties to which they are a party. Iran should fully cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to restore the confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of its nuclear programme. In this connection, we welcome the recent exchanges between Iran and the IAEA. We hope that the outstanding technical issues concerning the Iranian nuclear programme will be resolved peacefully through Iran's cooperation with the IAEA. We also welcome the decision to resume talks between the P5 + 1 and Iran. These talks should serve as an important confidence building measure and help avoid escalation of the situation.

5. Mr. President, India supports the full implementation of relevant resolutions of the Security Council concerning the Iranian nuclear issue. While implementing these resolutions, it is necessary that all efforts should be made so that legitimate trade and economic activities do not suffer.

6. In conclusion, Mr. President, we support the Chair's intention to hold an open briefing along with the Coordinator of the Panel of Experts in April 2012 for

interested member-states on implementation procedures. This briefing will also serve as a useful opportunity for the members of the Committee and the Panel to get views of the wider UN membership.

I thank you.



579. Explanation of Vote on the Resolution concerning Syria by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative of India at the UN Security Council, on April 14 , 2012.

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, India has consistently supported all efforts to resolve the Syrian crisis through an inclusive Syrian-led political process that meets the legitimate aspirations of all sections of Syrian society. To this end, we have given our full support for the mission of Joint Special Envoy Mr Kofi Annan. Earlier this morning, our Minister of External Affairs spoke to Mr Annan and underscored India's support for his mission.

2. Madam President, it is a matter of satisfaction that Mr Annan's efforts over the last six weeks have resulted in cessation of violence. We welcome this development and also the commitment of the Government of Syria to the six-point plan proposed by Mr Annan. We expect that the Syrian opposition too will adhere to the relevant parts of this plan, renounce violence and cooperate fully with Mr Annan.

3. We have voted in favour of the resolution today so that an advance team of the UN supervision mission may be deployed expeditiously to monitor the cessation of violence. We hope that all parties, including the opposition, will implement their commitment and cooperate with the mission. It is also necessary that the mission carries out its work impartially, fairly and independently with due respect for Syria's sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity.

4. Madam President, for the success of the Annan plan and observer mission, it is necessary that it is accompanied by an inclusive Syrian-led political process. The cessation of violence should create a conducive environment for such a process to start as early as possible. We have noted the commitment of the Government of Syria to such a process. We expect that the opposition will also engage seriously in this process so that the crisis is resolved without any further bloodshed, and that peace, stability and security is re-established and the people of Syria are able to focus their energies on socio-economic development.

5. Madam President, for the success of the Annan mission, it is also necessary that all countries in Syria's neighbourhood and beyond facilitate, and extend their support for, a political resolution of the Syrian crisis under the auspices of the Joint Special Envoy. India, for its part, will continue to extend full support for the impartial implementation of Mr Annan's six-point plan.

Thank you.



580. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, on Nuclear Security at the United Nations Security Council, on April 19, 2012.

Thank you, Madam President.

India welcomes the initiative taken by the U.S. to convene a meeting of the UN Security Council on nuclear security. I would also like to thank the Secretary General for his briefing.

India fully shares international concerns on the serious threat posed by nuclear terrorism and clandestine proliferation to international security. In recent years, there has been heightened awareness of the threat of terrorists and traffickers seeking access to nuclear material and technologies for malicious purposes. Addressing this threat requires sustained and effective international cooperation to supplement responsible national actions. India's resolution at the General Assembly on measures to deny terrorists access to weapons of mass destruction adopted by consensus since 2002 and the recently extended work of the Council's 1540 Committee are important in this regard. So are international legal instruments on nuclear security - the Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its 2005 amendment, as well as the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. We support the Universalization of these instruments and the central role of the IAEA in strengthening the international global nuclear security architecture.

We welcome the successful outcome of the Nuclear Security Summit held in Seoul 26-27 March 2012, which sets new benchmarks for nuclear security and new frameworks for international cooperation. India's Prime Minister participated in the Seoul Nuclear Security Summit. India has contributed to the Nuclear Security Summit process including by hosting a Sherpa Meeting in New Delhi this year. While nuclear security is primarily a national responsibility there are benefits by supplementing responsible national actions through sustained and effective international cooperation.

We have made progress in the establishment of the Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership. The physical infrastructure for the Centre is being set up and cooperation agreements have been signed with several countries and the IAEA. 'Off-campus' courses are already underway. India will contribute 1 million US dollars to the IAEA's Nuclear Security Fund for the years 2012-13 and will participate in the Agency's 2013 International Coordinating conference of various nuclear security activities, including the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism of which we are a member. India intends to host a 1540 workshop during this year to strengthen its implementation.

We believe that the best guarantee for nuclear security is a world free of nuclear weapons. The Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan tabled nearly twenty five years ago

remains the most comprehensive and elaborate proposal to achieve the objective of global nuclear disarmament in a time-bound framework. Attaining the goal of a nuclear weapon-free world will require commitments embedded in an agreed multilateral framework involving all states possessing nuclear weapons. This should include measures to reduce nuclear dangers by reducing the salience of nuclear weapons in security doctrines and by increasing universal restraints on the first use of nuclear weapons. Working towards the common goal of a world free of nuclear weapons would require a steadfast commitment to multilateralism, which has proven its worth in the case of conventions banning two other categories of weapons of mass destruction. The UN disarmament machinery, especially the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, should play its role. We support the early commencement of negotiations in the Conference of Disarmament in Geneva on a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty, envisaged since 1993 as a significant contribution to non-proliferation in all its aspects. States should fully and effectively implement the obligations arising from the agreements or treaties to which are parties. The role of the Security Council should be in accordance with the Charter and applicable provisions of international agreements which provide for such a role.

India has never been a source of proliferation of sensitive technologies and we are determined to further strengthen our export control systems to keep them on par with the highest international standards. We have already adhered to the guidelines of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) and the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR). As a country with the ability and willingness to promote global non-proliferation objectives, we believe that the next logical step is India's membership of the four export control regimes.

All states have the right to develop and utilize nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in accordance with the international obligations they have undertaken. Given India's growing energy demands, we see nuclear energy as an important component of our energy mix. We are taking forward our three stage nuclear programme based on a closed fuel cycle, with new safety features and proliferation-resistant technologies. Our goal is nuclear energy generation of 62,000 MW by 2032. We are determined that our expanding nuclear power programme will follow the highest standards of nuclear safety and security.

Madam President, we hope that this meeting of the Security Council would help draw attention to the challenges posed by nuclear terrorism and reinforce national and international commitments to strengthen nuclear security and contribute to the enhancement of the global nuclear security architecture. We are thus happy to join the consensus on the PRST to be issued today.



581. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative of India at the UN Security Council open debate on the Middle East, on 23 April 2012.

Thank you, Madame President.

I would like to begin by thanking Under Secretary General Lynn Pascoe for his comprehensive briefing on developments in the Middle East, particularly on the Palestinian question, during the last one month. I also would like to thank the Permanent Representative of Israel and the Permanent Observer of Palestine for their useful statements.

Madame President,

2. The Middle East peace process is undoubtedly passing through one of the most difficult times since the signing of the Oslo accord. The continuing stalemate in the peace process is undermining the gains made so far. In fact, dramatic developments in West Asia and North Africa since the beginning of 2011 appear to have pushed the Palestinian issue on the backburner. Ironically, this is happening at a time when the international community is supporting the democratic aspirations of other people in the region.

3. If the present stalemate is allowed to continue and Palestinian aspirations denied, we run the risk of a sharp deterioration in the situation. The lack of trust between parties, primarily due to intensification of Israeli settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territories, needs to be seriously and urgently addressed. In this regard, we call for a renewed commitment of Israel and the Palestinian Authority to the accepted principles for settlement of the Palestinian issue in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, the Oslo Accords, the Arab Peace Plan and the Quartet Principles. The parties should take urgent steps to recommence negotiation for realising the aspiration of the Palestinian people to have a state of their own, living side by side and at peace with Israel. In this regard, the complete cessation of settlement activities is of utmost importance. At the same time, all violence against civilians, irrespective of their source and cause, must stop. The international community, particularly the Quartet, must redouble its efforts to bring the parties to the negotiating table. We hope that the meeting that took place between the Palestinian and the Israeli negotiators on 17 April will facilitate their efforts towards commencement of direct talks.

Madame President,

4. As I have said, if there is one issue that has become the major hindrance to the peace process, it is Israel's illegal settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territories. Several reports, including those of OCHA, have clearly

shown that the intensification of these activities is not compatible with the two-state solution. In fact, it is destroying the very possibility of the two-state solution. Settlement activities have also exacerbated the humanitarian problems of the Palestinian people in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. They have led to violence and aggravation of tension between the Israeli settlers and the Palestinian population. We, therefore, reiterate our call for Israel to stop all settlement activities.

5. Indiscriminate violence not only puts the lives of civilians in real danger, but also leads to a vicious cycle of violence. We condemn all these attacks that cause harm to the civilian population and damage civilian infrastructure, and call for their full cessation.

6. The humanitarian situation in Gaza due to the continuing blockade and restrictions on exports is constantly aggravating the living conditions of the civilian population. As has been brought out in several reports of the UN agencies, poverty and aid dependency have increased. Demands for emergency services like health, water, sanitation, education and temporary shelter have overstretched UNRWA's resources. While we welcome some steps in easing restrictions and blockade, much more is required to be done urgently.

7. There is also a need to enhance the level of humanitarian assistance for civilians in Gaza and West Bank. This should be done through the established channels. At the same time, the capacity of these channels should be increased. On its part, India is continuing its development cooperation with Palestine through untied direct budgetary support of US\$ 10 million for last two years, training of personnel in various areas, annual contributions of US \$ 1 million to UNRWA and projects under the IBSA fund.

Madam President,

8. Formation of a unity government and implementation of the reconciliation agreement between the Palestinian factions signed last May are important for strengthening the administrative and security achievements made by the Palestinian Authority, despite severe financial crisis. It will not only bring all Palestinian factions together but also ensure establishment of one authority for the whole of the Palestinian territories. An early action on this front will help reaching a political common ground essential for future democratic processes in Palestine.

Madame President,

9. The Palestinian question remains at the core of Arab-Israeli conflict. Resolution of this issue should be a priority for the international community. India has been steadfast in its support for the Palestinian people's struggle for a

sovereign, independent, viable and united state of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital, living within secure and recognized borders side by side and at peace with Israel, as per the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet Roadmap. For achievement of this dream, India will continue to support all efforts, including the Quartet's.

10. At the same time, it is also important not to lose sight of other Arab lands under the Israeli occupation for a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli problems.

I thank you.



582. Statement by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Acting Permanent Representative, Security Council Open Debate on 'Threat to International Peace and Security : Improving UN Capacity to assist States to counter illicit cross border trafficking and movement.' on April 25, 2012

Thank you, Madam President.

At the outset, let me join others in thanking you for organizing this open debate on threats to international peace and security posed by illicit cross-border trafficking and movement. I would also like to thank the Secretary General for his briefing.

2. Madam President, trafficking by non-state actors in nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, their means of delivery and related materials and the movement of terrorists and their funds challenge international peace and security. Moreover, there are situations where international peace and security is exacerbated by illicit cross-border trafficking in arms and drug trafficking. In such cases the Security Council pronouncements have invariably listed these exacerbations and sought to control them.

3. At the same time there are a number of UN bodies and agencies which have their identified and Charter-mandated areas of specialization in connection with illicit cross-border trafficking and movement. It is important that this Council respects the mandates of other organs of the United Nations and its specialized bodies.

4. Of late, there has been a concerted push to bring several global issues onto the Council's agenda under the pretext of their affecting international peace and security. This needs to be avoided. The Charter provides for clear division of responsibility between the General Assembly, the Security Council, ECOSOC and specialized bodies and we must respect this separation of functions in letter and spirit.

5. General norm-setting must necessarily belong to relevant organs and agencies of the United Nations. The Security Council should step in only where there is threat to international peace and security and in the context of specific situations as in conflict and post-conflict situations, and sanctions regimes established pursuant to resolutions 1540, 1373 and 1267/1989 under Chapter VII of the Charter.

6. The UN has played a seminal role in capacity building of member States. States do need assistance to fulfill their international commitments and strengthen their internal institutions, including on law and order and securing their borders. Such an exercise must always be demand driven and Member States led. We commend the efforts and commitment of the relevant UN agencies in developing

capacities of countries in conflict and post conflict situations. Commitment to capacity building of States in different sectors requires greater financial and technological support, and we should be willing to provide the same to them.

7. However, the connected issue is how the relevant UN agencies can help interested Member States secure their borders against illicit cross - border trafficking and movement. The first fundamental principle in this regard is respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of the State seeking assistance; second the donors and relevant UN agencies must respect the prerogative of the concerned member-state to secure its own borders; and third, assistance in capacity-building must be provided only upon request and as mutually agreed.

8. Madam President, the challenges we are discussing today are global in nature. Their inter-linkages make them even more complex. They call for strong collaborative action involving all member States, in a manner that is legitimate and appropriate.

I thank you.



583. Explanation of Vote by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Deputy Permanent Representative, on Resolution 2046 on Sudan & South Sudan at the United Nations Security Council, on May 02, 2012.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Let me begin by congratulating you and the delegation of Azerbaijan on assuming the Presidency of the Security Council for the month of May. I will like to assure you of my delegation's full cooperation and support. I would also like to thank the Permanent Representative of the United States and her delegation for their able stewardship of the Council during April.

2. Mr President, recent developments between Sudan and South Sudan, including cross-border military operations and damage to economic infrastructures, particularly to oil facilities, have caused us serious concern. These developments have the potential to threaten peace and stability and lead the two countries towards war. This will seriously set back the socio-economic and political developments that the countries require to overcome the effects of decades-long civil war. There is, therefore, an urgent need to avoid war and resolve the outstanding CPA issues peacefully through political dialogue and negotiations.

3. The African Union's High-level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) led by President Thabo Mbeki has been facilitating dialogue between Sudan and South Sudan for a few years now. In its briefings to the Security Council, the Panel has outlined realistic frameworks that it has developed for resolution of various outstanding CPA issues. Serious negotiations based on those frameworks can help the two countries not only resolve the issues but also build an enduring relationship based on mutual cooperation and respect for their independence, unity and territorial integrity.

4. Mr President, India has been consistently supporting the AUHIP in its efforts to facilitate negotiations between Sudan and South Sudan and the resolution of all outstanding issues so that they develop into two economically viable and politically stable states at peace with each other. Our vote in favour of resolution 2046 today is an expression of our support for the efforts of the AUHIP and in line with the request in the African Union Communiqué of 24 April 2012.

5. We hope that the adoption of this resolution will strengthen the efforts of the AUHIP to facilitate a negotiated settlement of all outstanding issues. We urge the two countries to end all hostilities between their military forces as well as by various armed groups operating in the region and urgently resume negotiations under the auspices of the AUHIP.

I thank you.



584. Statement by Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, Briefing on Threats to peace and security by terrorist acts, at the United Nations Security Council, on May 04, 2012

Allow me, at the outset, Mr. President, to extend you a very warm welcome to the Security Council. Your presence in the Council is indeed a defining moment, as Azerbaijan assumes the Presidency of the Security Council for the first time in its history. I would also like to express our deep appreciation to you, Mr. President, and to your delegation for organizing today's meeting on this important subject of threats to peace and security caused by terrorist acts and for chairing this meeting.

2. I would also like to acknowledge the participation of ministers and high officials of Germany, Togo, Colombia, Morocco and Russian Federation in today's meeting. Their participation and valuable statements underscore the importance of the subject for the international community. Our thanks are also due to the Secretary General for his comprehensive and insightful briefing.

3. Mr President, terrorism today constitutes the most serious challenge to international peace and security. Over the years, the visible landscape of international terrorism has changed vastly. In our globalized world, terrorists are also globalized in their reach and activities and are able to wage an asymmetric warfare against the international community. Terrorists have established linkages with transnational organized crime, and their veritable nexus with drug, human and arms trafficking, are now well established. Terrorist financing, illicit money laundering, drug trafficking and illicit arms trade remain intertwined in a complex web of toxic relationships.

4. There is also a growing risk of weapons of mass destruction of different kinds falling into the hands of terrorists, which will only exacerbate the existing and grave security challenge to the international community.

5. In today's internet-based age, there is also increasing misuse of cyberspace and related technologies by terrorists and their supporters for the purposes of recruitment, training, financing, planning, preparation and incitement of their activities.

6. An effective counter-terrorism strategy, therefore, requires greater international and regional cooperation than the international community has so far been able to achieve. International cooperation and concerted action against terrorists and their sponsors, including the complete dismantling of terrorist safe havens, sanctuaries, training grounds and financial and ideological support structures, are the critical imperatives to defeat this scourge.

7. Mr President, my own country, India, has faced the scourge of terrorism for several decades. And, indeed, our entire region, South Asia, has been wracked

by the activities of the biggest terrorist actors in the world, be they Al Qaida, Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jamat-ud Daawa, elements of Taliban and others. Terrorism, extremism and radicalization continue to pose a serious challenge to peace, progress and prosperity in the region.

8. India condemns all acts, methods and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, irrespective of the motivation that may be invoked to justify them. We have been in the forefront of global counter-terrorism efforts. India is part of all major global initiatives against international terrorism, including the FATF.

9. We fully support all efforts, which strengthen international and regional cooperation, and most importantly, help ensure the effective implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions, including 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005) and a comprehensive and integrated implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

10. We also endorse the two consensus benchmarks that have been reflected in the Outcome Document adopted on 28 September 2011 by the Special Meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the Security Council, which is being chaired by India since January 2011. The Outcome Document is a major landmark in providing strategic direction to the work of the Committee aimed at strengthening capacity of states in their counter-terrorism efforts. It raises the benchmark in the fight against terrorism to a higher level and urges all Member-States to ensure 'zero tolerance' towards terrorism and take urgent action to prevent and combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations through the full and effective implementation of resolution 1373 and other relevant international instruments. We urge all UN member-states to strive to implement this approach in their counter-terrorism efforts.

11. Mr President, we believe that terrorism cannot be countered by law enforcement means alone. Prevention is also critical, and effective responses will necessarily include other aspects of legal and social policy. Among these, development, education, social integration, tolerance, rule of law and respect for human rights are among the key components of such responses. The Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is a wholesome document that incorporates various aspects in its four pillars and provides guidance to member States in implementing global strategy in a balanced and integrated manner.

12. Mr. President, despite various daunting challenges in the fight against terrorism, significant progress has been made over the past decade, by strengthening cooperation, enhancing solidarity and facilitating dialogue among Member States in their efforts to counter the terrorist threat.

13. The UN has played a seminal role in capacity building of member States. States do need assistance to fulfill their obligations under UN anti-terrorism

conventions to which they are a party, as well as Security Council counter-terrorism and other relevant resolutions. We commend the efforts and commitment of the relevant UN agencies, including Security Council's subsidiary bodies, in developing capacities of countries in this regard.

14. While the Security Council has remained steadfast in its fight against international terrorism, it must enhance further the level of international cooperation to counter this threat decisively. We encourage the subsidiary bodies of the Council with counter-terrorism mandates to continue to enhance their ongoing dialogue with Member States, donors and beneficiaries on the facilitation of technical assistance for capacity-building, at the national, sub-regional and regional levels.

15. We also welcome the recent initiative of the Secretary General for Member-States to consider creation of a United Nations Counter-Terrorism Coordinator and express our willingness to fully engage in all deliberations aimed at further improving cross-institutional coherence and effectiveness of UN counter-terrorism efforts.

16. Mr President, India has long held the belief that the UN also needs to strengthen its counter-terrorism normative framework through the adoption of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. I can only echo the call of the Secretary General that the time has come for the CCIT to be adopted.

I thank you.



585. Statement by Mr. Vinay Kumar, Minister, Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations at the Security Council briefing on UNMIK on May 14, 2012

Thank you, Mr. President.

Let me join others in thanking SRSG Farid Zarif for his comprehensive briefing on the situation in Kosovo and the activities of UNMIK. I also want to thank H.E. Mr. Vuk Jeremic, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Serbia, for his statement outlining his country's perspective on the situation in Kosovo. We have also carefully listened to the statement of Mr. Enver Hoxhaj.

2. Mr. President, the Secretary General's report on UNMIK for the quarter ending 15 April 2012 has brought out in detail the ground situation in Kosovo. We would like to congratulate Serbia for getting the EU Candidate-Country status in early March this year. We also note that the EU has launched a feasibility study for a Stabilization and Association Agreement with Kosovo in late March. These mark the most positive political developments during the reporting period, flowing from concrete progress in the EU-facilitated dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina.

3. We are happy to note that in February in an EU-facilitated dialogue, the parties reached an agreement on Kosovo's regional representation and cooperation. We hope that differences in the use of the footnote concerning Kosovo's status and their mutually exclusive interpretations will be resolved soon by mutual agreement and understanding. Conclusion by the parties of a technical protocol, providing an operational dimension to the agreement on integrated management of crossing points, is also a welcome development.

4. Mr. President, we are seriously concerned by the overall security situation in Kosovo that was marked by political tension as well as by criminal incidents, including the attack on a diplomatic Embassy. Compared to the same period last year, there was also an increase in crimes affecting minority communities. These crimes including damage to Serbian Orthodox churches and household properties have serious implications for inter-communal relations in Kosovo. In this connection, we suggest that the concerns of the Serbian Orthodox Church about transfer of security responsibilities at Devic should be paid heed to.

5. We urge UNMIK to continue to prioritize adequate protection of Serbian religious and cultural heritage in Kosovo, particularly in view of the significant resistance that has been noted in the Kosovo Albanian population against legislative measures and their implementation aiming at the protection of Serb cultural and religious sites and the gap between the commitments made by the Kosovo authorities in this area and their implementation.

6. Mr. President, with respect to the rule of law, UNMIK should continue to provide document certification services of civil nature and facilitate the interaction of the Kosovo authorities with INTERPOL and other organisations. UNMIK should also remain engaged in the missing person issue and other measures for confidence building between the communities. We also welcome the adoption of a law by the Albanian Parliament to facilitate cooperation with the EULEX Special Investigative Task Force, led by John Clint Williamson, allowing the Task Force to fully implement its mandate.

7. In conclusion, we encourage UNMIK to continue to implement its mandate in status neutral manner in strict accordance with resolution 1244 and other relevant decisions of the Security Council. This will help us realize the hope of the Secretary General that the trends of tension and confrontation which have become discernible in the last year will gradually subside and the positive trends of dialogue will strengthen. To that end, leaders on both sides should exercise their leadership in a manner in which tension may be reduced and which can promote a climate conducive to dialogue and mutual understanding.

I thank you.



586. Statement by Mr. Vinay Kumar, Minister, Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations at the UN Security Council debate on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina on May 15, 2012.

Thank you, Mr President.

At the outset, I would like to welcome High Representative Valentin Inzko to the Council and thank him for his comprehensive briefing and the report on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. I would also like to thank the Permanent Representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia for their statements.

2. Mr President, it is a matter of satisfaction that during the period of the report, there have been positive political developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Parties reached a broad agreement that facilitated the formation of the Council of Ministers after nearly 15 months of stalemate following the October 2010 elections. The Presidency of the Bosnia and Herzegovina has been meeting regularly and taken a number of foreign policy decisions that should promote the country's eventual Euro-Atlantic integration.

3. It is also commendable that progress has been registered on the global fiscal framework and two key EU-related laws on State Aid and Census were adopted. The agreement on unblocking of the state-level electricity transmission company is also a welcome development.

4. The joint declaration of the Foreign Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia on cooperation to protect and promote the rights of refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons should serve as an important confidence-building measure. Such cooperation will not only promote regional cooperation but also facilitate their common aspirations for Euro-Atlantic integration.

5. Mr President, we have noted that none of the outstanding items among the five objectives and two conditions necessary for the closure of the Office of the High Representative has been fulfilled so far. We are, however, glad that the 9 March agreement on defence and state property has the potential for an acceptable and sustainable resolution of the issue of apportionment of property which will meet two of the five objectives and two conditions. In addition, progress in the ongoing discussion on the future of Supervision of Brcko can help meet another of the five objectives.

6. We hope that the Bosnian parties will continue their engagement in the spirit of compromise and maturity to address fiscal problems so that the currently deteriorating economic prospects are reversed and the country returns to the path of high growth of pre-recession years.

7. Through their continued presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the EU and NATO military missions have carried out an important role in reassuring its citizens of safety and security, even when the political situation is sometimes tense. We commend the efforts

8. Mr President, as I have said in our previous meetings, Bosnia-Herzegovina is a novel experiment in building a new nation from the rubbles of civil war that the peoples of former Yugoslavia had to endure in the 1990s. It is never easy to build a multi-ethnic, multi-lingual, multi-cultural and multi-religious country. The problems that have been mentioned in the report and briefing of the High Representative are bound to be encountered on the path of building a nation inhabited by people of different faiths, ethnicities and languages. Our own experience over the last six decades has convinced us that though the path of building such a nation is long and arduous, the fruits are well worth the efforts.

9. Resolution of the problems facing the Bosnian peoples, therefore, calls for patience, determination and mutual accommodation. Unilateral actions, mutual suspicion, rhetorical statements and violation of the General Framework Agreement for Peace will only vitiate the political and social atmosphere and delay the achievement of their goals. We would, therefore, urge the leadership of Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as the international community to persevere in spite of the problems that are encountered.

10. In conclusion, Mr President, I would like to highly commend the work being done by High Representative Inzko in assisting the people and leadership of Bosnia and Herzegovina in their nation-building endeavours. We fully support his efforts.

I thank you.



587. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, at the United Nations Security Council briefing on Sudan (ICC), on June 05, 2012.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

Let me begin by congratulating you, Mr President, and the delegation of the People's Republic of China on assuming the presidency of the Security Council for the month of June. We wish you success and assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation. I would also like to thank the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan and his delegation for their successful stewardship of the Council during the month of May.

2. I also want to thank the Prosecutor, Mr. Luis Moreno Ocampo, for his briefing today. We have taken note of his 15th report on the situation in the Sudan, submitted pursuant to paragraph 8 of Resolution 1593 of 31 March 2005.

3. Mr. President, India is not a signatory to the Rome Statute and not a member of the International Criminal Court (ICC), for reasons that are well known. I need not reiterate those.

4. India strongly condemns all acts of violence committed against civilians. We believe that the right to life is one of the fundamental rights, and the foundation of any social order. It is the obligation of all States to take appropriate measures to protect the life of their citizens, while maintaining social order. The concerned States must also bring to justice those responsible for violations of this right.

5. The continuing conflict in Darfur is one of serious concern. We support all efforts to bring this conflict to an end. We also support the activities of UNAMID aimed at protecting civilians and, in cooperation with the African Union's High-level Implementation Panel led by President Thabo Mbeki, to restore an enduring environment of peace and stability in Darfur. An inclusive political process to address the legitimate aspirations of all sections of the Darfuri population will go a long way in resolving this conflict.

6. Mr. President, all parties have to accept that there is no military solution to the conflict in Darfur. We call upon all parties to join the political process without preconditions and without any further delay. In this connection, it is necessary that this Council seriously consider measures against those who have so far refused to join the peace process. It is also important that the proceedings in the ICC should be undertaken in a manner consistent with its obligations and should assist the efforts aimed at ending the conflict in Darfur. Any suggestion that has the effect of creating new obligations for States and regional organizations which are not parties to the Rome Statute will not be legally sound. Nor will such suggestions serve the purpose of peace in Darfur. As such, we cannot support suggestions.

7. In conclusion, Mr. President, India will continue to support all diplomatic efforts for an early establishment of peace and security in Darfur that will afford all sections of the Darfuri population opportunities for socio-economic development and peaceful co-existence through an inclusive political process.

I thank you.



588. Statement by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Acting Permanent Representative, briefing on 1737 Committee Concerning Iran at the United Nations Security Council on June 12, 2012.

Thank you, Mr. President.

At the outset, I would like to thank Ambassador Nester Osorio for presenting the 90-day report of the 1737 Committee. We commend his stewardship of the Committee, as also the professionalism with which the Committee has been implementing its mandate.

2. Mr President, I would like to welcome the submission of the final report by the Panel of Experts, which was issued as an official document of the Security Council last week. We also welcome the extension last week of the mandate of the Panel till 9 July 2013.

3. We expect that the Panel will continue to work under the direction of the 1737 Committee and assist the Committee in the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the Security Council. We appreciate the work, including outreach activities, that the Panel has been doing and encourage it to continue its work in strict compliance with the relevant resolutions of the Security Council in an independent, objective, transparent and impartial manner. The Panel should also continue the practice of briefing the Committee regularly on all its activities.

4. We also support the Chair's intention to hold an open briefing along with the Coordinator of the Panel of Experts in July 2012 for interested member-states on their mandates and to answer questions that member-states may have. We think that the briefing will also provide an opportunity for the Committee and the Panel to get views of the wider UN membership.

5. Mr. President, India has consistently supported the right of all nations to peaceful uses of nuclear energy in accordance with relevant international treaties to which they are a party. Iran should fully cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to restore the confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of its nuclear programme. In this connection, we welcome the recent exchanges between Iran and the IAEA, including the visit of the Director General of the Agency to Tehran. We hope that the outstanding technical issues concerning the Iranian nuclear programme will be resolved peacefully through Iran's cooperation with the IAEA.

6. We also welcome the talks between the P5 + 1 and Iran held in Istanbul and Baghdad during the last two months. We think that these talks should continue and hope that the parties will be able to make progress in the next round scheduled for next week in Moscow.

7. Mr. President, India supports the full implementation of relevant resolutions of the Security Council concerning the Iranian nuclear issue. While implementing these resolutions, it is necessary that all efforts should be made so that legitimate trade and economic activities do not suffer. 8. Before I conclude, Mr President, I would like to assure Ambassador Osorio of my delegation's continued cooperation to facilitate the work of the 1737 Committee.

I thank you.



589. Statement by Mr. Vinay Kumar, Charge d'Affaires, at the UN Security Council briefing on UN Peacekeeping Operations, on June 20, 2012.

Thank you, Mr President.

At the outset, I would like to thank USG Herve Ladsous and the Force Commanders of MONUSCO, UNIFIL, UNMISS and MINUSTAH for their statements. We have carefully noted their views, and think that their perspectives, based on experience gained on the ground while implementing this Council's resolutions, are important and will help the Council in its work.

2. Mr. President, as the nature of threats to international peace and security has changed over decades, so have the challenges facing peacekeeping missions. Three briefers today head missions, which are not deployed to keep peace between States, but within States. They have to keep peace not between two conventional armies, but deal with threats posed by armed groups, where it is not easy to distinguish a combatant from a civilian. They have to neutralize threat not to an easily identifiable boundary, but to state institutions and civilians. Moreover, they are called upon not only to keep peace but also help in building national institutions and carry out functions which normally belong to national governments. And for their effective operations, they need to gain the confidence not only of the host governments but also of communities in which they are deployed.

3. Under these circumstances, the rules of engagement and concepts of operations have to be adjusted to suit the particular circumstances prevailing in the host countries. As they say, no one size will fit all situations. Standardization should aim at optimal performance, not to achieve the sameness of equipment. And the need to maintain objectivity, neutrality, impartiality and fairness assumes even greater importance.

4. In this connection, Mr President, it is important to keep in mind that several UN peacekeeping mandates have included tasks that raise questions on the fundamental tenet of consent. These place peacekeepers in difficult legal circumstances, as the Force Commander of UNMISS mentioned in the context of his area of operation, and thereby hamper effectiveness. The principle of national ownership needs inform all that we undertake through the peacekeeping and peacebuilding activities of the United Nations.

5. Mr President, the peacekeeping missions today are tasked with mandates that have been compared with Christmas tree. Peacekeepers are asked to achieve what many of us as States have struggled for decades, if not centuries, to implement, even while resource gap continues to be the singular reality that constraints the reach and ambit of peacekeeping operations. We therefore have

to keep in mind that provision of resources, in man and in material, commensurate with the mandates is necessary not only for the operational effectiveness of peacekeeping missions but will also have a direct bearing on the credibility of this Council's mandates. The UNMISS Force Commander gave us a concrete example of resource constraints during the Jonglei crisis in December 2011.

6. Peacekeeping missions today are a part of the overall composite efforts wherein the international community has to pool resources of its various institutions and organizations to mount these operations. Statements by the Force Commanders of MONUSCO, UNMISS and MINUSTAH underscore the vastness of their mandates. The success of such missions strength will depend not only on peacekeepers' performance but on the collaborative nature of the venture. Assessments of peacekeeper's performances cannot, therefore, be isolated from the efficacy of overall peace process. Leadership at the headquarters and in the field and coherence of objectives among various stakeholders, and not only the posture and operations of peacekeepers, will determine overall performance and achievement of the tasks mandated to the peacekeeping missions.

7. In this connection, we have noted the idea of composite force formations. Though this appears to be a logical option, the need for contingents functioning as coherent units must also be borne in mind. Our policies in this regard must evolve gradually with reality checks at each step.

8. Mr. President, preserving and supervising peace agreements, restoring basic governance, and seeding the skeletons of institutional framework are peacekeeping's chief accomplishments. The larger peace process must contribute and capitalize upon the stabilization achieved by the military components. Tasks ranging from law and order and the rule of law to national institution building cannot be entrusted to the military components alone. Strategies must be devised with sufficient details, resources, and implementation plans to address each phase of peace process.

9. Mr President, UN peacekeeping is truly a unique enterprise that involves global burden sharing. The partnership between the UN Secretariat, troop and police contributing countries, and the Security Council underpins this exercise. It derives sustenance from our respective abilities to contribute positively to this venture. It requires a great deal of willingness to account and accommodate views and concerns of each.

10. Protection of civilians to a life of dignity, security, and opportunity is indeed a task that deserves much more than what the international community has committed thus far. Leaving it to the hands of peacekeeper alone remains a half measure at best. Our efforts in this regard must begin from where we faltered rather than to attempt universal thematic constructs.

11. Mr President, as the largest contributor of peacekeepers in the UN's history, we are conscious that much has changed since the first peacekeeping missions were launched more than five decades ago. The challenge before us is to build upon the legacy of peacekeeping and to ensure its relevance to current realities. We must remind ourselves that it is a small cost in front of the noble goals we have set ourselves to achieve. Our capacity to effectively implement the mandates of UN missions will depend on provision of adequate resources, rational mandate generation and sourcing of expertise from countries having experience most relevant for the conditions in which peacekeepers are deployed. This we must keep in mind and act accordingly.

12. Before I conclude, Mr President, I would like to pay homage to those peacekeepers, including from my country, who laid down their lives while serving in UN Missions.

I thank you.



590. Statement by Mr. H. S. Puri, Permanent Representative, at the Security Council Open Debate on “Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict” on June 25, 2012.

Thank you, Mr President.

At the outset, I would like to thank you for organizing today's debate on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict. I would also like to thank the Secretary General for his report on the subject and for his incisive statement. Our thanks are also due to the USG for OCHA, the ASG for Human Rights and the Director of the ICRC for their statements.

2. Mr. President, it has been India's consistent view that the protection of its population is the foremost responsibility of every State. The Right to Life is the foundation of any social order and is one of the fundamental rights enshrined in the constitutions of a vast number of UN member-states, including my own, from which no derogation is permissible even in times of emergency.

3. India's commitment to the right to life is demonstrated at international level as well. More than five decades ago, much before this term came into common usage in this Council, Indian soldiers defended the civilians of Congo as part of the UN mission. Since then, our men and women in uniform have been at the forefront of turning this Council's word into deed, including through the services of the UN's first female formed police unit. We remain at the cutting edge of many UN operations where civilians are under threat. India, thus, brings to this table, Mr President, a quantum of experience in actually protecting civilians in peacekeeping missions that is unique in its relevance and in its variety and depth.

4. Mr President, the Security Council has been considering the protection of civilians as a thematic subject since 1999 and has adopted a number of resolutions. This issue has also been incorporated in the Council's resolutions on women, children, the protection of humanitarian workers, conflict prevention and sexual exploitation. A number of country-specific resolutions also have provisions aimed at the protection of civilians. These resolutions, taken together, have raised awareness and strengthened the international legal framework for protecting civilians in armed conflict. Unfortunately, notwithstanding the development of international humanitarian law and efforts of the international community, the civilians continue to suffer disproportionately during armed conflicts.

5. It is, therefore, necessary to take stock of what we have achieved and where we have failed and why. The latest report of the Secretary General has identified four challenges - enhancing compliance by non-state armed groups; enhancing protection by UN Peacekeeping and other relevant Missions; improving humanitarian access; and enhancing accountability for violations.

6. Mr President, a study undertaken by OCHA and the DPKO makes it clear that the major share of the blame for failures lies with the Security Council itself which has been unable, over more than a decade, to develop a clear understanding of the nature and extent of the problem; has been unable to give clear directions about what it wants and how the DPKO should operate; and has not given credence to the voice of countries whose troops are actually deployed on the ground. As the report succinctly states 'the confusion over the Council's intent is evident in the lack of policy, guidance, planning and preparedness'.
7. Mr. President, it is important for the Council to act urgently to address this situation. As was made clear by the Force Commanders of UN missions in their briefings to the Council last week, the primary gap facing the peacekeepers for protecting civilians is the lack of adequate resources. Without adequate number of well-trained troops, equipped with adequate equipment, assets and enablers, the Council cannot hope to realize its aspirations for the protection of civilians in armed conflict. In this context, my delegation thinks that the Council's responsibility does not end with the generation of mandates. The Council should be held accountable if unachievable mandates are generated for political expediency or if adequate resources are not made available.
8. At the normative levels, Mr President, there are several other issues that the Council needs to consider in the context of the role it has assumed for the protection of civilians in armed conflict.
9. First, the protection of civilians when applied as a basis for Security Council action must respect the fundamental aspects of the UN Charter, including sovereignty and integrity of Member-States. Any decision to intervene that is associated with political motives distracts from the noble principles and needs to be avoided. Also, the response of the Council and international community must be proportional to the threat involved.
10. Second, the principle of protection of civilians must be applied in a uniform manner to all parties to a conflict. Failure of the Council to enforce accountability of armed groups has served to exacerbate the situation in several instances and must be addressed.
11. Third, in the implementation of the Council's mandate for protecting civilians, there is the need to ensure the responsibility while protecting. The recent actions of some organizations and member-states have brought to the fore a considerable sense of unease about the manner in which the humanitarian imperative of protecting civilians has been interpreted for actual action on the ground. Monitoring of the manner in which the Council's mandates are implemented has, therefore, assumed great significance and importance.
12. Fourth, to enable States to fulfill their responsibility to protect their

populations, national capacities need to be strengthened, where needed, without political or extraneous motives. This calls for enhancing support for socio-economic development and promoting inclusive political institutions. This also calls for patient work rather than media-driven deliberations and actions.

13. Fifth, the Council must resist the temptation to resort to its Chapter VII powers instead of promoting pacific settlement of disputes under Chapter VI. In this connection, the Council must also respect the international legal institutions, and not make use of them for political purposes like regime change.

14. In conclusion, Mr. President, I would like to stress that Council's responsibility for protecting civilians does not end with a military or police response. Civilians require humanitarian wherewithal for survival. This requires a more integrated and holistic view. In this process, multiple stakeholders should be involved, not just the military. An engagement between warring factions in a conflict situation in a nationally owned and inclusive political process is of paramount importance. This inclusive approach to national reconciliation, anchored in state sovereignty, is the only way to move forward and ensure the protection of civilians in an effective, pragmatic and enduring manner.

I thank you.



591. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, at the UN Security Council debate on UNAMA, New York, on 27 June 2012.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I join others in thanking you, Mr. President, for scheduling today's debate on the situation in Afghanistan. I would like to thank, in particular, Ambassador Zahir Tanin, PR of Afghanistan, for his statement. We also thank the UN Secretary General for his latest report and are appreciative of the briefings by Mr. Herve Ladsous, Under Secretary General, and UNODC Executive Director Yuri Fedetov.

Mr. President,

2. India shares a privileged, historical and civilizational relationship with Afghanistan. During the last decade, our relationship has been renewed and consolidated by our contribution to the rebuilding and reconstruction of Afghanistan. India has pledged up to US \$ 2 billion in development and humanitarian assistance. We remain unwavering in our commitment to assisting the people of Afghanistan in their endeavour to build a peaceful, stable, democratic and prosperous nation.

3. With the first meeting of the India-Afghanistan Partnership Council in New Delhi in May 2012, the process of implementation of the India-Afghanistan Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Agreement has been set in motion. This process will further intensify our broad-based development assistance to Afghanistan in a wide range of sectors, which have been identified by the government of Afghanistan as priority areas for reconstruction and development. We will continue our engagement in reconstruction and rehabilitation projects in alignment with the Afghan National Development Strategy.

4. We are fully cognizant that the economic viability of Afghanistan depends on its fuller integration into its neighbourhood, so that it can regain its historical role as a land-bridge between South Asia, Central Asia, the Middle East and Eurasia.

5. We fully support the efforts for regional confidence-building as a critical component of international efforts to support Afghanistan as it takes forward the task of national reconciliation even while it assumes full responsibility for security.

6. India fully supports an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned inclusive and transparent process of reconciliation as opposed to an internationally led process, accompanied by an inclusive political process and intra-Afghan dialogue, renunciation of violence, cutting of ties to terrorist groups, abiding by the Afghan constitution with its protections for human rights, including the rights of women.

7. At the Kabul Ministerial Meeting of the Istanbul process, India expressed

its willingness to take the lead in the implementation of two Confidence Building Measures (CBMs), "Chambers of Commerce CBM" and "Commercial Opportunities CBM". Further, India will be hosting the Delhi Investment Summit on Afghanistan in New Delhi tomorrow i.e. 28 June. The objective of this Summit is to attract foreign investment into Afghanistan in the light of new opportunities opening up in various sectors in that country. The Summit will include presentations by the Government of Afghanistan and others on the investment climate and opportunities in Afghanistan and panel discussions on cross-cutting issues as well as sector specific themes. Potential regional and international investors, including Indian companies, will participate in the event.

8. We see the Delhi Investment Summit as a critical link between the Istanbul Process and the Tokyo Conference on 8 July. The Summit will also be helpful in countering the current narrative of anxiety of withdrawal and in reversing it with a narrative of opportunity and hope.

9. We are doing so while fully cognizant that these CBMs require an atmosphere of security in the country and in the region. Amidst the ongoing transition, the security gains achieved during the last decade in Afghanistan are still tenuous and fragile. The security concerns continue to remain paramount.

10. The principal problem in Afghanistan remains the existence of terrorism, drawing upon ideological, financial and logistical support from beyond Afghanistan's borders. We need concerted action to isolate and root out the syndicate of terrorism which includes elements of the Al-Qaida, Taliban, Lashkar-e-Taiba and other terrorist and extremist groups.

11. We also need to create an enabling environment where the Afghan people can live in peace and security and decide their future themselves, without outside interference, coercion and intimidation.

Mr. President,

12. Moving forward, we need sustained international commitment to strengthen the Afghan government's capacity for governance, security and economic development. Enhanced developmental assistance and foreign investments in Afghanistan and building regional linkages are critical in ensuring an irreversible transition in that country.

13. The Secretary General's latest report rightly observes that the serious challenges confronting Afghanistan 'must not, however, be under-played, with the military drawdown and an unexpected reduction in development assistance giving rise to uncertainty about the sustainability of such gains'.

14. We support the good work being done by UNAMA. The international community as a whole must continue to work together with renewed vigour and

unity of purpose towards strengthening the efforts of the Afghan government in seeking solutions that are inclusive and led by the Afghan people themselves.

I thank you.



592. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, at the UN Security Council briefing on UNOCA/LRA, on 29 June 2012.

Thank you, Mr. President.

At the outset, I would like to thank you for organizing this meeting to discuss the activities of UNOCA, particularly in the context of the threat posed by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). I would also like to thank SRSG Abou Moussa and Ambassador Madeira for their briefings. We have taken note of the Secretary General's reports on UNOCA and the LRA, and on a regional strategy for the LRA-affected areas.

Mr. President,

2. Countries in Central Africa are making steady progress to overcome the negative effects of decades of instability and conflicts. The region has seen overall political stability. Timely elections have been held in several countries, which have further strengthened democratic institutions. Countries are pursuing economic reforms, which have resulted in robust economic growth in the region. They are also cooperating with regional and foreign partners in addressing their common challenges like proliferation of weapons, transnational organized crimes and terrorism. The African Union (AU) and Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) too have continued to play a crucial role in addressing these problems in partnership with UNOCA and UNOAU.

3. Despite these positive trends, Mr President, the region continues to grapple with effects of conflicts of the past. Overall socio-economic indicators still remain poor and the precarious security and humanitarian situation in the Sahel is adversely impacting on the region. The activities of terrorist groups such as Boko Haram, armed groups and transnational crime networks, illicit drug trafficking, and maritime piracy and robbery at sea in the Gulf of Guinea continue to threaten the security and stability of the region.

4. Mr. President, it is in this context that the activities of UNOCA assume significance, particularly in the areas of conflict prevention, early warning and addressing socio-economic challenges. We commend UNOCA and SRSG Abou Moussa for their active engagement with national governments and with regional and sub-regional organizations. UNOCA should further strengthen this collaboration and assist the efforts of governments and organizations in the region so that regional cooperative frameworks developed to deal with these common challenges are fully implemented.

5. The focus of this Council should lead to galvanizing the international community to provide adequate resources for the national and regional

endeavours, particularly in strengthening of national capacities with regards to civil administration, police and security forces, SSR and DDR processes and socio-economic development. Given the fragility of political institutions in several countries, it is also important for the national and regional authorities to pay attention to the need for inclusive political processes, including electoral reforms.

Mr. President,

6. Piracy in the Gulf of Guinea is a major threat to maritime navigation, and trade and economic activities in several countries in Central and West Africa. We have noted the progress made towards a coordinated approach to address this problem, including the establishment of a Multinational Coordination Centre for Maritime Safety and Security in Equatorial Guinea. We hope that the proposed summit-level meeting will be held soon to work out a regional strategy.

Mr. President,

7. It is a matter of serious concern that LRA activities have increased this year, particularly in the Central African Republic and the DRC. The LRA remains a potent threat and its criminal activities have uprooted over 445,000 persons from their communities in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan and Uganda. While countries like Uganda with support from regional and foreign partners have undertaken a number of measures to address the challenge posed by the LRA, a lot still remains to be done. In this connection, we have taken note of UNOCA's efforts and the launch of the AU-led Regional Cooperation Initiative against the LRA earlier this year. We hope that the AU will continue to work closely with the affected countries so that the Regional Task Force may be expeditiously deployed in the three identified sectors.

8. We agree with the Secretary General's view that any effective strategy on the LRA should focus on strengthening the capacity of national authorities, including their security forces, to expand the authority of the state, and focus on overall socio-economic development in the affected areas. International humanitarian, development and peacebuilding assistance to the LRA-affected areas should address the underlying causes for activities of armed groups. The national programmes for disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration (DDRRR) activities should be supported with provision of adequate resources and be reinforced by a long-term plan for employment generation among the affected communities. It is also important that serious efforts be made to eliminate the remaining active groups and target the leadership of the LRA to bring them to justice. External assistance to the affected countries should be apolitical in nature and respect national sovereignty in policy as well as operational matters.

9. In this connection, it is important that UN Missions in the region should not be burdened further without augmentation of their resources in man and

material. Without commensurate increase in resources, expansion of Mission mandates will not result in operational effectiveness.

10. In conclusion, Mr. President, India stands ready to contribute to efforts to address the challenges of countries of Central African region, particularly in the fields of capacity building and human resource and socio-economic development.

I thank you.



593. Statement by Mr. Vinay Kumar, Charge d'Affaires at the UN Security Council open debate on post-conflict peacebuilding on July 12, 2012.

Thank you, Madam President.

Let me begin by welcoming you, Madam President, to the Security Council and thanking the Colombian delegation for organizing today's open debate. Our thanks are also due to the Secretary General, Ambassadors Gasana and Momen and the representatives of the World Bank for their valuable statements. I also want to put on record our appreciation for your delegation for the useful Concept Paper to anchor our deliberations today.

2. Madam President, the nature of conflicts today is much different than in the past. Their intra state nature, need for managing natural resources, transnational organized crime, illicit trafficking in drugs and weapons, and regional dimensions demand an approach that is capable of building upon the gains of stabilization. Institutions of core governance, youth employment, transitional justice, national reconciliation, electoral support, and constitution building are tasks that need coherent and sustained assistance from the international community. This, in turn, requires political will, allocation of adequate resources and readiness for long-term engagement.

3. It is in this context that peacebuilding, once described as the "missing middle" between peacekeeping and durable peace, assumes importance. Setting up of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) six years back reflected the collective desire of the international community to assist post-conflict countries on a long-term basis in their transition. Despite its advisory role, the Commission and its Organizing Committee have done work worth our commendation in mainstreaming peacebuilding.

4. Given the wide range of tasks the PBC is expected to administer, it is not surprising that it faces several challenges. In our view, willingness of the international community to provide adequate resources is the first and a necessary condition for successful peacebuilding efforts in post-conflict countries. Second, greater coherence among various UN organs under the aegis of the Commission is required to enhance its ability to carry its agenda forward. In this connection, I would like to mention that the organizational context of peacebuilding continues to lack uniformity. Some peacebuilding efforts are being managed by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, others by the Department of Political Affairs and yet others by the UN Resident Coordinator system. Clearly, the peacebuilding policy-making needs a suitable address in this organization today.

5. Madam President, it is also important to keep in mind that peace in post-conflict societies cannot be restored unless citizens are free from fear and want, and institutions of governance perform effectively. The capacity for effective

governance, in turn, depends on the existence of institutions that enable these authorities to respond effectively to people's aspirations. This general political aphorism is substantiated by the experience of the international community in its peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts during the last two decades.

6. We, therefore, think that the core institutions of governance are the key to sustainable peace. They must be rooted locally rather than being imposed from above. Their local relevance and inclusiveness will make all the difference in the governance process. It is, therefore, important for the PBC to align its objectives with national priorities and ensure that all plans and programmes are implemented under national leadership and through national institutions so that gains are sustainable even if slow. The Commission must also draw from experiences most relevant for the prevailing socio-economic conditions in the countries on its agenda. An effective measure of the success of peacebuilding efforts will be the Commission's success in promoting inclusive political processes, national reconciliation and security sector reforms.

7. Madam President, peacebuilding anchored firmly in the overall peace process will deliver the best results. This requires the international community to make available a predictable and appropriate level of resources over extended periods. Our advocacy must be accompanied by matching commitments in resources.

8. UN's capacity to assist national institutions is contingent upon the Secretariat and the Funds and Programmes having skills and expertise that are relevant to these societies. SG's Civilian Capacity Review, we believe, is a step in making this process inclusive and representative. We firmly believe that the nimbleness of recruitment and deployment are not the sufficient conditions for performance delivery. Those willing to invest lives in the field must be valued. Our in-house experts who have gained valuable insights by spending time in the DRC, Darfur, Sudan and in other challenging locations should be the pivots of all our endeavours. Our efforts, at the same time, must be demand driven and nimble for the changing times rather than supply driven. Our ways of selecting police and military officers on secondment need to be simplified. Communication methods with Member States have stagnated with old times in this regard. Representative nature of our institutions will ensure the collective spirit of our enterprise including in DPKO and DFS.

9. In conclusion, Madam President, I would like to stress that as a responsible global citizen having wide experience of nation-building which are most relevant for countries on the PBC agenda, India will not be found lacking in responding to challenges of the peacebuilding process, including under the aegis of the Peacebuilding Commission.

I thank you.



594. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, on the Report of the Secretary General on the UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) at the United Nations Security Council on 21 August 2012.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Let me at the outset thank SRSG Farid Zarif for his briefing on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). I would also like to thank H.E. Mr. Ivica Dacic, Prime Minister of Serbia, and Mr. Hashim Thaci for their statements.

2. Mr. President, the reporting period has seen several important developments. It is a matter of satisfaction that the conduct of Serbian presidential and parliamentary elections inside Kosovo went off in a peaceful and orderly manner thanks to the efforts of UNMIK and other international organizations especially OSCE in establishing an appropriate modality for such voting that was acceptable to all sides.

3. We also welcome the expression of the requisite will from both Belgrade and Pristina to resume the EU-facilitated dialogue once a new government assumes office in Belgrade in order to discuss the implementation of agreements reached so far and also take up new subjects. In this regard, we particularly welcome the statements of President Tomislav Nikolic reaffirming Serbia's commitment to honour all agreements reached in the dialogue and also his readiness to engage in talks with the Pristina leadership in the future. We hope that the talks will resume soon and result in concrete progress on the contentious issues.

4. Mr. President, the issue of missing persons is an important humanitarian issue and we hope that with direct support and encouragement by UNMIK it will be possible to make further progress on this issue.

5. We have taken note of the steps taken by the EULEX Special Investigative Task Force to investigate the allegations of organ trafficking, including the recent adoption by Albania of a law on cooperation with the Task Force. We reiterate our stand that a thorough and impartial investigation should be carried out into all aspects of this matter.

6. Mr. President, we share the Secretary General's assessment that the situation in the northern part of Kosovo continues to be fragile and requires constant vigilance and restraint on all sides to reduce the potential for instability. We note with concern that during the reporting period a number of inter-communal violent acts took place in June-July. The attack on buses transporting Serb children is a matter of serious concern, as also the continuing violence and

crime against Serbian minority including the murder of a returnee couple. We share the Secretary Generals' view of the need for genuine outreach by Kosovo institutions, in particular the police. We urge the international organizations present in Kosovo, particularly K-FOR and EULEX to exercise their authority to prevent the recurrence of such incidents and ensure the safety of the minority.

7. In conclusion, Mr. President, I would like to express appreciation that UNMIK has continued to implement its mandate in an impartial and status neutral manner and facilitated cooperation between Pristina and Belgrade, the communities in Kosovo, KFOR, EULEX and the OSCE. We commend and support SRSG Zarif and UNMIK for their contribution towards improvement in the situation in northern Kosovo and for the services the Mission is rendering in areas that betters the daily lives of all Kosovars. The Mission should be continued in accordance with Security Council Resolution 1244 and other relevant decisions. Other agencies in Kosovo – OSCE, KFOR, EULEX, etc – should continue to cooperate and coordinate with UNMIK in accordance with their respective mandates.

I thank you.



595. Statement by Mr. Vinay Kumar, Charge d'Affaires, at the UN Security Council briefing on Syria, on 30 August 2012.

Thank you, Mr. President.

At the outset, let me welcome you, Mr. President, to the Security Council and thank you for presiding over this meeting. I would also like to thank the Deputy Secretary General, the High Commissioner for Refugees and the Ministers from Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey and from Colombia, Morocco, Togo and the United Kingdom for their participation and statements.

2. Mr. President, since the beginning of the crisis in Syria in March 2011 the situation has been steadily deteriorating. More than 2.5 million people are in the need of humanitarian assistance. More than 1 million are internally displaced and more than 200,000 are refugees. The continuing military operations by all sides have prevented timely and adequate delivery of humanitarian assistance to those in need. Efforts of the international community have so far failed to address the crisis, which is increasingly affecting the region as a whole.

3. It is unfortunate that neither side to the Syrian conflict has implemented its obligations under the six-point plan, which was endorsed by Security Council resolutions 2042 and 2043. The conflict has got increasingly more militarized, which has also been exploited by well-known terrorist groups. A number of terrorist acts have been committed against state institutions and public infrastructure. There have been gross violations of human rights by all sides. Unfortunately, the Syrian parties, instead of seriously commencing a Syrian-led political process, have pursued a military approach to realize their objectives.

4. Mr. President, we strongly condemn all violence and violations of human rights irrespective of who their perpetrators are. We also condemn in the strongest terms possible the terrorist acts that have been and continue to be committed in Syria. We call upon all parties, Syrian as well as foreign, to dissociate themselves from terrorist groups and ensure that no space or justification is provided for terrorist acts.

5. Mr President, under the prevailing circumstances in Syria, there is an urgent need for the international community to close its ranks and send a united message to the Syrian parties to walk back from their military approach and resolve the crisis through an inclusive Syrian-led political process. There is no other way to bring about a sustained cessation of violence in all its forms by all parties. This is also the only way to end human rights violations and create an atmosphere for safe and unhindered delivery of urgently needed humanitarian assistance. Any further militarization of the conflict will not only make a political solution more difficult to reach but also exacerbate the humanitarian situation. In this connection, any militarization of the humanitarian situation will worsen

the security situation as well as humanitarian conditions for millions of Syrians, and must, therefore, be avoided.

6. In order to assist the Syrian parties change their course and address the crisis through political dialogue, it is important that all parties, inside and outside Syria, fully abide by their obligations under resolutions 2042 and 2043. The parties must be prevailed upon to implement the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and the Final Communiqué issued at Geneva on 30 June.

7. India firmly believes that it is critical for the United Nations to remain strongly engaged with the Syrian parties and other actors in the search for a way forward. Unilateral action of any kind will not resolve the crisis. It will only exacerbate the problem and cause greater instability and violence even beyond Syria's borders. We also believe that the leadership of Syria is for Syrians to decide through a democratic process. The task of the international community, anchored in the United Nations, is to assist the Syrian parties in this process.

8. Mr President, India has consistently called for and supported international efforts to assist the Syrian parties to resolve the crisis and bring about peace through dialogue and political processes. Accordingly, we strongly supported the efforts of Joint Special Envoy Kofi Annan. We welcome the appointment of Mr Lakhdar Brahimi as the Joint Special Representative, and urge all sides, Syrian and foreign, to cooperate with him in good faith so that the Syrian crisis can be resolved without any further bloodshed.

I thank you.



596. Statement by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Charge d'Affairs, at United Nations Security Council's Open Debate on Children And Armed Conflict, on September 19, 2012.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Let me at the outset thank you for organizing today's Open Debate on the issue of Children and Armed Conflict. I want to congratulate Ms Leila Zerrougui on her appointment as the new SRSG for Children and Armed Conflict. We wish her great success and look forward to closely working with her. I would also like to thank our briefers today for their statements.

2. Mr. President, children constitute a third of humanity and the most important third as they represent our future. Being also the weakest and most susceptible, it is imperative that all of us nationally and as members of the international community act for their well being and development. Situations of armed conflict, per-se, are situations of suffering but children tend to be the worst affected. We, therefore, firmly believe that the international community has the responsibility, and indeed the obligation, to do its utmost to provide succor to children affected by armed conflict.

3. We have engaged constructively in the ongoing efforts to make the United Nations more relevant and effective in the area of children affected by armed conflict. We have also actively engaged in the work of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict to address the plight of children in situations on the agenda of the Security Council.

4. As the largest contributor to UN peacekeeping operations over the past six decades, Indian peacekeepers have been at the forefront of creating an environment of peace and security in which national authorities can fulfill their obligations towards the most vulnerable sections of those affected by the armed conflict. Based on our wide-ranging experience, we wish to stress that the major challenge is the question of resources. While some members of the international community never tire of pushing to expand the mandate, they are unwilling to provide adequate resources even for meeting the requirements of the agreed mandate.

5. Mr. President, since the adoption of resolution 1379 that brought the issue of Children and Armed Conflict on the Security Council's agenda in 2001, significant progress has been made and the United Nations deserves credit for the same. However, a lot more remains to be done. As the new SRSG commences her work, we think that it is the right time to take stock of the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the Council and consider the way forward. We are sure that today's debate will allow reflection on the functioning of the UN processes and mechanisms, and help us identify gaps and address them.

6. Let me, therefore, underscore our key concern, which has also found an echo in the words of several delegations that have spoken before me today. We believe that the earlier this is addressed, the better the result will be for children in armed conflict. This will also help rebuild the consensus that the issue had so far had in this Council. And I must add that is important.

7. OP16 of resolution 1379 requested the Secretary General to report on situations that are on the Security Council's agenda or that may be brought to the attention of the Security Council by the Secretary General, in accordance with Article 99 of the Charter, which in his opinion threaten the maintenance of international peace and security. All subsequent resolutions, including resolution 1882 that makes reference to other situations of concern, draw their legitimacy from OP16 of 1379. In spite of this clearly spelt out mandate, the Secretary General's reports include situations which do not meet the threshold of armed conflict or threat to the maintenance of international peace and security. The fact that the legal Counsel also has issues with such referencing should have led to their removal, not the continued inclusion of such situations with a blasé disclaimer. This should be rectified and the mandate strictly adhered to.

8. Mandate creep also distracts from urgently addressing the plight of children in situations of armed conflicts that are on the Council agenda, where lack of resources is the critical problem for relevant UN entities.

9. The monitoring and reporting mechanism of the UN envisages the involvement and close cooperation with the country concerned. In addition to ensuring the veracity and reliability of data collection, developing such capacity will significantly assist the country concerned in its fight against impunity and ensuring accountability. It is also important that UN access to armed groups is carried under the cooperation framework between the UN and the concerned government. This will be in keeping with both the letter and the spirit of the Council's resolutions.

10. Mr. President, it is important that there is regular and substantive consultation between the Working Group on children and armed conflict and the SRSG on the implementation of the relevant resolutions, including of provisions concerning listing, delisting, persistent perpetrators, impunity and accountability, etc.

11. In conclusion, let me reiterate India's strong support for the UN on issue of children and armed conflict and reaffirm that India will continue to work closely on the issue of children and armed conflict with a view to increasing efficiency, cost effectiveness and impact of UN efforts and those of Member States in dealing with this important issue.

I thank you.



597. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, Debate on 'The Situation in Afghanistan' at the United Nations Security Council, on September 20, 2012.

Mr. President, I join others in thanking you for scheduling today's debate on the situation in Afghanistan. I would also like to extend a very warm welcome to Dr. Zalmay Rassoul, Foreign Minister of Afghanistan to the Security Council and thank him for his statement. We also thank the UN Secretary General for his latest report and are appreciative of the briefing by Mr. Ján Kubiš, UNSG's Special Representative for Afghanistan.

Mr. President,

2. Afghanistan is in midst of a critical phase of transition wherein it assumes responsibility for security and governance with the drawdown of the ISAF by end 2014. The sustained commitment of the international community to Afghanistan is essential if it is to stand on its own feet.
3. During the last one year, the international community's has renewed its commitment to Afghanistan at conferences at Bonn, Chicago and Tokyo and at the regional level in Istanbul and Kabul. The Delhi Investment Summit of June 28 hosted by India was also an endeavour to contribute to this effort by calling attention to the role and potential for foreign investment and domestic private sector development in providing a narrative of opportunity and employment to counter the anxiety of the ISAF drawdown.
4. As we assist Afghanistan in attaining its long-cherished goal of self-reliance, we also need to bear in mind that the infrastructure of terror is still intact in the region. The Secretary General's report rightly notes that 'little has changed in the underlying dynamics to mitigate a deep-seated cycle of conflict'. Further, a 'diminished international presence will have a large financial impact in many areas which, at least in the short term, may even exacerbate predatory behaviour'.
5. Afghanistan continues to face an existential threat from terrorism, drawing upon ideological, financial and logistical support from beyond its borders. The security situation remains fragile and has been compounded over the last two months by a sharp increase in the variety, spread and intensity of attacks by the Taliban and their backers. Moreover, cross-border shellings have caused large-scale disruptions to normal life and have sparked public outrage. The ANSF is ill-equipped to repel this challenge without substantial assistance from the international community. We need concerted action to isolate and root out the syndicate of terrorism which includes elements of the Al-Qaida, Taliban, Lashkar-e-Taiba and other terrorist and extremist groups.
6. We welcome the pledges of \$16 billion of financial aid through 2015 and

to sustain support through 2017 at, or near, levels of the past decade at the Tokyo Conference. At the same time, we are conscious that these figures represent a base-line or minimum requirement for Afghanistan to sustain itself.

7. The Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework is a noble effort, which we fully support. However, we must not forget that true mutuality can only be achieved at equal levels of capacity. Good governance requires a strong state that has full control over its territory, which is not yet the case in Afghanistan. While good governance must be a necessary component of international assistance to Afghanistan, it is not enough. It must be complemented by strong leadership, the strengthening of the ANSF, and the development of an investment regime in Afghanistan that protects the national interest while promoting investment.

Mr. President,

8. India visualizes its partnership with Afghanistan as needs-based and long-term, not conditions based or transitory. We remain unwavering in our commitment to assisting the people of Afghanistan in their endeavour to build a peaceful, stable, democratic and prosperous nation.

9. During the last decade, India has pledged up to \$ 2 billion in development and humanitarian assistance. We have managed to carry out some of the most economical and cost-effective projects in Afghanistan. The \$ 500 million assistance announced by Prime Minister of India in May 2011 is being spent from 2012-2015. The projects under consideration will be in line with the projects suggested under the National Priority Programmes of the Government of Afghanistan. The pace and nature of the utilization of the present and future Indian assistance will be determined by the preference, comfort level and absorptive capacity of the Afghan government.

10. As Afghanistan takes forward the task of national reconciliation even while it assumes full responsibility for security, we fully support the efforts for regional confidence-building as a critical component of international efforts to support the country. Enhanced developmental assistance and foreign investments in Afghanistan and building regional linkages are critical in ensuring an irreversible transition in the country. The Istanbul 'Heart of Asia' process was an important step in that direction. India has also partnered in this regional consensus towards the stability and prosperity of Afghanistan by leading the two Commercial Confidence Building Measures, i.e. the Chambers of Commerce and Commercial Opportunities CBMs, initially agreed upon for implementation in the Istanbul process.

11. In our view regional cooperation on projects of multilateral scope and benefit could give an impetus to this scenario. We are fully cognizant that the economic viability of Afghanistan depends on its fuller integration into its

neighbourhood, so that it can regain its historical role of a land-bridge between South Asia, Central Asia, the Middle East and Eurasia. The development of transport infrastructure and transit arrangements linking Afghanistan to the North, South, East and West, including, through the Chabahar port, would benefit not only Afghanistan but the entire Central Asian region by creating trade, transit and investment linkages. 3

Mr. President,

12. Moving forward, we need sustained international commitment to strengthen Afghanistan government's capacity for security, governance and economic development. We need to create an enabling environment where the Afghan people could live in peace and security and decide their future themselves, without outside interference, coercion and intimidation.

13. We support the good work done by UNAMA. It is important that amidst the cutback in UN foot-print in Afghanistan and reconfiguration of UNAMA due to budgetary constraints, all efforts should be made to avoid adverse impact on its operational capacity and mandate implementation.

Thank you.



598. Statement by Mr. Ranjan Mathai, Foreign Secretary, at the High-Level Meeting on the Situation in the Middle East, at the United Nations Security Council, on September 26, 2012.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Let me begin by congratulating you on presiding over this High Level Meeting on peace and security in West Asia and North Africa. I also want to thank the UN Secretary General and the Secretary General of the League of States for their valuable statements.

2. Mr. President, developments in West Asia and North Africa have played a major role in shaping the history of the world since ancient times. The region has been the birthplace of major religions of the world and of great civilizations. By virtue of the genius of its peoples, its strategic location and its natural resources, the region has been a focus of considerable interest internationally. It is, therefore, not surprising that the momentous transformation in several countries of the region since late 2010 has been of great interest to the world at large. It has been a general aspiration that these transformations should be peaceful and lead to inclusive and democratic outcomes within these countries.

3. The League of Arab States, as the most important regional organization predating the United Nations, has played a significant role in the unfolding of events in the region, and guided the involvement of the international community in these events. Chapter VIII of the UN Charter recognizes the importance of the regional organizations and their role in matters related to the maintenance of international peace and security. The Charter also provides a broad framework for this Council's cooperation with the regional organizations, while clearly stating the primary responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security.

4. The cooperation between the Arab League and the United Nations started in early 1950's. Both organizations have benefited from the convergence of objectives to maintain international peace and security, despite occasional differences. Enhanced partnership between UN agencies and the Arab League at institutional level in the fields of human development, capacity building, and empowerment of women and youth have been of great benefit for the countries of the region. There is a need now for further strengthening the existing cooperation to help the countries in the region in meeting the aspirations of their people for playing a greater role in shaping their destiny. India stands ready to cooperate in this regard.

5. Mr. President, it is important to underline here that this Council's cooperation with regional organizations, particularly with the League of Arab States, should avoid selectivity. Also, cooperation with one regional organization should not

come at the cost of another. The objective of peaceful resolution of conflicts should determine the actions of the Security Council. All UN activities, including its cooperation with 2 regional organizations, should be consistent with the provisions of the UN Charter. Both organizations should use all tools of diplomacy to assist the concerned countries in transiting to an inclusive and participatory polity while maintaining social stability and cohesion. The cooperation should encompass all relevant issues related to international peace and security, particularly the fight against terrorism. The principles of national sovereignty, political independence, unity and territorial integrity must be respected. It is also important that peculiarities of each situation are kept in mind.

6. Mr. President, if there is one issue that requires immediate attention of both the United Nations and the League of Arab States, it is the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the Israeli-Palestinian issue. This issue cannot be ignored while we focus on recent developments in the region. There can be no durable peace in West Asia without a just and comprehensive settlement, based on the realization by the Palestinian people of their inalienable right to a state of their own with internationally recognized borders, living side by side and in peace and security with Israel. We, therefore, urge this Council as well as the Arab League to urgently facilitate the resumption of the Middle East Peace Process.

7. Mr. President, the League of Arab States has been playing an important role in resolving the Syrian crisis. We fully support the peaceful resolution of the conflict through a Syrian-led inclusive political process, based on firm rejection of any military intervention. We urge all sides, Syrian and foreign, to cooperate with Joint Special Representative Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi in good faith so that the Syrian crisis can be resolved without any further bloodshed.

I thank you.



599. Statement by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Acting Permanent Representative, at the UN Security Council debate on MINUSTAH, on October 03, 2012.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Let me at the outset, welcome you to the Security Council, and congratulate Guatemala and you personally on the assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the first time ever. We have very fruitful cooperation with the Guatemalan delegation, and thank the Permanent Representative and his delegation for organizing today's debate. I would also like to express our sincere thanks to SRSG Mariano Fernandez for presenting the Secretary General's report on MINUSTAH and for his briefing on recent developments in Haiti.

2. Mr. President, we are encouraged by the developments in Haiti during last few months, including the appointment of Prime Minister Laurent Lamothe and its ratification by the Parliament in May. These developments have ended the political uncertainty and underscored the collective resolve of Haiti's leadership to work in a constructive manner to address various issues related to governance, economy, elections and reconstruction. We commend the steps taken by the new government for improving the law and order situation, attracting foreign investment, promoting new industrial projects, and combating smuggling. We also commend the steps for resolving differences between the executive and legislative branches of the government, and hope that the newly established constitutional court, the electoral council, and the Superior Council of the Judiciary will satisfactorily settle the outstanding issues.

3. In order for these steps to succeed, Haiti requires continued support of the international community. In this connection, we commend MINUSTAH for assisting the Haitian national police in ensuring stable security situation across the country. We think that international support needs to be enhanced, particularly in the implementation of the 2012-2016 Haitian National Police Development Plan. We hope that the local elections due since last year will be held soon, and help in rebuilding democratic institutions at the grass root level.

4. Mr. President, while there has been substantial progress in resettling the internally displaced persons and addressing their humanitarian needs, a number of challenges continue to face recovery and reconstruction efforts. Nearly 400,000 persons remain dependent on humanitarian assistance for their basic survival. Assistance is also required to fight the cholera epidemic. For long-term improvement in the situation, the international community needs to align its efforts with Haiti's national development priorities. In this regard, we welcome the creation of the Housing and Public Buildings Construction Unit in the Office of the Prime Minister, which will contribute to the improved coordination and

effective implementation of humanitarian programmes. We also welcome the new Integrated Strategic Framework for the period 2013-2016 drafted by MINUSTAH in consultation with the Haitian authorities.

5. Mr. President, MINUSTAH and its leadership have played an important role in the positive developments in Haiti. MINUSTAH has not only helped Haitian stakeholders in resolving their differences, it has also lent its hand in capacity building and recovery efforts of national institutions, and in ensuring overall security and stability in the country. With the Haitian national institutions assuming greater role, MINUSTAH should gradually hand over its core functions to the Haitian National Police and focus on long-term stabilization and development goals. In this context, we support the recommendation of the Secretary General to narrow MINUSTAH's activities to a core set of mandated tasks that are achievable within a reasonable timeframe. MINUSTAH's drawdown should, however, be based on the evolving situation in the country rather than a fixed timeline.

6. Mr. President, India has remained a major contributor to MINUSTAH with three contingents of the Formed Police Units. Our FPU's are playing an important role in maintaining peace and stability in Haiti, including the guarding of the Presidential Palace. In addition, the Indian FPU's have arranged blood donation camps for the benefit of the Haitian people and earned their goodwill.

7. India remains committed to supporting Haiti in its reconstruction activities. In September 2012, India donated US\$ 5 million to the Government of Haiti for construction of 500 low cost housing units for the victims of the January 2010 earthquake. Earlier, India had donated US\$ 5 million in cash as disaster relief assistance. India has also been contributing US\$ 500,000 annually since 2009 to the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), which continues to play an important role in the recovery work in Haiti. India is also cooperating with Haiti in capacity building and human resources development by offering scholarships under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme.

8. In conclusion, Mr. President, let me state that while Haiti has come a long way since the devastating earthquake of 2010, the international community should continue its engagement so that Haiti is able to achieve sustainable peace, security, stability, and development. As Haiti assumes the Chair of the Caribbean Community next year, we convey our best wishes to the government and people of Haiti, and also assure them of our continued partnership.

I thank you.



600. Statement by Mr. E. Ahamed, Minister of State for External Affairs, in the Security Council Meeting on Sierra Leone, on October 09, 2012.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Let me begin by thanking the Guatemalan delegation for organizing today's briefing on the special court for Sierra Leone. Having started my career as an advocate, the topic under discussion is of special interest to me.

2. I would also like to thank the President of the Special Court, Hon. Justice Shireen Avis Fisher, for presenting the report on the activities and achievements of the Court since the last briefing to the Security Council on 16 July 2009.

3. Mr. President, the Special Court was established in the year 2000 by Security Council resolution 1315 at the request of the Government of Sierra Leone. Since its establishment, the Court has successfully carried out its mandate set out in the Statute of the Court. Three of the four main cases have been completed, and the last case is in the final stages of judgment at the Appeals Chamber.

4. Keeping in view its track record, we hope that the Special Court would successfully accomplish its mandate by 30 September 2013 when the Appeals Chamber is expected to give its verdict in the Charles Taylor case. We appreciate the efforts of the United Nations and the international community to assist States, upon their request, in restoring peace and stability, including through the fight against impunity.

5. Mr. President, the enforcement of sentences with the assistance of the Government of Rwanda is a good example of international cooperation in furthering the cause of justice. We have also taken note of the Court's outreach activities, witness protection, and archive development programme, including through the capacity building initiatives that will strengthen national judicial institutions in Sierra Leone. We also appreciate the creation of a Peace Museum that would contribute to the efforts aimed at national reconciliation in the country.

6. As the Special Court prepares for closure, focusing on the residual issues such as enforcement of sentences, protection of witnesses, and preservation of archives of the Special Court assume great importance. In this regard, there is a need to continue support to the Special Court as well as to the Residual Special Court.

7. Mr. President, India has a long history of cordial relationship with Sierra Leone. India played a major role in the UN Assistance Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) till 2001. Since then, India has continued to partner with the Government of Sierra Leone in its reconstruction efforts. India has extended

loans and credit lines worth US\$ 94.45 million during the last few years to enable Sierra Leone procure agricultural equipment, and modernize and expand its National Telecommunications Network (SIERRATEL). Our partnership has included the restoration and rehabilitation of six potable water and solar street lighting projects. As part of our bilateral cooperation programme, India is providing 45 training slots to Sierra Leone this year. India has also offered to set up an India-Africa Information and Communication Technology Centre in Sierra Leone.

8. Before I conclude, Mr. President, let me convey our best wishes to the Government and people of Sierra Leone as they prepare for national elections next month. The successful conduct of the elections will be a major milestone in post-conflict peacebuilding in Sierra Leone, which should help in the process of national reconciliation and further consolidation of democracy in the country. India remains committed to continue its partnership with the Government of Sierra Leone, particularly in capacity building and human resources development.

I thank you.



601. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Open Debate on Situation in the Middle East Including the Palestinian Question at the United Nations Security Council, on October 15, 2012.

Thank you, Mr President.

Let me begin by thanking Under Secretary General Jeffrey Feltman for his comprehensive briefing. I would also like to thank the Permanent Representative of Israel and the Permanent Observer of Palestine for their valuable statements.

2. Mr. President, the Arab world has been undergoing unprecedented transformation during the last two years. Democratic aspirations of people in several countries are being addressed through national political processes. It is, however, regrettable that the Palestinian question and the related Arab-Israeli issues have largely remained unaddressed and unresolved. Also, the Palestinian application for full membership of the United Nations submitted more than a year ago has not evinced any positive action from this Council, despite overwhelming support from the UN member-states.

3. The issue of Palestine is facing the real danger of getting relegated to the sidelines. The current period of stalemate in the Middle East Peace Process is perhaps one of the longest since the signing of the Oslo Accords 19 years back. The efforts of the Quartet can at best be described as feeble and have failed to break the stalemate. If this situation continues, the international community will risk destabilization in the region.

4. We, therefore, call for serious efforts to arrest this trend. If there is one decision that can help revive the Peace Process, it is an end to settlement activity in the occupied Palestinian territories. The settlement activity in the West Bank and East Jerusalem are creating a new ground reality and threaten the very premise of a two-state solution. Settlements, road blocks and the related infrastructure of occupation have also exacerbated the humanitarian problems of the Palestinian people and adversely affect the normal functioning of Palestinian state institutions. We join others in urging Israel to stop its settlement policy without further delay.

5. Mr. President, the blockade of Gaza has entered its sixth year, and is causing severe hardship to the population. The humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate, and essential services, economic activities and infrastructure development have been disrupted. Israel should immediately lift the blockade and allow the resumption of normal socio-economic activities in Gaza so that the Gazans can rebuild their lives and reduce their dependence on external assistance.

6. The recent measures taken by Israel, including transfer of tax revenue,

increase in work permits to the Palestinian population, visits of Palestinian families to meet Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli detention, etc., are positive. These measures are, however, inadequate to address the magnitude of the problems, and need to be built upon to promote mutual trust and confidence between the parties. In this connection, Mr. President, it is important to avoid violence on all sides, and ensure that legitimate security interests of all parties are met.

7. We note the reconciliation process between the Palestinian factions, which is crucial. We hope that efforts towards the promotion of reconciliation will bear fruit soon, leading to the formation a Unity Government, holding of elections, reunification of Palestinian state institutions, and measures for reconstruction and development of Palestinian society.

8. The financial crisis that the Palestinian Authority is currently facing is eroding the significant progress made by the Palestinian Authority in building state institutions. There is an urgent need to support the Palestinian Authority to meet its budgetary shortfalls. In this regard, we welcome the commitment shown by the international community at the recently held meeting of the Ad-Hoc Liaison Committee on 23 September.

9. On our part, Mr. President, India has continued to support the Palestinian state building efforts. President Abbas visited India in September this year. During the visit, three agreements were signed for establishment of an Information and Communication Technology Centre of Excellence in Palestine, provision of technical and vocational education training equipment and services for the Palestinian Ministry of Labour, and construction and equipping of two secondary schools in Asera Al Shamalyeh and Abu Dis. India will also contribute US\$ 10 million to Palestine's budget for this year, as we have done in the two previous years.

10. During the visit of President Abbas, India reaffirmed its firm support for a sovereign, independent, viable and united state of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital, living within secure and recognized borders, side by side and at peace with Israel. We strongly support all efforts towards realization of that objective, including Palestine's enhanced status in this organization as announced by President Abbas during the General Debate of the 67th session of the UN General Assembly last month.

11. Mr. President, we remain seriously concerned at the deteriorating situation in Syria. We strongly condemn all violence and violations of human rights irrespective of who their perpetrators are. We also condemn in the strongest terms the terrorist acts that have been and continue to be committed in Syria. We call upon all parties to dissociate themselves from terrorist groups and

ensure that no space is provided for these groups. We urge all parties to cooperate with Joint Special Representative Mr Lakhdar Brahimi to resolve the crisis without any further bloodshed through an inclusive, Syrian-led political process that can meet the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people.

12. Before I conclude, Mr. President, let me state that while the Palestinian question remains at the centre of the Arab-Israeli conflict, there are other Arab lands under occupation. A final and comprehensive settlement of all Arab-Israeli issues is necessary for enduring peace in the region. India stands ready to play its part in our collective endeavours to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

I thank you.



602. Statement by Mrs. Preneet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs, at the Debate on Somalia in the UN Security Council on October 16, 2012.

Thank you, Mr. President

At the outset, I would like to thank the Guatemalan delegation for organizing today's debate on the situation in Somalia.

As the new authorities start their work in Mogadishu, it is a good time to deliberate upon the progress achieved so far, the challenges that lie ahead, and how the international community can continue its support for the government and people of Somalia.

We have carefully noted the views expressed by SRSG Augustine Mahiga, and I would thank him for his valuable statement.

Mr. President,

During the course of last year there has been remarkable progress in the process of stabilization of political, security and humanitarian situations in Somalia. This has created a historic opportunity that must be seized for the full restoration of peace and stability in Somalia after two-decade long conflict.

The adoption of a provisional constitution, formation of the new parliament, elections of the President and the Speaker, and appointment of the new prime minister clearly reflect the collective resolve of the Somali people to move from the transitional institutions to a more representative government that can meet the legitimate aspirations of all sections of Somali society.

These important milestones would not have been possible but for the coordinated and concerted efforts of the international community, including the African Union and the United Nations.

The important role played by SRSG Mahiga in the successful completion of the transition process deserves our special appreciation.

Our congratulations are also due to the new Somali leadership, particularly H.E. Mr. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, the new President of Somalia. It is a matter of immense pride for us that President Mohamud spent a few years studying in India in the late 1980's.

Mr. President,

The gains on the political front have been made possible by the impressive achievements of AMISOM and the Somali forces on the security front.

Thanks to AMISOM, Mogadishu is today firmly under the control of the Somali authorities.

Last week, AMISOM and the Somali forces secured the strategic towns of Kismayo and Wanla Weyn from Al Shabaab. The support of the international community to AMISOM operations has been instrumental in these successes.

We commend all troop contributing countries, in particular Uganda, Burundi and Kenya, for their commitment to the Mission and for the sacrifices their troops have made.

Mr. President,

In order to consolidate the gains made, the new government in Somalia has to embark upon building effective state institutions that can pursue national reconciliation, provide the rule of law, revitalize economic activities, and restructure and strengthen the security forces.

It is also necessary to expeditiously implement the pending tasks of the Road Map. In this regard, we welcome the six-point policy framework set out by President Mohamud, and call upon the international community to fully support the implementation of the framework.

Mr. President,

AMISOM remains the mainstay of the international community's efforts for stabilization of the security situation in Somalia. AMISOM and the Somali security forces have continued to expand their control in all four sectors of operations.

Still, Al Shabaab remains a major threat to peace and stability in Somalia, and has turned to asymmetrical warfare.

The changing security situation demands further augmentation of resources for AMISOM, including enablers and force multipliers.

We, therefore, support the request made by the AU for a technical roll over of four months, continuing the current support package. We also support the expansion of the logistical support package to cover the deployment of additional civilian personnel and to include naval assets for CoE reimbursement.

The latter is crucial to safeguard the supply routes of AMISOM and to prevent Al-Shabab from benefitting from illegal maritime trade and piracy.

Mr. President,

Maritime piracy off the coast of Somalia and the humanitarian plight of hostages held by pirates remain a major cause of concern for India.

Much of India's trade passes through the Gulf of Aden, estimated at over US \$ 160 billion annually.

Indians constitute 7% of the world's seafarers and a consequence of piracy has been the tremendous human cost that these seafarers have had to pay. According

to the Secretary General's latest report, 259 hostages from 18 ships are still held by pirates. Of these, 43 are unfortunately Indian nationals.

We hope that the international community will provide full assistance to the new government in Somalia to implement the comprehensive set of measures to counter piracy as identified in the roadmap.

Mr. President,

India and Somalia share two millennia of civilizational exchanges across the seas. Not many years ago, India made a major contribution to peacekeeping in Somalia through its significant involvement in UNOSOM-II.

Last year, following our Prime Minister's announcement at the second India-Africa Summit, India made a financial contribution of US\$ 2 million to AMISOM. This year, we are making another contribution of US\$ 1 million.

We have also continued to extend help to Somalia in capacity building through human resources development, and have recently increased the number of scholarships available for Somali experts and students to utilize in Indian academic institutions. We have also contributed to the development of the information technology sector in Somalia.

Mr. President,

As Somalia moves on to a new phase of pacification and peacebuilding, the continued support of the international community will remain critical for its success.

I would like to assure the new government of Somalia of India's continued support for our common endeavours to put Somalia back on to the path of peace, stability, and prosperity.

I thank you.



603. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, at the UN Security Council, explaining India's Vote on Resolution on African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) on November, 07 2012.

Now, I would like to make an EoV in my national capacity.

The important role played by AMISOM in the remarkable progress that Somalia has achieved this year in political and security stabilization can hardly be overemphasized. Thanks to AMISOM, Mogadishu is today firmly under the control of the Somali authorities. Over the past few months, AMISOM and the Somali forces have also been making steady gains in other areas of Somalia, and have secured the strategic coastal town of Kismayo from Al Shabaab. We commend all troop contributing countries, in particular Uganda, Burundi, Djibouti, and Kenya, for their commitment to the Mission and for the sacrifices their troops have made. We also note the significant contribution of the Ethiopian troops operating under the African Union strategic concept.

2. Support of the international community to AMISOM has been instrumental in these successes. It is, therefore, necessary for the international community to remain steadfast in its support and, in fact, enhance it in order that the new Government of Somalia is fully supported in military and civilian matters to stabilize the areas liberated from Al Shabaab, establish administrative structures, and launch socio-economic development programmes.

3. We have voted in favour of Resolution 2073 extending the mandate of AMISOM for four months, as requested by the African Union. While the resolution extends the UN logistical support package to cover an additional 50 civilian personnel as requested by the African Union, we are disappointed that the resolution could not respond to other critical requests made by the AU, like the maritime component and the review of arms embargo.

4. We hope that the Council will address these issues when it next considers AMISOM's mandate after strategic reviews by the AU and the UN.

Thank you.



604. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, during UN Security Council Meeting on the Libyan case in the International Criminal Court on November 07,2012.

Now I would like to make a statement in my national capacity.

I also would like to join others in thanking the Prosecutor, Mrs. Fatou Bensouda for her briefing today.

2. At the outset, let me state that India is not a party to the Rome Statute, for reasons that are well known. I need not reiterate them here. We, however, support the rights and obligations of the States that are members of the ICC.
3. India strongly condemns all acts of violence committed against civilians. We believe that the right to life is one of the fundamental rights and should be the foundation of any social order. It is the obligation of all States to take appropriate measures to protect the life of their citizens, while maintaining social order. The concerned States must also bring to justice those responsible for violations of this right.
4. During the conflict in Libya there were deaths and destruction on a massive scale by parties to the conflict. In the post-conflict scenario, proliferation of weapons has emerged as a major problem posing threat to stability in Libya as well as in the larger region. The Libyan government has to confront this challenge by undertaking an inclusive political process aimed at achieving national reconciliation, peace, security and stability in the country. In this connection, we welcome the progress achieved towards establishing democracy in Libya, and commend the people and Government of Libya for holding elections to the national congress. We hope that peace, stability, and socio-economic development will soon return to Libya.
5. The international community, including the Security Council and the ICC, should fully assist the Libyan authorities in this process. This inclusive approach to national reconciliation, anchored in state sovereignty, is the only way to overcome the problems that Libya is presently facing.
6. We have noted that the Prosecutor's comments today, and expect that she will carry out a thorough and impartial investigation of the situation in Libya in an impartial and transparent manner. The Council had referred a situation and, therefore, a report on the investigation of the situation so referred is important. All those responsible for committing alleged crimes should be held accountable. Political or other non-judicial considerations should not exonerate anybody from prosecution for the crimes committed.

7. Last, but not the least, it is also important to ensure that all actions by the ICC Prosecutor should fall strictly within the ambit of Resolution 1970, particularly paragraph 6 of the resolution that concerns the States that are not parties to the Rome Statute.

Thank you.



605. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, during a UN Security Council Debate on UN Mission in Timor Leste on November 12, 2012.

I join others in extending a very warm welcome to H.E. Juan Luis Guterres, Minister for Foreign Affairs & Cooperation of Timor-Leste in the Security Council and thank him for his statement. I would also like to thank the Acting Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Timor-Leste, Mr. Finn Reske Nielsen for introducing the Secretary General's report.

2. The visit of Security Council's mini-Mission to Timor-Leste last week, in which India also participated, offered the Council members an opportunity to interact with the government and see first-hand the progress that the country has made towards sustainable peace and security.

3. Timor Leste has made multi-faceted progress since the establishment of United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor Leste (UNMIT) in 2006. The year 2012 has been an important milestone in the consolidation of democratic transition in Timor-Leste. This year, the country celebrated the tenth anniversary of restoration of its independence. Presidential and Parliamentary elections were also held in a calm and stable security environment. Timorese police and armed forces have conducted themselves professionally and in a responsible manner. We compliment the Policia Nacional de Timor-Leste (PNTL) for its efforts to continue to strengthen its institutional development and capacity building. The final certification of full reconstitution of the PNTL has taken place recently and this marked the end of UNPOL's operational support to the PNTL.

4. We appreciate the resilience and determination of the Timorese people and its leadership in taking their country forward firmly on path to long-term peace, stability and development. The active engagement of all political parties in the democratic process is an encouraging indicator of their abiding commitment to democracy. We would also like to commend the UNMIT for its overall support towards this end and making the Mission a successful story.

5. As stated by Ambassador Basso Sangqu, the PR of South Africa, who led the Council's Mission and indicated in Prime Minister Gusmão's letter to the UNSG, there has been an unambiguous message from the Timorese people that the country should no longer remain on the Council's agenda and UNMIT withdraws as planned by the end of this year. We are particularly pleased that there is consensus amongst all stakeholders for UNMIT to withdraw as scheduled.

6. As UNMIT draws down, it is important that the contours of the post-transition UN presence should be finalized in accordance with the wishes and priorities of the government. Timorese ownership and leadership is essential for building upon the progress achieved so far.

7. We have noted with satisfaction that the overall economic growth, including proceeds from the oil and gas sector, continues to remain robust. The Government's continued focus on infrastructure and capital development would certainly be helpful in ushering rapid socio-economic transition in the country. The international community must support the government in its efforts towards socio-economic development, poverty eradication and strengthening of its institutions.

8. India attaches very high importance to its relations with Timor-Leste. We have sought to contribute to the country's development by providing expertise and training in areas of our competence and where we see complementarities in their application. India has extended its support to the Government of Timor Leste towards its socio-economic development and in human resources development sector. We are also partnering with the Government of Timor-Leste under the IBSA framework. India fully supports the efforts of the Timorese government to expand its bilateral and regional cooperation.

9. Before I conclude, I would like to express our appreciation for the leadership of Acting Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Timor-Leste, Mr. Finn Reske during this transition and the dedication of his team in supporting the government and people of Timor Leste.

Thank you.



606. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative during UN Security Council Debate on situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina on November 13, 2012.

I will now make a statement in my national capacity.

At the outset, I would like to welcome High Representative Valentin Inzko to the Council and thank him for his comprehensive briefing and the report on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

2. It is a matter of satisfaction that during the period of the report, there has been peace and stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Political developments are, however, of serious concern. There has been little progress in the country's Euro-Atlantic integration. Negative rhetoric has adversely affected economic prospects. These issues need to be addressed by political entities within the framework established by the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

3. We commend the conduct of local elections on 7 October, and hope grass root democratic institutions will promote nation-building, inter-community harmony, and the rule of law. The joint declaration of the Foreign Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia on cooperation to protect and promote the rights of refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons, signed earlier this year, should serve as an important confidence-building measure. Such cooperation will not only promote regional cooperation but also facilitate their common aspirations for Euro-Atlantic integration.

4. We have noted that the progress on outstanding issues for closure of the Office of the High Representative has been somewhat slow. We are, however, glad that a recent state property ruling by the BiH Constitutional Court has laid out guiding principles for the resolution of the state property issue. We also welcome the closure of the Brcko Final Award Office on 31 August.

5. Through their continued presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the EU and NATO military missions have carried out an important role in reassuring its citizens of safety and security, even when the political situation is tense. We commend the efforts of EUFOR and support the extension of its mandate.

6. As I have said in our previous meetings, Bosnia-Herzegovina is a novel experiment in building a new nation from the rubbles of civil war that the peoples of former Yugoslavia had to endure in the 1990s. It is never easy to build a multi-ethnic, multi-lingual, multi-cultural and multi-religious country. The problems that have been mentioned in the report and briefing of the High Representative are bound to be encountered on the path of building a nation inhabited by people of different faiths, ethnicities and languages. Our own experience over the last six

decades has convinced us that though the path of building such a nation is long and arduous, the fruits are well worth the efforts.

7. Resolution of the problems facing the Bosnian peoples, therefore, calls for patience, determination and mutual accommodation. Unilateral actions, mutual suspicion, rhetorical statements and violation of the General Framework Agreement for Peace will only vitiate the political and social atmosphere and delay the achievement of their goals.

8. The General Framework Agreement for Peace and its implementation have ensured peace and security in Bosnia and Herzegovina over the last 17 years. Nothing should be done to undermine the Peace Agreement's foundations or roll back reforms undertaken to implement it. We would, therefore, urge the leadership of Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as the international community to persevere in spite of the problems that are encountered. We hope that the Bosnian parties will engage in the spirit of compromise and maturity to address political problems so that the Peace Agreement and its implementation are strengthened. They should also take concerted steps so that currently deteriorating economic prospects are reversed and the country returns to the path of high growth of pre-recession years.

9. In conclusion, I would like to highly commend the work being done by High Representative Inzko in assisting the people and leadership of Bosnia and Herzegovina in their nation-building endeavours. We fully support his efforts.

I thank you.



607. Joint Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative on behalf of Chairs of UNSC Committees 1267, 1989 and 1540, during a joint debate on the briefing by Chairmen of Subsidiary Bodies of the UN Security Council on Counter Terrorism on November 14, 2012.

On behalf of the Chairpersons of the Security Council Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), 1373 (2001), and 1540 (2004), I have the honour to update the Security Council on the continuing cooperation among the three Committees and their expert groups, as requested by the Council in its resolutions 1989 (2011), 1963 (2010) and 1977 (2011) and earlier resolutions.

Terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction continue to pose a serious threat to international peace and security. It therefore remains important to ensure close cooperation and effective coordination between the Counter-Terrorism Committee, the "Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee" and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004).

The three Committees continue, moreover, to attach great importance to effective coordination and cooperation between their respective expert groups the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), the Monitoring Team of the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee and the Group of Experts assisting the "1540 Committee".

The three Committees welcome the continuing efforts of their expert groups to cooperate on outreach activities and country visits conducted within their respective mandates; enhance cooperation with international, regional and subregional organizations; increase exchange of information; participate in joint meetings; and engage in reciprocal representation, as appropriate.

I am pleased to report that cooperation between the expert groups has increased in some areas. The Committees commend this increased cooperation. While striving to enhance their cooperation in accordance with their respective mandates, the expert groups should also continue to strengthen their outreach activities.

The need to strengthen capacities remains a key concern of many States faced with emerging counter-terrorism challenges. This is particularly true in respect of the challenges posed by exploitation of technological advances by terrorists and non-state actors. This includes but is not limited to the use of the Internet as an effective communication channel and for the public outreach. *In this regard, the three expert groups can play a pertinent role.* The Committee's groups of experts can play a pertinent role in advising States seeking assistance in building counter-terrorism capacity.

The three Committees welcome all efforts aimed at enhancing the visibility of United Nations counter-terrorism activities and at strengthening cooperation, coordination and coherence among United Nations entities with a view to promoting transparency and avoiding duplication. The three Committees also note the invitation extended to the Secretary-General — in General Assembly resolution 66/282 of 12 July 2012, adopted within the framework of the review of the United Nations Global Strategy — to provide Member States with greater detail on the proposal for creating a United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator. The Committees look forward to the discussions to be held on this proposal, including within their respective mandates on further improving cross-institutional coherence in United Nations counter-terrorism efforts.

Outreach and country visits

The coordinated outreach activities and country visits of the expert groups are important tools for the three Committees in facilitating full implementation of their respective mandates. These tools strengthen dialogue with Member States, help to improve understanding of the distinct, yet complementary roles of the three Committees, and assist them in the implementation of the relevant resolutions.

I am pleased to report on some areas in which cooperation between the expert groups has been increased. Since May 2012, all three expert groups were represented at over a dozen workshops and other outreach events, and more meetings were attended by two of the groups. *For example, at the request of the Secretariat of the Eastern and Southern African Anti-money-laundering Group (or “ESAAMLG”), representatives of CTED and the “Al-Qaida Monitoring Team” organized a half-day workshop, on 25 August 2012, for the Chairpersons and members of the ESAAMLG Review Group for Post-Evaluation Implementation Plans. Their presentations focused on States’ obligations pursuant to the relevant Security Council resolutions. The Monitoring Team’s presentation focussed on the practicalities of implementing the Al-Qaida assets-freeze sanctions measure, and the CTED presentation focussed on the practical and operational elements of freezing pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001).*

CTED and the Monitoring Team also conducted two joint visits and, in the course of their joint constructive dialogue with Member States, provided advice to two Member States concerning their respective implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions (focusing on freezing actions and, in close cooperation with UNODC, legislative drafting).

The Monitoring Team and CTED also continued to participate jointly in events hosted by non-United Nations bodies: *for example, in the periodic meetings of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), during which the two expert groups notably participated actively, within the framework of their respective mandates,*

in the discussions on the revision of the FATF standards. All three expert groups participated, on 28 September 2012, in a high-level meeting on countering nuclear terrorism organized by the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) Office.

Since their acceptance (along with that of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) as observers to the Middle East and North Africa Financial Action Task Force (MENAFATF), CTED and the Monitoring Team have begun the practice of making presentations on each other's behalf, where possible, in order to facilitate engagement with as many partners as allowed by the available time and resources, and always bearing in mind their distinct, yet complementary roles. Several recent country visits conducted by CTED on behalf of the CTC included the participation of a representative of the Monitoring Team and, where applicable, of the "1540 Committee" Group of Experts.

Cooperation with international, regional and subregional organizations

Since May 2012, the coordinated approach to organizations agreed upon by the three expert groups continues to be enriched by the significant contributions made by CTED and Monitoring Team representatives to conferences involving a large number of international, regional and subregional organizations. Continued participation in such events enhances cooperation between and among the Security Council Committees and the participating organizations and also serves to promote full implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions. *The outcomes of this interaction are used by the expert groups to refine the modalities of information exchange, enhance coordination on technical assistance facilitation and explore the potential for further sub-regional cooperation.*

The CTITF continues to provide a platform for enhanced cooperation by the three expert groups, not only among themselves, but also with over 30 United Nations organizations, agencies and programmes concerned with various aspects of counter-terrorism. The expert groups also participate in the Integrated Assistance for Countering Terrorism Initiative (I-ACT), which is co-chaired by CTED. The Monitoring Team and CTED have also assumed leading roles in other working groups: for example, CTED as co-Chair of the Working Group on Border Management relating to Counter-Terrorism and the Monitoring Team as co-Chair of the Working Group on Countering the Use of the Internet for Terrorist Purposes. The relevant expert groups have also worked proactively within the framework of the CTITF Working Group on Dialogue, Understanding and Countering the Appeal of Terrorism.

The Monitoring Team and CTED experts participate jointly in meetings of FATF-Style Regional Bodies such as the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering and in the donor-group discussions held in parallel with such meetings, in order

to maximize their respective efforts to facilitate delivery of technical assistance to States. This practice has also led to increased coordination in the provision of expert comments on the legislation of those bodies' member States.

Exchange of information

Exchange of information among the expert groups is carried out on a regular basis. The three groups share information about forthcoming meetings and relevant activities with a view to coordinating activities while bearing in mind their distinct, yet complementary roles. *CTED regularly shares with the other two groups the monthly reports submitted by its Executive Director to the CTC (including information on its recent missions, country visits and technical assistance activities), while the experts of the "1540 Committee" prepare information notes on the Committee's outreach events and post them on the Committee's website.*

Joint meetings and reciprocal representation

The three expert groups continue to hold joint meetings where appropriate, whether involving the heads of each team or the expert teams, in order to prepare for country visits and relevant workshops and to exchange information on particular themes or activities in specific regions or countries. The CTITF Office continues to be invited to participate in these joint meetings.

In addition, the CTC extends invitations to the other two expert groups when arranging briefings by visiting officials from intergovernmental organizations or when organizing thematic briefings of mutual interest.

Further information concerning the activities and mandates of the three Committees and their expert groups may be found on their respective websites:



608. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative (in his national capacity) during a joint debate on the briefing by Chairmen of Subsidiary Bodies of the UN Security Council on Counter Terrorism on November 14, 2012.

Now, I would like to make a brief statement in my national capacity.

2. As Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, it has been India's constant endeavour to provide a political direction to the work of the Committee and a greater momentum to efforts in bolstering member states' ability in confronting the scourge of terrorism.

3. The international community needs to step up its collective efforts with real cooperation among member states to confront the scourge of terrorism squarely and decisively. We need concerted action against terrorists and their sponsors, including the complete dismantling of terrorist safe havens, sanctuaries, training grounds and financial and ideological support structures. We need to adopt a holistic approach that ensures zero-tolerance towards terrorism.

4. India fully support all efforts, which strengthen international and regional cooperation in counter-terrorism, and most importantly, help ensure the effective implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions, including 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005) and a comprehensive and integrated implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

5. We welcome the listing of the Haqqani Network by the 1988 Sanctions Committee. This Group has also targeted Indian interests in the past. The unity of the international community is critical in isolating such terror groups which threaten peace and security in our region, and other parts of the world. The Monitoring Team needs to put greater focus to examine the linkages between Al-Qaida and Taliban comprehensively and objectively, which pose a serious threat to international peace and security.

6. It is critical that all sanctions regimes established by the Security Council should ensure swift, fair and transparent procedures in their decision-making. The process of listings as well as de-listings needs to be guided by the same set of principles – fairness, credibility and transparency.

7. India has an unwavering commitment to support international efforts to prevent non-state actors and terrorists from acquiring WMDs and their means of delivery. The international community must continue to strengthen its efforts to eliminate the risks relating to sensitive materials and technologies falling into

the hands of terrorists and non-state actors. The international response to the threat needs to be national as well as multilateral and global.

8. India believes that meeting new proliferation challenges requires fresh approaches for evolving a more cooperative and consensual international security order that effectively addresses genuine proliferation concerns. As announced by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the Seoul Nuclear Security Summit in March this year, India will be hosting a 1540 Committee workshop on 'Building New Synergies on Nuclear Security' from 30 November-1 December, 2012. In this workshop, India intends to bring together important stakeholders for a brainstorming session for building synergies that would contribute to the overall objectives of nuclear security.

9. The success in the fight against terrorism goes hand-in-hand with progress in strengthening counter-terrorism cooperation and exchange of information at the international, regional and sub-regional level. Our collective endeavour should be to enhance coherence and synergy among different counter terrorism structures that are dealing with the issue of terrorism at the UN. The 1267/1989 Committee, the 1373 Committee, and the 1540 Committee of the Security Council must continue to further strengthen their ongoing efforts in the fight against terrorism.



609. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative (as Chair of Counter Terrorism Committee) during a joint debate on the briefing by Chairmen of Subsidiary Bodies of the UN Security Council on Counter Terrorism on November 14, 2012.

I would like to make a second statement on behalf of the Counter-Terrorism Committee.

I have had the honour to chair the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) since the beginning of 2011. It gives me great pleasure to brief the Security Council on the work of the Committee since the previous briefing, held in May this year.

The Committee continues to be guided in its work by the relevant Security Council resolutions, especially resolutions 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005) and 1963 (2010), and continues to play a critical role in promoting and facilitating their implementation.

As mentioned in this year's Programme of Work, the Committee is organizing a special meeting, with Member States and relevant international and regional organizations on "Preventing and Suppressing Terrorist Financing" which will be held on 20 November at United Nations Headquarters in New York. Previous special meetings of the Committee, focusing on various major counter-terrorism-related themes, have been held in New York, Washington, D.C., Vienna, Almaty, Nairobi and Strasbourg.

This year's special meeting will focus on raising Member States' awareness of the terrorist financing threat; drawing attention to the related best practices (including the revised FATF Recommendations) and their relevance to the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001); discussion of experiences and effective measures in addressing the related challenges; and helping to ensure that combating terrorist financing remains a priority for Member States. The speakers will include representatives of invited Member States and international, regional and sub-regional organizations. I encourage Member States to actively participate in this meeting.

Furthermore, as part of its outreach efforts, the Committee will also explore the possibility of collaboration with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

In June this year, the Committee conducted an interim review of CTED, in accordance with resolution 1963 (2010), which stipulated that the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate would continue to operate as a special political mission under the policy guidance of the Counter-Terrorism Committee for the period ending 31 December 2013.

The Committee, through CTED, has also been constantly improving its analytical tools to monitor and assess the progress in implementation of resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005) around the world. Having developed Preliminary Implementation Assessments of the entire UN membership and achieving considerable progress in stocktaking, the Committee has agreed to revised assessment tools including the Overview of Implementation Assessment (OIA) and the Details of Implementation Survey (DIS). These tools are designed to further enhance thoroughness, consistency, transparency and even-handedness in the Committee's stocktaking process with a view to identifying States' strengths and challenges in countering terrorism worldwide.

The Committee continues to focus on region-specific discussions and on issues identified in the 2011 Global Survey (S/2009/620, annex). The Committee also continues to organize and participate in discussions and workshops on thematic issues. Some of the major thematic issues considered by the Committee during the last six months include the challenges in adopting and implementing counter-terrorism measures for effective cross-border control of SALW, the FATF revised recommendations and the role of central authorities in enhancing international counter-terrorism cooperation.

CTED has also been active in conducting a number of workshops on specific topics, aimed at a specific regional audience. Important workshops organized during this period include the Practitioners Seminar - The role of the Prosecutor on Terrorist Cases (Algiers, 5-7 June 2012), the regional seminar for Southeast Asian States on international joint investigations (Kuala Lumpur, 26-28 June 2012), the workshop for Member States of the Maghreb and the Sahel on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1624 (Rabat, 17-19 July 2012), the South-East Europe workshop on countering violent extremism (Istanbul, 1-2 October 2012), the first expert meeting on the establishment of an operational freezing mechanism (Amsterdam, 22-24 October 2012) and the 4th regional workshop on preventing abuse of non profit sector (Buenos Aires, 14-16 November 2012).

In addition, the Committee and CTED continue to enhance their ongoing dialogue with Member States, donors and beneficiaries on the facilitation of technical assistance for capacity-building, at the national and subregional levels. Since the last briefing to the Security Council, CTED on behalf of the Committee has conducted eight assessment missions to Member States: Argentina, Canada, Djibouti, Finland, Norway, the Russian Federation, Sweden, and Uruguay.

I would like to emphasize that the Committee and CTED have continued, and will continue to pay close attention to the question of respect for human rights and the rule of law in the counter-terrorism measures taken by States, in accordance with the relevant mandates conferred by the Security Council.

The Committee and CTED continue to work closely with the relevant Working Groups of the CTITF, United Nations Centre for Counter-Terrorism and the Global Counter Terrorism Forum in order to support, coordinate and complement each other's counter-terrorism endeavours.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, the Committee will continue to play a critical role in the global fight against terrorism, and will strive to do so in a more strategic and transparent manner so that it can more effectively contribute to the global counter-terrorism effort within the scope of its mandate.

I should like to conclude by expressing my sincere appreciation to Mr. Mike Smith, Executive Director of CTED, and to his team, for their excellent work on the Committee's behalf, and to thank the Secretariat for its continued support.



610. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, during UN Security Council Debate on Maintenance of International Peace and Security : Piracy on November 19, 2012.

Let me begin by thanking Deputy Secretary General Jan Eliasson for his briefing on piracy and armed robbery at sea as well as on the annual report of the Secretary General on piracy off the coast of Somalia.

2. Even though the problem of piracy is as old as the history of maritime navigation, the international community is today facing it in unprecedented and growing dimensions. Starting off from the coast of Somalia, this threat now looms over an area of more than 2.8 million square miles, posing the patrolling naval forces with a formidable task.

3. Piracy is not only a threat to the freedom of maritime navigation, it is causing destabilizing effects on global and regional trade and security. The negative humanitarian impact of this threat on seafarers who are the lifeline of maritime shipping can no longer be ignored.

4. The Secretary General's successive reports present an alarming picture. Despite increased naval presence, pirate attacks off the coast of Somalia have continued, with little change in the the level of violence employed by the pirates against seafarers and others. As of 22 August 2012, the Somali pirates still held 11 ships and 188 hostages, including 43 Indian seafarers. The problem is also intensifying in the Gulf of Guinea.

5. Given the adverse impact of acts of piracy and armed robbery at sea has on maritime trade, seafarers and security, India attaches high priority to combating piracy, including in waters off the coast of Somalia and the Gulf of Guinea. India has actively supported international efforts at the operational level, including through the participation in anti-piracy patrols in the Gulf of Aden since 2008 and has also deployed its ships in the Eastern and North Eastern Arabian Sea. Operations by the Indian Navy have helped neutralize several attempts of piracy.

6. While we will continue with counter-piracy operations, there is also an urgent need for the international community to address the serious problem of seafarers being taken as hostages and consequent humanitarian problems faced by them and their families. It requires active cooperation in the sharing of information, evidence and intelligence in the investigation, prosecution and sentencing of suspected pirates as well as in efforts to achieve an early release of seafarers that are held hostage by pirates.

7. Though naval ships deployed in the Gulf of Aden pursuant to the establishment of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS)

have successfully thwarted several piracy attempts and provided security escorts to merchant marine in these waters, the growing scope and expanding coverage of the problem indicates that the naval operations alone may not be sufficient, and there is a need to adopt a comprehensive counter-piracy strategy, that includes efforts to deter pirates and the effective prosecution of pirates.

8. Any effort for prosecution and imprisonment of pirates cannot succeed without the effective involvement of the States in the region. Capacity building not only of Somalia but also of other States in the region is an essential component of this strategy. We commend the efforts of UNPOS, UNODC and UNDP in this regard, and urge them to continue their efforts. Their assistance to the States in the region should focus on four main areas - legal reforms to criminalize piracy, capacity building for prosecution and trial of piracy cases, effective law enforcement, and improvement of prison infrastructure in Somalia and States in the region.

9. India is of the firm view that steps to disrupt land-based pirate activities and the associated financial flows are absolutely necessary in a multi-dimensional counter-piracy approach. Therefore, it is essential to investigate and prosecute individuals and networks that provide the leadership, support and financial flows for the sustenance of piracy. This would require a broader criminal legislation, covering crimes of extortion, kidnapping, conspiracy, money laundering and financing of pirate activities, as also active collaboration and sharing of information and intelligence between private sector, States and relevant international organizations.

10. It should also be kept in mind that combating maritime piracy is an important issue that is intrinsically linked with the security situation in Somalia and in the States around the Gulf of Guinea. We hope that the new Government of Somalia will fully implement the counter-piracy measures delineated in the roadmap and will be supported by the UN and the international community. We also encourage States in the Gulf of Guinea and the region to continue taking all collaborative efforts, including through regional organizations, in combating piracy and armed robbery in the Gulf of Guinea.

11. In conclusion, we would like to note that the increased presence of international and national naval forces have led to varying success rates of piracy attempts in different areas. For example, action by the Indian navy has ensured that there has been no successful act of piracy in the area just off the western coast of India for over a year. Such trends require that the High Risk Area for piracy should be regularly reviewed in a transparent manner based on confirmed incidents of piracy. This is an absolute necessity for coastal states in the region and should be given due priority.

12. In addition, we fully endorse the conclusion of the Deputy Secretary General that three challenges require our immediate attention – better information sharing

and trust building among countries and agencies involved in counter piracy efforts; stronger capacity to prosecute piracy-related cases; and the establishment of a framework governing the use of privately contracted armed security personnel on board vessels to ensure appropriate regulation and accountability. We look forward to the Secretary General's next report, including on measures for the implementation of the Presidential Statement that the Council will adopt today.

Thank you.



611. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, during United Nations Security Council open debate on working methods of the Security Council on November 26, 2012.

I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of India.

2. At the outset, I would like to thank Ambassador Jose Filipe Moraes Cabral, Permanent Representative of Portugal, and his delegation for co-authoring the concept note for today's open debate. I would also like to put on record our deep appreciation of Ambassador Cabral's stewardship of the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Procedural Questions during the year 2012. His active involvement and guidance has enabled the Working Group to consider several issues related to the Council's working methods in order to promote transparency and greater involvement of elected members in Council's work.

3. The Security Council is mandated by the UN Charter with the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. What and how the Council does to discharge its responsibility is, thus, of interest to the entire international community, not only to Council members, let alone the permanent members.

4. Over the years, there has been growing realization that the Council's composition, rooted in the situation obtaining in 1945, as well as its Working Methods are both divorced from contemporary reality of international relations. These are exemplified by the fact that the Council has shown little interest in consulting with those affected most by its decisions and in adopting transparent and inclusive rules of procedures that remain 'provisional' even after the Council's existence for six and a half decades. The Council has also not acted to harness the capabilities of the wider UN membership. Its all too evident eagerness to apply methods of coercion under Chapter VII to the neglect of provisions under Chapters VI and VIII has proved to be counter-productive in resolving several crises, even while it has sought to expand the definition of peace and security with a view to encroaching upon the Charter-mandated roles of other UN organs.

5. Let me briefly share India's perspective on how the Security Council could better its performance. First, the permanent members of the Security Council must recognize, not only individually but also collectively, that the Council must be reformed to make it reflect the contemporary realities of the international system. Second, the international community as a whole must be cognizant that enlarging the Security Council to reflect contemporary geopolitical realities would improve its representative character and grant greater legitimacy and credibility to its decisions. And third, there is need for real improvement in its working methods to enhance the Council's effectiveness and efficiency. We

believe that cosmetic changes to working methods alone will not help. Real improvements need change in both process and approach, which requires reform of the composition of the Council.

6. Insofar as the working methods of the Security Council are concerned, the first and foremost necessity is to make them transparent and inclusive. Access to documentation and information is an issue of particular concern, and the tendency of holding closed meetings that have no records should be curbed.

7. During the last two years, we have strongly supported efforts in the Informal Working Group aimed at improvements in the Council's working methods. Some specific points include the following:

One, the Council should amend its procedures so that items do not remain on its agenda permanently.

Two, the reporting cycle should be practical and result-oriented so that issues do not come for consideration so routinely as to bog down the limited time that the Council has at its disposal.

Three, the mandate cycle should be streamlined to spread work throughout the year.

Four, Articles 31 and 32 of the Charter must be fully implemented, by consulting with non-Security Council members on a regular basis, especially members with a special interest in the substantive matter under consideration by the Council.

Five, 'penholders' should allow greater and systematic participation of elected members as 'co-penholders'.

Six, non-members should be given systematic access to subsidiary bodies of the UNSC, including the right to participate.

Seven, participation of Troop and Police Contributing Countries in decision making concerning peacekeeping operations must cover the establishment, conduct, review and termination of peacekeeping operations, including the extension and change of mandates, as well as for specific operational issues.

Eight, countries having specific interest in a particular agenda-item must be consulted before an outcome document on that item is adopted.

Nine, the Council should concentrate its time and efforts on dealing with issues concerning its primary responsibility concerning international peace and security as mandated by the UN Charter, rather than encroaching upon the mandate of the General Assembly.

Ten, before mandating measures under Chapter VII of the Charter, the Council should first make serious efforts for pacific settlements of disputes through

measures under Chapter VI. In this connection, the Council must also improve its cooperation with regional organizations, particularly with the African Union, since a large volume of the Council's work concern the African continent. Such cooperation must be serious and include providing assistance for the AU's capacity building as per their requirement, not only when some permanent members deem it in their interest.

8. It is our expectation that these ideas will be pursued by Council members in the coming months so that views expressed by the wider UN member-states find resonance in the Council's work and working methods.

9. In conclusion, let me reiterate India's considered view that genuine reform in the working methods of the Security Council requires a comprehensive reform in the membership of the Council, with expansion in both permanent and non-permanent categories, not only improvement in its working procedures. This is essential both for the credibility and continued confidence of the international community in this institution.

Thank you.



612. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative during a United Nations Security Council debate: UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), on November 27, 2012.

I will now make a statement in my national capacity.

Let me at the outset thank SRSG Farid Zarif for his briefing on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). I would also like to thank H.E. Mr. Ivan Mrkic, Foreign Minister of Serbia, and Mr. Enver Hoxhaj for their statements.

2. There have been several positive developments during the reporting period. Technical discussions on the implementation of agreement reached so far in the EU-facilitated dialogue resulted in Serbia's endorsement of the technical protocol on the implementation of the agreement on the joint management of crossings. Serbia also engaged with the EU to help clarify the ambiguity concerning Kosovo's participation in regional fora. We welcome these developments, and hope that the sides will soon resume substantive engagement within the framework of the EU-facilitated dialogue to resolve the contentious issues.

3. Despite the relative calm that prevailed during the reporting period, there has not been substantial change in the situation with regard to minority communities. Recurring security incidents affecting them need to be urgently addressed in order to promote inter-community harmony and facilitate their return. UNMIK should continue, together with the other international presences, to encourage the Kosovo authorities to address the problems adversely affecting minority communities and their cultural and religious sites. In this connection, UNMIK's continued support for UNESCO remains critical.

4. The issue of missing persons is an important humanitarian issue and we hope that with direct support and encouragement by UNMIK to the ICRC it will be possible to make further progress on this issue.

5. We have taken note of UNMIK's continued monitoring of the ongoing 'Medicus' human organ trafficking trial before the District Court of Pristina. The trial should take place in a free, fair and transparent manner, and the international presences in Kosovo led by UNMIK should render full assistance to the process.

6. In conclusion, I would like to express appreciation that UNMIK has continued to implement its mandate in an impartial and status neutral manner and facilitated cooperation between Pristina and Belgrade, the communities in Kosovo, KFOR, EULEX and the OSCE. We commend and support SRSG Zarif and UNMIK for their contribution towards the improvement in the situation in northern Kosovo and for the services the Mission is rendering in areas that

better the daily lives of all Kosovars. The Mission should continue to implement its mandate in accordance with Security Council Resolution 1244 and other relevant decisions. Other agencies in Kosovo – OSCE, KFOR,

EULEX, etc. – should also continue to cooperate and coordinate with UNMIK in accordance with their respective mandates.

I thank you.



613. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, during the United Nations Security Council Open Debate on “Women and Peace and Security” on November 30, 2012.

I shall now make a statement in my national capacity

At the outset, I would like to thank the Deputy Secretary General for his presence and remarks at this important Open Debate under the Agenda Item of Women and Peace and Security.

The fact that more than 50 countries have expressed their interest to speak in today’s debate reflects the importance and resonance of this issue.

I would also like to thank the Under Secretary General and Executive Director of UN Women Madame Michelle Bachelet and DPKO USG Herve Ladsous for their detailed briefing.

I also thank Ms. Bineta Diop, President of Femmes Africa Solidarite, for sharing their insights and other Council Members for their contribution to this debate.

Resolution 1325 highlighted the impact of armed conflict on women and the need for effective institutional arrangements to guarantee their protection and full participation in peace processes.

India has consistently held that greater participation of women in areas of conflict resolution, peace negotiations, peacekeeping and post-conflict reconstruction is the *sine qua non* for lasting peace and security.

India welcomes the report of the Secretary General and its call for enhanced participation, representation and involvement of women in prevention and resolution of armed conflict and in peacebuilding, as well as a stronger commitment to address challenges to such engagement of women at all levels.

In the same vein, let me add here that the three pillars of lasting peace, namely, economic recovery, social cohesion and political legitimacy, cannot be achieved without the active engagement of women.

It is more than a decade now since resolution 1325 was adopted. Results remain mixed with important gaps remaining in fully realizing its provisions. India attaches high importance to ensuring concrete action in this area. The Secretary General’s report has identified areas where further specific actions can be taken.

India firmly believes that the national governments have the primary responsibility for taking requisite action in developing national strategies and implementing them in pursuance of resolution 1325. The UN needs to support and supplement, as appropriate, the efforts of the national government in this regard. We also believe that civil society, including women organizations, is a valued partner in

such efforts.

India believes that there are clearly no 'off-the shelf' remedies or 'manuals' that can be applied to armed conflict and post-conflict situations. Approach to each conflict situation will need to take into the account the specificities of that situation.

As the concerned country moves from the armed conflict phase to the conflict resolution and post-conflict phase, there is a need to assist it, as required, in the key task of strengthening government institutions and integrating the gender perspective in government policies in areas such as security, justice, governance, public administration, economic recovery, basic services, etc.

Capacity building is thus essential for ensuring better governance and stabilization of post-conflict situations. The UN should focus its efforts in this area.

We, therefore, support UN efforts to deploy greater number of women protection advisors and gender advisors in its Missions. It is necessary to ensure adequate geographical representation and experience relevant for deployment areas in selection of such advisors.

UN field missions and country teams must have greater coherence and coordination to ensure optimal utilization of available gender expertise. There is also the need to allocate additional resources for UN missions to fully implement their mandates.

Equally pertinent is the role played by civil society in internalizing the provisions of resolution 1325 while addressing issues in various conflict zones. This should, in particular, encourage local communities to step forward and assume their rightful role in conflict resolution.

Their feedback and inputs on specific needs and requirements of women may be appropriately used in developing and implementing appropriate intervention strategies.

The promotion and protection of the human rights of women and girls in armed conflict continue to pose a pressing challenge. There should be zero tolerance for gender-based violence. All cases of gender-based violence must be promptly investigated and their perpetrators prosecuted.

We agree with those who call for increased deployment of female military and police personnel in United Nations peacekeeping operations, and for appropriate training to enable them to effectively discharge their responsibilities.

India is the largest troop contributing country in UN history. India was the first country to deploy a full female peacekeeping unit of 100 personnel in Liberia in 2007. We have offered to contribute more such units.

We are very proud of the exemplary record of our peacekeepers, both men and women in the protection of women, children, and the weak in conflict situations.

In conclusion, let me reaffirm India's commitment to positively contribute to UN efforts in the area of women and peace and security. We also see the civil society and local communities as valued partners in this endeavour.

Thank you.



614. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, on Briefing: Yemen at the United Nations Security Council on December 04, 2012.

Thank you, Mr. President.

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you and your delegation on assuming the Presidency of the Security Council for the month of December. I wish you great success in your stewardship of the Council and assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation. I would also like to thank the colleagues for their appreciation of India's presidency last month.

2. I thank Special Adviser Jamal Benomar for his comprehensive briefing on recent developments in Yemen, including Secretary General's recent visit to Sana'a to mark the anniversary of the signing of the GCC brokered agreement. I would also like to thank the Permanent Representative of Yemen for his valuable statement.

3. Nearly a year back when the Security Council adopted resolution 2014, Yemen was facing a serious situation on the political, security, and humanitarian fronts. On the one hand, Yemeni people's aspirations for democratic transformation and stable and secure future were thwarted due to divisions among the political class. On the other, extremists and terrorist groups, some linked with the Al Qaeda, were expanding their presence in various parts of the country, particularly in the south. Clashes among various factions of the military led to the death of several hundred Yemenis.

4. By virtue of the unanimous support of the international community, anchored in the Security Council, the efforts of the GCC succeeded in the signing of an agreement between the main Yemeni parties. It is a great tribute to the Yemeni people and their leadership that the country is making steady progress in the implementation of the transition agreement.

5. We commend President Hadi, whose leadership of the transition process has made immense contribution in turning the situation of despair into the hope of a stable, secure, democratic and prosperous Yemen. We also would like to congratulate Yemeni people for their determination to resolve current challenges through inclusive Yemeni-led political processes. India stands by the people and Government of Yemen in their journey towards a stable, secure, prosperous, and democratic future.

6. Despite significant progress made during the last one year, Yemen continues to face multiple political, security, economic and humanitarian challenges. The political situation remains delicate. The political parties and regional stakeholders are yet to overcome differences over important issues, including transitional

justice and reconciliation. The fragility of the situation has compounded the humanitarian situation affecting nearly 10 million Yemenis.

7. Al Qaeda and affiliated militant groups continue to carry out attacks against government institutions and officials. The tribal militias also continue hostilities in the southern and northern parts of Yemen. We strongly condemn all terrorist acts and violence in Yemen, and urge all groups to lay down their arms and join the political process to address their grievances. We also fully support Yemen's political independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. We call upon the international community to continue its assistance to the Government of Yemen in its fight against terrorist groups and in its efforts to stabilize the security situation.

8. We have noted that the Yemeni government has taken several important initiatives to restructure the armed forces, appoint a new electoral commission, and resume economic activities. The preparatory committee for the National Dialogue Conference is engaged in a serious and inclusive dialogue among all stakeholders, and is in its final stages of work. Political parties are actively engaged in dialogue to resolve differences over draft law on Transitional Justice and National Reconciliation. We hope that the National Dialogue Conference will ensure the involvement of all stakeholders, including youth and women groups, al Houthis, the southern movement, and civil society. We also hope that these initiatives will pave the way for holding the referendum on the constitution in 2013 and elections in the beginning of 2014 as envisaged in the transition agreement.

9. India has a long and historical relationship with Yemen. We have partnered with Yemen in humanitarian, human resources development and capacity building areas. In addition to its engagement under the Friends of Yemen Group, India would be happy to look at specific proposals for cooperation from Government of Yemen, particularly in the field of training, capacity building, entrepreneurship development, small and medium enterprises, education and information technology within the bilateral cooperation arrangements. India has also provided consignment of rice worth of US \$ 2 million and would be sending very soon, another consignment of wheat worth the same amount. In addition, India would also be supplying medicines worth US \$ 2 million to Yemen.

10. India also stands ready to offer concessional Lines of Credit (LOCs) for projects and programmes considered urgent and necessary by Yemen under the umbrella of credit lines for the LDCs. The Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) provides another framework for India's cooperation with Yemen.

11. In conclusion, let me reiterate that the continuing support of the international community is crucial to Yemen as it consolidates the gains that

have been made during the last year. We would like to wish the friendly people of Yemen continued progress, peace and prosperity, and reassure them of India's support as the country traverses through a crucial phase in its history.

I thank you.



615. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, Debate on International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda [Ictr] and International Criminal Tribunal for Territory of former Yugoslavia [Icty] at the United Nations Security Council on December 05, 2012.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Let me at the outset thank Judge Meron and Judge Joensen for their briefings and their assessment on the work of the two Tribunals and the Residual Mechanism. We also appreciate the briefings given by the Prosecutors of the two Tribunals. I would also like to thank Ambassador Gert Rosenthal and the delegation of Guatemala for their contribution as the Chair of the Council's Informal Working Group on International Tribunals.

2. Mr. President, we welcome the progress made by the two Tribunals in expediting their work. We are reassured by the assessment of Judge Meron and Judge Joensen that the preparations for the commencement and the functioning of the Residual Mechanism are on track. We have noted that the Arusha Branch of the Residual Mechanism commenced its work from 1 July 2012, and hope that The Hague Branch of the Residual Mechanism will begin its work on 1 July 2013, as scheduled.

3. We appreciate that Judge Meron has undertaken a variety of reforms to improve the functioning of various sections of the Tribunal. As a result, all trials will be completed by 2013 except a few which came before it later.

4. We are happy to note that the ICTR has completed work at the trial level with respect to 92 of 93 accused persons, and the one remaining trial judgement will be delivered before the end of 2012. While appellate proceedings have been concluded in respect of 44 persons, the remaining appeals are projected to be completed by the end of 2014.

5. We also commend the efforts of the two Prosecutors for undertaking outreach initiatives, including training, aimed at strengthening the capacity of national systems to handle referred cases effectively.

6. We have listened carefully to the concerns raised by the Presidents of the two Tribunals in relation to their ability to keep pace with their work while adhering to expected timelines. The Judges have pointed out that trials and appeals continue to be affected by staffing shortages and the loss of highly efficient staff members. We share the concerns expressed by the Judges, especially on the need for retaining adequate and experienced staff.

7. Mr. President, careful consideration should be given to the suggestions made by the Judges on how to address these challenges. Any functional, operational or institutional issue in the implementation of the Completion Strategy

or the Residual Mechanism should be addressed by the Council in consultation with the Council's Informal Working Group on International Tribunals.

8. The Judges have also raised the issue concerning the relocation of acquitted persons and those who have already served their sentences. Some of them are living in safe homes in Arusha for a long time. This is an important humanitarian issue and needs to be resolved soon.

9. Mr. President, we welcome the cooperation extended by all States concerned with the Tribunals, which is vital to ensure the completion of the mandates of the Tribunals as well as for the successful implementation of the Completion Strategy and Residual Mechanism. We hope that the remaining three fugitives indicted by the ICTR would be located soon and surrendered to the Residual Mechanism to stand trial.

10. The two Tribunals should continue to implement their mandate strictly in accordance with the principles of justice, impartiality and fairness. There should be no political consideration in their work.

11. In conclusion, Mr. President, while we believe that the support of the Security Council to the two Tribunals is crucial at this critical juncture, we urge both Tribunals to take all necessary measures to keep the trial and appeal schedules on track. In this connection, we support the extension of the tenure of some of the judges as requested by the Presidents of the two Tribunals. This will pave the way for the completion of trials and appeals of the remaining accused and a smooth transition to an efficient Residual Mechanism.

I thank you.



616. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, Briefing: Security Council Subsidiary Bodies [Somalia-eritrea Sanctions Committee] on December 07, 2012.

Thank you Mr. President.

The Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 751 (1992) and 1907 (2009) is the oldest Sanctions Committee among Council's subsidiary bodies, and completed two decades of its existence.

2. This Sanctions Committee is unique in that it is mandated to cover two countries in the Horn of Africa, namely Somalia and Eritrea. Resolution 751, adopted in 1992, imposed arms embargo on Somalia and established a Sanctions Committee to oversee its implementation. The mandate of the Committee has since been expanding to include new provisions of arms embargo, assets freeze and travel ban through resolution 1844 (2008).

3. In 2010, the Committee was mandated by resolution 1916 to oversee the provisions connected with the delivery of humanitarian assistance to Somalia. The resolution 2026 also imposed a ban on exports of charcoal and mandated the Committee to monitor its implementation.

4. With respect to Eritrea, the Committee is mandated to oversee the implementation of targeted measures imposed by resolution 1907 in 2009. The mandate was expanded to include new provisions of resolution 2023 adopted in 2011.

5. Given this background, the work of the Committee is complex in terms of mandate as well as politically sensitive. During my two years as the Chairman, the Sanctions Committee pursued its mandate with full cooperation of the Committee member.

6. The Committee, however, continues to face significant challenges in overseeing the sanctions regimes of both Somalia and Eritrea. These include issues related to technical violations of the arms embargo, objections by humanitarian partners to the reporting requirement, questions about the working of the Monitoring Group, and in some cases, non-cooperation by member states with the Monitoring Group.

7. In view of these issues, it was my sincere effort to promote transparency and equity in Committee's decision making. I convened regular meetings with the Special Representative for Somalia, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, representatives from the World Food Programme and UNICEF. I also encouraged Somalia, Eritrea and interested member-states of IGAD to participate in Committee meetings, to interact with the members and to

express their views over the monitoring of the sanctions regime. My effort was always towards building consensus with utmost transparency.

8. Both in 2011 and this year, the Sanctions Committee invited Somalia and Eritrea to interact with the Committee immediately after the submission of the Final Reports by the Monitoring Group. Also, I encouraged free and frank discussions in the Committee over the reports and recommendations of the Monitoring Group. I held several meetings with the member-states including Permanent Representatives of Somalia and Eritrea. In these meetings, I emphasized on the implementation of sanctions regime and cooperation with the Sanctions Committee.

9. During the last two years, the Committee met 18 times in informal consultations. It approved 25 requests for exemptions to the arms embargo pursuant to paragraph 3 of resolution 1356 (2001) and 26 requests for exemptions to the arms embargo pursuant to paragraph 11 (b) of resolution 1772 (2007). It approved two travel ban exemptions to the same person in 2012. I must also state here that the work of the Committee has increased exponentially in comparison to the previous two years.

10. Mr. President, during the course of the last two years, there has been remarkable progress in the process of stabilization of political, security and humanitarian situations in Somalia. This has created a historic opportunity that must be seized for the full restoration of peace, security and stability in Somalia. In addition, the overall political and security situation in the Horn of Africa continues to improve with the increasing cooperation and reconciliation among member-states.

11. In this context, the next Chairman of the Sanctions Committee on Somalia and Eritrea would need to continue the Committee's engagement with not only Somalia and Eritrea but also other states in the region. In the short term, the Committee will also have to take a view on the issue of the large quantity of charcoal found in Kismayo and surrounding areas. I am convening a meeting of the Sanctions Committee shortly to discuss the issue with the Monitoring Group.

12. Mr. President, it is my considered view that sanctions should be a measure of the last resort by the Security Council and must fully comply with the provisions of the UN Charter. Sanction regimes of the Security Council must not be an end in themselves, but instruments for the promotion and maintenance of peace and security in the region. In their implementation, the sanction regimes must ensure that they have the intended impact and do not exacerbate the suffering of the population. As such, it is necessary to keep these regimes under constant review and adjust the measures to suit the objective and also keep pace with the changing situation on the ground in the countries concerned.

13. In view of the developments in Somalia during the last year, I think time has come for this Council to review the sanctions regime in the Horn of Africa. This should be done taking into consideration the views expressed by the regional states as well as the African Union.

14. In conclusion, Mr. President, on my personal behalf and also on behalf my delegation, I would like express our sincere appreciation to all colleagues in the Security Council for reposing faith in my Chairmanship of the Somalia-Eritrea Sanctions Committee for last two years. I would also like to thank all members of the Committee, their experts, and the Secretariat for their valuable support, especially to the Secretary of the Committee and his team.

I thank you.



617. Statement by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Acting Permanent Representative, Briefing : Situation in the Sahel Region at the United Nations Security Council on December 10, 2012.

Thank you, Mr. President,

Let me at the outset, welcome you to the Security Council, and congratulate the delegation of Morocco for arranging today's meeting. Your personal presence here, Excellency, and that of other dignitaries clearly underscore the importance of the evolving situation in the Sahel region for peace and security in the region.

2. I would also like to thank Secretary General Ban Ki Moon and Special Envoy Romano Prodi for their briefings. We hope that today's deliberations will help the United Nations in addressing the multifaceted crisis in the Sahel in an integrated and comprehensive manner, as has been mentioned in the useful concept note prepared by your delegation.

3. Mr. President, the Sahel region has long faced several challenges in the political, economic and humanitarian spheres. Many countries in the region are also confronted with governance issues due to the absence of adequate institutional capacity. Over the past year, the situation has aggravated due to the crisis in the neighborhood, as is most acutely shown by the developments in Mali. The proliferation of weapons, activities of rebel and terrorist groups, and transnational organized crimes, including illicit drug trafficking, have taken a heavy toll on the region.

4. Apart from the political and security problems, the humanitarian situation in the region has also worsened due to extreme climatic conditions and insufficient rainfalls that have negatively affected the agricultural harvest. More than 18 million people in the region are suffering from severe food and nutrition crises this year.

5. Extremist and terrorist groups have taken advantage of the adverse political, security and humanitarian situations, and are consolidating their position, particularly in the northern Mali. These groups have weakened the State institutions, indulged in serious human rights violations, and damaged and destroyed many sites of cultural, historic and religious significance. Activities of Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), Ansar Dine and Boko Haram in the northern Mali has turned the area into a regional hub of terrorist groups. Several countries in the region are seriously threatened by their activities. More than 400,000 have been displaced by the fighting in the northern Mali.

6. Clearly, the time has come for the international community to seriously address the multiple crises in the Sahel and support the initiatives of regional and sub-regional organizations. Given the complexity of challenges facing the region, the response requires a holistic approach. The United Nations should

play the leading role in the process, and we appreciate the Secretary General's initiatives like the High Level Meeting on the Sahel in September this year and the appointment of the Special Envoy. We look forward to the Secretary General's report on an integrated strategy for the Sahel, as requested by the Security Council. We think that the strategy should be developed with the full involvement of the countries in the Sahel and the regional and sub-regional organizations, such as the African Union, ECOWAS, CENSAD, and the Arab Maghreb Union.

7. In the immediate term, the priority should be the stabilization of the security situation. This requires dealing with the threats of secessionist, extremist and Al Qaida-linked terrorist groups. Political dialogue should be pursued with those willing to renounce terrorism and lay down arms. A secure environment will also facilitate the implementation of programmes for national reconciliation and delivery of humanitarian assistance.

8. We, therefore, support an expeditious response from the Security Council to the request of ECOWAS and the AU for the deployment of an African-led International Support Mission in Mali (AFISMA). The deployment of AFISMA should be in parallel to an inclusive political process led by the Malian authorities to address the legitimate grievances of the people in the northern Mali. We also urge the international community to redouble its efforts to meet the challenges of food insecurity in the northern Mali and provide adequate resources to the humanitarian agencies working in the region.

9. Given the expanding activities of terrorist networks and armed groups in the region, the United Nations should also assist the affected countries in strengthening the capacities of security agencies and in enhancing cooperation at the regional level towards more effective border control, combating illicit trafficking in arms and drugs and organized crime and terrorism.

10. Mr. President, the implementation of all strategies should give primacy to national ownership by capacity building of national institutions, and respect the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the countries concerned. Apart from the provision of resources, there should be better integration and coordination among the UN and other agencies on the ground to ensure effective implementation of the strategy.

11. In conclusion, Mr. President, the renewed attention of the international community on the Sahel is a welcome development. We expect this attention to translate into concrete action on the ground to address the challenges. India, on its part, remains committed to partner with the countries in the region, the UN, the AU and other organizations in the implementation of an UN-led integrated strategy for the Sahel.

I thank you.



618. Statement by Mr Pavan Kapoor, Joint Secretary At United Nations Security Council's Briefing on un Peacekeeping Operations – Inter-mission Cooperaton on December 12, 2012.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Let me at the outset thank you, Mr. President, and the delegation of Morocco for organizing this briefing today on UN peacekeeping operations, a subject that is of great interest to my country. My thanks are due also to Under Secretaries General Mr. Herve Ladsous and Ms. Ameerah Haq for their detailed briefings.

Mr. President,

Today's debate reflects the enduring relevance of UN peacekeeping operations in fulfilling the Charter obligations towards the maintenance of international peace and security. Peacekeeping has not only withstood the test of time for over six decades now, but has, in fact, expanded its mandate and reach.

India has partnered with the United Nations in peacekeeping operations since its very inception in the 1950s. Over 100,000 Indian soldiers have served in over 40 peacekeeping missions with distinction. Even today India is one of the largest contributors to these missions, and we remain committed to this global enterprise.

Mr. President,

The nature of conflict has changed significantly over the past few decades, and so has the mandate of peacekeeping missions. It is no longer restricted to keeping peace between warring parties, but includes peacebuilding and nation building tasks.

Unfortunately, resource allocation has failed to keep pace with the mandate expansion, and peacekeeping missions are called upon to do more and more with less and less. It is, therefore, not surprising that the past few years have been operationally challenging for peacekeeping. An unusually large number of peacekeepers have lost their lives in the service of peace mandates, and the missions are overstretched due to shortage of personnel and equipment. Our briefers have mentioned some of these challenges.

Mr. President,

During our two years on the Security Council, we have seen incessant efforts to expand mandates of peacekeeping missions without any concrete measure to bridge the mandate-resource gap that should be the real cause of concern to us. The concept of inter-mission cooperation is promoted not to increase the effectiveness of peacekeeping missions, but to cut down the resources available to individual peacekeeping missions. Cross borrowing of equipment across missions in recent times is a part of this trend.

Mr. President,

My delegation agrees that if there are several missions deployed in a region, cooperation among neighbouring missions, including through exchange of information, coordinated strategies for cross-border illicit trafficking of weapons, drugs and combatants, integrated approaches to disarmament, demobilization and rehabilitation etc. can enhance their effectiveness. Similarly, the adoption of regional and sub-regional strategies can help in the delivery of humanitarian aid.

Mr. President,

As the Council has already been doing, resource management strategies with a cross-border perspective in crisis situations can be continued. Management of weapons collected from demobilized combatants could also be conducted better in regional settings. These measures, however, need to be crafted in consultation with the mission leaderships and host countries; they cannot be imposed from headquarters.

However, an overly resource-centric orientation of inter-mission cooperation will diminish its usefulness. Headquarters-driven sharing of critical mission assets will also compromise the ability of field commanders for mandate delivery. Moreover, the implementation of intermission cooperation is faced with substantial legal, political, and financial challenges.

First, the collective consent of host-nations in a disturbed neighborhood is a challenging prospect with implications for the overall peace process. Second, the transfer of troops and equipment across missions would need to address financial issues since budgetary allocations are mission-specific. Third, such transfers would involve legal complexities pertaining to immunity, privileges, and safeguards. And fourth, troop-contributing countries will have to calibrate their positions on a case-by-case basis. Amending the MoU templates may not resolve this matter to the satisfaction of one and all.

In conclusion, Mr. President, as a long-standing troop contributor, India is ever ready to shoulder peacekeeping initiatives. We do support the potential of inter-mission cooperation as a mechanism to enhance information exchange and integrated strategies in a regional context.

I thank you.



619. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative , in his capacity as Coordinator of the NAM Caucus in the Security Council on December 18, 2012.

The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Caucus in the Security Council expresses its grave concern regarding the continuing illegal Israeli settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

NAM condemns the recent provocative announcements by Israel, the occupying Power, to construct 3,000 settlement units on confiscated Palestinian land in an area east of Occupied East Jerusalem, now widely known as the so-called "E-1" plan, in addition to declarations regarding the construction of another 3,600 settlement units.

NAM stresses that Israel's settlement activities constitute grave breaches of international humanitarian law and violate numerous United Nations resolutions, including resolutions of the Security Council. This issue also remains the foremost obstacle to peace, impairing the all efforts to revive credible peace negotiations aimed at bringing an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive peace.

It is widely acknowledged that Israeli settlement activities undermine the contiguity, integrity, viability and unity of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and jeopardize the prospects for physically achieving the two-State solution based on the pre-1967 borders. Settlement activities and illegal actions by extremist Israeli settlers are also causing extensive physical, economic and social devastation throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

NAM rejects these illegal actions, which have deliberately intensified after the international community's reaffirmation of its support for the two-State solution with the General Assembly's adoption of resolution 67/19, which, *inter alia*, accorded to Palestine the status of nonmember observer State in the United Nations. NAM calls on Israel to immediately cease its settlement activities and to abide by all of its legal obligations.

The NAM Caucus in the Security Council will continue to call for the Council to uphold its Charter responsibility towards the maintenance of international peace and security, including with regard to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Today, NAM also calls on the parties to return to the path of peace on the basis of the longstanding terms of reference of the peace process, including relevant Security Council resolutions, for the achievement of a just and lasting final settlement.



620. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, Briefing: Unoca & The Lra at the United Nations Security Council on December 18, 2012.

Thank you, Mr. President.

At the outset, I would like to thank you for organizing this meeting to discuss the activities of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) in the implementation of its mandate. I would also like to thank SRSG Abou Moussa for his comprehensive briefing. Our thanks are also due to him for the Secretary General's report on UNOCA and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).

2. Mr. President, we appreciate the efforts of countries in Central Africa to overcome the negative effects of decades of instability and conflicts, including through bilateral and regional cooperation. UNOCA has been effectively coordinating those efforts and has facilitated a number of meetings and promoted greater international attention to the region. We welcome and support these activities.

3. We have noted that the region has had overall political stability, and successful elections were held in two countries during the reporting period. Socio-economic trends, however, present a mixed picture. The region as a whole has high incidence of youth unemployment and poverty, and limited progress has been made in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The region continues to face serious challenges, like the proliferation of weapons, transnational organized crimes, illicit drug trafficking and terrorism. There has been an alarming increase in incidents of piracy and armed robbery at sea in the Gulf of Guinea. The deteriorating situation in the Sahel region has also aggravated problems for the Central African region. Unless seriously addressed, these problems have the potential to derail the gains made so far and threaten peace, security and stability in the region.

4. The LRA also continues to remain active in the region, particularly in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic. It is also reported to have established bases along the CAR-South Sudan border areas.

5. Mr. President, it is in this overall context of the situation in the region that the activities of UNOCA assume significance, particularly in the areas of conflict prevention, early warning, and partnering the countries to achieve their socio-economic development goals. UNOCA should promote regional strategies to comprehensively address the challenges facing the region. UNOCA should further strengthen this collaboration with UNOWA, ECCAS and other UN offices, and assist the efforts of governments and regional and sub-regional organizations.

6. With respect to the LRA, we welcome the steps taken by UNOCA and the African Union towards the implementation of the LRA Regional Strategy. We have noted that SRSG Moussa convened a meeting with national, regional and international partners in July to develop a joint roadmap, and the participants agreed to convene a general coordination meeting every six months to assess progress in the implementation of the Regional Strategy, in particular the five strategic objectives. We welcome the decision that UNOCA and the AU will organize a joint resource mobilization forum to raise additional funds for the implementation of the strategy.

7. The focus of this Council should lead to galvanizing the international community to provide adequate resources for the national and regional endeavours, particularly in strengthening of national capacities with regards to civil administration, police and security forces, SSR and DDR processes and socio-economic development. Given the fragility of political institutions in several countries, it is also important for the national and regional authorities to pay attention to the need for inclusive political processes, including electoral reforms. In this connection, it is important that UN Missions in the region are not burdened further without augmentation of their resources.

8. In conclusion, Mr. President, India stands ready to support and contribute to efforts of the African Union and United Nations to address the challenges of countries of Central African region, particularly in the fields of capacity building and human resource and socio-economic development.

I thank you.



621. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative at the Security Council Debate on ‘Situation in Afghanistan’ on December 19, 2012.

Mr. President, I join others in thanking you for scheduling today’s debate on the situation in Afghanistan. I thank Ambassador Zahir Tanin, Permanent Representative of Afghanistan for his statement. I would also thank the UN Secretary General for his latest report, and we are particularly appreciative of the briefing by Mr. Ján Kubiš, UNSG’s Special Representative for Afghanistan.

Mr. President, As the year 2012 draws down, today’s debate provides us an opportunity for a stocktaking of the collective efforts of the international community in Afghanistan. An overview would indicate that the international community and Afghanistan have achieved important milestones this year on the long road towards peace, progress and security in the country.

At major international conferences in Bonn, Chicago and Tokyo and at the regional level in Istanbul and Kabul, the international community has renewed its commitment for peace, security and development in Afghanistan. The realization of commitments flowing from the Tokyo Conference is essential for Afghanistan’s fiscal sustainability and its quest for self-reliance.

The regional cooperation aspect has also received a new momentum under the Istanbul “Heart of Asia” process and other regional processes. The Delhi Investment Summit of June 28 hosted by India was an important endeavour in focussing regional and international attention towards investments in Afghanistan and their potential in providing economic development and stability to Afghanistan during the transition period.

As Afghanistan looks forward to holding simultaneous Presidential and Provincial elections in April, 2014, it would be another important step in consolidation of the democracy in Afghanistan.

Amidst these salient developments, Afghanistan continues to face an existential threat from terrorism. The infrastructure of terror is still intact in the region drawing upon ideological, financial and logistical support from beyond its borders. The syndicate of terrorism which includes elements of the Al-Qaida, Taliban, Lashkar-e-Taiba and other terrorist and extremist groups, is active in the region and is far from being isolated. While the security situation continues to remain fragile, ISAF draw down has proceeded apace. This has accentuated the uncertainties with the risk of creating a security vacuum coupled with an economic downturn in Afghanistan, which could undermine the hard fought gains we have achieved together during the last decade. The security transition must ensure lasting peace and security for all sections of Afghan society. We have renewed the mandate of the 1988 and 1267/1989 sanctions regimes just two days ago. In the

functioning of these sanctions regimes, it is important to ensure that the fight against terrorism should not be diluted. The linkages between Al-Qaida and Taliban are real and cannot be wished away. The recently adopted Security Council resolutions clearly recognize this aspect and have tasked the Monitoring Team to report periodically on this matter.

Mr. President, As Afghanistan takes forward the task of national reconciliation in accordance with the criteria as laid forth in the Kabul communiqué, we fully support the efforts for regional confidence-building as a critical component of international efforts to support the country.

Regional cooperation and connectivity are critical for Afghanistan's political and economic progress. We are fully cognizant that the economic viability of Afghanistan depends on its fuller integration into the neighbourhood, so that it can regain its historical role of a land-bridge between South Asia, Central Asia, the Middle East and Eurasia. Conscious of this imperative need, India has taken the lead in two commercial Confidence Building Measures under the Istanbul process.

Mr. President, Afghanistan and India have had a long shared history going back over millennia. The two countries are natural strategic partners by virtue of geography and a common vision of peace and cooperation in the region.

President Karzai's visit to India last month offered us an opportunity to review the entire gamut of bilateral relationship and discuss regional and international issues of mutual interest. During the visit, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh reiterated India's support to Afghanistan during the crucial period of transition till end 2014 and thereafter.

The implementation of the Strategic Partnership Agreement of October, 2011 between the two countries has already been set in motion with the convening of the first meeting of the Partnership Council on May 1 this year.

During the last decade, India has pledged up to \$ 2 billion in development and humanitarian assistance. We have managed to carry out some of the most economical and cost-effective projects in Afghanistan. The \$ 500 million assistance announced by the Prime Minister of India in May 2011 is being spent from 2012-2015. The projects under consideration will be in line with the projects suggested under the National Priority Programmes of the Government of Afghanistan. The pace and nature of the utilization of the present and future Indian assistance will be determined by the preference, comfort level and absorptive capacity of the Afghan government.

Mr. President, India remains unwavering in its commitment to assisting the people of Afghanistan in their endeavour to build a peaceful, stable, democratic and prosperous nation.

We support the good work done by UNAMA. As we enter in the New Year, we must create an enabling environment where the Afghan people could live in peace and security and decide their future themselves, without outside interference, coercion and intimidation. We need to impart added momentum to our efforts for strengthening the Afghan government's capacity for security, governance and economic development. The international community must continue to work with renewed vigour and unity of purpose towards strengthening efforts of the Afghan government in seeking solutions that are inclusive and led by the Afghan people themselves.

I thank you.



622. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, during United Nations Security Council open debate on Post-conflict Peacebuilding on December 20, 2012.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Let me begin by thanking you, Mr. President, for organizing today's open debate on a subject that is of vital importance for the work of this Council. I would also like to thank the Secretary General for his statement and report on Peacebuilding in the Aftermath of Conflict. Our thanks are also due in particular to Ambassador Abulkalam Abdul Momen of Bangladesh for his statement today and his able stewardship of the Peacebuilding Commission during the year. I would also like to thank the Secretariat team so ably led by Ms Judy Cheng-Hopkins.

Mr. President, once described as the "missing middle" between peacekeeping and durable peace, the establishment of Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) was in response to the widely felt need of the international community to assist post-conflict societies to attain sustainable peace. The PBC, its organization committee, and its Country-Specific Configurations have done commendable work in mainstreaming peacebuilding in post-conflict countries. This Council's continuous engagement on peacebuilding in recent times has also helped to emphasize the critical role of peacebuilding.

In this context, we welcome the progress made in implementing the Secretary General's agenda for action. Inclusivity, institution-building, and sustained and meaningful international engagement - the priorities identified by the Secretary General are useful guides to peacebuilding ventures in future.

Mr. President, inclusive polity and governance, including provision of basic services, and peace, security and stable social order continue to be the key peacebuilding tasks. Success in the implementation of these key tasks will impact on subsequent efforts at economic and social revitalization. This success, in turn, will depend on the ability of the international community in providing required resources and generating greater coherence among entities, programmes, and field operatives with a view to promoting an integrated approach for sustainable peacebuilding.

We believe that peacebuilding activities should draw from the field achievements. The PBC being an advisory body, expectations are that its Country Specific Configurations will deliver core peacebuilding tasks with agility and nimbleness. With much efforts invested in its mechanisms at the Headquarters, the time has now come to test our abilities to make a difference to the people and societies in post-conflict situations.

Mr. President, inclusivity is a sign of healthy societies. Women and youth should be fully included in peacebuilding activities. Efforts in this regard are, however,

demanding and resource intensive. Also, the widening gap between our aspirations and field programmes need to be narrowed down by means of suitable programmes and enhanced resource commitments. My delegation encourages the PBC to work in this regard with international and regional financial institutions so that tangible peace dividends are made available to the population in post-conflict societies. It is also necessary to avoid over-reliance on the supply side of the equation by relegating peacebuilding programmes to a secondary place.

Mr. President, conflicts today are vastly different than those in the past. Their intra-state character, natural resources dimension, transnational crimes, illicit trafficking in drugs and weapons, and their regional dimensions demand an integrated approach. Institutions of governance, socio-economic development, youth employment, transitional justice, national reconciliation, electoral support, and constitution building are tasks that need coherent and sustained assistance from the international community. This, in turn, requires political will, matching resources, and readiness for long-term engagement taking into consideration local conditions.

It is, therefore, important for the PBC to align its objectives with national priorities and ensure that all plans and programmes are implemented under national leadership and ownership and through national institutions so that the gains are sustainable even if slow. It also important that peacebuilding starts from firm foundations of successful peacekeeping.

Mr. President, as a responsible global citizen having wide experience of nation-building which are most relevant for countries on the PBC agenda, India has been a regular contributor to the Peacebuilding Fund. Apart from our participation in peacekeeping missions, we have also partnered extensively with the national authorities in post-conflict countries, particularly in Africa, with a view to supporting their national efforts for peacebuilding, including in sectors such as human resource development, institutional capacity building, information technology, etc. We will continue to partner with the post-conflict countries bilaterally and through the United Nations in meeting the challenges of peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

Mr. President, since this is the last public meeting of the Council this year, let me avail of this opportunity to thank all Council members, the wider UN membership and the Secretariat for their cooperation during the last two years as we made our modest contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security. I would also like to extend a very warm welcome to the five newly elected members – Argentina, Australia, Luxembourg, the Republic of Korea, and Rwanda – and wish them great success during the next two years.

I thank you.



**INDIA AT THE UNITED NATIONS
(ii) SPEECHES IN THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY & OTHER FORA**

623. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, at the 2012 First Regular Session of the Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.

January 24, 2012

Mr. President,

Permit me at the outset to congratulate you on your election as President of the Bureau, and on behalf of more than 500 million Indian women, I wish you a sterling innings and hope that you would successfully navigate the Board, in pursuing its goals on gender equality and empowerment of women.

My felicitations to the Executive Director and Under Secretary-General, Madam Michelle Bachelet for her statement and I complement her for an insightful and informative report on the operational activities of UN Women, that has been presented today for consideration by the Board.

Mr. President,

As we begin the second operational year of UN Women, my delegation is happy to note the significant milestones that our newly formed entity has achieved in such a short span of time. I am particularly pleased to learn that UN Women has already contributed to the institutionalisation of 176 new or strengthened policies to advance gender equality, including constitutional amendments, in 50 countries both at regional and global levels.

The stellar role played by UN Women in enshrining rights for women into the Kenyan Constitution, in training and support to the electoral process leading to higher representation for women in the Parliament in Sudan, in having the gender equality law passed in El Salvador, or having gender responsive budget guidelines issued in 17 countries, are all significant milestones in a brief but important journey.

While we must also acknowledge that the year 2011 has been a year of transition for UN women, my delegation is encouraged by these beginnings, that have been made, under the dynamic leadership of Madam Bachelet.

Mr. President,

Representing a country which is home to more than 500 million women, let me quote the President of our country, when she said : No country can achieve its full potential without adequately developing the capabilities of its women.

Mr. President, women in India have played a pivotal role in shaping our national discourse and policy making. Providing equal opportunities and an enabling environment for women has been a steadfast commitment of the Government of India, all along.

Economic empowerment of Indian women at the grass roots level, especially through the Self-Help Groups has been a hall mark of India 's success story. Out of the six million self help groups in India, more than 80% (about 4.8 million) are women's groups, which have provided microfinance, employment and livelihood, and have made a defining change in the lives of millions of Indian women at the village level.

In the field of women's education, which is one of the most critically enabling factors, we have also made significant strides. As per the latest census figures, our female literacy rate rose to 65.46% in 2011, adding more number of women literates than their male counterparts in the last ten years in India!

The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments have revolutionized domestic governance and today, nearly 40% of elected representatives in ALL village elected bodies are women. We hope to give this movement of political participation by women, further impetus, by increasing the number of seats reserved in Panchayats and City and Town Governments to 50%. Besides, we are slowly but steadily, also moving towards providing for one third reservation for women in our National Parliament.

Mr. President,

Let me now turn to the main agenda of operational activities of UN Women for this session of the Executive Board. My delegation acknowledges that while there is growing recognition that investing in gender equality and empowerment of women is critical to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, given the current financial environment, work on gender equality and empowerment of women does remain chronically underfunded. We hope that the comprehensive resource mobilisation strategy being developed by UN Women, would certainly widen the donor base in order to secure the resources required by UN Women in meeting its global commitments.

Being fully cognizant of the funding requirement, let me re-iterate Government of India's firm commitment of five million US dollars to UN Women to provide core predictable funding. Earlier this month, India handed over our contribution of one million dollar to UN Women, taking our contribution to two million US dollars, so far. If we have to ensure that UN Women stands for action, the donor community must make generous contributions to UN Women. We will continue to provide full political and financial support to UN Women and call on others to do likewise.

Mr. President,

In addition to the challenge of funding requirements, we must also explore ways of further improving upon our delivery systems at field level in country specific

programmes. As rightly pointed out in the USG's report, UN country teams, while implementing country programmes must also aim to address the national gender priorities and attempt to harmonise the goals of the UN with the national government's, so that it does result in stronger national ownership and increased alignment with the UN.

We are also pleased to learn about the series of new initiatives on gender equality and economic empowerment that have been initiated by UN Women. The adoption of a gender marker through out the UN system to track resources and performance indicators to assess the gender responsiveness of common country programming would certainly contribute to strengthening system wide accountability mechanisms for gender equality.

Given that South South cooperation and development of national capacities is a key component of the UN Women implementation strategy, we are particularly pleased to learn from the USG's report that sharing of success stories and exchange of experiences, in partnership with regional organizations in Asian countries, has acilitated regional cooperation in monitoring strategies to implement commitments of UN women.

Let me conclude, Mr. President, by reaffirming India's steadfast commitment to all round social, economic and political empowerment of our women, whatever effort and resources, the task might take. We assure you that India will always be willing to walk the extra mile, in having the goals outlined in the Strategic Plan implemented at the earliest.

Thank You.



624. Statement by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Deputy Permanent Representative, at the UNDP Segment of the first regular session of the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS on February 02, 2012.

Mr. President,

Permit me at the outset to congratulate you on your election as President of the Bureau, I wish you a sterling innings and hope that you would successfully navigate the Board in implementing its agenda for this year.

We would also like to place on record our appreciation to the outgoing Bureau, which was so ably presided over by Ambassador Edita Hrdá, Permanent Representative of Czech Republic, for their commendable role in guiding the work of the Board last year.

My felicitations to the Administrator Madam Helen Clark for her informative statement.

India aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Algeria on behalf of the Group of G 77 and China.

Mr. President,

2011 was marked by major developments across the globe and several key conferences that not only provided an opportunity for stock-taking, but also served as useful reminders to the international community on the pressing challenges that remain to be addressed on the global development agenda. The 4th UN Conference on LDCs and its proclamation of the Istanbul Plan of Action, as well as the Durban Conference on Climate Change, were all small yet significant markers. While we were able to make some progress at Durban, we must continue to be guided by the principles of equity and Common but Differentiated Responsibility (CBDR).

As we prepare for the Rio plus 20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development in June this year, we must ensure that poverty eradication remains at the center of global development agenda and that the commitments we have made at the previous Conferences, were not just words and should guide us in the way we act at, and make decisions in Rio and on the post 2015 development agenda. We must ensure that effective implementation mechanisms and target monitoring systems are suitably followed up, as an outcome of our conferences.

Given that the last year was marked by major upheavals and deepening of conflict situations across the globe, as pertinently pointed out in UN Secretary General's address, we must attempt to prevent and mitigate conflicts before they become life threatening. My delegation believes that by virtue of its unique position as the largest development arm of the UN system, the UNDP has a

special role in achieving the five generational opportunities outlined by the Secretary General of sustainable development; preventing and mitigating conflicts, human rights abuses and the impacts of natural disasters; building a safer and more secure world; supporting countries in transition; and working to engage the talents of women and young people. In all of these, UNDP should be the force multiplier arm of the UN by fostering national and local capacities, strengthening networks for sharing of knowledge and best practices, promoting national ownership, and by building socio-economic resilience in the most vulnerable developing countries.

Mr. President,

While India has been able to clock an average growth rate of 8.5% in the last seven years, education and health have been important focus areas in our development agenda and there is encouraging news in these sectors. The Right to Education Act is now on the statute books. Enrollment of children in primary schools is near universal and dropout rates are falling.

The National Rural Health Mission has begun to successfully address the large gaps in health infrastructure. Institutional deliveries have increased from 54% in 2006 to 73% in 2009. A major initiative in health for the poor has been the National Health Insurance Plan, which now provides an insurance cover for in-patient treatment to well over 100 million people. We are now building on this experiment and are confident that the Indian model of development would lead us to a path of sustainable growth.

Today's Board meeting also has on its agenda Item Number three, the issue of Gender in UNDP. Madam President, I am pleased to inform that women in India are playing a pivotal role in shaping our national discourse and policy making. Economic empowerment of Indian women right till the grass roots level, especially through the Self-Help Groups has been phenomenal. Out of the six million self help groups in India, more than 80% (*about 4.8 million*) are women's groups, which have provided microfinance, employment and livelihood, and have made a defining change in the lives of millions of Indian women at the village level. In the field of women's education, as per the latest census figures, our female literacy rate rose to 65.46% in 2011, adding more number of women literates than their male counterparts in the last ten years in India! Besides, we are slowly but steadily, also moving towards providing for one third reservation for women in our National Parliament.

Mr. President,

Let me now turn to the main agenda of the UNDP segment today on programming arrangements. We need to carefully and strategically consider this second review within the context of the three concurrent initiatives of the new strategic plan, the integrated budget and the agenda for organizational change. We need to

comprehensively analyse the pros and cons of the four models being proposed and only after a considered and consensus driven approach, arrive at the most preferred option. As UNDP adapts to the rapidly evolving nature of development cooperation, it will also need to update its operational model to maintain its global reach and capabilities while substantially improving organisational efficiency.

Mr. President,

My delegation is particularly pleased to see the increased UNDP focus on South-South cooperation as an important pillar of development cooperation. We encourage the UNDP to continue to harness the full potential of South-South Cooperation as a useful vehicle for the development of capacities within the South. In this endeavor, India has always shown willingness to lend its technical expertise and experiences of several success stories in the region.

Apart from making the largest contribution to UNDP's core budget from amongst programme countries, we have successfully partnered UNDP in third countries like Afghanistan. Another effective model of cooperation with the UNDP has been the IBSA Trust Fund, managed by the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in the UNDP. While we would call upon the UNDP to explore ways and means to further strengthen the Special Unit for South South cooperation, we are also happy to inform that within the IBSA Initiative Framework, we have already concluded several key developmental projects including rural electrification through solar energy systems in Guinea Bissau, improving the health infrastructure services for Children in Cambodia, rehabilitation of health centers and water desalination projects in Cape Verde, besides several others in Palestine, Burundi and Lao PDR. As Chair of the IBSA Trust Fund this year, we are committed to exploring ways to further strengthen this engagement with the UNDP through innovative partnership mechanisms that facilitate development solutions for other developing countries, particularly the LDCs, and other interested developing countries. The global network of UNDP country offices and its knowledge-sharing platforms could be used to effectively channel Indian development experience and technical expertise, where it is needed most.

In concluding, Mr. President, we reaffirm our steadfast commitment and support to UNDP, and India is willing to walk the extra mile in implementing the goals outlined in the Strategic Plan.

I thank you.



625. Extempore Remarks as delivered by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri Deputy Permanent Representative, at UNDP Segment of the first regular session 2012 of the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS on 2nd February 2012.

Mr. President,

Permit me at the outset to congratulate you on your election as President of the Bureau, I wish you a sterling innings and hope that you would successfully navigate the Board in implementing its agenda for this year.

Madam Administrator, Let me also thank you for your very informative statement. We received a communication from your office that you might be visiting my country in the coming weeks. Let me tell you right here in front of everyone that this is good for us. It symbolizes the simple factor of our close relationship and the fact that we work closely together in addressing several of the issues which of course concern my country, where development is certainly by far the biggest challenge. I am also very happy that the idea for an institute for human development has progressed apace. I see my friend and able colleague of yours, Ajay (Chhibber, Assistant Administrator), sitting out there who has been working very hard on these initiatives and we are appreciative of all of this which has been happening.

Madame Administrator, in the past, over the last year on two occasions when I have spoken at these Board meetings, I have put aside the prepared text which deals with the minutiae of various issues, to basically make 2 or 3 big points and I intend to continue along that line, because I think there is very little which is left, which our colleague from Algeria in the statement on behalf of the Group of 77 has not so very well articulated on behalf of all of us from the developing world.

Madame Administrator and Mr. President, We are in the year 2012 now, three years from our target date for meeting the barest minimum standards for decent life for populations of all over the world, I mean the MDG's. I think we have a long way to go on achieving many of them, and I am afraid we need to put in a great effort to, in my opinion, at least remove the taint of the most difficult forms of poverty from the world. We owe it to ourselves, we owe it to our future generations and I think that is an absolute imperative for the world in which we live. So my call, in the first instance is again to urge the United Nations Development Programme to remain focussed steadfastly and in a big manner on poverty eradication.

You have pioneered so many of efforts on this, the thoughts on this entire subject and now you need to be strong so that we are able to ensure that we

meet the minimum standards of the Millennium Development Goals and further to eliminate the scourge of extreme poverty from the world.

Madame Administrator, Capacity-building is a critical need for developing countries. We have different kind of resources in different countries but we all could do in a great measure, I say so also from my country which has a large resource base, is that we need capacity-building. We need capacity-building in a very big way for ourselves but we also need a huge amount of capacity-building and thinking, on how we can leverage the international system for our benefits and for the benefits of the millions of people who live in the developing world.

Later this year, one of the major events on the United Nations agenda, the Rio+20 Conference, would be held in Brazil. It's focus would be on sustainable development. I think this conference does not come even one day too early. The UNDP for all us in the developing world has been our place for thoughts, our place for ideas and our place for how things can be implemented. I believe very strongly that you are in the best position to help developing countries put forward their ideas, their views and perspectives which are absolutely imperative to them from their national priorities and their national ownership perspective and then help them realise this in terms of the international community. In the past I recall, more than a decade or two ago, without any doubt, developing countries would turn to the UNDP for specific and specialized help not just in terms of the big ticket ideas but also in terms of simple things of training negotiators, providing people who can help you. I would just leave this thought with you.

South-South cooperation has obviously been a buzz word for quite some time. Madame Administrator, you are aware that this is an area in which we as a country, India, are of course very strong. We try to do what we can, given our own huge demands, to share with our own brothers and sisters in the developing world. We are also very happy to cooperate with the UNDP in terms of India-UNDP, but also in terms of something which I think is a very interesting concept, that we put together several years back, where our friends from Brazil and South Africa are also there. These are things that we need to take forward, try and ensure that there is success, and that all these efforts move forward. We are a country which is strongly committed to UNDP, the largest contributor to your core budget from the developing world, and basically my speaking in these Board Meetings is to assure you and to tell everyone how we are appreciative of the fact that you are there, the work that you do and we are strongly with you in the efforts that need to be undertaken in the direction of development and poverty eradication in the world.

We need to carefully and strategically consider the second review within the context of the three concurrent initiatives of the new strategic plan, the integrated

budget in the agenda for organizational change. We need to comprehensively analyze the pro's and con's for models being proposed and only after a considered and consensus driven approach, and may I add, which includes the member states in this process, the ones who are affected and others too, arrive at the most preferred option. As UNDP adapts to the rapidly evolving nature of development cooperation it will also need to update its operational model to maintain its global reach and capabilities while substantially improving organizational efficiencies.

Madame Administrator, Mr. President and all the senior members of the management who are assembled there, let me once again reassure you of India's strong support for the UNDP. We also count on you for us.

Thank you



626. Statement by Mr. Vinay Kumar, Acting Permanent Representative, at the Plenary Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the Report of the Human Rights Council on February 13, 2012.

Thank you, Mr President.

The Syrian Arab Republic has, by virtue of its geographic and strategic location and the genius of its people, played an important role in the Middle East throughout the recorded history. Even in the modern time, Syria's role in the developments in the Middle East cannot be overemphasized. Prolonged instability and unrest in Syria, therefore, have implications for peace and stability in the wider region.

2. India is deeply concerned with the present situation in Syria that has resulted in the deaths of thousands of civilians and security forces personnel over the last eleven months. We strongly condemn all violence, irrespective of whoever the perpetrators are. We also condemn all violations of human rights. India holds the rights of expression and peaceful assembly among the fundamental values that should be respected, while ensuring stability and security of the society. The problem in Syria being primarily political in nature, India has, from the beginning of the protests, called for a peaceful and inclusive political process to address the grievances of all sections of Syrian society.

3. India has conveyed this message to the Syrian leadership, both bilaterally as well as along with its IBSA partners. We have impressed upon the Syrian side to abjure violence and pay heed to the aspirations of the people of Syria.

4. We are firmly of the view that a political process for resolution of the present crisis should be led by the Syrians themselves. We believe that the main role of the international community is to facilitate engagement of the Syrian Government with all sections of Syrian society for an inclusive political process, taking into account the legitimate aspirations of all Syrians while ensuring respect for the country's sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity.

5. The League of Arab States, as an important regional organisation, should play its required and historic role in promoting political dialogue among the Syrian parties. In this context, we welcomed the deployment of the League's Observer Mission across several areas in the country which had a calming effect on the level of violence and provided a more accurate picture of developments. We have also been supportive of the efforts by the Arab League for a peaceful resolution of the crisis through a Syrian-led inclusive political process. We support the League's call for serious political dialogue between the Syrian government and the whole spectrum of the opposition under the auspices of the League of Arab States. We believe that the leadership of Syria is a matter for the Syrian people to decide.

6. In conclusion, Mr President, we think that for an expeditious resolution of the problem in Syria, the League of the Arab States should facilitate peaceful engagement of all opposition forces in Syria in constructive dialogue with the authorities. We hope that this will create a new environment for peace and promote a political process. This political dialogue should build upon the political reforms already announced by the Syrian leadership with necessary changes so that they find acceptance among all sections of Syrian society.

Thank you.



627. Statement by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Deputy Permanent Representative, at the Opening Session of the Annual Debate of Peacekeeping Committee (C- 34) on Peacekeeping on 21st February 2012.

Madame Chairperson,

I am delighted to be among the peacekeeping community today, once again, for the opening debate of the annual C-34 session to comprehensively review the whole question of peacekeeping operations.

2. Let me begin by thanking USGs Mr. Harve Ladsous and Madame Susana Malcorra for their leadership of UN peacekeeping through the year. A very warm welcome to the newly elected members of the Bureau and to you, Madame Chair, for having steered this process with the fairness, poise, and equanimity of a sage. We once again, repose our faith in your able leadership.

Madame Chair,

3. As the key UN instrument for the maintenance of international peace and security, the year gone by was challenging for the UN peacekeeping and the times ahead portent with things to come. An enterprise that comprised of twenty thousand personnel ten years back, peacekeeping today commands over one hundred thousand persons undertaking tasks that we entrust onto their hands. While it reflects the field realities, this also informs us that the roots of consensus we are able to build today run far deeper. The partnership that has forged this process, therefore, must be valued.

4. The geo-political context of UN peacekeeping has undergone transformational shifts. The global capabilities, economic, political, military, and social capitals are undergoing dynamic shifts. At the same time the field missions are faced with renewed challenges with a professed need for the infrastructure and mechanics of governance. The very architecture of peace and stability and what we build upon it, in situations of conflicts, is the test we are faced with.

5. Being a longstanding stakeholder of UN peacekeeping, India firmly believes in aligning UN's peacekeeping mechanism as one, ranging from mission planning, mission design, force generation, mandate making, to field implementation. Accomplishments of our peacekeepers during the year have been evidenced in the elections in DRC and Liberia, in the post-election crisis in Cote de Ivoire, and in the transition of South Sudan into a new Nation State. This has been all the more arduous more with dual expectations from the field and the HQs that has increasingly viewed missions as field manifestations of budgetary and accounting exercises.

Madame President,

6. That the UN peacekeeping delivers peace dividends at bare minimum price is recognized well by the international community. Moreover, we simply do not have the alternative to borrow from elsewhere rather than to build upon what has been shaped over six decades. However, contrary to the calls for integration and coherence, the policy instruments today seek to compartmentalize field functions and operations. The premium is on distinguishing rather than on co-locating functions within the larger political Process.

7. Our thoughts and theories lack fair representation of the views of wider membership. Our doctrinal approaches are HQs driven with field being a mere recipient. This scenario is both unhealthy and unsustainable. A fair division of intellectual and field burden in UN peacekeeping will strengthen the democratic core of this partnership by making it participative and representative in true sense. Mere enunciation of ideals and their reflection in the mandates kicks in a spiral of unfairness towards the end user who is tasked with its implementation. This challenge will be rectified at the level of the Secretariat and at the stage of mandate making.

8. The financial, operational and logistical necessities of the field need to be objectively assessed before finalizing ambitious agendas. Incorporation of protection agendas to the core of mission mandates without matching commitments to supply critical enablers such as air-assets belies the very intent and purpose of the exercise. Critical political and constitutional processes in DRC had to be undergone without such key enablers. The international community is witness to resources that are genuinely needed for the protection agendas. A realistic estimation of resource needs by the field missions and a streamlining of recruitment, equipments, and MoU processes at the HQs will enhance our collective abilities to function better. We definitely need to hear more about field support than reorganization and reconfiguration which is heavy on evidence and soft on promises.

9. The core challenge is to match our commitments to the principles with the men who can spend years in conflict situations without seeking homeland comforts and with critical enablers. Voices must be apportioned to those who bring field experience to the process.

Madame Chair,

10. As a country that has contributed over 130,000 personnel to UN peacekeeping, we firmly believe that troop's posture can be determined with their participation only. The founding principles of neutrality, consent, impartiality, and non-use of force continue to constitute the core of UN peacekeeping. Mindful of Indian airmen who used airpower in Katanga during the 60s, today's doctrinal

approaches appear of questionable relevance to us. Field orientation is the fountainhead of our legitimacy in defence of Charter objectives of peace and stability. Respect for sovereignty and integrity of states constitutes the very core this organization and our debates rest on. National ownership in our peacekeeping and peacebuilding activities, therefore, is critical for the credible success of our field missions. Madame Chair,

11. UN's peacebuilding architecture today requires unity and cohesion. Donor priorities on the one hand and the field complexities steeped in the socio-cultural and community contexts render our peacebuilding ecosystem incongruous. Convergence and co-location of peacebuilding initiatives, structures, and numerous UN entities involved in this venture is the call of the day. This will reflect commendably in the SSR and DDR processes on the ground. Our civilian affairs initiatives, likewise, also need to represent geographical composition of this organization and it's field realities in a fair manner.

12. Lastly, on the Global Field Support Strategy, as I have outlined earlier, the middle alphabets of the acronym need to find their rightful balance in the overall scheme. This process has steamed ahead with intangible outcomes. Its appeals premised mainly on budgetary, financial and now on personnel grounds undermine the purpose of its origin. Centrality to peacekeeping in GFSS is critical for UN's peacekeeping architecture.

Madame President,

13. To conclude, C-34 and the peacekeeping community owes a debt to those peacekeepers who have paid the ultimate price in defence of the principles and objective enshrined in the charter of United Nations. We spare our thoughts for them and their families.

I thank you, Madame Chair.



628. Extempore Remarks by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Deputy Permanent Representative at the Informal Plenary session of the General Assembly on the Report of the UN Secretary General's High Level Panel on Global Sustainability, ON 16th March 2012.

Mr. President,

Thank you very much for giving me the floor and for convening today's meeting.

Mr. Secretary General, at the very outset, I want to express our deep appreciation for your very strong commitment to sustainable development. You have repeatedly outlined this as one of your top priorities.

I am also very encouraged by your coming here, meeting the members and bringing the Report of your High Level Panel on Global Sustainability into the inter-governmental processes. Indeed, this is very helpful when you call for countries to embrace it.

Mr. President,

The Report begins with a quotation from the Father of the Indian Nation, Mahatma Gandhi - "Earth provides enough to satisfy everyman's need, but not for every man's greed". In our modern context and usage this is a reference to the need for sustainable production and consumption and, of course, life styles. Perhaps, that is the reason why some members in the Panel found it necessary to say that not all members agreed with all aspects of the report.

Be that as it may, we are very honoured and proud that our Minister of Rural Development participated in the Panel and its deliberations in an active manner. We also deeply commend you, Mr. Secretary General, for setting up the Panel and the two co-chairs: President Tarja Halonen of Finland and President Zuma of South Africa.

Mr. President,

The report emphasizes people's involvement and empowerment. To me this goes to the heart of the over-riding priority of developing countries which is poverty eradication. Please note, I come from a country where we are very proud that with economic growth over the last several years, we have been able to pull millions out of poverty. The guiding principle for our government is inclusive growth and we are very happy that people-centric approach also leads to the hallowed principle of equity. And this needs to remain the underpinning and the most important element to guide us as we develop paradigms for sustainable development.

Mr. Secretary General, I also commend you on having taken forward the issue of Sustainable Energy for All. My delegation was very proud to have been in the forefront of piloting this resolution in the G-77 and later on in the General Assembly. The goal of this effort really needs to be universal access to modern energy for all. We need, of course, to recognize the importance of renewables and other forms of modern energy, but equally, remember that fossil fuels are here and are here to stay for at least quite some time to come.

In the areas of environment, it is absolutely critical for us as we go forward with our newer, greener efforts to clearly recognize historical responsibilities and the principle of common but differentiated responsibility.

Mr. Secretary General, we live in an age of collaboration and cooperation and here I really would like to once again commend you on what you said in your brief statement, your emphasis on science. We fully agree that science, technological development and research for better development of science are really going to be the way forward. For us the critical thing is not only collaborations in science, but our willingness as a global community to share the fruits of science and make them available to all those across the world who need it, in a manner that they can afford, in a manner that they can easily access.

Mr. Secretary General, I want to thank you once again for your initiative which I sincerely hope will get carried into the inter-governmental domain so that it is truly embraced by all as you had rightly called for in your statement.

Thank you very much.



629. Statement by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Deputy Permanent Representative, on Post-conflict Peacebuilding [Report of the Peacebuilding Commission on Its 5th Session] at the General Assembly Plenary on March 19, 2012.

Mr President,

I thank you for organizing today's session and to the Peacebuilding Commission for the work carried out by them during the year. This is also an occasion to extend our warm appreciation to Ambassador Gasana for his able stewardship of the Commission's work. My delegation also wishes to felicitate Bangladesh on their assumption of the PBC Chair. With Bangladesh at the helm, we see a unique and timely convergence between peacekeeping and peacebuilding tasks and experiences.

Mr. President,

2. Peacebuilding and peacekeeping-peacebuilding are and will remain core activities of the United Nations in times to come. The working relationship of the PBC, the newest organ of the UN, with the Security Council and the General Assembly is of critical importance. As a founding member of the Commission since its inception, my delegation favours close, regular, and substantive interaction between the Commission, this Assembly, and the Council, so that the United Nations can deliver coherently when it comes to setting the peacebuilding agenda.

Mr President,

3. Peacebuilding is a cooperative and collective effort. The United Nations requires working with other peacebuilding actors, including international financial institutions. This will have a positive impact on peacebuilding and on the growing need for resources for peacebuilding initiatives. In an arena with many players, the United Nations must, however, be conscious of the need for it to retain the high ground in developing the normative basis for peacebuilding.

4. My delegation stresses that the United Nations must play the central role in identifying a common peacebuilding vision and in acting as a bridge between national authorities and various peacebuilding and development actors. Our unique strength lies in our people on the ground. We must ensure that this unique ability of ours does not remain unspotted while we scout for expertise elsewhere. To retain field relevance, the peacebuilding concepts and frameworks should evolve in due regard to field expertise and inputs.

5. We have made strides in streamlining peacebuilding architecture during the year. Given the challenges on resource front, it is advisable that the existing 2 mechanisms are allowed and encouraged to perform to their optimum potential.

In this regard, the Headquarters should enhance its facilitative role that grants field leadership space for thoughts and action. An approach that overly relies on manuals and guidelines which are constructed in abstract and detached from conflict zones fail in contributing to this aspect of our efforts in the field. My delegation will be keen to see our field expertise leading the process at the Headquarters. The expertise we develop must derive from a geographically diverse catchment. Specialist cadres that are non-representative is a beginning with a weak step.

Mr President,

6. Peacebuilding emerged from peacekeeping. India has been in the forefront of peacekeeping from its inception. We firmly believe that the peacebuilding actors must strive to make the best out of peacekeeping attainments. Like peacekeeping, subsequent peacebuilding components come with inherent challenges be it Security Sector Reform, DDR, Rule of Law, Developmental quests, or economic recovery and employment generation. In this regard, efforts undertaken by PBF need further elaboration in the context of cross-cutting synergies across the UN system.

7. National ownership is the key for success in peacebuilding. The international community has the duty to make available appropriate capacities to national authorities. The solutions and capacities that these authorities seek are those that have been tried and tested in similar environments. Countries that have undergone state-building and democratic transitions hold special relevance to our peacebuilding efforts. It is also the responsibility of the international community to provide the resources in a predictable manner and at an appropriate level over extended periods.

Mr President,

8. India strongly supports the role and relevance of regional players in post-conflict scenarios. We are greatly appreciative of the role of the African Union's efforts to develop Post-Conflict Reconstruction capacities.

9. The Secretariat and the Funds and Programmes must also do more to become effective players with better coherence.

10. In concluding, I would like to underscore that India has regularly contributed to the Peacebuilding Fund and we are committed to PBC process and will continue to remain fully engaged.

Thank you, Mr President.



630. Statement by Mr. Amandeep Singh Gill, Minister [Disarmament], Permanent Mission of India to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva, on the Preparatory Committee for the Second Review Conference of the UN programme of action to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects at New York On March 19, 2012.

Madam Chairperson, I will begin by congratulating you on your election as Chairperson of this meeting. My delegation is pleased with the open, inclusive and purposeful manner in which you have pursued preparations for the Prep Com and the Conference. Please be assured of our full cooperation for a successful outcome. India associates itself with the statement made by Indonesia on behalf of NAM.

2. As with many other States, India's national security has been adversely affected by illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, which are closely linked to terrorism, transnational organized crime, drug trafficking, piracy and illegal exploitation of natural resources. India believes that combating and eradicating illicit trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in all its aspects is a key element in global, regional and national security, and the corner stone of multilateral efforts to curb illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons is the UN Programme of Action adopted by consensus at the UN Conference on Small Arms in July 2001. As such we attach importance to the Second Review Conference of the PoA to be held later this year.

3. The full implementation of the Programme of Action especially as a means for combating terrorism and transnational crime is a priority of India. India has a robust legislative and administrative mechanism to combat and eradicate the menace of illicit SALW. Our endeavours in this regard have been regularly highlighted through our national reports. We welcome the efforts towards standardisation of reporting format and the online reporting tool introduced during Meeting of Governmental Experts last year. We are pleased to inform that we have already submitted our national report online.

4. Mr Chairman, despite efforts by responsible states and international organisations, illicit trans-border movement of SALW, ammunition and explosive continues to be a major concern. India has more than 15,000 kilometers of land borders with seven neighbours and a coastline of more than 7500 kilometers including island territories. Securing our borders against illicit trade and other threats while facilitating legitimate trade, commerce and people to people links are among the principle objectives of India's border management policy. A Department of Border Management was created under the central Ministry of

Home Affairs to focus attention on issues related to proper management of borders, strengthening institutional coordination and implementation, creating infrastructure like Integrated Check Posts (ICPs), roads fencing and floodlighting as well as the implementation of the Border Development Programme. As a preventive measures against smuggling of illegal arms through ports, container scanning systems have been installed at our major ports. 5. India is committed to bilateral cooperation on border management. For instance, India and Nepal, which share an open border, have a Joint Working Group on Border Management to discuss issues of mutual security concern and take decisions to further consolidate cooperation in combating trans-border crimes. Integrated border management projects have been taken up with Bhutan and Bangladesh as well.

6. At the regional level, India participates in efforts aimed at combating illicit trafficking of SALW and terrorism. This includes our engagements with the SAARC, BIMSTEC and ASEAN forums. In addition, bilateral cooperation and Joint Working Groups have been established with several countries in the region. Capacity building assistance has been provided to police personnel of Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Maldives. India has contributed to the UN Regional Centre in Kathmandu and we hope that the work of the Centre would support efforts towards combating illicit small arms and light weapons in the region.

7. Globally, we believe that all States should re-commit themselves to the full and effective implementation of the UNPOA as the main framework for addressing illicit trade in SALWs. Gaps in implementation should be addressed and international cooperation and assistance should be strengthened in line with felt needs. The full implementation of the international tracing instrument must be pursued in parallel in order to prevent illegal transport of SALWs. Second, the inclusive and consensus-based approach developed under UN auspices to implement the POA must be continued with renewed vigour. In this regard India welcomes the return of consensus to the POA process as evidenced by the successful holding of the 4th BMS in June 2010 and of the first meeting of the governmental experts in May 2011. It is important that the upcoming Conference focus on reviewing the implementation of the POA in a comprehensive manner without reviewing or reopening the programme itself.

8. Let me conclude with some brief thoughts on follow-up to the UN Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. With regard to the future of the implementation process, we believe that the distinct but related nature of Review Conferences, BMS meetings and expert group meetings should be maintained. The Meeting of Governmental Experts can focus on practical issues that are relevant for implementation at the national, regional and international levels. Issues that require further work to strengthen the political understanding on their implementation can be tackled at a BMS

meeting. Proliferation of reports and meetings or burdening the POA with timelines and targets should be avoided. Instead existing follow-up mechanisms should be reinforced and related clearly to the core obligations of the POA. Synergy between different 3 aspects of POA implementation should be strengthened within existing resources. 9. Madam Chairperson, I thank you for this opportunity to share India's views under Agenda Item 7. Our main message is that we should preserve the consensus driven nature of the POA process while maintaining the focus of international action on the area of illicit trade in SALWs where such action can deliver maximum benefits. India stands ready to contribute to the successful outcome of the Review Conference.



631 Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, at the Meeting of the Adhoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly on 27 March 2012.

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

Let me begin by thanking His Excellency, Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, President of the General Assembly for sharing his views on the role and authority of the General Assembly and the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the PGA for his decision to appoint Ambassador Susan Waffaa-Ogoo, Permanent Representative of The Gambia and you, Mr. Alexander Lomaia, my distinguished friend the Permanent Representative of Georgia as Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group on General Assembly Revitalization for this session.

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

I welcome your appointment and on behalf of my delegation, assure you of my delegation's steadfast support as you go about your task of guiding this Group.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express appreciation for the excellent work done by Ambassador Camillo M. Gonsalves of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Ambassador Dalius ?ekuolis of Lithuania as Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group last year. Equally, I would like to place on record my delegation's appreciation for the work done by the Algerian delegation as the NAM Chair on this issue as well as for the other negotiating partners who have worked in a spirit of cooperation. Naturally my delegation wishes to align itself with the statement made by Algeria on behalf of the NAM.

Co-Chairs,

The starting point of my delegation's position on the issue of General Assembly revitalization is the firm belief that the General Assembly can be revitalized only when its position as the chief deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the United Nations is respected both in letter and in spirit.

The GA should take the lead in setting the global agenda and restoring the centrality of the United Nations in formulating multilateral approaches to resolving transnational issues. This was the role intended for the Assembly in Article 10 of the UN Charter, namely that it discuss any questions or matters within the scope of the present Charter or relating to the powers and functions of any organs provided for in the Charter, i.e. the Security Council, ECOSOC, Trusteeship Council, the ICJ as well as the Secretariat.

Co-Chairs, My delegation participated actively in the deliberations of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Assembly revitalization in the 65th session. We provided a number of inputs at the meetings held during the last session. These inputs were provided in a spirit of constructive engagement and we are pleased that these were taken on board in the negotiations leading to the adoption of Resolution 65/315. While we are generally happy that Resolution 65/315 has been able to highlight some of the important steps required in our collective journey towards a revitalized General Assembly, we firmly believe, Co-chairs that we still have some distance to travel.

You have in your letter of 7th March called on delegations to provide concrete proposals on the revitalization of the General Assembly. I intend to respond to your call and place on record my delegation's considered views on some of the important aspects of the issue of General Assembly Revitalization.

First of all, it is critical that we establish a proper relationship of respect for the respective mandates between the General Assembly and the Security Council in the spirit of the Charter.

India joined the Security Council on 1st January last year, after a gap of 19 years. Ever since we have noticed firsthand that the Council's agenda is, to say the least, overburdened. This is because the Council busies itself with themes which no doubt and are certainly important, but do not appear directly connected to the real and immediate threats to international peace and security. This has left the Council with less time to focus on the real hotspots that constitute the real threats to international peace and security.

At the same time, however, we believe that remedial measures would only be half complete in the absence of serious introspection on what the General Assembly itself can do to mitigate the situation. Clearly, the Assembly will not be empowered merely by strengthening procedures. More important is the presence of political will to take concrete measures to reinforce the role and authority of the Assembly.

I would like this Working Group to lay special emphasis on the intergovernmental nature of the General Assembly. This is absolutely necessary at a time when the challenges to the international system are multiplying. We should abjure the tendency to resort to extraneous mechanisms in the work of the main committees of the General Assembly.

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

At the last GA session, we had deviated from our usual emphasis on the matter of selection of the Secretary General since we were in the process of re-electing H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon. We did not want to send a signal which could be misunderstood.

However, this matter remains of interest to my delegation and we would like this Ad Hoc Working group to give the attention that this deserves.

We are of the view that the General Assembly must have a greater say in the process of selection of the Secretary General. General Assembly Resolution 11 (1) of February 1946 which lays out the "Terms of appointment of the Secretary-General" was the product of an era gone by. The continued circumscribing of the Assembly's role and responsibilities in the process of selection and appointment of the Secretary General needs to change in the interests of the United Nations system in general and the Assembly's prerogatives in particular. And, as it was the General Assembly which limited its own role, it will have to be the General Assembly that claws back its rightful place in the process of selecting the Secretary-General.

What is to be done?

For instance, the General Assembly adopted resolutions 51/241 of 22 August 1997 and 60/286 of 9 October 2006, which outline in detail proposals on improving the process of selection and appointment of the Secretary-General. Further, the practice established by GA Resolution 11 (1) can be modified to allow for the Council to send a panel of names that the Assembly could choose from as against a single nomination. Additionally, if the member-states attach high importance to the role and responsibilities of the Assembly, we see no reason why the matter should not be "decided by a two-thirds majority" in terms of Article 18 (3) as against the one with a simple majority requirement in Resolution 11 (1). We could also identify objective criteria for the candidatures, including commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter, extensive leadership, administrative and diplomatic experience with due regard being given to regional rotation and gender equality. Equally useful and practical would be to encourage formal presentation of candidatures in a manner that allows sufficient time for interaction with member-states, and also requires candidates to present their views to all member-states of the General Assembly.

Co-Chairs,

I would now like to address two other important issues of relevance to our meeting here today.

First, in our view the Charter provisions clearly reflect the desire of the UN membership to have an international civil service which displays the highest standards of professionalism, neutrality and integrity and which is accountable therefore, if not in higher, but at least in equal measure as the Secretary General is to the General Assembly. In addition, we would welcome closer consideration of procedures for selecting, appointing and confirming the heads of the major Specialized Agencies, Funds and Programmes with a view to ensuring

transparency, legitimacy and balanced representation. Second, we believe that the Assembly and other entities that form part of the UN system must reflect diplomatic best practices in its day to day functioning. And here there is a lot of need for interaction and learning to be done from member-states.

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

In conclusion, let me re-emphasize the need to discuss substantive measures that would strengthen the role of General Assembly as the chief deliberative, legislative and policy-making and representative body of the international community. You can expect India's constructive support and participation in these efforts.

I thank You.



632. Statement by Mrs. Jayanthi Natrajan, Minister of State for Environment and Forests of India at the High Level Meeting on “Wellbeing and Happiness: Defining a New Economic Paradigm”, at UN Headquarters, New York, on April 02, 2012.

**Hon’ble President of Costa Rica,
Her Excellency Ms. Laura Chinchilla,**

**Hon’ble Prime Minister of Bhutan,
His Excellency Mr. Jigmi Y. Thinley,**

**His Excellency Mr. Milos Koterec,
President of the Economic and Social Council,**

**Madam Chairperson, Ms. Helen Clarke,
Administrator, UNDP,**

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honored to be here to speak in this High level Meeting on “Wellbeing and Happiness”: Defining a New Economic Paradigm”. I have not come across a conference where happiness and economic wellbeing have been used in the same sentence. In that sense this is indeed a historic conference and I am truly honored to be part of it.

We deeply commend the efforts of the Government of Bhutan and in particular the leadership of Prime Minister Thinley to bring the idea of Happiness into the larger discourse on sustainable development.

We were happy to co-sponsor the resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly on the subject last year, which has brought us all here today.

Our debate today is most timely.

We are just months away from the Rio Conference, where we would gather to chart a new future: a future free of want and hunger; a future where people live in harmony with nature, a future where social inclusion and development of all are nurtured and deeply valued.

Mr. Prime Minister,

your country has been more than a friend to India. In our shared cultural ties, we have had much to learn from each other.

We were indeed honored that you came to Delhi last year to deliver the Prof. Hiren Mukherjee Memorial lecture in our Parliament on Gross National Happiness.

I assure you that your thoughts have given us valuable insights as to what we

should do to make our abiding goal of “inclusive growth” as meaningful as you have done for your people.

We share your belief that human development should be based in equal measure on material progress, social inclusion, cultural life and living in harmony with nature.

I am deeply impressed by the words of President of Costa Rica who said that they have given up bullets for ballots. In my country, this reminds us of our own freedom struggle for Independence which was a bloodless revolution.

Madam Chairperson,

The symbiosis between human living and happiness is universal and eternal. Our religions, traditions and philosophies have all taught us to look for inner peace and happiness as the ultimate objective.

Ashoka, the great King of India, promoted peaceful existence based on social welfare, ecological responsibility, impartial justice and respect for all living beings.

But, the huge material progress that we have witnessed since the industrial revolution has cast tremendous pressure on planet Earth. The inherent conflict is not between conservation and development, but between environment and the reckless exploitation of man and earth in the name of high living standards. As Mahatma Gandhi, the father of our nation said “Nature provides enough to satisfy every man’s need, but not every man’s greed.”

In an interdependent world, the answer to these pressing challenges lies in doing things together in a manner that is fair and equitable.

We all have a common responsibility but must accept that massive inequitable consumption of resources by some has created a deficit where there is hardly enough for those whose wants are yet to be met.

This demands that we also accept historical responsibility and agree that our responsibilities today must be differentiated. We must also respect the imperative for equity.

We have made significant progress but are still quite some distance away from achieving the Millennium Development Goals, including eradication of extreme poverty.

We are yet to wipe the tear from every hungry face. There are millions who still live without basic sanitation, health and clothing.

Progress and growth is essential to give these people a life of dignity and respect.

This needs to go hand in hand with ecological sustainability and the preservation of social inclusion.

Madam Chairperson,

We do, indeed, need to build a new economic paradigm that can help us achieve this. How else can we move towards sustainable development in an equitable manner unless economic growth, environmental protection and social sustainability nurture and preserve each other?

We must therefore re-evaluate the fundamentals on which our respective civic societies are based and the ideals by which they are sustained.

An ambitious order that seeks to achieve this must not only be harmonious but also inclusive. Such an order should both respect and create choices. 4

The problem for billions of people on this planet is lack of choices. The most effective guarantee for this is the integration of all three pillars of sustainable development on the basis of the Rio Principles. Development process must be participatory in order to allow a full expression of these choices. The process should be inclusive not only at the national level but also at the global level.

We are aware of limitations of the GDP as a measure of economic well-being of the country. However, balancing of economic, social and environmental dimensions in an accounting system of GDP is a challenging notion. The weights attached to each dimension vary over time and space, and differ according to national needs and priorities. Moreover, human well being cannot be captured effectively by any single index.

We should be mindful that, in our quest for additional indicators to complement GDP, we must not move away from inclusive growth. We run the risk of delegitimizing our developmental model if this balance is not achieved.

In fact, an appropriate way is to look at sustainable consumption patterns. The moment is opportune to devise a paradigm for sustainable consumption that is anchored in the Rio Principles.

We need to build effective international partnerships to give effect to these goals.

We must also make global governance truly democratic. The rules of global engagement cannot and must not be the privilege of a few.

I would like to conclude with the words of our father of nation: "I am inviting those people who consider themselves as owners today to act as trustees, i.e. owners, not in their own right, but owners, in the right of those whom they have exploited. I will not dictate to them what commission to take, but ask them to take what is fair." I can assure you that India will live up to its obligations and global responsibilities in such a fair, equitable and just paradigm.

If we are able to do so, we are well on our way to achieve a sustainable economic paradigm.

I wish happiness to all. Thank You.



633. Statement by Mr. Vipul, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of India to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva, at the 2012 Session of the United Nations Disarmament Commission, New York, on April 4, 2012.

Mr. Chairman,

The Indian delegation joins other colleagues in congratulating you on the assumption of the Chairmanship of the UNDC. We also congratulate other members of the bureau on their election. You can be assured of the full support of the Indian delegation in discharging your responsibilities towards a constructive session of the Commission this year. Our delegation would also like to thank the United Nations High Representative for Disarmament Affairs for her interest in the work of the Commission.

India associates itself with the statement delivered by Indonesia on behalf of the Non Aligned Movement.

Mr. Chairman,

India attaches high importance to the work of the Disarmament Commission as the specialized deliberative leg of the triad of UN disarmament machinery put in place by the First Special Session on Disarmament. With its universal membership, the Commission provides a unique platform to the international community to discuss pertinent aspects, reach common positions, bridge any differences and adopt concrete recommendations of universal applicability on disarmament issues.

We share the disappointment that the Commission has not been able to achieve consensus on its agenda items for more than a decade now. However, we should bear in mind that the Commission has had several successes in the past when it was able to adopt principles, guidelines and recommendations on specific disarmament issues. We believe that given sufficient political will the UNDC can play an important role in taking forward multilateral disarmament agenda. In the last cycle of meetings there was some progress on the items on the Commission's agenda even though consensus again eluded us. As we embark on a new three-year cycle of UNDC meetings we call upon all delegations to give a positive impulse to global non-discriminatory disarmament.

Mr. Chairman,

India believes that in the new cycle of work of the UNDC, nuclear disarmament should remain the key agenda item. India attaches the highest priority to nuclear disarmament. India remains committed to the objective of the Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan of 1988 and the realisation of its vision of a nuclear weapons free

world and non-violent world order. As our Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh said in his address to the 66th UN General Assembly, the Action Plan sets out a concrete roadmap for achieving nuclear disarmament in a time-bound, universal, non-discriminatory, phased and verifiable manner. The goal of nuclear disarmament can be achieved by a step-by-step process underwritten by a universal commitment and an agreed multilateral framework that is global and non-discriminatory. There is need for a meaningful dialogue among all States possessing nuclear weapons to build trust and confidence and for reducing the salience of nuclear weapon in international affairs and security doctrines. Measures to reduce nuclear danger arising from accidental or unauthorised use of nuclear weapons, increasing restraints on the use of nuclear weapons and de-alerting of nuclear weapons are essential steps. The progressive de-legitimisation of nuclear weapons is essential to the goal of their complete elimination.

India is committed to working with the international community to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The danger of nuclear weapons and related material falling in the hands of terrorists has made the threat more complex and dangerous. While Member States discharge their primary responsibility to strengthen national measures related to nuclear security, it is also important to strengthen international cooperative efforts to address this critical challenge. The IAEA plays a central role in this regard. India has been an active participant in the Nuclear Security Summit process.

India subscribes to a policy of a credible minimum deterrent. We do not subscribe to any arms race including a nuclear arms race. India has espoused a policy of no first use and non-use against non-nuclear weapon states and is prepared to convert these undertakings into multilateral legal arrangements. India has also supported universalization of the policy of no-first use in a global no-first use treaty. We support negotiations with a view to reaching agreement on effective arrangements to assure non-nuclear weapons States against the use and threat of use of nuclear weapons.

India remains committed to maintaining a unilateral, voluntary moratorium on nuclear explosive testing. We are also committed to negotiate a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty to ban the future production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. The future treaty would have to meet India's national security interests. In accordance with the mandate contained in CD/1299, we believe that CD is the appropriate forum for negotiating the FMCT.

I would like to recall India's recent contributions to the debate on nuclear disarmament in the UN framework. In 2007 we presented a Working Paper on nuclear disarmament to the UNDC containing specific proposals for consideration

of the international community. Our resolutions in the UNGA First Committee titled "Convention on the prohibition of use of nuclear weapons" and "Reducing nuclear danger" are adopted with substantial support. India supports efforts for raising public awareness to generate the necessary momentum for realising the goal of a nuclear weapons free world.

Mr. Chairman,

Based on the recommendations of the relevant UNGA resolutions, the last cycle of the UNDC included "Elements of a draft declaration of the 2010s as the Fourth disarmament decade" as one of its agenda item. Regrettably, we were not able to achieve consensus on this agenda item despite the best efforts of the working groups. We are now in 2012, already well into the decade of 2010s, and this agenda item may look dated. However, we believe that there is still room for the UNDC to deliberate this item in the meetings of the current cycle to see if there is greater convergence of views and the possibility of achieving consensus. The draft Declaration could provide the requisite impulse on disarmament issues in this decade and could set an aspirational disarmament agenda for the international community keeping in mind the current global realities.

Mr. Chairman,

In the last two cycles of UNDC meetings as well as between 2001-03 consensus eluded us on the agenda item related to conventional weapons, although the discussions were useful and a large measure of common ground was achieved. We are ready to once more engage in deliberations on "Practical CBMs in the field of conventional weapons". India supports practical CBM initiatives at unilateral, bilateral, regional and global levels. Such measures can promote a stable environment of peace and security amongst states by building confidence and enhancing transparency. We believe that a step-by-step approach should be adopted, respectful of the sovereign right of States to choose CBMs best suited to their interests.

Mr. Chairman,

Some delegations have expressed their desire to discuss working methods of UNDC in this year's meetings. We believe that this issue needs to be approached in light of the discussions which have taken place in the UNDC in the past - in 1998, when the decision 52/492 was adopted and in 2006, when UNGA adopted Resolution 61/98 which included additional measures for improving the effectiveness of UNDC's methods of work. It is up to us Member States to put the decisions we have taken into practice. Discussions related to disarmament machinery have also taken place in the UNGA under the item "Revitalizing the work of CD and taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations".

We believe that the current impasse in the multilateral disarmament machinery

is not due to procedural reasons or indeed due to deficiencies in the machinery itself. Proposals that question the viability or relevance of the disarmament machinery and suggest unrealistic alternatives will not lead to productive results in taking forward the agreed multilateral agenda.

My delegation seeks to actively participate in the deliberations in the days ahead with the hope that we will be able to achieve significant results in this cycle of UNDC meetings.

Thank you.



634. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, at the Meeting of the Adhoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly on April 19, 2012.

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

Let me start by placing on record my delegation's happiness at the decision taken by you to convene this meeting to discuss the role and authority of the General Assembly and its relationship to the principal organs of the United Nations and other groups outside the United Nations.

Today's discussion is both important and timely, and so a few home truths are clearly in order.

Let us acknowledge that UN reforms have been a consistent sore spot over the last few years and no specific issue has epitomized this more than GA revitalization.

But what do we do, Co-Chairs?

As true prisoners of habit, we meet every year and steeped in our own convictions, ritualistically recite our *mantras* on the issue of General Assembly revitalization while refusing to listen to our partners and being resigned to reiteration for its own sake.

But the world outside has moved on in the last few decades in ways no one could have imagined even in their wildest dreams.

So the principal order of business, as far as my delegation is concerned is to determine whether there exists a consensus amongst us here and today that the time has come for the General Assembly, the G-193 to take remedial action.

If we can at least acknowledge that further delay would not only exacerbate the prevailing apathy but also strengthen trends to look for solutions elsewhere, we would have made some progress, if not we can very well make a ritualistic beginning same time next year!

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

At the outset, let me align myself with the statement by Algeria on behalf of the Non-Aligned Group. And let me amplify of some of the main aspects in my national capacity.

India has consistently held the view that the General Assembly can be revitalized only when its position as the chief deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the United Nations is respected in letter and in spirit.

The General Assembly should take the lead in setting the global agenda and restoring the centrality of the United Nations in formulating multilateral approaches to resolving transnational issues. This was the role intended for the Assembly in Article 10 of the UN Charter, namely that it discuss any questions or matters within the scope of the present Charter or relating to the powers and functions of any organs provided for in the Charter, i.e. the Security Council, the ECOSOC, Trusteeship Council, the ICJ as well as the Secretariat. Distinguished Co-Chairs,

A perception that the prerogatives and authority of the General Assembly have been undermined, in particular by the Security Council has not only gained ground, but I believe has entrenched itself.

First, the Council is increasingly encroaching on issues that traditionally fall within the Assembly's competence, such as the process of standard-setting and codification of international law and by holding of thematic debates on issues that frequently fall within the purview of the General Assembly or the ECOSOC.

Second, the Council's annual report continues to be a mere statistical compilation of events, a bland summary and listing of meetings and outcome documents which merely informs without educating, illustrates without elucidating. We associate ourselves with such concerns.

As is to be expected, such concerns have led to calls for urgently recalibrating the relationship between the General Assembly and the Security Council.

The Council would therefore do well to eschew the tendency to give extremely creative and permissive interpretations to the consideration of what constitutes a threat to the peace, breaches of the peace and acts of aggression and to the situations under which it can take action under Chapter VII.

And in terms of its reporting obligations, the Council should not only inform the Assembly of the decisions taken, but also the rationale, efficacy and impact of the Council's decisions, in terms of crystallized take-aways for the membership.

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

At the same time, however, we believe that remedial measures would only be half complete in the absence of serious introspection on what the General Assembly itself can do to mitigate the situation.

Clearly, the Assembly will not be empowered merely by strengthening procedures. More important is the presence of political will to take concrete measures to reinforce the role and authority of the Assembly.

Foremost in this regard is the need to properly appreciate and then correctly situate the Assembly within the plurality of multilateral mechanisms that deal

with global issues. In our view, the primacy of the Assembly flows from the universality of its membership as well as the diligent application of the principle of sovereign equality of all its members. Ownership therefore, of the Assembly's decisions and activities, is reflected in the degree of participation by member-states. So, if there is a foreboding sense of apathy towards the work done in the Assembly, the member-states are also partly to blame.

If the member-states, instead of engaging in substantive deliberations in the six main committees that could result in setting new norms, spend considerable resources on procedural issues they will only encourage the usurpation of their role by other institutions both within and outside the UN.

We also call for enhancing the oversight role of the Assembly vis-à-vis the UN staff and as reflected in the working of the Fifth Committee.

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

In conclusion, let me re-emphasize the need to discuss substantive measures that would strengthen the role of General Assembly as the chief deliberative, legislative, policy-making and representative body of the international community.

You can expect my delegation's constructive support and participation in your efforts.

Thank You.



635. Statement by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Acting Permanent Representative of India to the UN, at a Panel Discussion on “Unlearning Intolerance : Jazz as a Force For Education and Dialogue”, During the Event to Observe the First International Jazz Day on April 30, 2012.

Mr. Chairman, Thank you very much for inviting me and for giving my delegation the great honor and opportunity to sponsor today's event. Mr. Chairman, when I walked in here, I was told by my colleague from the US delegation Ambassador Dicarlo, that she was told “*Madam please improvise*”. So here goes the sheet of paper that my colleague, Prakash Gupta, prepared for me.

Mr. Chairman, I also want to make another observation. There must be something very good that your Committee is doing, that today, we have many more people who are attending after passing through the visitor's entrance rather than those of us who sport these blue colored passes. I am very delighted to be able to welcome so many of you - the wonderful people who make New York and other parts of US, their home.

My colleague sitting here, the Acting Head of the Department of Public Information said to me - “*India and Jazz ? I did not realize you had anything to do with it*” and I told him “*Friend, I know we are exactly on the other side of the globe, if you look at it with the United States in the center. But you know we are the country, which is not only the great mega diverse country in terms of bio diversity but also perhaps the most mega diverse country, in terms of culture, in terms of ethnicity, and above all, in terms of welcoming everything from all around the world. And I dare say, we not only welcome all of these and give it a home, but give it a loving home. In my understanding, Jazz is one of those wonderful things.*

It traversed, the seas, the Atlantic ocean and some parts of the Indian ocean, the land route which connects Europe and India, and somehow landed up in the sub continent, more so in particular the city of Calcutta, which was then the reigning city of the British colonial empire, which we were a part in the late 1920s and early 1930s. It found a beautiful home and a home which then later on spread to Mumbai, and has found permanent home and a permanent place in India since then. In terms of perhaps one of the biggest things that we do, which is produce films in Bollywood, the underline theme of the great song and dance sequences that you see, have this wonderful connotation and wonderful relationship of having a base in jazz music, as a result of the inter play which happened in the late 1920s and early 1930s. An inter - play which was greatly facilitated by the presence of wonderful people from the United States, who served in India during the end the 2nd world war, and later on as a cultural Ambassadors of United States.

You know for Jazz we often use the word : improvise. A jazz musician doesn't necessary have to read, though he or she has to be trained and needs to know what they are doing. They obviously have a certain parameter in which they perform but they have this ability to transcend, to go beyond that. Indian classical music, in a very interesting sense, does exactly that. It is one of the oldest forms of music in the world, obviously rigid in its own way, but allowing for a great deal of improvisation. So the connections with jazz, is not only the connection of the mind, that improvisation - has been integral to us, and the way we take things dutifully forward. Also when the discovery of Indian music, especially Indian classical music took place here in the west, in the United States in particular, it was jazz musicians who came forward and who adopted and introduced some of the leading lights of Indian classical music and made them available to the wider audience of the world, in particular the United States.

Today we are marking in the United Nations for the first time the International Day of Jazz. This is a great occasion something absolutely wonderful and I am very delighted to see the Chief Archivist, Mr. Morgenstern, representing the history of Jazz. It is very good to welcome you here sir and also welcome of course, to so many of you who are involved in the world of jazz in various ways.

The Government of United States along with a leading foundation are presenting a fantastic and a very large scale concert to honor Jazz today in the evening. It also features two maestros from India. I heard about it several weeks back when the Government of US circulated a note for all members here. And I must say, again, it is something typical of my country, I guess, it is spirituality and the matters of the heart that some of these things come together.

Around the same time, I happened to meet a wonderful person Mr. Susheel Kurien, who hails from India. I met Susheel at a dinner and Susheel and I started speaking about Bombay, Mumbai- the city where he grew up and where I studied, and we spoke about the changes that we notice in Mumbai. Mumbai is a city which quintessentially grew up to become one of the largest cities in the world, one of the major financial heavyweights in the world, center of business industry- equivalent of the Wall Street in our country and quite a large one, if I may say- all of this happened during India's growth during the period when we were part of British Empire.

I asked him how he sees Mumbai having changed in the last 40-50 years, mentioning that the ones I notice, are the changes that have been captured in the Indian Film Industry. Indian films from the time that they started getting made, which was only a few years after films were launched in the entire world, invariably featured in their music sequences a saxophone player. They also invariably featured a piano. But as I see things having evolved over many years perhaps decades, their music remains very vibrant, it remains very lively, and

at the heart and soul of the films . But I notice that the saxophone has tended to be missing. I see also the piano has gone missing, the notes are great, the musicians are being heralded all over the world and they have been winning Oscars and so on and so forth. I believe that in a large way Jazz has contributed to the an India, which also makes for theme of today's panel which is "Unlearning Intolerance: Jazz as a force of education and dialogue", because I think that jazz gave us a unique experience and insight into globalization, into maybe the ethos in the ways of thinking of the people here in the west, but allowed us in India, to imbibe the spirit of cosmopolitanism. We have grown tremendously. The economy has grown. The urban areas have grown. But maybe we have become much more metropolitan. I don't know if I can really draw the distinctions between cosmopolitanism, cosmopolitan behavior and metropolitan behavior but in my own mind, it's the way in which I think about so much of the change in urban India.

But coming to my own story about Susheel, so at the same time when I met Susheel, I spoke to him about Mumbai and then he said, " Hey, you know something, I have just made a film" and I said " Wow, I thought you were one of the achievers of the corporate world, the good Indians who migrated to New York , United States have done well for themselves, Wall Street, the big consultancy firms etc, " he said " *yes, yes, I was doing all of that, but I chucked it up a few years back now I play music in a lovely place and I made this film*". I said what was the film, and he said he made a film on the history of Jazz in India!

Believe me, ladies and gentlemen, that there could not have been a more beautiful coincidence than the one I am relating to you. And I really must thank my friends from the Committee on Information, Ramu Damodaran, an old friend of mine, and the Mission of the United States for having agreed to join us and help us in this- for us to be able to bring this to you, to the other side of the world. The entire business of Jazz, as a global medium is being celebrated today and I am extremely happy and delighted and indeed immensely pleased to be able to say "look the exact other side of the world has also provided a home, indeed, a loving home for jazz".

We are very happy and proud, and very happy that Susheel, you've done something which would allow everybody to know that jazz , not only spread from various parts of the United States to the other parts of the United States but has actually been a global idiom, and has gone global, and I am very delighted that my country India could have been a part of it. I want to thank you all very much, especially Ambassador Rosemary Dicarlo and her delegation, DPI, the Committee on Information, and above all, you, Ladies and Gentlemen who have joined us here today.

I am sure today will not only be a wonderful experience for all of you but I think that you will take back quite a lot, hell of a lot, if I may say so, from this particular beautiful element which I am very glad we were able to do it, at the United Nations, which quintessentially embodies the spirit of people coming together, the world being one place, and all of us working together on this theme, and indeed as the old Indian saying goes that "*the world is indeed one big family*".

Thank You.



636. Statement by Mr. Vinod K Jacob, First Secretary, at the Meeting of the Adhoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly on 10 May 2012.

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

Let me start by placing on record the Indian delegation's happiness at the decision taken by you to convene this meeting.

India has consistently held the view that the General Assembly can be revitalized only when its position as the chief deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the UN is respected both in letter and in spirit. The General Assembly should take the lead in setting the global agenda and restoring the centrality of the UN in formulating multilateral approaches to resolving transnational issues.

At the outset, we would like to align ourselves with the statement made by Algeria on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Co-Chairs,

The Assembly must have a greater say in the process of selection of the Secretary General.

In our assessment, General Assembly Resolution 11 (1) of February 1946 which lays out the "Terms of appointment of the Secretary-General" was the product of an era gone by.

It was an instance when the General Assembly decided to outsource the process of the Secretary General's selection to the Security Council. Now however with the circumstances having changed considerably it is perhaps the appropriate time for the General Assembly to claw back.

General Assembly resolutions 51/241 of 22 August 1997 and 60/286 of 9 October 2006 which outline in detail proposals on improving the process of selection and appointment of the Secretary-General must be fully and faithfully implemented. The practice established by GA Resolution 11 (1) can be modified to allow for the Council to send a panel of names that the Assembly could choose from as against a single nomination. Additionally, if the member-states attach high importance to the role and responsibilities of the Assembly, we see no reason why the matter should not be "decided by a two-thirds majority" in terms of Article 18 as against the one with a simple majority requirement in Resolution 11 (1).

We could also identify objective criteria for the candidatures, including commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter, extensive leadership, administrative and diplomatic experience with due regard being given to regional

rotation and gender equality. Equally useful and practical would be to encourage formal presentation of candidatures in a manner that allows sufficient time for interaction with member-states, and also requires candidates to present their views to all member-states of the General Assembly. Co-Chairs,

On the matter of selection of other Executive Heads in the UN system organizations, our position flows from the clear guidelines in the Charter.

These provisions clearly reflect the desire of the UN membership to have an international civil service which displays the highest standards of professionalism, neutrality and integrity and which is accountable therefore, if not in higher, but at least in equal measure as the Secretary General is to the General Assembly. In addition, we would welcome closer consideration of procedures for selecting, appointing and confirming the heads of the major Specialized Agencies, Funds and Programmes with a view to ensuring transparency, legitimacy and balanced representation.

Co-Chairs,

The primacy of the Assembly flows from the universality of its membership as well as the diligent application of the principle of sovereign equality of all its members. Ownership therefore, of the Assembly's decisions and activities, is reflected in the degree of participation by member-states. So, if there is a foreboding sense of apathy towards the work done in the Assembly, the member-states are also partly to blame.

If the member-states, instead of engaging in substantive deliberations in the six main committees that could result in setting new norms, spend considerable resources on procedural issues they will only encourage the usurpation of their role by other institutions both within and outside the UN. We also call for enhancing the oversight role of the Assembly vis-à-vis the UN staff and as reflected in the working of the Fifth Committee.

Co-Chairs,

On the issue of the visibility and enhanced public awareness of the work of the General Assembly, our position is two-fold.

First, the member-states need to make the Assembly and its work more relevant to the evolving international system, in other words, the presence of political will to take concrete measures to reinforce the role and authority of the Assembly. We need to properly appreciate and then correctly situate the Assembly within the plurality of multilateral mechanisms that deal with global issues.

Second, there are a number of best practices available in this regard in various international organizations, albeit on a smaller scale. Such best practices could

be used as a guide to promote visibility and enhanced public awareness of the work of the General Assembly.

In conclusion, distinguished Co-Chairs let me re-emphasize the need to discuss substantive measures that would strengthen the role of General Assembly as the chief deliberative, legislative, policy-making and representative body of the international community.

You can expect our constructive support and participation in your efforts.

Thank You.



637. Statement by Mr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Government of India at the High Level Thematic debate on: "State of the World Economy and Finance in 2012", UN General Assembly, on May 17, 2012.

Your Excellency President of the General Assembly,

Your Excellencies Heads of State and Government,

Excellency Secretary General of the United Nations,

Excellencies Ministers of Member States,

Distinguished delegates,

Allow me to begin by thanking you Mr. President and the Secretary General for convening this debate on the "State of the World Economy and Finance in 2012". The United Nations with its convening power and collaborative strength of all member states is uniquely placed to guide such a global discourse.

From the perspective of developing economies, the current crisis, which began in 2008, interrupted a fairly long period in which developing countries experienced broad based growth. Asia was the fastest growing region, but it was not the only one. Growth was fairly broad based with sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America also participating.

These gains in prosperity were interrupted when the crisis of 2008 produced a deceleration in global growth in 2009. At first, it looked as if the crisis had been effectively contained as the industrialised countries and the global economy recovered strongly in 2010. But progress was again interrupted in 2011, with the emergence of sovereign debt problems in Europe, especially in the Eurozone periphery.

These problems persist. The Eurozone is projected to experience a mild contraction in the current year with unemployment at very high levels. There are substantial downside risks if confidence is not restored. The US is in a better position but growth is still weak and unemployment, though declining, remains high.

What is most disturbing is that there seems to be little consensus on how to move forward. Monetary authorities in both the US and Europe have acted boldly to counter recessionary tendencies. This had some effect, but there are serious doubts on whether further space exists to continue these policies. On fiscal policy, there are sharp differences on how to proceed and many distinguished economists argue that fiscal austerity is actually the wrong medicine in the circumstances.

Whatever be the correct balance on this issue, the fact that the policies are not

showing results in terms of an early return to growth and a moderation in unemployment creates the danger of “policy fatigue”. This can lead to extreme turns in both politics and policy.

The problem is all the more complicated because we are not dealing with a crisis in one country but in several countries in the industrialized world. Given the high degree of inter-connectedness between these economies, we would get much better results if the response was in the form of co-ordinated national policies. This would also help mobilize domestic public support for difficult policies by showing that they are part of a global effort to deal with the problems, in which other countries are doing their bit.

Unfortunately, the world lacks institutions of global economic governance which could produce the policy co-ordination that is needed. Co-ordination is proving difficult even within the group of Eurozone countries. It is not surprising that it is proving difficult in wider groupings. The G-20, which includes all the major economies both industrialized and developing, is attempting to create a system of mutual consultation that might help to co-ordinate policies across the G-20. However, that effort is still a work in progress. It remains to be seen how effective these mechanisms will prove.

Mr. President,

Slow growth in the industrialized countries is not in itself a problem since these countries currently enjoy very high levels of per capita income. However, it is important to ensure that the slower growth that represents the new normal is managed in a way that ensures greater inclusiveness and social acceptability.

Inequality has risen sharply in these countries and high levels of unemployment combined with inequality create the perception that the system is unfair.

Industrialised countries must also pay greater attention to the need to ensure sustainability of their high levels of consumption. These levels currently involve a carbon footprint per capita which we know is unsustainable. Serious efforts by the industrialized countries to lower their per capita carbon footprint will trigger new technologies which alone can provide a solution to this problem. Over time this will also allow other countries to make their growth patterns more sustainable.

Developing countries face very different challenges. They have much lower per capita incomes and for them growth is essential if they are to raise their population to basic levels of living that will ensure human dignity. The slowdown in industrialised countries after 2008 has had an adverse impact and this must be countered so that these countries can return to the path of rapid growth.

Although developing country growth has slowed down, it is a matter of satisfaction that it has remained more robust than many would have expected. This “growth

resilience" reflects the fact that large numbers of developing countries now have stronger human and institutional capacities to grow. These economies are not delinked from industrialised countries; the links are strong, but they operate on a higher underlying growth potential.

Slower growth in the industrialised world will limit the export potential of developing countries. However, faster growth in developing countries as a group is creating new opportunities for trade expansion which would help offset loss of markets in the industrialised world.

The shift in economic weight in favour of the developing world that is taking place is a natural consequence of the process of convergence and should be welcomed. Faster growth in the developing world is not just good for developing countries. It has positive feedback effects on the industrialised world, which could help the recovery in industrialized countries.

Mr. President,

Our experience in India reflects what I have said about the developing world. In the five years prior to the crisis, the Indian economy grew at an average rate of 9%. Following the crisis, it slowed down to an average of just over 7%. We believe India has the potential to grow at rates between 8 or 9 per cent for the next twenty years and to do so in an inclusive manner. There are many challenges we have to face domestically to achieve this target but we believe we can do so. However, we would be greatly helped if the global environment is supportive, and we are willing to work with others to make it so.

What can global community do to restore growth in the developing world? I have already mentioned the need to reach agreement as early as possible on the resolution of the sovereign debt problem in the Eurozone. Early resolution will remove much of the uncertainty which currently pervades financial markets and which affects investor sentiment adversely. Resolution of this uncertainty, and the consequent elimination of downside risks, is actually as important as getting faster growth in the industrialised world.

Growth in developing countries depends critically upon a well functioning international financial system channeling resources efficiently around the world. Given the much higher growth potential in developing countries, a well financial system should ensure a sufficient flow of long term capital towards them.

However, the current state of the global financial system does pose problems. Excessive leverage, built up in the past due to consciously lax regulatory policies, is now sought to be corrected. This is being done at a time when a large part of the banking system of industrialised countries has been weakened by the sovereign debt problems in Europe, and the extent to which it can be recapitalized

remains uncertain. The consequent de-leveraging could have an adverse effect on longer term capital flows. Excess liquidity resulting from lax monetary policy in industrialised countries, combined with deleveraging by the banks, could create an excess of short term capital even as longer term capital dries up. This will not be to the advantage of developing countries.

The multilateral development banks can play a major role in correcting these aberrations. Until recently, it used to be thought that private financial markets were efficient and for this reason the financing of productive investment in developing countries could easily be handled by the private sector. The crisis has taught us that many of the assumptions about efficient intermediation were not correct. We also know that in the short run the international banking and financial system will be under strain. This is therefore a time when the Multilateral Development Banks, especially the World Bank, should significantly expand their lending for infrastructure development in the developing economies. Investment in infrastructure would make a major contribution to strengthening the growth potential of developing countries. The scale of the challenge can be appreciated from the fact that if the World Bank is not recapitalised, the scale of IBRD lending from next year onwards will be no higher in real terms than it was ten years ago!

The international community responded promptly to the need to provide additional resources to the IMF after the crisis. A further expansion is being considered to deal with the spillover of the sovereign debt crisis. These resources will be used primarily to assist richer countries. There is surely an equally overwhelming need to recapitalize the MDBs to meet the financial requirements of developing countries for financing infrastructure.

Trade is universally regarded as the most important lubricant for development. It is unfortunate therefore that negotiations to complete the Doha Development Round are languishing. An early conclusion of this Round, in a manner reflecting the priorities of the Development agenda, would send a major positive signal to the global community.

Mr. President,

The economic woes we face today cannot be overcome without the major developed countries taking the lead to stimulate economic growth. There is an urgent need for farsighted leadership which can call for tough decisions while managing popular aspirations.

Steps at the national level must be accompanied by a broader based advance in improving global governance. The most pressing challenge is the reform of the international financial system giving important developing countries more voice and participation in the decision making structures of the BWIs. We welcome

the beginning that has been made in this direction. It must be continued further.

An equally critical element in global governance is the long pending reform of the UN Security Council so that it reflects contemporary realities and not the world of 1945.

Looking further ahead, the Climate Change negotiations are a major challenge. We must ensure progress in a manner which reflects the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibility which underlie the UNFCCC. Urgent action is needed to operationalize the Green Climate Fund and the Technology Mechanism.

The upcoming UN Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro next month is an opportunity to set a strong agenda for sustainable development including growth, social cohesion and environment protection. Green economy must not come in the way of efforts of developing countries to promote inclusive growth to eradicate poverty.

I thank you.



638. Statement by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Charge D' Affaires at the Seventeenth Session of the High-level Committee on South-south Cooperation on May 22, 2012.

Mr. President,

Thank you very much. Let me begin Mr. President by felicitating you on your election and please allow me also to compliment all of us in this Assembly here for our sagacity for having chosen someone with the experience that you bring to the table and I am very glad that you will be guiding our deliberations at this session and thereafter. Thank you very much.

Mr. President,

My felicitations also to the other members of the Bureau. I am very delighted to see the Director of the South-South Unit here too. We have excellent partnership with him and his team and we are grateful for all the cooperation that we have received.

Mr. President,

Let me start by saying that we align ourselves with the statement delivered by the distinguished Permanent Representative of Algeria on behalf of the Group of 77.

India welcomes the progress made so far on the implementation of the new directions strategy and the Nairobi outcome document.

Mr. President,

India has a unique experience in nation-building given our large, diverse and complex reality. Our approach to South-South Cooperation has been therefore to share this experience and knowledge in a spirit of solidarity with countries from the South treading similar paths of socio-economic development. South-South Cooperation has therefore been integral to India's foreign policy and diplomacy from the very beginning.

As early as 1964, India recognized that capacity building is a key development need, and established the Indian Technical and Economic Co-operation (ITEC) Programme as an important means of channelizing India's technical assistance to fellow developing countries. This flagship programme covers 158 developing partner countries with over 5000 participants being offered training in 200 courses spread across 42 leading institutions each year in a wide range of areas from hi-tech like IT, S&T, pharmaceuticals to agriculture, rural development, SMEs, etc. The ITEC programme is demand-driven and response-oriented.

Apart from countries in our neighborhood, we have a rich agenda of technical

cooperation with Africa, a continent with which we have age-old ties, that currently spans several initiatives including the establishment of an India-Africa Virtual University, with 10,000 new scholarships to be available for African students. We also initiated the path-breaking Pan African E-network project and the TEAM-9 initiative focused on West Africa that seeks to bridge the 'digital divide' between Africa and the rest of the world.

During the India-Africa Forum Summit held in May 2011 in Ethiopia, we announced additional 5 billion US dollars for the next three years under lines of credit to help Africa achieve its development goals and an additional 700 million US dollars to establish new institutions and training programmes in consultation with the African Union and its institutions. We have committed for the next three years more than 22,000 scholarships to students from Africa to invite them to study in India.

I am pleased to share that India today has a vibrant and large-scale programme of cooperation with **ALL** 48 Least Developed Countries across Africa, in our neighborhood in Asia and across the GRULAC region. It spans the entire spectrum of human activity such as agriculture development, information technology, irrigation, aquaculture, disaster management, remote sensing, telemedicine, textile engineering, accounting and finance, clean technologies, rural development, and SMEs.

Another key facet of our joint initiative with countries of the South, has been along with Brazil and South Africa, our IBSA initiative and we are extremely pleased that our partners in this are the South South Unit.

Mr. President,

Let me also flag a few issues which are of importance to our delegation and are being considered before the Seventeenth Session of the High Level Committee:

First, our cooperation with fellow developing countries is premised on the principles of voluntary partnership and are based on national ownership and in line with national priorities of our partners. This is in contrast to ODA, with its attached conditionalities. South-South cooperation is a partnership in solidarity between developing countries involving sharing of experiences, expertise, knowledge and provision of assistance based on capacity to partner. Its paradigm, therefore, is distinct from that of North-South development cooperation. Moreover there should be a clear understanding that South-South cooperation can supplement North-South Cooperation but cannot substitute or dilute the obligation and quantum of North-South aid flows.

Second, formulations on frameworks for operational guidelines for defining South South cooperation, must confirm to and flow from the Nairobi Outcome Document,

without references to non UN processes. More importantly, the distinction that these are guidelines for UN agencies and not member states must be made clear right from the outset.

Third, 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 South-South Cooperation is not straight-jacketed in terms of rigid rules and regulations or policy prescriptions, including those in the name of aid effectiveness. Flexibility and adaptability is the key to the success of South-South Cooperation. These must not be compromised.

Fourth, we welcome efforts to upgrade and strengthen the Special Unit on South-South Cooperation. With the fast paced changes on the South-South cooperation landscape, the United Nations needs to catch up to this new reality by clearly recognising its paradigms and not seek to fit them into the traditional North South aid paradigm. The UN through its network of developmental agencies has a universal presence in developing countries which can be leveraged for enhanced South-South cooperation among developing countries.

Mr. President,

The world has changed and the UN needs to reflect contemporary realities. The rise in cooperation among developing countries is not a transient phenomenon. It is here to stay and its paradigms need to be accepted and acted upon.

Thank You.



639. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, at the plenary meeting of the un General Assembly on agenda item 130 titled, "Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union", on May 29, 2012.

Mr. President,

I am happy to participate in today's plenary meeting on the agenda item 130 titled, "Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union." We welcome the Secretary General's report on the subject (A/66/770) which is a comprehensive catalogue of some of the modalities and examples of interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and IPU over the last two years. We are also happy to co-sponsor the resolution A/66/L.45 on the subject which amongst other things calls for the inclusion in the provisional agenda of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly the item titled, "Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union." Let me also place on record, our appreciation for the work done by the Permanent Mission of Morocco in this regard. Mr. President, India is the largest democracy in the world. The success of the democratic principle and all the institutions that it entails has defined my country and its approach to relations with the rest of the world.

No wonder then that we have placed great emphasis on the work of the General Assembly ever since we joined the United Nations. In fact, even as early as the eighth session of the Assembly in 1953, an Indian, Mrs. Vijaylakshmi Pandit had the singular honour of presiding over this august House.

Mr. President, This year-2012-also happens to mark the sixtieth anniversary of the first sitting of the Indian Parliament.

Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh said, "The story of the Indian Parliament is a story of the human striving for freedom and dignity; for tolerance and equality; for peace and progress. Our Parliament has not just voiced the concerns and aspirations of the Indian people alone, but those of all humankind, of every freedom loving person who seeks a life of dignity and peace. Our Parliament stands as a unique representation of the values that created our Republic – of Unity in Diversity, of Secularism, of Pluralism and of the Rule of Law. How we conduct ourselves, how the Parliament conducts itself, is therefore, a way of showing respect to these values and to the memory of those who created and built this symbol of freedom and dignity. Each one of us owes it to those who sent us here to not only represent their views and their interests, but to do so with dignity, compassion and decorum. Our democracy has passed through many testing times. At every turn the people

of India have with great enthusiasm and hope reiterated their faith in the democratic character of our State and reaffirmed the pluralistic character of our polity and society. Among democracies around the world India has one of the highest voter turn-outs in elections." Mr. President,

The Inter-Parliamentary Union [IPU] which is the world organization of 159 national parliaments has done yeomen service over the last decade or so in promoting closer coherence and interaction with the UN and its activities. The areas in which the IPU has contributed include peace building, human rights, gender equality, economic and social development, international law, achievement of MDGs, protecting the interests of the least developed countries and the like.

Of particular relevance is the role that the IPU and its members are playing and should continue to play in the years to come and which relates to cementing a culture of multilateralism and internationalism in today's world.

As rightly pointed out by the Secretary General in his report, "Parliaments and their members have a vital role to play in ensuring respect for, and implementation of, international commitments. Parliaments have a wide range of tools at their disposal to ensure that national laws, policies, actions, programmes and budgets reflect the principles and obligations contained in various international instruments."

This has been most evident in the context of gender issues, in particular the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

We are of the view that such trends must be strengthened and encouraged.

Mr. President,

An important pillar of the on-going interaction between national parliaments and the UN is the practice of various member-states of including legislators as members of national delegations to UN meetings and events.

Many of you would have witnessed active participation by some of India's finest Parliamentarians in the Assembly, Council and the varied Committees during the period October to November every year. We have found this tradition to be very useful both for the visiting legislators as well as for us here in New York. I am happy to note that this practice finds special mention in the resolution.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, permit me to reiterate that India attaches importance to the role of the IPU and the interaction between the IPU, national parliaments and the UN. We will play our role in pushing this interaction forward.

Thank you.



640. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, at the Annual Session of Executive Board of UN Women on 29 May 2012.

Mr. President,

My felicitations to the Executive Director and Under Secretary-General, Madam Michelle Bachelet for her extremely informative statement and I would also complement UN Women for an insightful report on the progress made on the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women Strategic Plan 2011 - 2013, which has been placed for consideration before the Board.

Mr. President, when we embarked upon the Strategic Plan of UN Women in June last year, we had called for it, to be *'ambitious, achievable and results oriented'*. Today, one year down the line, at the midway mark of the second operational year of UN Women, my delegation is happy to note the significant milestones that the Strategic Plan has achieved under the dynamic leadership of Madam Bachelet, in such a short span of time.

I am particularly pleased to learn that UN Women has made 'partnerships' its key underpinning approach while pursuing its mandate and implementing its business model, especially by forging active partnerships with civil society, besides NGOs, academia, media and the business community. We are also happy to learn the unique manner in which social media has been used as part of globally driven communications strategy to achieve an audience of 40 million, through social media alone! The virtuous cycle of normative and operational work of informing and reinforcing the impact has been another value added for UN Women.

Mr. President, the way UN Women has been able to influence policy narratives across the globe, whether it be on issues as women's rights in the new constitution under consideration in Egypt and Kenya, or services for gender based violence survivors in the occupied Palestinian territory, or in championing the rights of indigenous women in Ecuador, are, all small yet significant, milestones in a brief but important journey. We also appreciate the work being done in India and our South Asian region, including in the SAARC context by UN Women in areas ranging from political participation and leadership, economic empowerment, ending violence against women and gender responsive annual budgeting.

We are also happy to learn that UN Women has been able to lay the foundation of a strong edifice by strengthening capacities of field offices in 33 countries, and basing them on *'result based plans and effective budgeting'*. We also note the success UN Women has achieved in leading, coordinating and promoting

the accountability of the UN system in a short time through the adoption of the SWAP framework by 51 entities. For UN Women to play a strong leadership role globally, as well as within the UN system, these are key imperatives for achieving results with limited resources.

Mr. President,

Representing a country which is home to more than 500 million women, let me submit, that women's economic and political empowerment has been the cornerstone of our policy making, all along. More so, when 69% of our total women population (*nearly 405 million women*) reside in the rural areas alone. It is in this context, that contribution of rural women to our GDP growth and their central role in poverty reduction has been a key guiding factor in the framing of our national policies.

Economic empowerment of Indian women at the grass roots level, especially through 4.8 million women led Self-Help Groups (SHG's) has been a hall mark of India's success story. Covering over 97 million beneficiaries, these have provided microfinance, employment and livelihood, and have made a defining change in the lives of millions of Indian women at the village level.

While SHG's are aimed at encouraging women to take up self employment, the launching of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) in 2005, which is a gender sensitive nationwide employment scheme, has ensured that at least one third of the beneficiaries are women. Pertinent to point out that so far, 50% of the total person days of employment provided under the scheme have gone in favour of rural women alone.

In addition, as part of our flagship scheme of Indira Vikas Yojana, of the houses which are provided to families below the poverty line, it is mandatory that they are allotted in the name of the female member of the household. This is in recognition of the fact that if economic empowerment of women is to be sustained, ownership of assets by women has to be made essential. Also in our National Food Security Bill introduced in Parliament in December 2011, a specific provision has been made that only a woman can be treated as the head of a household for purpose of issue of ration cards and food entitlement documents.

I am also pleased to inform you that the Government of India has, as a Policy, adopted Gender Budgeting as a tool for mainstreaming gender to ensure translation of Government's policy on gender equity into budgetary allocations. To institutionalize this process, we have initiated the formation of Gender Budget Cells within all our Ministries and Departments.

Mr. President, on the global scale and within the UN system, let me also point out the stellar role, that Indian women, in the form of a 100 plus ALL women peacekeeping unit, (*which is perhaps the first ALL women unit of UN Police in history*), have been playing as part of the UNMIL in Liberia since 2007 (*in response*

to UNSC resolution 1325). In addition to providing security to the President's office, the ALL women Indian peacekeeping contingent provides Liberian children with medication, lessons on using computers and self defense. Since their arrival, there has been a transformative change in women's participation in the security landscape of Liberia. The numbers speak for themselves. Five years ago, one in 20 Liberian police personnel was a woman. Now, nearly one in five is female! According to UNMIL itself, applications from women to join the police force tripled the year, after the all women Indian peacekeepers arrived.

Mr. President, allow me to flag a few issues of concern to the main agenda of the Annual session of the Executive Board.

First, the regional architecture review being presently considered by UN Women must aim to adapt the existing organizational structure in a manner so as to support the most efficient and effective implementation of its mandate. While my delegation welcomes the decentralised decision making envisaged as a result of this process, the balanced development of capacities at global, regional and national levels should be ensured to serve the critical functions you have identified. Madam President, as you undertake the regional architectural review, you can count on my delegation's full support for improving the organisational structure of UN Women to make it a more dynamic, decentralized, cohesive and a well connected UN entity.

Second, the report of the progress achieved in the strategic plan has identified a few key challenges that UN Women faced in 2011, especially the systematic exclusion of women from peace negotiations and their economic exclusion. While identification of such critical challenges is important, it may also be worthwhile suggesting approaches to address these challenges in the future strategic plans, so that decision makers are able to factor such approaches during the policy formulation stage itself.

Third, work on gender equality and empowerment of women continues to remain chronically underfunded. If we have to ensure that UN Women stands for action, the donor community must move beyond the political rhetoric of just stated commitments, and transform them into the much needed monetary support for the organization. We hope that the comprehensive resource mobilisation strategy would help in widening the donor base in order to secure the resources required by UN Women in meeting its global commitments. Let me also re-iterate that as part of our stated commitment of five million US dollars to UN Women's core predictable funding, India has already contributed two million US dollars to UN Women, so far. We will continue to provide full political and financial support to UN Women and call on others to do likewise.

Let me conclude, Mr. President, by reaffirming India's steadfast commitment to the all round social, economic and political empowerment of our women, whatever effort and resources, the task might take. It is upto us, members of the Executive

Board to ensure that Madam Bachelet and her team are given the necessary authority, mandate and resources to deliver. We assure you that India will always be willing to walk the extra mile, as UN Women embarks upon this journey.

Thank You.



641. Statement by Mr. Vinod K Jacob, First Secretary, at the Meeting of the Adhoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly on June 01, 2012.

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

Let me start by placing on record the Indian delegation's happiness at the decision taken by you to convene this meeting.

The Ad Hoc Working Group on GA revitalization is an integral part of the ongoing process of UN reform. One could quite rightly compare our Working Group, just like the Intergovernmental Negotiations on United Nations Security Council reform, to an airside transfer bus or apron bus that is used for transferring passengers from the airport terminal arrival or departure gate to the aircraft.

In our case, the current and yet to be revitalized General Assembly is the airport terminal arrival or departure gate, while the aircraft is the General Assembly we wish to see as a result of the process of the revitalization. Of course, there are no guarantees about snags during take-off and in mid-flight, but try we must!

In this regard, we should thank the Chef de Cabinet of the PGA for his briefing as well as the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management for their insights as well on some critical elements of the revitalization process.

Co-Chairs,

India has consistently held the view that the General Assembly can be revitalized only when its position as the chief deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the UN is respected both in letter and in spirit. The General Assembly should take the lead in setting the global agenda and restoring the centrality of the UN in formulating multilateral approaches to resolving transnational issues.

At the outset, we would like to align ourselves with the statement made by Algeria on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Before I proceed to elaborate our position on the issue of strengthening the institutional memory of the Office of the President of the General Assembly, permit me to outline our position on the balloting process and the prospective improvements being considered.

Co-Chairs,

India is no stranger to the application of newer and modern technologies to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of electoral processes.

In our considered view, the revitalization process of the General Assembly will benefit immensely if we are able to introduce those technologies that are efficient, and that ensure the security and confidentiality of the voting process.

Co-Chairs,

We call for augmenting the resources to ensure the efficient and successful functioning of the office of the PGA in keeping with its dignity and prestige. In our mind, providing the resources in terms of protocol and security for the PGA needs to be done forthwith.

We also need to find ways and means to institutionalize the existing trust fund established to address the issue of the increasing financial burden associated with the enhanced activities and travel of the PGA. We need to have a sustainable system in place.

Co-Chairs,

There is a palpable desire among the wide UN membership to have a PGA's office that displays the highest standards of professionalism, neutrality and integrity. We, the member-states should help in this process. There are a number of steps that can be taken in this regard.

First, we need to maintain the fine balance between two factors relevant to the composition of the office of the PGA. On the one hand, we must ensure that the geographical balance of General Assembly membership is reflected in the composition of the Cabinet of the President of the General Assembly. On the other hand, we must apply this principle in synergy with a merit based system that helps the PGA assemble the most effective team.

Second, a certain degree of continuity between the incoming and outgoing Presidents and their Cabinets is necessary. There are many ways to do this, but we believe that the two Presidents are the best judges of how to go about the same.

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

In conclusion, let me reiterate the Indian delegation's basic position that the General Assembly can be revitalized only when its position as the chief deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the United Nations is respected in letter and in spirit.

We will continue to support your work in the future to ensure the success of our common endeavour to revitalize the General Assembly.

Thank you.



642. Statement by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Deputy Permanent Representative, on Agenda Item 14 And 117: Consideration of the Secretary General's Report on "Human Security" at the United Nations General Assembly on June 4, 2012

Mr. President,

Let me begin by thanking all the previous speakers for their presentations and useful insights on the concept of Human Security and how to work forward to close the conceptual framework and move towards its implementation.

In this regard, I also thank the UN Secretary General for his comprehensive report (A/66/763) on 'Human Security'. We also wish to recognize the contribution of Japan in pursuing this debate in the UN.

Mr. President,

While the idea of human security appears obvious and is well captured in the World Summit Outcome document paragraph 143 as freedom from fear, freedom from want and right to live with dignity for all individual in order to fully develop their potential, it is important that we situate this in a conceptual framework in the multilateral context.

The discussions over the conceptual framework for human security have been long and drawn out. This is not surprising since human security issues, and related threats and vulnerabilities naturally vary from one situation to the other. We, therefore, look at the human security framework as one which guides our response to challenges confronting us, rather than a policy goal in itself.

We have, however, made significant progress. We have taken note of the common understanding of 'Human Security' outlined in paragraph 36 of the UNSG's Report. It provides a good basis to carry forward our discussions towards an accepted and clearly articulated 'common understanding' on human security. In fact, India has been stressing many of these elements in our statements on the subject in the past. Today's deliberation and the new resolution will no doubt help further refine this understanding.

Human security encompasses the inter-linkages between peace, development and human rights. The common understanding of this issue needs to recognize that the primary responsibility for human security rests with States and their Governments. 2

Governments retain the primary role for ensuring the survival, livelihood and dignity of their citizens. The notion of human security is distinct from the responsibility to protect and its implementation.

The concept of human security must avoid the securitization of the economic and social discourse, and concentrate on capacity building and the empowerment of people.

The concept must be people centric and should go beyond the narrow framework of protection of population from physical security like war and conflict to a much broader framework to encompass multi-dimensional and comprehensive parameters with development as the central pillar. It is evident that absence of development and growth will adversely affect 'freedom from want' and 'freedom from fear'.

From our perspective, the idea of human security needs to eschew the idea of the interventionist approach. The understanding of human security needs to be clearly anchored within the framework of UN Charter and principles of State sovereignty, which are the bedrock of international relations.

Mr. President,

The SG's report also identifies four areas where human security can bring particular added value to the work of the UN. These are areas which include climate change; post-conflict peacebuilding; global financial and economic crisis and the MDGs; and health and related challenges.

Some of these areas have cross-cutting linkages as well. These identified areas, which by no means are exhaustive, of course, encompass challenges, which are not necessarily confined within national boundaries.

We also live in a world that has a fair degree of globalization. We are cognizant of the complexity associated with this concept and its multidimensional linkages at national, regional and international level.

Therefore, it is imperative to stress the need for genuine international cooperation. The responsibility of the international community is to complement and provide the necessary support to Governments, on their request, to strengthen their capacities to respond to current and emerging threats and challenges.

Such international cooperation must recognize the inherent constraints many developing countries face especially in mobilizing internal and external resources for the socio-economic and developmental activities as also strive for solutions that are embedded in local realities and are based on national ownership. Mr. President,

In India, we are proud of our democratic traditions and civilizational ethos of tolerance, respect and mutual understanding. Democracy and rule of law is the bedrock of our political structure. We are committed to ensure fundamental rights and dignity to every citizen.

In recent years, our efforts for social and economic transformation has, moreover, focused on improvement in quality of life in an inclusive manner i.e. bringing the fruits of economic development to all sections of our society, particularly in rural India and among the vulnerable.

It is our belief that a comprehensive approach to human security is the only way that this concept would help every human being explore his/her potential to the maximum, while pursuing a life of dignity in a safe and healthy environment.

Mr. President,

India has been constructively engaged in deliberations on this issue of human security. I wish to assure you that we will continue to do so and work towards an early implementation of this concept for benefit of all.

Thank You, Mr. President.



643. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, at the informal plenary meeting of the UN General Assembly on the situation in Syria, on June 07, 2012

Thank you, Mr President.

At the outset, I would like to thank you, Mr President, for convening this meeting of the General Assembly. I would also like to thank the Secretary General H.E. Mr Ban Ki-moon, Joint Special Envoy Mr Kofi Annan, the Secretary General of the League of Arab States Dr Nabil El-Araby and the representative of the High Commissioner for Human Rights for their statements on the situation in Syria.

2. Mr President, India continues to remain deeply concerned at the deteriorating situation in Syria. Attacks against civilians and security forces have intensified over the last few weeks and have taken a significant toll. Meanwhile, we have also witnessed a sharp increase in the number of terrorist attacks in different parts of the country. The year-long crisis has also created a difficult humanitarian situation, and as many as a million Syrians are said to be in need of humanitarian assistance.

3. We strongly condemn all violence, irrespective of who the perpetrators are. We also condemn all violations of human rights.

4. Mr President, India has, from the beginning of the crisis in Syria, called for a peaceful and inclusive political process to address the grievances of all sections of Syrian society. We have also been supportive of the efforts by the United Nations and the League of Arab States for a peaceful resolution of the crisis through a Syrian-led inclusive political process. In this context, we have been fully supportive of the efforts of Joint Special Envoy Kofi Annan.

5. The growing militarization of the conflict in Syria will have serious consequences for peace, stability and security not only in Syria but also in the larger region. A military approach to the Syrian crisis will not only further exacerbate the situation and fuel a large-scale sectarian civil war but also cause havoc by aiding and abetting terrorism and proliferation of weapons that will have serious consequences for the entire region and beyond.

6. What is needed, therefore, is that all sides to the conflict recommit themselves to the six-point plan of Mr Annan and cooperate to create an environment conducive for launching an inclusive Syrian-led political process. This also calls for cessation of all outside support for armed groups and serious action against the terrorist groups operating in Syria. Expeditious action is required by all sides to cease violence. Progress should also be made on other aspects of the six-point plan, including provision of humanitarian assistance, access to and release of detainees, and full respect for political and civil rights of all

Syrians. Only thus can the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people be met while ensuring respect for Syria's sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity.

7. With this objective in view, we believe that the Joint Special Envoy should be given sufficient time, space and flexibility to pursue his mandate. There should be one mediation process led by Mr Annan and his efforts should be fully supported. No action should be taken by any side, inside or outside Syria, to derail the Annan Mission.

8. In this context, we commend UNSMIS and its observers for their work in a difficult situation. All parties should ensure safety and security of observers and provide them an environment in which they can implement their mandate independently, impartially and fairly. All parties should cooperate with the United Nations so that urgently needed humanitarian assistance can be provided to those in need. The concerned parties should also cooperate with the United Nations so that violations of human rights and other crimes, including the recent incident in El-Houleh, are fully investigated and their perpetrators brought to justice.

9. In conclusion, Mr President, I would reiterate India's full support to UNSMIS and Mr Annan's efforts to resolve the Syrian crisis through an inclusive Syrian-led political process without any further bloodshed.

I thank you.



644. Statement by Mr. Vinay Kumar, Minister, in The Debate on International Criminal Tribunals for Former Yugoslavia and Rwanda on June 07, 2012.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Let me at the outset congratulate Judge Meron on his assumption of the post of the President of the Residual Mechanism in addition to the continuing post of the President of the ICTY. I also want to congratulate Judge Joensen on assuming the office of the President of the ICTR. We have heard carefully their presentations and assessment of the work of the Tribunals. We also appreciate the briefings given by the two Prosecutors.

2. Mr. President, India welcomes the progress made by the two Tribunals in expediting their work. We are reassured by the assessment of Judge Meron and Judge Joensen that the preparations for the commencement of the Residual Mechanism are on track. We have noted that the Arusha Branch of the Residual Mechanism commence its work from 1 July 2012.

3. We are happy to note that the recommendations made by the Council, including about hiring and retaining qualified interns, during its previous reporting period have brought tangible results and helped the Tribunals progress faster towards the implementation of completion strategy and the commencement of the Residual Mechanism.

4. We appreciate that Judge Meron has undertaken a variety of reforms to improve the functioning of various sections of the Tribunal. As a result, the trial of Mladic, Hadzic and Karadzic has been advanced many months ahead of their expected schedule. Similarly, appeals in some cases have been advanced significantly ahead of their schedule. This is a very positive sign and we congratulate Judge Meron on this welcome development.

5. We are happy to note that the ICTR has completed work at the trial level with respect to 83 of 93 accused persons, while nine accused remain at large. All trials are on track and will be completed by end 2012.

6. We commend the efforts of the Prosecutors for undertaking outreach initiatives, including training, aimed at strengthening capacity of national systems to handle referred cases effectively. This will preserve the legacy of the Tribunals.

7. We also note with satisfaction the progress made in the implementation of the Residual Mechanism. Any functional, operational or institutional issue in the implementation of the Completion Strategy or the Residual Mechanism should be addressed by the Council in consultation with the Council's Informal Working Group on International Tribunals.

8. Mr. President, it is critical that the Tribunals finish their work on time. We

have listened very carefully to the concerns raised by the Presidents of the two Tribunals in relation to their ability to keep pace with their work while adhering to expected timelines until the 'close of business'. The Judges have pointed out that trials and appeals continue to be affected by staffing shortages and the loss of highly efficient staff members. We share the concerns expressed by the Judges, especially on the need for retaining adequate and experienced staff.

9. Careful consideration should be given to the suggestions made by the Judges on how to address these challenges. This is a practical issue and requires consideration of pragmatic and innovative solutions and we stand ready to work with other members of the Council to solve this problem.

10. Judges have also raised the issue concerning the relocation of acquitted persons and those who have already served their sentences. Some of them are living in safe homes in Arusha for the last 5 years. This is an important humanitarian issue and needs careful consideration.

11. Mr. President, we welcome the cooperation extended by all States concerned with the Tribunals, which is vital to ensure the completion of the mandates of the Tribunals as well as for the successful implementation of the Completion Strategy. We appreciate Serbia's sustained efforts in this regard and request other States to continue to extend effective cooperation so that the remaining fugitives could be located soon and surrendered to the Tribunals to end impunity.

12. In conclusion, Mr. President, we believe that the two Tribunals have admirably implemented their mandates. We believe that the support of the Security Council is crucial at this critical juncture in the life of the Tribunals. At the same time, we urge both Tribunals to take all necessary measures to keep the trial and appeal schedules on track. This will pave the way for successful trials of the remaining accused and a smooth implementation of an efficient Residual Mechanism.

I thank you.



645. Statement by Ambassador Dilip Sinha, Permanent Representative of India to Un Offices in Geneva at the Annual Session of Executive Board of Undp/Unfpa/Unops in Geneva on June 25, 2012.

Mr. President,

My felicitations to the Administrator Madam Helen Clark for her extremely informative statement and insightful annual report and for providing us key perspectives on the agenda for organizational change.

Let me also take this opportunity to complement the team of UNDP for using the 'new outcome and output indicator' concept for the Annual Report for the first time. We are happy to note the 'multiple win' approach to development that UNDP has worked out as an intersection of the global and national development agenda. Given my own country's development imperatives, we are also pleased to learn that of the nine focused outcomes, while addressing poverty issues, '**inclusive growth and social equity promoted through pro poor fiscal policies**' have been successful.

Mr. President, while all these significant strides made by UNDP in 2011 are welcome, we must acknowledge that we are meeting at a time of serious economic crisis and political ferment in the world. The Rio+20 Summit on Sustainable Development has just a few days ago given us "the future we want" and suggested us the means and roadmap to realize it. And let me quote my Prime Minister when he reiterated the need for inclusiveness and cooperation at Rio: "Difficult though it may seem, we have to summon the imagination to balance the costs that we will incur in the present with the benefits that will accrue to future generations".

As you plan the roadmap for the next strategic plan, we would urge the need for UNDP to consider the following:

First, for UNDP to be successful globally it needs to be firmly rooted in the 'D' of UNDP, which is development. Poverty eradication still remains the overriding priority for developing countries. Those living at the subsistence level cannot bear the costs of adjustment and their livelihood considerations are important in determining how scarce natural resources such as land, water and forests are used. For developing countries, inclusive growth and a rapid increase in per capita income levels are development imperatives. **It is therefore our considered conviction that poverty eradication should at be the heart of UNDP projects as its primary objective.**

Second, strengthening institutional capacity building in developing countries has to be a core focus area of UNDP. We believe that only a strategy that seeks

to direct the thrust of the international development effort towards the neediest countries, that are the most vulnerable will provide the greatest dividends for the global development agenda. It is a strategic choice and investment 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. My delegation believes that by virtue of its unique position as the largest development arm of the UN system, UNDP can become a 'force multiplier' by fostering national and local capacities, strengthening networks for sharing of knowledge and best practices, promoting national ownership, and by building institutional capacities in developing countries.

Third, South South cooperation is an important development pivot in sharing information and increasing collaboration in best practices amongst developing countries. Even though 'South South Cooperation' continues to be the buzzword in the narrative of the developmental discourse for developing countries, much more remains to be done to give it the 'muscle' it needs from the UN system. We note with concern the limited references to recognition of these initiatives for promoting South South cooperation in the Annual Report of the Administrator and hope that in the future, such reports would attempt to correct this omission and elaborate on South South initiatives.

India's cooperation with developing countries under the ITEC programme has been an important facet of our multidimensional approach to South South cooperation. Another such model of our cooperation with the UNDP has been the IBSA Trust Fund, managed by the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in the UNDP, within which, we have already concluded several key developmental projects including rural electrification through solar energy systems in Guinea Bissau, improving the health infrastructure services for Children in Cambodia, rehabilitation of health centers in Cape Verde, beside several others in Palestine, Burundi and Lao PDR. As Chair of the IBSA Trust Fund this year, we are committed to exploring ways to further strengthen this engagement with the UNDP through innovative partnership mechanisms that facilitate development solutions for other developing countries, particularly the LDCs, and other interested developing countries. However, we encourage the UNDP to continue to harness the full potential of South-South Cooperation and would urge you, Madam Administrator, to explore ways and means to further strengthen the Special Unit for South South cooperation.

Fourth, the paradigm construct of South-South cooperation requires that developing countries have the policy space for their own development. It is distinct from that of North-South development cooperation, with the clear understanding that South-South cooperation can supplement North-South

Cooperation but cannot substitute or dilute the obligation and quantum of North-South cooperation. 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.

Fifth, as we work out the roadmap for the next strategic plan, it is indeed pertinent to frame the discussion in the context of the ongoing Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR), so that we are able to forge synergies within the overall policy framework of the UN System. However, some basic paradigm differences do remain in the contours of the development approach, which must be premised on the principle of “ No one size fits all”.

Sixth, the ongoing review of programming arrangements being carried out by UNDP, must flow from the principle that its largest recipients and beneficiaries, where development needs are critically needed and where the teeming millions of poverty struck still reside, i.e. the LDCs and the LICs, should be least impacted. If we all affirm this principle, then we would indeed be able to work out a constructive consensus and give meaningful direction to the programming arrangements for the period 2013-2017.

And finally, economic development, social inclusion of all stakeholders within a state and environmental sustainability are all equally critical as components of sustainable development. The task before us is to give practical shape and content to this architecture in a manner that allows each country to develop according to its own national priorities and circumstances.

To conclude, Madam Administrator, we look forward to the success of the India UNDP partnership that was initiated during your visit to India early this year. Let me once again reassure you of India’s strong support and steadfast commitment to UNDP.

Thank you.



646. Statement by Mr. Prakash Gupta, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of India to UN in New York, at the Session on presentation of UNFPA India Country Programme Document (2013 – 2017) during Annual Session of UNDP/ UNFPA/UNOPS Executive Board in Geneva on June 27. 2012.

Mr. President,

I would like to take the floor to thank UNFPA for the comprehensive country programme document for India 2013-2017 that has been placed before the Board today for consideration.

We value our long standing partnership with UNFPA which began in India in 1974. Within the overall UNDAF, the seventh Government of India-UNFPA country programme had provided important inputs to the 11th Five Year Plan objectives and various national policies and schemes through advocacy, expanded partnerships and the provision of technical assistance. Given this context, we value UNFPA's support to our national efforts.

We also note with appreciation the focus in this country programme to build on the national priorities articulated in the approach paper of the 12th five year plan of India. We are particularly pleased to note that UNFPA will encourage South South collaboration, including partnerships with the private sector, promote the generation and sharing of knowledge and assist in fostering innovative solutions.

As pointed out in the CPD, India is experiencing a population 'bulge' in the working age group, and in this regard there is the need to invest in the health and development of young people, in order to fully harness the benefits of this demographic dividend. We also welcome the proposal in the programme document to reduce disparities and promote inclusive development through a strategic focus on young people, especially in the five states, where its most needed, and where UNFPA is currently providing support.

As outlined in the approach paper for the 12th five year plan, the Government of India is committed to providing universal access to high quality services and is looking at doubling the expenditure dedicated to health care to 2.5% of our GDP. We are also happy to inform that school enrolment and retention rates have increased across regions and the gender gap has narrowed with more girls attending schools.

The upcoming 12th Five Year Plan Approach Paper calls for achieving "faster, sustainable and more inclusive growth" and we expect that the Government of India-UNFPA country programme of cooperation will contribute to informing policies, practices, programmes, public opinion and to strengthen national capacity to incorporate population dynamics in national plans and programmes with a focus on gender and inclusive growth.

I would like to reiterate our steadfast support to UNFPA in fulfilling our common vision and goals, as we jointly embark upon implementing this country programme. Thank you, Mr. President.



647. Statement by Ambassador M.S. Puri, Deputy Permanent Representative on Agenda item: 118, UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy Review at the 66th UNGA on June 28, 2012.

Mr. President,

I will begin by joining others in congratulating Ambassador Guillermo E. Rishchynski, distinguished Permanent Representative of Canada, for his outstanding efforts in facilitating consultations and achieving a consensus resolution on the third review of the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy (Strategy) that we are going to adopt later today at the conclusion of this debate.

We also thank the Secretary General for his report *A/66/762* on the activities and efforts of the United Nations system in implementing the Strategy.

Mr. President,

Terrorism is a global scourge. It continues to be a pervasive and insidious threat not only to international peace and security but also to the core values of the United Nations.

It is our firm conviction that no belief, justification, political cause or argument can be used to justify acts of terrorism.

We condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, irrespective of its motivations, as criminal and unjustifiable and therefore reiterate that no cause, no matter how seemingly just, can excuse terrorism.

Mr. President,

The adoption of the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy in 2006 was a landmark in the fight against terrorism. The Strategy is a unique and universally agreed strategic framework to counter terrorism and is intended to play a pivotal role in guiding counter terrorism efforts undertaken at the global, regional, sub-regional and national levels.

We support the implementation of the Strategy in a comprehensive and integrated manner in all its four pillars.

The institutionalization of the Counter Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) in 2009 and the establishment of the UN Counter-Terrorism Center (UN CCT) in 2011 within the CTITF are important steps towards strengthening UN efforts to counter terrorism by providing an umbrella under which different UN entities can effectively support the implementation of the Strategy in a coordinated and coherent manner at the global, regional and sub-regional levels.

We are confident that these will be helpful in streamlining the overall work of the UN system in countering terrorism.

As the principal responsibility for the implementation of the Strategy rests with member States, we hope that these would also provide a useful platform for practical engagement of the CTITF and the UN CCT with member states guided by their individual needs.

With a view to further enhancing transparency and synergies in the UN counter-terrorism architecture, we support consideration of UNSG's proposal on a Counter-Terrorism Coordinator in a timely manner.

Mr. President,

My own country, India, has faced the scourge of terrorism for over two-and-a-half decades.

And, indeed, our entire region, South Asia, has been wracked by the activities of the biggest terrorist actors in the world, be they Al-Qaida, elements of Taliban or Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jamat-ud Daawa and others.

Speaking at the General Debate of the 66th UN General Assembly, our Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh said that the fight against terrorism must be unrelenting and fought across all fronts with no selective approaches in dealing with terrorist groups or the infrastructure of terrorism.

Effectively combating this global scourge requires necessary political will of Member States and greater international and regional cooperation. It is imperative that terrorists and their supporters know that the international community is absolutely firm in its resolve to counter terrorism.

I should like to recall that on the 10th Anniversary of the establishment of the 1373 Committee, a Special Meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee was held on September 28, 2011 in New York. The Outcome Document adopted by the Committee approved a zero-tolerance approach towards terrorism which is now part of the UN counter-terrorism lexicon.

While combating terrorism, we need to adopt a holistic approach that ensures zero-tolerance towards terrorism.

It goes without saying and in fact it is absolutely essential that measures taken by States to combat terrorism comply with all their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law.

Mr. President,

We need to impart greater momentum to efforts in bolstering the ability of Member

States to confront this global menace through greater international and regional cooperation and capacity building efforts.

India strongly supports all efforts, especially within the purview of the United Nations that strengthen international and regional cooperation in the fight against terrorism, including efforts aimed at supporting the implementation of the Strategy. I am happy to note that this has been the focus of the third review of the Strategy.

We must also continue to strengthen the normative framework at the United Nations.

Time has come for adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism which has been pending for a long time. The comprehensiveness of implementing the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy will be enhanced with the conclusion of this Convention.

The Convention would also plug loopholes in the international legal framework that UN has developed to counter terrorism. As committed in the Strategy, Member States should make every effort to reach an agreement on the text and adopt the Convention in order to unite behind the global counter-terrorism efforts.

In conclusion, Mr. President, I wish to reassure you that India will continue to effectively contribute to UN efforts in countering terrorism and in supporting the implementation of the Strategy at the international, regional, sub-regional and national levels.

I thank you, Mr. President.



648. Statement by Mr. Prakash Gupta, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of India to UN in New York, at the Session on presentation of UNDP India Country Programme during Annual Session of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Executive Board in Geneva on June 29, 2012.

Mr. President,

I would like to take the floor to thank UNDP for the comprehensive country programme document for India 2013-2017 that has been placed before the Board today for consideration.

Within the overall UNDAF, the current Government of India-UNDP country programme provided catalytic impetus to the 11th Five Year Plan objectives and various national policies and schemes through advocacy, expanded partnerships and the provision of technical assistance. Given this context, we value UNDP's support to our national efforts.

We note with appreciation the focus in this India country programme on the four UNDAF outcomes, namely inclusive growth, governance, sustainable development and gender equality. It is also in consonance with the approach paper for the 12th Five Year Plan of the Government of India, which has also called for 'faster, sustainable and more inclusive growth.'

The CPD is focused on nine states within India where more than 65% of people below the poverty line, reside. As such, we hope that it would be able to complement Government of India's efforts in these states in the eradication of poverty. We hope that this country programme would draw upon the lessons learnt from mid term review of the previous country programme, which had pointed out the need to move towards fewer and more strategically focused areas of engagement, longer time frames to achieve results, strengthening policy advocacy, greater state engagement and field based monitoring.

We hope that the Government of India-UNDP country programme of cooperation will contribute to informing policies, practices and public opinion in advancing a stronger inclusive growth driven path and contributing to the poverty-alleviation efforts of our national government.

In our own 11th Five Year Plan, several positive developments have taken place towards fulfillment of India's commitments to inclusive growth, sustainable development and gender equality. We hope that the country programme for 2013-2017 can help complement these efforts, and we expect UNDP to continue giving support to the thirteen major flagship programmes in India through this country programme. Given the scale, reach and capacity of such programmes, Government of India is committed to contribute to the sustained achievement of key national and globally agreed development goals including the MDGs.

We also hope that UNDP would further build on 'partnerships' – as its key approach, when looking at implementing this CPD, including a constructive engagement with all key stakeholders. Such initiatives, including initiatives in South South cooperation would help to develop and sustain strategic partnerships that find innovative solutions to address gaps on both the demand and supply side of development. We also acknowledge with appreciation UNDP's emphasis to in the country programme to focus on Disaster Risk Reduction in a synergetic manner, by integrating it into the four major national flagship schemes on health, education, roads and employment. We believe that Government's efforts to improve gender equality and inclusive growth through commensurate investments is an important area for UNDP, to also contribute. These must be done within the framework of overall National policies and programmes.

I would like to reiterate our steadfast commitment to the India – UNDP strategic partnership agreement that was signed recently and we remain committed to supporting UNDP in fulfilling our shared vision for development, as we jointly embark upon implementing this country programme. Thank you, Mr. President.



649. Statement by Ambassador H.S. Puri, Permanent Representative of India to the UN on “Promoting productive capacity, employment and decent work to eradicate poverty in the context of inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth at all levels for achieving the MDGs” at the High-Level Segment of the 2012 Substantive Session of the Economic and Social Council of United Nations, on July 3, 2012.

Mr. President,

It is my pleasure to address the ECOSOC High-Level Segment. On behalf of my delegation, I extend warm congratulations on your stellar leadership in steering the work of the ECOSOC.

The theme of this year’s Ministerial Review shines the spotlight on urgent economic and social concerns that have a particular resonance in today’s turbulent economic climate. The sovereign debt crisis in the Euro Zone continues to cast its shadow on the process of economic recovery, and has further exacerbated an already serious worldwide unemployment problem.

I thank the Secretary-General for the insights offered in his reports before the Council. We concur with his recommendation that macroeconomic policies need to be realigned to give centrality to the goal of full employment. The questions of enhancing productive capacity and employment to eradicate poverty deserve the highest priority in national and international policy-making frameworks. Further, without putting developing countries, especially LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS, at the forefront of the global development agenda, we cannot realistically expect progress on the Millennium Development Goals.

Mr. President,

Current indicators present a dismal picture. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), the world is facing a serious jobs crisis with 200 million people without work, an increase of 27 million since the start of the financial crisis. In addition, many more are underemployed or in exploitative jobs, with earnings below subsistence level. 600 million jobs need to be created over the next decade to stave off the crisis – a formidable task under any circumstance. Women and young adults are the worst affected. Between 2007 and 2011, the number of unemployed young people in the 15 to 24 age bracket has increased by an unprecedented 4.5 million.

From the perspective of developing economies, the generation of productive and gainful employment on a scale that is sufficient to absorb the growing

labour force is a critical element of the strategy for poverty eradication and achieving sustainable development. Labour is the sole asset of poor people. Perversely, however, in most developing countries, this vital resource is under-utilized and under-remunerated.

The heavy reliance on agriculture, high demographic growth, significant increase in youth unemployment and the impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic on the labour force has rendered the challenge of full employment that much more difficult. Developing countries face the additional hurdle posed by different trade barriers. Such trade barriers have a deleterious effect on employment growth in developing countries. The destruction of farming livelihoods in the developing world as a result of subsidies in the developed world is a well-documented example. An early conclusion of the Doha Round so as to reflect the priorities of the Development agenda is therefore imperative.

We need to see a significant scaling up of public investment in infrastructure, technology, education, and skills development as well as social spending in order to enhance productive capacity and generate employment, particularly in the LDCs and LLDCs. Multilateral development banks, particularly the World Bank, have a role to play here in expanding lending for infrastructure development in developing countries.

Mr. President,

In India, we are conscious of the crucial role that full and productive employment plays in sustained growth and inclusive development. In the words of our Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, we believe that *'the most effective weapon against poverty is employment. And, higher economic growth is the best way to generate employment.'*

We have introduced one of the largest social security measures in history through the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. This is one of the most significant direct interventions by the State to generate employment. It makes the right to work a fundamental right by providing 100 days assured wage employment annually to every rural household. It provides a social safety net, infrastructure and access to health in rural areas. At least one-third of the beneficiaries of this programme are women. Today, this scheme reaches one out of every five households in the country.

The government is also implementing the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme to provide employment opportunities to individual entrepreneurs and self help groups, including women, in both rural and urban areas. Financial assistance is provided along with various backward and forward linkages such as entrepreneurship development training, exhibitions, marketing and awareness generation camps.

Under our National Health Insurance Scheme RSBY initiated in 2008, we are providing cashless health cover to people below the poverty line. Today the RSBY covers about 25 million workers in the unorganized sector.

We have exerted effort to scale up our skill development programmes and extend them through the length and breadth of our country. Under the National Skill Development Mission, the government takes a collaborative approach together with the private sector, technology developers, and NGOs. The target is to impart skills to 500 million youth by 2022.

This is particularly relevant in our case as India is experiencing a population 'bulge' in the working age group. India has the youngest population in the world; its median age in 2000 was less than 24 compared to 38 for Europe and 41 for Japan. The number of persons below the age of 35 years in India is about 70 percent of our total population. 225 million

Indians are between the ages of 10-19 years. Skills development and enhancing productive capacity are therefore critical. If we get it right, it could be a potential demographic dividend for us. However, if not properly addressed, we could be facing a 'demographic nightmare'.

We have enacted the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act for providing better education to our youth. We have increased public resources to our major endeavour in education - the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan which is the national policy to universalize primary education. In addition, the Prime Minister's Bharat Nirman scheme on the six critical areas of rural infrastructure is designed to enhance rural activities and generate more income and rural employment.

Mr. President,

We are meeting here less than a month after the historic Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development. Member-states individually and the international community collectively will have to show determined and bold action to pursue the ambitious agenda on poverty eradication and sustainable development set by our leaders in Rio. It is abundantly clear that we cannot afford the luxury of a business as usual approach.

Overcoming the challenges of global unemployment is a pre-requisite to banish poverty and achieve the MDGs. We must take concerted action to create an enabling environment at the international and national level for promoting full employment while improving productive capacity.

I thank you, Mr. President.



650. Statement by India on Kenya's National Voluntary Presentation at the High-Level Segment of the 2012 Substantive Session of the Economic and Social Council of United Nations, on July 3, 2012.

Mr. President,

I thank you for this opportunity to make a few brief observations on the national voluntary presentation of Kenya.

I would also like to thank the distinguished representative of Kenya for his insightful and comprehensive presentation.

It is clear that Kenya has laid down a strong policy framework for accelerated economic growth and development. The Kenya Constitution 2010 and the Kenya Vision 2030 orient its efforts in a forward-looking and positive direction.

India would like to commend the broad array of initiatives Kenya has unleashed for generating employment opportunities and promoting productive capacity. It reflects Kenya's strong commitment to eradicate poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

While noting the impressive strides made by Kenya to propel its development agenda, the presentation today does not shy away from clearly portraying the scope of the country's development challenge. As in many other developing countries, poverty and high unemployment rates remain amongst the most persistent problems for Kenya.

We in India are familiar with the development challenges facing Kenya. We further share commonalities in our strategies to overcome them. The emphasis on devolved funds resonates with us as we have a similarly decentralized approach that initiates development interventions at the grassroots level so as to empower citizens in their own development and growth. Similarly, we share the emphasis on investment in education, vocational skills training, women's empowerment, micro and small-scale enterprises.

Mr. President,

The presentation also drew attention to the kind of gaps that exist between the need for resources and their availability. In doing so, it offered a roadmap for the involvement of the international community in terms of technical and financial assistance. We have noted that Kenya is soon drawing up an external resources policy that will provide a framework for mobilizing and utilizing external resources

India stands ready to further strengthen our robust development and trade partnership with Kenya. As one of the first countries in Africa where India

established a diplomatic mission after independence, we have a special engagement with Kenya, which has stood the test of time.

We would encourage the international community to provide full support to Kenya's development efforts in employment generation, productive capacity and poverty eradication, firmly aligned with its national priorities and policies.

Mr. President,

We would be interested to hear more from Kenya about the kind of support it expects from its international partners in terms of the specific thrust areas and the nature of involvement. We also look forward to hearing about its plans for improving agricultural productivity given the role of rural employment in the overall economy. It will further be of interest to hear from Kenya's experience of the kind of strategies that have worked so far in employment generation and strengthening productive capacity and those that have not quite had the desired impact.

In concluding, I express the hope that the United Nations will facilitate in disseminating Kenya's experiences across the world. It has lessons and best practices to share from its efforts, which we feel will be of value for other countries.

I thank you.



651. Statement by Ms. Namgya Khampa, First Secretary, at the Operational Activities Segment of ECOSOC in New York on July 17, 2012.

Mr. President,

At the outset, my delegation would like to thank the Secretariat for the comprehensive documentation prepared for this segment.

India aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Algeria on behalf of the G-77 and China.

The Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development has just a few weeks ago handed to us “the future we want” and laid out the roadmap to realize it. As we set out on this roadmap and deliberate on how to impart substance to the QCPR process, my delegation would like to submit the following:

First, for UN development system to be successful globally, it needs to respond to the greatest challenge confronting developing countries, namely, poverty. Those living at the subsistence level cannot bear the costs of adjustment and their livelihood considerations are important in determining how scarce natural resources such as land, water and forests are used. For developing countries, inclusive growth and a rapid increase in per capita income levels are critical development imperatives. It is therefore our considered conviction that poverty eradication should be at the heart of UN's operational activities for development, as its primary objective.

Second, the centrality of gender equality and women's empowerment in development should find full reflection in the QCPR process. We must seize the opportunity provided by the QCPR to facilitate a policy framework that accelerates the realization of the twin goals of gender equality and women's empowerment.

Third, 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 design programming activities that are harmonised with the budgetary and planning cycles of recipient Governments. The UN operational activities should feed into national development plans. The fundamental principles of national ownership and leadership, and deference to national development priorities must be the pivots around which UN development interventions are modeled and implemented.

Fourth, financing for development is coming under increasingly acute pressure. The present global economic slowdown has adversely impacted plans of national governments in developing countries to even consider scaling up developmental financing. And the diminishing quantity of finance available for developing

countries, remains a central challenge for the attainment of Internationally Agreed Development Goals, including the MDGs. 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 flows, by facilitating transfer of and access to advanced technologies by developing countries, and by expanded and innovative financing of development activities.

Fifth, even though 'South South Cooperation' continues to be the buzzword in the development discourse, much more remains to be done to give it the 'muscle' it needs from the UN system. South-South cooperation is distinct from North-South development cooperation. It supplements but cannot substitute or dilute the obligation and quantum of North-South cooperation.

And finally, while we plan for the post 2015 development agenda, we should look at strengthening institutional capacity building in developing countries as a key focus area of UN operational activity. In order to be a real 'force multiplier', the operational activities of the UN development system should foster national and local capacities, strengthen networks for sharing of knowledge and best practices, and promote national ownership by building institutional capacities in developing countries.

My delegation further believes that the thrust of the international development effort should be directed towards the neediest countries, where the most vulnerable reside. It is a strategic choice and investment that should be made and sustained by all stakeholders.

In concluding, Mr. President, let me once again reassure you of India's strong support and steadfast commitment to continue sharing our development experience and expertise with our fellow developing countries.

I thank you.



652. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative in Explanation of Vote after the vote on the General Assembly Resolution on Syria on August 03, 2012.

Thank you, Mr President, for giving me the floor.

2. Since the last meeting of the General Assembly on this agenda item, the situation in Syria has steadily deteriorated. Neither side has implemented its obligations under the six-point plan of Joint Special Envoy Kofi Annan, which was endorsed by Security Council resolutions 2042 and 2043. The conflict has got increasingly more militarized and a number of terrorist acts have been committed against state institutions and public infrastructure. There have been gross violations of human rights by all sides. The humanitarian situation has also become dire, and more than two million Syrians are said to be in need of humanitarian assistance. Unfortunately, the Syrian parties, instead of seriously commencing a Syrian-led political process, have pursued a military approach to realize their objectives.

3. We strongly condemn all violence and violations of human rights irrespective of who their perpetrators are. We also condemn in the strongest terms possible the terrorist acts that have been and continue to be committed in Syria. We call upon all parties to dissociate themselves from terrorist groups and ensure that no space is provided for those groups.

4. Mr President, under the prevailing circumstances in Syria, there is an urgent need for the international community to close ranks and send a united message to the Syrian parties to walk back from their military approach and resolve the crisis through an inclusive Syrian-led political process. There is no other way to bring about a sustained cessation of violence in all its forms by all parties. This is also the only way to end human rights violations and create an atmosphere for safe and unhindered delivery of urgently needed humanitarian assistance.

5. Mr. President, we have consistently called for international efforts to assist the Syrian parties to resolve the crisis and bring about peace through dialogue and political processes. Accordingly, we have strongly supported the efforts of Joint Special Envoy Kofi Annan. Even though Mr Annan has resigned, it is important to note that his efforts have put in place a set of valuable documents, which, if implemented, can facilitate a political resolution of the Syrian crisis without any further bloodshed.

6. In order to assist the Syrian parties change their course and address the crisis through political dialogue, it is important that all parties, inside and outside Syria, fully abide by their obligations under resolutions 2042 and 2043. The

parties must be prevailed upon to implement the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and the Final Communiqué issued at Geneva on 30 June, which have been accepted by the Government of Syria.

7. Mr President, India firmly believes that it is critical for the United Nations to remain strongly involved with the Syrian parties and other actors in the search for a way forward. Unilateral action of any kind will not resolve the crisis. It will only exacerbate the problem and cause greater instability and violence. We also believe that the leadership of Syria is for Syrians to decide through a democratic process. The task of the international community, anchored in the United Nations, is to assist the Syrian parties in this process.

8. Mr President, the resolution that the General Assembly has adopted today makes specific reference to the decision of the League of Arab States of 22 July 2012. Though we do not hold any brief for any particular Syrian leader, we cannot welcome the League of Arab States resolution of 22 July 2012, which openly called for President Assad to step down from power and for other UN members to sever diplomatic relations and contacts with Syria. It is unfortunate that this element of the present resolution was not removed, and hence we have abstained from the resolution today.

I thank you.



653. Statement by Mr. Amit Kumar, Counsellor, at the Third Session of the Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing on August 21, 2012.

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to first congratulate you on your re-election as the Chairman for the third session of the Open-Ended Working Group on Aging. We look forward to constructive deliberations under your guidance.

As several delegations have pointed before us, the population of the elderly has been increasing globally, and is projected to increase at a significant rate in the future.

This has been a consequence of increased life expectancy, advancement in technology and health systems, and rural migration and increasing urbanization.

These trends have presented significant challenges to policy makers that need to be addressed in a systematic and consistent manner. We are grappling with similar challenges in India as well.

Mr. Chairman,

To address the issues relating to aging, the Government of India has taken a number of steps over the past decade.

In 1999, we first developed a National Policy on Older Persons. This policy mandated State support to ensure financial and food security, health care, shelter and other needs of older persons, equitable share in development, protection against abuse and exploitation, and availability of services to improve the quality of their lives.

The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act enacted in 2007 strengthened the legislative framework in this important area.

As per the national census, the number of 60+ citizens increased from 77 million in 2001 accounting for 7.5% population to 98.5 million in 2011 accounting for 8.3% population. These figures are projected to increase to 173.2 million by 2026 accounting for 12.4% population in India. Accordingly a need was felt to draft a new National Policy on Senior Citizens.

A new draft was prepared in 2011 and posted on the website of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The draft policy is being finalized in consultation with State Governments and other stake holders.

Mr. Chairman,

Our approach has been underpinned by a multi-stakeholder approach to enable elderly persons to lead productive lives. This approach recognises and factors

in the need for encouraging individuals to make provision for their own as well as their spouse's old age as well as encouraging families to take care of their older family members. It also involves cooperation with voluntary and non-governmental organizations to supplement the care provided by the family; providing care and protection to the vulnerable elderly people including legal services; providing adequate healthcare facility; promoting research and training facilities to train geriatric care givers and creating awareness about this issue.

The Government also extends financial assistance for setting up of old age homes, day care centres and mobile medical units; counselling units; regional resource and training centres; and training of caregivers; and formation of senior citizens associations.

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has also taken the lead on many important programs, laying emphasis on an integrated scheme for pensions, simpler access to retirement benefits, easier and transparent access to health insurance schemes, travel concessions, extra interest on savings and income tax benefits, etc.

Mr. Chairman,

While the government has taken several important steps, a lot more clearly needs to be done given the scale of the issue. Our approach so far has been sensitive to developments such as the decline of the traditional joint family system in caring for the elderly, the problems faced by elderly women and the rural population, and the recognition that the elderly can contribute beyond a retirement age to their place of work and their communities.

Mr. Chairman,

As a signatory to the Madrid International Plan of Action on Aging, we are committed to take steps that meet the standards of action upheld in the international plan, and are permitted by the economic capacities of the country.

We recognize the scope of the problem, and appreciate this platform to discuss and act as a global community. We consider it important to continue our national efforts, and to strengthen our endeavours as a global community to ensure the welfare and dignity of the elderly, including through respect and promotion of the rights of the older persons, and addressing implementation gaps.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



654. Statement by Mr. Vipul, Counsellor [Disarmament] Permanent Mission of India, to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva at the Second Review Conference of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its Aspects, at New York, on August 29, 2012.

Madam President,

Please accept felicitations from the Indian delegation on your election as the Chair of the Second Review Conference of the UNPOA. We would also like to congratulate other members of the Bureau on their elections. We appreciate the transparent and inclusive manner in which you have undertaken the preparations for this Conference, including at the Preparatory Committee meeting in March this year, and assure you of our full cooperation for a successful outcome.

India associates itself with the statement delivered by Indonesia on behalf of NAM.

Madam President,

India attaches high importance to the UN Programme of Action as the cornerstone of multilateral efforts to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. As with many other States, India's national security has been adversely affected by terrorism, transnational organised crime, drug trafficking, piracy and illegal exploitation of natural resources, in all of which illicit trade in SALW plays a crucial role. The full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action is therefore a priority for India, especially as a means for combating terrorism and transnational crime. As such this Review Conference which is mandated to review the implementation of the Programme of Action assumes great significance.

It is evident that Member States have made progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action over the past decade. However, it is also true that much remains to be done. Despite the efforts of responsible States and international organizations, small arms, light weapons, ammunition and explosives continue to move illicitly across borders. It is therefore imperative to further strengthen the implementation of the Programme of Action in an inclusive and consensus based manner. In this regard, India welcomes the return of consensus to the POA process as evidenced by the successful holding of the 4th BMS in June 2010, the first Meeting of Governmental Experts in May 2011 and the Preparatory Committee for the Review Conference in March 2012. We hope that a consensus-based approach will mark this Conference as well as follow-up meetings of POA.

Madam President,

India has a robust legislative and administrative mechanism to combat and eradicate the menace of illicit small arms and light weapons. The details of the steps taken by India for implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument can be found in our national reports. We welcome the efforts towards standardization of the reporting format and the online 2 reporting tool introduced from this year. We used the online reporting tool to submit our national report this year.

As a country with more than 15,000 kilometres of land borders with seven neighbours and a coastline of more than 7500 kilometres, border management is a significant challenge for India. A principal objective of India's border management policy is to secure our long borders against illicit trade and other threats while facilitating legitimate trade, commerce and people-to-people links. The Ministry of Home Affairs of the Government of India has set up a Department of Border Management to focus attention on issues related to proper management of borders and strengthening institutional coordination and implementation. As a preventive measure against smuggling of illegal arms through ports, container scanning systems are being installed at our major ports. We have established productive bilateral and multilateral avenues of cooperation in controlling illicit trading of small arms and light weapons.

India had the honour to Chair the GGE whose recommendations led an Open-Ended Working Group to negotiate International Tracing Instrument. India's national report on UNPOA implementation includes information on ITI implementation as well including our marking and record keeping practices. We believe that full implementation of the ITI will go a long way in tackling illicit trade in SALWs, international terrorism and transnational crimes. The ITI recognised the interconnected nature of marking, record keeping and international cooperation. These are the three pillars of successful tracing of illicit SALWs. We encourage full reporting on the implementation of the ITI by Member States as part of their national reports.

Madam President,

Let me now turn to our expectations from this Review Conference. We believe that the Review Conference provides Member States a valuable opportunity to reaffirm the obligations stipulated in the Programme of Action and to reiterate the commitment of States to implement them. It is also an occasion to comprehensively review the progress in implementation of the Programme of Action so as to identify gaps in implementation of the Programme by States and suggest concrete measures which need to be undertaken to fully implement the Programme.

As Member States we should commit to making further substantive progress in the implementation of the Programme by the Third Review Conference. In doing so, we should strive to keep the language in our outcome document(s) consistent with the objective of the Programme of Action i.e. to prevent, combat and eradicate illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. The Review Conference should also indicate the way ahead on strengthening international cooperation and assistance for enabling States which lack the capacity and seek international assistance to implement the Programme. 3 With regard to the next inter-sessional programme of meetings of the POA, we believe that the distinct but related nature of Review Conferences, BMS meetings and expert group meetings should be maintained. Issues that require further work to strengthen the political understanding on their implementation can be tackled at a BMS meeting. The Meeting of Governmental Experts can focus on practical issues that are relevant for implementation at the national, regional and international levels. Proliferation of reports and meetings and indeed new mechanisms or burdening the POA with timelines and targets should be avoided. Instead, existing follow-up mechanisms should be reinforced and related clearly to the core obligations of the POA.

The areas selected for focussed attention in the next cycle should reflect a good balance among priorities of different groups of member states and regions. The selection of some subjects for in-depth consideration in the next cycle should not lead to overlooking the challenges in implementation in other areas. For instance, significant gaps remain in the areas of national controls, international cooperation in combating illicit transfers, transfers to non-state actors etc. There is a need to continue to address these issues in the POA framework.

In terms of our work in the next two weeks, we believe that the preparations you have undertaken for the Conference stands us in good stead. The informal consultations on the four zero drafts presented by you under your own responsibility have indicated the priorities and concerns of various delegations. We believe that they are a good basis on which the outcome of this Review Conference could be arrived at following negotiations in the next two weeks.

Madam President,

In conclusion, let me reiterate the importance we attach to the POA as the main international framework to deal with the issue of illicit trade in SALW. We hope that this Review Conference would be able to preserve the consensus driven nature of the POA process and make concrete suggestions for progress in POA implementation. India stands ready to contribute to a successful outcome of the Conference.

Thank you.



655. Remarks by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative at an Informal Interactive Dialogue on the Report of the Secretary General on Responsibility to Protect: Timely and Decisive Action on September 05, 2012.

Thank you,

At the outset, let me thank the President of the General Assembly for organizing this interactive dialogue on the report of the Secretary General on the "Responsibility to Protect: Timely and decisive action". I would also like to thank the Secretary General for his statement as well as the five panelists. I hope that today's discussion will contribute meaningfully in further clarifying the true ambit and scope of R2P, especially in view of the Libya experience.

2. It merits repetition that almost all aspects of resolution 1973, namely pursuit of ceasefire, arms embargo, and no-fly zone, were violated not to protect civilians because the regime had long back lost its fighting capability but to change the regime. It is the pursuit of the objective of regime change that generated a great deal of unease among a number of us who support action by the international community, anchored in the United Nations, to implement the provisions contained in paragraphs 138 and 139 of the World Summit Outcome Document.

3. It is also worth recalling that the principle of R2P in the World Summit Outcome Document had grown from the troubled conscience of the international community following genocide and ethnic cleansing witnessed in Rwanda and Srebrenica in the 1990's. In both these places, it was not the lack of advance information, but perhaps of will, that the important members of the international community decided not to act. And when they chose to do so in Libya, it was in the fulfillment of a larger objective.

4. Mr. President, we must consider all these situations in which the international community acted and those in which it did not to make a consensual understanding of when and how to implement Pillar III of the concept of R2P. Before I comment on the Secretary General's report, let me emphasize three very fundamental aspects of this concept:

- i. First, the R2P cannot be used to address all social evils, including violations of human rights and humanitarian law. Rather it must only be confined to the four identified crimes, i.e., genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity;
- ii. Second, the default response of the international community cannot be coercive measures under Chapter VII of the Charter; and iii. Third, in reality the R2P cannot be seen as a pretext for humanitarian intervention, a

concept riddled with inconsistencies and driven by selfish motives on the part of the developed nations. R2P cannot turn out to be a tool legitimizing big power intervention on the pretext of protecting populations from the violations of human rights and humanitarian law. It cannot be seen as codifying a system of coercion, providing a tool in the hands of powerful governments to judge weaker states, and encourage regime change primarily on political considerations.

5. As I have reiterated on many occasions, there can be little disagreement on Pillars I and II. The real problem lies with the interpretation and application of Pillar III: the responsibility of the international community to step in when a State manifestly fails to meet its responsibility to protect its population from these four crimes. The Secretary General's report clearly acknowledges that controversy still persists on aspects of implementation, in particular with respect to the use of coercive measures to protect population.
6. As is clear from the language of Pillar III, it does not envisage application of coercive measures alone, let alone the use of military force. Rather, as the report rightly points out, a range of non-coercive measures is to be adopted under Chapter VI and VIII of the Charter. Resort to Chapter VII, particularly Articles 41 and 42, could be taken only after serious and genuine efforts at the pacific settlement have failed. Even while applying Chapter VII, the use of force should be considered as a measure of last resort. And unilateral action of any kind, let alone the unilateral use of force, is nowhere sanctioned.
7. The report argues that neither the three pillars can be treated as standalone options, nor can they be sequenced. In our view, the three pillars cannot be mixed, and the support aspect, including the capacity building under Pillar II, should take precedence over the response aspect under Pillar III.
8. Mr. President, in my view, the R2P should start with an early political engagement with the parties concerned. Any specific needs of the state concerned should be given due consideration and support. Sufficient time should be allowed to see that the non-coercive measures employed are bringing desired results. It is only when an honest and serious attempt at pacific settlement fails that the international community, acting under the United Nations, should respond with coercive measures. And the response should again be calibrated and gradual, rather than immediate recourse to Article 42.
9. Armed intervention should be a measure of last resort when everything else has failed. Selectivity must be avoided at all cost and the principle must be applied uniformly to all parties to a conflict. Most importantly, whenever the use of all necessary means is authorized, there must be provisions in the resolution for monitoring and reporting mechanisms so that the principles of neutrality,

impartiality and proportionality is ensured. In this context, responsibility while protecting (RwP), as proposed by Brazil, is equally important. If R2P is to regain the respect of the international community, it has to be anchored in the concept of RwP.

10. I would also like to touch upon another aspect of the report. In many places the report refers to the responsibility of protecting populations from crimes **and violations** related to R2P. This change in phraseology is not appropriate. There are four crimes clearly identified under R2P in the World Summit Outcome Document, which have also been reaffirmed by Security Council resolution 1674. This normative framework cannot be changed at the Secretariat's sweet will.

11. In conclusion Mr. President, the time has now come to look at both sides of the coin. The responsibility of each state to protect its population from the four crimes is accepted in the World Summit Outcome Document. At the same time, greater focus and further understanding is required on the manner in which R2P can be implemented, especially its Pillar III. A non-judicious application of Pillar III would risk R2P being applied selectively and in an arbitrary manner for extraneous reasons to achieve certain political objectives. The international community also cannot ignore the responsibility of those authorized to protect while they implement the authorization.

12. Finally, the implementation of R2P requires an effective discharge of responsibility and obligations by States under the UN Charter in a balanced and impartial manner. This, of course, requires reform of the Security Council so that it takes into account the contemporary realities.

I thank you.



656. Statement by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Deputy Permanent Representative, at The Second Regular Session of Executive Board of Undp/Unfpa/Unops on September 05, 2012.

Mr. President, let me start by complementing you for your committed leadership in steering the discussions on the programming arrangements in a most purposeful and constructive manner.

I would also like to thank Administrator Ms Helen Clark for her informative statement and providing perspectives on UNDP's development agenda, and the upcoming QCPR process.

As a country that has one of the longest relationships with UNDP and is the biggest contributor to its core budget among developing countries, we have an abiding interest in UNDP's contribution and efforts on the global development agenda. I am also happy that just some weeks back, thanks to the active interest of the Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau, the Government of India and UNDP announced a new partnership to establish an International Centre for Human Development in India..

In so far as the current session of the Board is concerned, please allow me to flag three key issues of interest to us as regards programming arrangements for the period 2014-17.

The **first** is to ensure that the outcome of the current discussions remains guided by the objective of poverty eradication, which is the overriding priority of developing countries. In order to give meaningful direction to the programming arrangements for the period 2014-2017, it is imperative that UNDP resources are directed to where the need for poverty eradication is greatest, and brings benefit to the largest number of those stuck in poverty.

Second, the proposal for using 'averaging in conjunction with mid term review' should use the four year averaging concept given that we are covering a four year programming period. We are glad that this view, which is shared by all of us in the Asia-Pacific group, has now also been recommended by the Secretariat to the Board.

Third, per-capita GNI along with size of populations in each country, should have its foremost salience in determining country specific allocations, i.e. the lower the level of GNI per capita and the higher a country's population, it should continue to get a higher allocation, which must remain focused on poverty eradication and core development imperatives in the area of nutrition, health and education, which incidentally, is also one of the nine established focussed outcomes for UNDP. Our delegation would also like to know in this regard the respective weightage given to the four concepts that are factored in while making country specific allocations.

Mr. President, we must also acknowledge that we are still in a time of an unresolved global economic crisis and political uncertainty in the world. At the recent Rio+20 Summit on Sustainable Development we agreed on “the future we want” and a roadmap, but nothing, by way of means for developing countries to realize the future that they want. As we discuss the roadmap for the next strategic plan and decide on the direction that the UN development agenda should take for the next four years, as part of the QCPR process, we would urge the following :

One, the DP in UNDP should now really become ‘decimating poverty’.

Two, strengthening institutional capacity building in developing countries be made another core focus area of UNDP. 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. My delegation believes that by virtue of its unique position as the largest development arm of the UN system, UNDP can become a ‘force multiplier’ by fostering national and local capacities, strengthening networks for sharing of knowledge and best practices, promoting national ownership, and by building institutional capacities in developing countries.

Three, it is also pertinent to frame the discussion in the QCPR process by forging synergies and strengthening partnerships within the overall policy framework of the UN System while recognizing that “ no one size fits all”.

Mr. President, South South Cooperation’ is being singled out as a new buzzword in the narrative of the developmental discourse for developing countries, however, much more remains to be done to give it the ‘muscle’ it needs from the UN system. For this, the first thing to do is to let it proceed and grow on the basis of its unique characteristics of national ownership and mutually agreed terms. Looking at South-South cooperation as either permitting a dilution or substituting for North-South aid would only serve to shackle it to the detriment of developing countries.

To conclude, Mr President and Madam Administrator, this Board Session, given its agenda, is an important and timely opportunity not just for stock taking but also to constructively contribute to UN’s development agenda. Our suggestions have been made in this spirit and I hope will find resonance in the UNDP community. As Chair of the IBSA Trust Fund for this year, please allow me also to express our thanks to the UNDP and the South Unit for all the support and assistance extended to our three countries in our endeavors to work with the UN on South-South cooperation projects in developing countries across the globe.

Thank you.



657. Statement by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Deputy Permanent Representative of India to un at the Second Regular Session of Executive Board of Unicef on September 11, 2012.

Mr. President, let me take this opportunity to complement you for your committed leadership in steering the discussions at the helm of this Executive Board, in a most purposeful and constructive manner.

Allow me to express my felicitations to the Executive Director Anthony Lake for an extremely informative statement. The Executive Board Meeting is very timely and important as it provides an opportunity to reaffirm our collective commitment to fulfill the hopes and aspirations of children all over the world.

Mr President, India is a country with home to the largest number of children in the world. And each of these children, epitomises to us, the potential of our nation. It is with this considered conviction that we place the highest importance in investing in them to the best of our abilities and resources, in their well being, their health, education, all round growth and in ensuring that they develop to their fullest potential.

In UNICEF, our Government has found a most reliable and trusted partner to take our initiatives jointly forward. My delegation compliments UNICEF for its initiative "Child Survival - Call for Action" and we remain committed to its success. We also welcome the focus of UNICEF to place children at the heart of sustainable development, especially by focussing on initiatives in primary education, early childhood care and child nutrition.

Government of India and UNICEF are also in the process of finalizing the next country programme action plan (CPAP) for 2013-17 based on the approval of the draft Country Programme Document (CPD) by the Executive Board at the Annual Session earlier in June 2012. We hope that the next phase of programme cooperation with UNICEF will contribute to informing policies and programmes to meaningfully advance the rights of children and adolescents in India. We are committed to pursuing stronger child-centered social policies and placing children at the centre of planning, governance and poverty-alleviation efforts of the Government.

We also note with appreciation the proactive engagement in multi stakeholder partnerships and coordination mechanisms undertaken by UNICEF to promote children's issues in the development agenda. In collective partnerships with our Government, civil society and private sector, UNICEF has successfully reached out to more than 85 million women in India with integrated health, nutrition and WASH (water sanitation and hygiene) interventions. Our efforts to improve the early childhood care and education (ECCE) outcomes through commensurate

investments, is an important area where, we believe, UNICEF can continue to contribute with the requisite technical assistance.

Government of India is also in the process of launching a strengthened and restructured Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Programme with enhanced budgetary allocations with a key focus to accelerate the early childhood development outcomes including the nutrition outcomes. We believe that UNICEF can play a significant role in enhancing the effectiveness of the programmes of Government by providing systematic analytical, technical and strategic supports at the critical levels of programme implementation.

Mr President, before I conclude, allow me to also reflect on some key issues in the development agenda of UN's discourse that we would like to flag for the consideration of the Board:

First, it is pertinent to frame the discussion in the QCPR process by forging synergies and strengthening partnerships within the overall policy framework of the UN System. However, some basic paradigm differences do remain in the contours of the development approach, which must be premised on the principle of "No one size fits all".

Second, poverty eradication still remains the over-riding priority for developing countries, and therefore within the QCPR process, we also need to place this recognition right upfront, that poverty eradication should continue to be the primary focus of UN's development agenda even for the next four years, as we still have a large majority of the global population struggling to survive in abject levels of poverty and deprivation.

Third, within UNICEF, we need to leverage the success stories from South South cooperation framework to the benefit of children, especially in the South, where they need it the most. One facet of India's joint initiative with countries of the South, has been along with Brazil and South Africa, in the form of the IBSA Trust Fund, under which we have already implemented some projects with a special focus on children, include a construction of a Hospital for Children with special needs in Cambodia and delivery of safe drinking water in Cape Verde.

Also, UNICEF country teams, while implementing country programmes must also aim to address the national priorities and attempt to harmonise the goals of UNICEF with the national governments so that it does result in stronger national ownership and increased alignment with the UN system.

To conclude, Mr President, my Government remains committed to ensuring the success of UNICEF in achieving the hopes and aspirations of children all over the world, for in their success lies the future of our nations.

Thank You.



658. Statement by Ms. Nidhi Khare, Director, Department of Disability Affairs, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, during the general debate at the Fifth Conference of State Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on September 13, 2012

Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for chairing these discussions of the fifth conference of states parties to the CRPD. I am confident that the discussions today and subsequent panel discussions will contribute to better understanding of the challenges before us.

Mr. Chairman,

The theme of this conference is particularly relevant, focusing on women and children, as challenges faced by them due to disability are often further compounded for them.

Our discussions here help refocus attention to this aspect that requires a coordinated response not only among different government departments but also among relevant stakeholders.

Mr. Chairman,

The Government of India had early on recognized the need for specific policy intervention to support disabled people. Our legislative framework is anchored in the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act passed in the year 1995, before the Convention was drafted.

The Act recognized that persons with disabilities are a valuable human resource and seeks to create an enabling environment that provides them with equal opportunities, protection of their rights and full participation in society, including in areas of education and employment. The nodal Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment works with several ministries to coordinate and implement programs and schemes in the areas of health, education and employment. 1
Mr. Chairman,

This legislation was supplemented by the National Policy for Persons with Disabilities announced in 2006. This policy in fact specifically focuses on issues concerning women and children with disabilities.

Another Act - the National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disability Act was passed in 1999. This Act laid out provisions for legal guardianship of the four categories of the persons with disabilities and for the creation of an enabling environment for them. This Act is also undergoing revision in light of the provisions of the UNCRPD.

In 2010, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment constituted a Committee to harmonise the existing legislation with the provisions of the CRPD. This Committee submitted its recommendations on a revised draft Bill to the Ministry in June 2011. This is presently undergoing consultations among all stakeholders, particularly the States, in whose domain "disability" figures under the Constitution of the country.

Mr. Chairman,

The Government has instituted a scheme of National Awards for empowerment of persons with disabilities as also to encourage others for creating a barrier free environment for the persons with disabilities. Special focus is paid on achievements of, and initiatives pertaining to women with disabilities, particularly those from the rural areas and self-employed women.

The National Plan of Action for Children, 2005 seeks to ensure the right to survival, care, protection and security for all the children with disabilities. The Right to Education Act, 2009 mandates for free and compulsory elementary education to all children with special needs up to the age of 18 years. The Copyright Act has also been suitably amended to facilitate access to students with disabilities.

Mr. Chairman,

The Government has established seven National Institutes (NIs) dealing with different types on disabilities and seven Composite Regional Centers (CRCs) to promote research and conduct training for delivery of services to disabled persons.

The Government also funds a large number of NGOs providing disability services, and has established a National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) which provides loans at concessional rates to persons with disabilities for self-employment. 2

Mr. Chairman,

With a view to further improve implementation of government policies, the Government decided, in principle, in January 2012 to convert the 'Disability Division' of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment into a separate Department for more effective liaising with the concerned Ministries/Departments and fulfilment of its responsibilities towards the disabled.

Mr. Chairman,

The Constitution of India ensures equality, freedom, justice and dignity of all individuals and mandates an inclusive society for all, including the persons with

disabilities. We remain committed to building an enabling environment so that all persons with disabilities, including women and children, are able to enjoy their rights and realise their full potential.



659. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, at The High Level Meeting on “The Rule of Law at the National and International Levels” at the Sixty-seventh Session of the United Nations General Assembly, On September 24, 2012.

Mr. President,

First of all allow me to congratulate you on assuming the Presidency of the Sixty- Seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly. I assure you of full cooperation of the Indian delegation in the conduct of the session.

Mr. President,

We recall the wisdom of world leaders who, in the 2005 World Summit, recognized the need for universal adherence to and implementation of the rule of law at the national and international levels, following which, this topic remains on the agenda of the Sixth Committee (Legal) of the General Assembly since 2006.

The General Assembly decided, in resolution A/66/102 of 9 December 2011, to convene a High-Level Meeting on “The Rule of Law at the National and International Levels” on today the 24th of September 2012, and accordingly, we avail this opportunity to express views on this important subject.

Mr. President,

We thank the Co-facilitators, Ambassador Luis Alfonso de Alba of Mexico and Ambassador Carsten Staur of Denmark for their efforts in the process of preparing the outcome document of the High-Level Meeting. We congratulate the Co-facilitators, member States, and other stakeholders, whose active involvement in negotiations led to the finalization of the outcome document. It reaffirms commitment of the international community towards the rule of law and adhering for that purpose to the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law. The document takes stock of the contemporary political, social and economic conditions and stresses upon the implementation of the rule of law related principles in order to achieve the objective of the maintenance of international peace and security, peaceful co-existence and development. The document stresses the importance of continuing efforts to reform the Security Council. We consider it essential to reform the Security Council at the earliest possible in order to make it broadly representative, efficient and transparent.

We thank the Secretary-General for his report (A/66/749) of 16 March 2012, prepared to help Member States in preparation for this high-level meeting. We also recognize the continued work of the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group and the Rule of Law Unit in this endeavor.

Mr. President,

We believe that the rule of law is essential for and central to all. We consider that the law making activity at the national level is exclusively the domain of the national legislature. The States, while enacting their laws, owe the responsibility to focus on the protection and welfare of their population and the economic, social and cultural conditions. India believes that advancement of the rule of law at the national level is an essential tool for the protection of democracy, economic growth, sustainable development, ensuring gender justice, eradication of poverty and hunger and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Mr. President,

We strongly believe in the peaceful handling of any conflict situation in accordance with the applicable legal principles by avoiding any unauthorized intervention in a State's internal affairs.

We strongly condemn the acts of terrorism wherever, whenever and by whomever committed, which pose a great threat to international peace and security. We stress for collective action in fight against terrorism. We consider it important for the member states to effectively implement the international legal instruments to which they are a party.

Mr. President,

Peaceful settlement of disputes is the key factor in the maintenance of international peace and security and in the promotion of the rule of law. In this regard, we recognize the role of the International court of Justice and other international tribunals. The theme of the general-debate of the current session i.e., the "adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations by peaceful means" becomes more appropriate in the wake of the high-level meeting on the rule of law. We also recognize the role of the International Law Commission, as the highest body, in the progressive development of international law and its codification.

Finally, India reiterates the call for strengthening the capacity of States, especially the developing and the least developed States, in order to enable them to carry out the rule of law related activities and to fulfill their obligations. The rule of law assistance needs to be in line with national priorities of the recipient countries in order to ensure proper utilization and the benefit thereof.

I thank you, Mr. President.



660. Statement by Ambassador Navtej Sarna, Additional Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, at the Special Ministerial Meeting of ECOSOC on September 24, 2012.

Mr. President,

I thank you for organizing this Special Ministerial meeting of the ECOSOC.

We are witnessing unprecedented and daunting economic, social and development challenges. Globalisation has magnified their impact on countries and communities further.

The global economic crisis continues to be a matter of deep concern. Poverty, unemployment, food and energy insecurity and environmental degradation further compound our problems. These are issues that require a coordinated and coherent global response.

In such a situation, the role of ECOSOC in responding effectively to new and emerging challenges assumes far greater salience. It is a principal body of the UN for policy review and dialogue on social-economic issues.

Over the years, this Council has played an important role in advancing a holistic and coordinated approach to global economic and social development taking into account the inter-relatedness of the different goals and targets of major UN conferences. It is also the central mechanism of the UN for the coordination of the United Nations system and supervision of its subsidiary bodies.

Mr. President,

The Rio+20 Conference has laid out a comprehensive sustainable development agenda. We must now get down to its implementation.

The Rio+20 outcome envisages a key role for ECOSOC in achieving a balanced integration of the three dimensions of the sustainable development.

We must work to strengthen the ECOSOC as provided by the RIO Outcome for integrated and coordinated follow up on all the major UN Conferences and Summits in the economic, social and environmental fields.

However, for this to happen, reform of the working methods and agenda of the ECOSOC is most essential. The Council must undertake concrete steps to avoid duplication of work with other organs of the UN, streamline its oversight responsibilities, and impart cohesion and transparency in the functioning of its committees. In this regard, we look forward to the review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Council.

The reform is equally critical for achieving the Millennium Development Goals

by 2015 and developing a comprehensive Post 2015 Development Agenda, one that truly encompasses the overriding priority of developing countries to meet their basic socio-economic needs.

The Council has done a commendable job in following up on the MDGs. It must now leverage its coordination expertise and prepare itself to work closely with the proposed High Level Political Forum for follow up on the sustainable development goals.

Mr. President,

Addressing the deficit in global governance lies at the centre of the sustainable development agenda. This must be a priority on the agenda reform of the Council. In the present global economic context, there is a clear recognition that global economic governance needs a wide participation from developing countries especially in the decision making structures of the BWIs. We hope that the Council would play a proactive role in achieving this objective.

We deeply appreciate the recent high level policy dialogue the Council has been promoting with the international financial and trade institutions on current developments in the world economy.

Mr President,

We look forward to your leadership in strengthening ECOSOC for it to play a more effective role in meeting global development aspirations. You can count on our full support.

Thank You.



661. Intervention by Ambassador Navtej Sarna, Additional Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, India at the High level Event on Sustainable Energy for All, at the United Nations Headquarters on September 24, 2012.

Mr. Chairman,

I thank the Secretary General for organizing this High Level Meeting.

I wish to also thank the Co-chairs of the High Level Group for their insights and recommendations on the way forward on sustainable energy for all.

We are happy that our Minister for New and Renewable Energy H.E. Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Mr. Bunker Roy from India served on the Group.

It, therefore, gives me immense satisfaction that 2012, the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All, has provided an effective platform for raising global awareness on the importance of energy and its role in alleviating poverty, reducing inequality and promoting sustainable development.

Mr. Chairman,

Rio+20 has taken a definitive stand on the three initiatives proposed by the Secretary General and has given clear primacy to one of them i.e. universal access to energy. It is essential that the consensus of Rio+20 will be respected by all and no artificial deadlines, which were rejected in the final outcome document, are brought back in for the other two. We should not re-negotiate Rio+20 here.

Access to energy remains the key to eradicating poverty, which has been reiterated by the Rio conference to be the greatest global challenge. There is a direct correlation between incidence of poverty and energy access and use. It is a key enabler for development.

The world faces urgent challenges related to modern energy services. More than 1.4 billion people, with 400 million in India alone, remain without access to electricity. And nearly 3 billion use biomass to meet their basic daily needs. With such daunting challenges, we cannot but make universal access to energy our primary development goal.

The achievement of the MDGs and implementation of the RIO outcome including on health, education, gender, drinking water, sanitation and environment are critically dependent on energy.

The Rio+20 template provides the consensus around which I would encourage all of us to coalesce. We hope that this template would be given primacy in the

Post - 2015 Development agenda discussions, and we would be able to come out with a well defined strategy to provide affordable modern energy services for all.

The challenge is, of course, affordability. When countries are heavily dependent on imported energy, then to talk about sustainability on the one hand and affordability on the other can be a contradiction in terms without impacting directly on subsidy. Further, renewable energy options at this point in time are cost prohibitive. We need an energy paradigm we can all live with, with poverty eradication at its centre.

I hope that the recommendations and policy options proposed by the High Level Group would be helpful in this regard, since Government policies cannot be done by ignoring ground realities.

Mr. Chairman,

India has huge development imperatives and this demands that we harness all forms of energy.

As a country, we are making all efforts to broaden our energy mix and have a huge program for development of renewable energy, especially solar energy. We are probably the only country having a separate Ministry dedicated to New and Renewable Energy.

We are working on clean technologies for better and more efficient use of fossil fuels and would like to collaborate on R&D for developing such technologies and then making them available at affordable prices in developing countries.

We have also adopted a National Mission on Energy Efficiency to leverage technology and innovation to conserve energy.

We look forward to working with the global community to achieve universal access to energy.

Thank you.



662. Statement by Mr. Pawan Kapoor, Joint Secretary, at the High-level Meeting on SAHEL convened by the Secretary General on the sidelines of 67th Session of United Nations General Assembly on September 26, 2012.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Let me begin by commending the initiative of the Secretary General to organize this timely high-level meeting on the Sahel to discuss the multitude of challenges that the region is faced with. We hope that today's deliberations will help crystallize the United Nations approach on the Sahel region.

2. **Mr. Chairman**, the region has long faced several challenges in political, economic and humanitarian spheres. Over the past year, these challenges have been aggravated by the crisis in the neighborhood. Proliferation of weapons, activities of rebel and terrorist groups and transnational organized crimes have taken a heavy toll on the political, security and humanitarian situation in the region. Existing ethnic and religious differences have been exacerbated, and a large number of people have been adversely affected. The instability in northern Mali clearly demonstrates the seriousness of the situation in the region.

3. **Mr. Chairman**, the situation has been made all the more worse by the late and insufficient rainfall this year, thereby affecting the agricultural harvest in the region. Almost 5 million people across the region have been affected by food and nutrition crises. It is time for the international community to live up to its responsibility to adequately respond to the multiple crises in the Sahel and support and supplement the initiatives of regional and sub-regional organizations.

4. **Mr. Chairman**, we believe that the UN strategy should comprehensively assess the situation, clearly identify the problems, and present a holistic approach to tackle the issues in both the short- and long-term. While governance, development, and capacity building of State institutions require long-term planning and an integrated response, the immediate priorities should include stabilization of the security situation by addressing threats of secessionist, extremist and Al Qaida-linked terrorist groups, the provision of humanitarian assistance, and inclusive political processes.

5. In the implementation of the UN strategy, primacy should be given to national ownership by capacity building of national institutions. Regional and sub-regional organizations should be fully involved, and their initiatives should be supported by the provision of adequate resources. There should also be better integration and coordination among the UN and other agencies on the ground to ensure effective implementation of the strategy.

6. **Mr. Chairman**, the deteriorating situation in Mali is of serious concern to

us. Extremist and terrorist groups have consolidated their position, and have indulged in serious crimes igniting sectarian strife. The presence of foreign elements, associated with Al Qaida and Boko Haram, shows that northern Mali is developing into a regional hub of terrorist groups. The international community should urgently address this crisis since it also has the potential to destabilize the larger region.

7. The United Nations should seriously consider the initiatives taken by ECOWAS and the African Union to address the crisis in the Sahel region. India, on its part, is committed to partner with the UN, the AU and other organizations in the implementation of an integrated strategy for the Sahel.

I thank you.



663. Statement by Mr. Pawan Kapoor, Joint Secretary, on High-level meeting on the Democratic Republic of Congo at the ECOSOC Chamber on September 27, 2012.

At the outset, I would like to thank the Secretary General for his initiative to host today's meeting on the eastern DRC. We hope that this meeting will facilitate a common understanding among the stakeholders on measures to be taken to resolve the crisis.

2. Since early 2012, Eastern DRC has witnessed serious deterioration in the situation, which has various dimensions, including security, ethnic, illegal trade in natural resources, and a culture of impunity. Activities of the rebel groups, led by M-23, have also had a serious impact on the humanitarian situation. The fighting has uprooted nearly half a million people, including some 220,000 people in North Kivu and 200,000 in South Kivu. More than 51,000 have had to flee to neighbouring Uganda and Rwanda.

3. While the operations of MONUSCO have helped stabilise the situation, a long-term solution calls for addressing the underlying causes that have not allowed the DRC to extend its State authority to its eastern part. While security sector reforms and strengthening of the DRC armed forces are pursued, it is necessary to consider a political dialogue among the countries of the region, particularly between the DRC and Rwanda, so that the legitimate security concerns of all countries are addressed.

4. In this connection, Mr. Chairman, we welcome the initiatives taken by the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR). The enlarged joint verification mechanism should be fully deployed along the DRC-Rwanda borders to ensure that there is no cross-border movement of armed groups. The proposal of the ICGLR for the deployment of an international neutral force should be preceded by political agreement between the DRC and Rwanda. It should also not adversely impact on the mandate of MONUSCO.

5. We also think that the agreement of 23 March 2009 can form the basis for addressing the issue. What is needed is serious involvement of both the DRC and Rwanda to review the agreement comprehensively, including issues that were not addressed fully and the factors that led to the rebellion, like the return of Tutsi refugees, their integration into the FARDC, deployment of newly integrated personnel, and, of course, SSR and DDR processes. Unless these issues are addressed, the continuing instability would help other armed groups, both Congolese and non-Congolese. In this context, a strengthened FDLR would negatively affect Rwandan interests, and lead to larger instability in the region and draw in other countries.

6. Mr. Chairman, India, as a major troop contributor to MONUSCO, remains

committed to UN efforts at stabilising the situation in the eastern DRC. We will also continue to be a partner for development of the DRC through bilateral as well as 2 regional and continental level cooperation. Under the second India-Africa Forum Summit, a vocational training centre is proposed to be set up in the DRC. We have also given lines of credit worth US\$ 210 million for two hydroelectric projects in the country.

7. In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, we support an active role by the United Nations to facilitate engagement of the concerned countries in the region so that they reach an agreement on the long-term solution to the problems facing the eastern DRC.

I thank you.



664. Statement by Ambassador Navtej Sarna, Additional Secretary at the Sudan-South Sudan Consultative Forum meeting at UN Headquarters in New York on September 27, 2012.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

At the outset, I would like to thank the Secretary General for hosting today's session of the Sudan-South Sudan Consultative Forum as well as for his statement. I also thank the representatives of Sudan and South Sudan for their valuable statements.

2. Mr. Chairman, India shares close relations with both Sudan and South Sudan. India has been a major troop contributor to the UN missions in Sudan and South Sudan, UNMIS and UNMISS respectively. India was also the first Asian country to establish its Consulate in Juba in 2007 after the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). We commend the leadership of Sudan and South Sudan for the implementation of the CPA, which has brought peace and security to the people of the two countries.

3. The continued economic viability of Sudan and South Sudan and their common destiny to live in peace and security require the expeditious resolution of the outstanding CPA issues. We have consistently called for these issues to be resolved through political negotiations between the two countries under the auspices of the African Union's High-level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) led by President Thabo Mbeki. We believe that the Panel has developed a comprehensive framework for the resolution of all outstanding issues.

4. We strongly commend President Bashir and President Salva Kiir for participating in direct negotiations over the last four days and for signing the agreement earlier today in Addis Ababa on a number of outstanding CPA issues. We also commend the AUHIP and its head, President Thabo Mbeki, for facilitating these strenuous and extended negotiations. We hope that the agreement signed today will usher the two countries into a new era of peace and cooperation. This will also build confidence between the parties and facilitate the resolution of the remaining issues.

5. Mr. Chairman, given the dependence of the two countries on oil exports, it is necessary to resume oil production at the earliest and implement the oil-related financial arrangements. Expeditious steps should also be taken to establish the Safe Border Demilitarized Zone (SDBZ), and operationalize the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism (JBVMM) as well as the ad hoc committee to investigate allegations of cross-border violations. These measures will facilitate cross-border trade and ease economic difficulties of a

large number of the two people. We also urge the Government of Sudan and the SPLM-North to urgently negotiate political and security issues concerning the Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states without preconditions.

6. Before I conclude, Mr. Chairman, let me reiterate our full support for the mediatory role of the AUHIP between Sudan and South Sudan. India will also continue its partnership with Sudan and South Sudan in the economic and capacity-building sectors, which will promote the long-term peace, security and prosperity in the region.

I thank you.



665. Intervention by Ambassador Navtej Sarna, Additional Secretary, on Forth Ministerial Meeting of the Friends of Yemen Group New York on September 27, 2012.

My delegation would like to congratulate the President of Yemen H.E. Abdel-Rabbuh Mansour Hadi and his team for their efforts to take Yemen towards a democratic, stable and secure future. We would also like to congratulate the Gulf Cooperation Council and the United Nations for the road map prepared by them for a peaceful political transition in Yemen, thereby preventing the country from entering into more serious uncertainty.

2. We recognize the extraordinary political, security, economic and humanitarian challenges currently being faced by Yemen. We also strongly condemn terrorist acts and violence in all their manifestations in Yemen. India stands by the people and Government of Yemen in their journey towards a secure, prosperous, and democratic future.

3. Excellencies, We believe that core focus in this group should be to assist the Government of Yemen in ensuring peace and stability and create a conducive environment to facilitate rebuilding of institutions and effectively addressing the dire economic and humanitarian crises. In this context, it is also extremely important that a serious and inclusive dialogue continues among all stake holders in Yemen.

4. India's approach is to provide Yemen humanitarian aid and assist Yemen in capacity building. India's bilateral programme with Yemen for training and capacity building and providing assistance continues. In addition to our engagement under the 'Friends of Yemen Group', India would be happy to look at specific proposals for assistance from Government of Yemen, particularly in the field of training, capacity building, entrepreneurship development, Small and Medium Enterprises, Education and IT within our bilateral framework for cooperation. India is already supplying a crucial consignment of rice and wheat of US \$ 2 million each to Yemen. India also stands ready to offer concessional Lines of Credit (LOCs) for projects and programmes considered urgent and necessary by Yemen once Feasibility Reports on such proposals can be made available to Government of India under the umbrella of Credit lines for LDCs already announced by India during the India-LDC Ministerial Conference in New Delhi in February 2011 and the UN LDC Meeting at Istanbul in May 2011.

5. Yet another avenue open to Yemen in accessing the assistance is the Indian-Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC). Several programmes and projects are emerging under the Indian chairmanship of this grouping of which Yemen was a former Chairman and continues to be an active member.

6. In conclusion, my delegation would like to wish the friendly people of Yemen continued progress, peace and prosperity and reassure them of India's support as the country traverses through a crucial phase in its history.

Thank you.



666. Statement by H.E. Ambassador Navtej Sarna, Additional Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, India at the G-77 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in New York on September 28, 2012.

Mr. Chairman,

I congratulate you on your esteemed leadership of the Group of 77. I also felicitate Fiji who would be chairing the Group next year.

In recent years, the Group has grown from strength to strength both in terms of achievements and enhanced membership. Our unity and sense of purpose have stood us in good stead. We must continue to do our utmost to preserve these cardinal values.

At Rio+20, we were successful in crafting an outcome with a strong imprint of our development aspirations. Poverty eradication has been unequivocally recognized as the greatest global challenge, and the RIO principles, in particular the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities, and equity have been reaffirmed to guide global action on sustainable development.

The G-77 must now take lead in the implementation of the Rio agenda and in setting the stage for the Post 2015 development agenda.

We must ensure that arguments on changing development landscape and limitations of the economic crisis are not used to dilute agreed principles and commitments. South-South Cooperation cannot be subjected to the tenets of North-South Cooperation. Neither can it be a substitute for it.

Poverty eradication and meeting the MDGs should be our priority up to 2015 and beyond. Our work on Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Post 2015 Development Agenda must be anchored in these imperatives.

Mr. Chairman,

India is hosting the COP 11 of the Convention on Biological Diversity next month. We are counting on your leadership and the support of the Group to make it a success. With developing countries home to 80% of the world's biodiversity, our collective interest for an ambitious outcome is self evident. We must work together to bring a strong development perspective to bio-diversity issues and for early implementation of the Nagoya Protocol to ensure that the benefits of biodiversity conservation are shared in a fair and equitable manner.

Mr. Chairman,

In spite of our best efforts, the global economic situation remains one of deep concerns. After the 2008 economic meltdown, it was said that large developing countries would replace the traditional economic engines. This has not happened. Growth in large developing countries is also slowing down.

Unemployment, food and energy concerns remain high. This has further undermined the limited coping capacity of developing countries to shocks and vulnerabilities. It is, therefore, of utmost importance that we collectively undertake growth promoting policies to boost demand and create jobs. With over a billion people in extreme poverty and hunger in developing countries, we cannot afford but to make inclusive growth our priority.

Mr. Chairman,

Globalization has made our economic challenges even more complex. We are affected by decisions that we are not part of. In this scenario, there is a compelling reason to call for reform of global governance. Global economic decision making structures, especially the BWIs must include developing countries. We must continue to press for a development oriented outcome of the Doha Round.

The G-77 has been the pillar of the UNFCCC negotiations on Climate Change. We must remain united in our pursuit of an outcome that is comprehensive, equitable and balanced based on the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities. We must work for a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol as the key deliverable from the Doha COP. We must also push for an early implementation of the Cancun Agreements including the Green Fund, the Technology Mechanism and the Adaptation Committee so as to ensure credible action on all the four pillars of the UNFCCC process – mitigation, adaptation, finance and technology.

India remains acutely aware of the existential threat that Climate Change poses to the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and believes that adaptation needs of these countries must be met at the earliest.

Mr. Chairman,

The G-77 is a family and we ought to give priority to those who are most vulnerable. We must remain committed to the special needs of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) countries in Africa, SIDS and the Land-locked Developing Countries (LLDCs). In this regard, it is imperative that the developed countries meet their ODA commitments and fulfill their obligations on technology transfer.

India stands committed to meeting the development needs of our fellow developing countries.

The G-77 has made seminal contribution to shaping multilateralism for the benefit of our peoples. We must continue the good work. You can count on India's steadfast support today, and always.

Thank You.



667. Statement by H.E. Ambassador Navtej Sarna, Additional Secretary, at the 3rd Ministerial Meeting of Group of Friends united against Human Trafficking on September 28, 2012.

Excellencies,

Allow me to begin by thanking Foreign Minister of Belarus H.E. Mr. Vladimir Makei for organizing the luncheon meeting.

I also commend the important coordinating role played by the Belarus delegation as Chair of the Group of Friends to follow up on the successful adoption of the 2010 UN Global Plan of Action (GPA) against Trafficking in Persons.

Friends,

The GPA mandated the international community to address the problem of human trafficking in a holistic and comprehensive manner through integrated, balanced, coherent, result-oriented and people-centric policies.

It also recognized effective partnerships with civil society, NGOs and private sector as an integral part of this approach. The UN Office on Drugs and Crime has an important role to play in training and capacity building to strengthen law enforcement responses.

Friends,

Extensive national measures are being taken in India.

We are concerned that despite deeper international cooperation, the growing global trend of trafficking in persons has not been arrested. Nature of this problem makes international cooperation indispensable. So we need renewed dedication. We need to focus on vulnerable categories, particularly women and children.

India will be actively involved in the scheduled appraisal in 2013 of the implementation of the GPA to identify gaps and the way forward.

We will continue to work in close cooperation with Belarus, Group of Friends and the international community to combat this challenge.

Thank You.



668. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, at the High Level Meeting on Countering Nuclear Terrorism, UN Headquarters, New York, on September 28, 2012.

Mr. Chairman,

This is an important and timely meeting and we would like to convey our appreciation to the UN Secretary General for his initiative to bring together member states to address global concerns on nuclear terrorism.

2. India has taken the lead since 2002 in sponsoring a resolution in the UNGA on "Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring Weapons of Mass Destruction". This resolution highlights the concerns of the international community with regard to WMD terrorism and calls upon all Member states to take measures aimed at preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction. India expresses satisfaction that this resolution has been adopted by the UNGA without a vote and supports the continued implementation of this resolution.

3. As a victim of terrorism for over three decades, we are fully cognizant of the catastrophic dangers that transfers of WMDs to non-state and terrorists could entail. The international community must join hands in eliminating the risks relating to sensitive materials and technologies falling into hands of terrorists and non-state actors, including through clandestine proliferation networks. The focus on non-state actors should in no way diminish state accountability in combating terrorism, dismantling its support infrastructure or curbing its linkages with WMD.

4. India has taken several steps to prohibit access of weapons of mass destruction to terrorists and non-state actors through measures at the national level as well as participation in international cooperation efforts. India has in place a well-established, stringent and effective export control system based on legislation, regulations and a control list of sensitive materials, equipment and technologies consistent with highest international standards. India is committed to maintaining effective national export controls and is prepared to make its contribution as a full member of the respective multilateral export control regimes.

5. India supports enhancing international cooperation, including through the UN, IAEA, OPCW and other relevant forums to prevent terrorists from acquiring WMDs. India has participated in the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism and the Nuclear Security Summit (NSS) processes and has contributed, including by hosting a Sherpa meeting in New Delhi in January 2012. We welcome the outcome of the Nuclear Security Summit held in Seoul in March 2012.

6. India is setting up a Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership which will cooperate with the IAEA and other foreign partners. India is contributing 1 million US dollars to the IAEA's Nuclear Security Fund for 2012-13. We plan to host a 1540 Workshop later this year to build synergies on nuclear security.

7. India believes that the primary responsibility for ensuring nuclear security rests at the national level but national responsibility must be accompanied by responsible behavior as well as sustained and effective international cooperation. All states should scrupulously abide by their international obligations. We believe that sustained efforts are required to address the issues of nuclear safety and nuclear security in a coherent manner that will help ensure the safe and secure peaceful uses of nuclear energy which remains an essential component of the energy basket for a number of countries.

8. India is party to the main international legal instruments on nuclear security, including the Convention on Physical Protection and its 2005 amendment and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. We support the universalization of these instruments, recognizing the importance of multilateral instruments that address nuclear security. The IAEA has a central role in the strengthening of the international nuclear security framework and welcome the proposal of the Agency to organize an International Conference in 2013 that would help strengthen coordination and complementarities among various nuclear security activities.

Thank you.



669. Intervention by H.E. Mr. Ranjan Mathai, Foreign Secretary of India at the Meeting of the Group of Friends of the Secretary General on Myanmar in New York on September 28, 2012.

Thank you, Mr. Secretary General, for convening the Meeting of Group of Friends on Myanmar.

Mr. Secretary General,

We fully share your assessment that the political landscape of Myanmar has been significantly transformed during the last one year. In October last year, we received President Thein Sein and were encouraged to hear of some of the plans of the government. We congratulated the government and people of Myanmar in April this year on the peaceful and smooth manner in which bye-elections were held. When our Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh visited Myanmar in May this year, he again conveyed our felicitations to the President of Myanmar on the reform measures taken by the Myanmar government towards greater democratization and national reconciliation. He also commended the efforts underway on political, economic and social reform that also included peace agreements with several groups and dialogue with various political parties including the National League for Democracy. The participation of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in the Parliamentary process in recent months has made it more inclusive and it is very welcome that she has assumed chairmanship of the Rule of Law Committee of Myanmar Parliament.

As a close and friendly neighbour, India remains committed to extending all possible assistance and support to the process of national reconciliation and the further strengthening of democracy in Myanmar. We are facilitating Parliamentary exchanges between the two countries by sharing our experience. We have begun a program of introduction to and training on Parliamentary practices and procedures for members of the Myanmar Parliament and Parliamentary Secretariat officials. As many as 80 members will be covered by this program.

As Myanmar confronts multifarious challenges ahead the international community as a whole needs to extend all possible support to the efforts of the government in a spirit of trust and cooperation. The UN agencies and international financial institutions have the opportunity now where they could carry out the entire gamut of their developmental activities. We would also urge that unilateral sanctions should be immediately phased out so that Myanmar's economic development can be accelerated. India has consistently emphasized the path of engagement with Myanmar to encourage the advancement of national reconciliation as well socio-economic development.

We are working closely with Myanmar on various infrastructure and other development cooperation projects. We have given particularly attention to capacity building and Human Resource Development. We believe Myanmar could play a great role in expanding our engagement into ASEAN. We look forward to Myanmar's planned Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2014.

In respect of recent developments in Rakhine state, we have noted that the Government of Myanmar has taken steps towards restoration of law and order and ensuring peace and stability in the areas affected by the violence and in meeting the needs of relief and rehabilitation of all the affected communities. The government has also set up a 27 member Investigation Commission comprising people from different walks of life, including members of different religious faiths and political parties, to enquire into the real cause for incidents and to make recommendations. The Government of Myanmar has also demonstrated willingness to cooperate with the international community. We welcome these efforts. The Government of India has also extended assistance of US\$ 200,000 towards immediate relief for all the affected. Representatives of all communities have benefitted from this assistance.

We believe that the Good Offices should continue in a manner that supplements and strengthens Myanmar's own efforts. We will continue to play a constructive role in this process in consultation with other like-minded countries.

Perhaps, time has also come for the Group to consider whether our Meeting should be with the participation of Myanmar. A dialogue on development which will bring in the presence of Myanmar may be the best way forward. I would therefore, join in the sentiments expressed by the Foreign Minister of Indonesia in regard to the annual resolution in the Third Committee.

Thank you.



670. Statement by Mr. E. Ahamed, Minister of State for External Affairs at the General Debate of the Second Committee of the 67th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, on October 08, 2012.

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to begin by congratulating you and your bureau on assuming the leadership of the Second Committee.

India associates itself with the statement delivered by Algeria on behalf of the G-77.

Mr. Chairman,

The task before the Second Committee this year is well laid out.

The key outcomes from the RIO+20 Summit on Sustainable Development Goals, Financing Strategy, Technology Mechanism, Strengthening of UNEP and the High level Political Forum need to be pursued as agreed at Rio and implemented in a time bound manner.

Rio identified poverty as the greatest global challenge of our times and renewed our commitment to attaining the MDGs by 2015.

Achievement of these millennium aspirations must receive our highest priority and not slip even as we start working on the post-2015 development agenda.

Given that there are still more than a billion people worldwide who continue to live in extreme poverty and hunger, the post-2015 development agenda must be weaved around the absolute imperative of poverty eradication.

The post-2015 development agenda must remain anchored in the Rio principles, in particular common but differentiated responsibilities and equity.

The inter-governmental process on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) must be based in New York so that we can ensure inclusivity and wider participation of developing countries.

As we sit down to fashion the SDGs, we must do so with a clear idea in mind that they would form the crux of the Post-2015 agenda.

Discussions on the Post-2015 agenda have also seen some articulation on bringing in new issues including peace and security in the development framework.

We recognise that these are important issues and concerted efforts must be made to address them.

However, they should not be mixed with core development challenges as that

would severely undermine efforts at achieving sustainable development.

Mobilisation of resources, be it ODA, technology transfer, trade or FDI, is critical to support the MDGs. In the post-2015 development agenda these issues must be brought to the centre of the development debate.

We recognise that the development landscape has changed over the years.

There are new actors such as the private sector, private foundations and civil society, all of which are now playing a significant role in development.

South-South Cooperation also has seen enhanced action and it must be allowed to grow within its own space and in accordance with its own principles. It cannot, however, be a substitute for North-South Cooperation.

Mr. Chairman,

The 11th Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity is underway in India.

We urge all Parties to work for a strong development oriented outcome and for early implementation of the Nagoya Protocol to ensure equitable sharing of the benefits of biodiversity.

Climate Change remains one of the most pressing challenges of our time.

India looks forward to a comprehensive, equitable and balanced outcome at the upcoming 18th Conference of Parties of the UNFCCC at Doha.

The central and essential deliverable at Doha is the Second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol.

This must begin on January 1, 2013 along with a meaningful completion of work under the track on Long Term Cooperative Action.

Moreover, the process and outcome of the Durban Platform, which has just commenced its work, must be, as agreed in Durban, under the Convention and in full accordance with its principles and provisions, in particular the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

The principles, provisions and the structure of the UNFCCC must be respected and form the basis of any international cooperation on climate change.

Mr. Chairman,

In spite of spirited efforts, the global economic situation remains one of deep concern. Unemployment, food and energy concerns are running high.

The continuance of economic vulnerabilities and new and emerging challenges

with intertwined complexities of globalisation demand an urgent reform of the structures of global governance.

It is imperative that developing countries are given due voice and participation in the decision making structures of the global economic and financial institutions, especially the Bretton Woods Institutions.

This would also address core concerns of the LDCs, SIDs, LLDCs and countries in Africa on debt sustainability, financial assistance, trade and development.

And, here at the United Nations, it is imperative that we move urgently on reform of the Security Council by expanding it in both categories, permanent and non-permanent, revitalize the General Assembly and strengthen the ECOSOC.

Mr. Chairman, in these uncertain times, the Second Committee has to assume a larger role in fashioning and guiding the global development agenda.

Under your leadership, I am confident that it would meet its expectations.

I thank you.



**671. Statement by Mr. S. M. Krishna, Minister of External Affairs,
at the General Debate of the 67th Session of the United
Nations General Assembly on October 01, 2012.**

**Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am privileged to address the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Let me begin by congratulating you, Excellency, on your election to the distinguished office of President of the 67th session of the UN General Assembly. I would like to assure you of our constructive support to your work over the course of the coming year.

Mr. President,

We are assembled in New York at a time when we are faced with multiple global challenges that transcend national boundaries.

Developing countries are still to recover from the downturn in the global economy. Their quest for poverty eradication and sustainable development remains an uphill task. Food and energy security as well as health and education for their population remain daunting challenges. 2

The West Asia and North Africa region is seeing unprecedented socio-political upheaval. The question of Palestine remains unresolved.

And, threats emanating from terrorism, maritime piracy, drug trafficking and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction continue to multiply.

These challenges demand that we act to work for solutions in a concerted and coordinated manner. This is the only path to success.

Mr. President,

At the RIO+20 Summit, the international community renewed its commitment to sustainable development, recognizing poverty eradication to be the greatest global challenge.

And to act on this score, it unequivocally reaffirmed the sanctity of the RIO principles.

India remains committed to addressing Climate Change through a comprehensive, equitable and balanced outcome based on the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities.

We are hosting the 11th Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Hyderabad in less than two weeks from now. We seek the support

of Parties to fashion an outcome that harmonizes a strong biodiversity action with our basic development objectives.

Mr. President,

The process to develop a set of Sustainable Development Goals has begun.

The MDGs must be integrated in the new framework so that the unmet development priorities continue to be the main focus.

In the interim, with still three years to go for the MDG target date of 2015, it is imperative to ensure that all efforts towards the achievement of the MDGs are made.

In the global discourse on the post-2015 development agenda, the focus ought to be on the word 'development'. It ought to be firmly entrenched in the understandings and principles of Rio+20 and be anchored in the intergovernmental process in the UN.

Priority must be given to the challenges of poverty, employment, food and energy, water, health, environmental sustainability, unsustainable lifestyles and above all, economic growth.

Ensuring gender equality and women's empowerment is essential to the pursuit of building inclusive societies. It is also an imperative for building strong and resilient 3

economies. We are happy to support the efforts of the United Nations.

We also need to pay particular attention to upgrading the skills of the youth and ensuring employment opportunities. Children and youth are our future. We need to invest in them to reap the demographic dividend to secure our future.

India remains firmly committed to scaling up our development partnership with Africa, including through the framework of the India-Africa Forum Summit.

Similarly, we will continue to build on our commitments for enhanced cooperation with the Least Developed Countries, the Landlocked Developing Countries, and the Small Island Developing States within the framework of South-South Cooperation.

Mr. President,

India is a multi-religious, multi-ethnic and multi-lingual society. Our civilizational ethos has been underpinned by peaceful coexistence and tolerance, values that Mahatma Gandhi placed at the core of India's national life. These principles are enshrined in our Constitution that provides the foundation for our secular, democratic and inclusive polity.

Mutual respect for deeply held religious sentiments is the bedrock of tolerance and coexistence. Unfortunate recent events have highlighted the need for enhanced dialogue among faiths and civilizations. Violence cannot lead to greater understanding. It is necessary to uphold norms of peaceful international discourse. In particular, the safety and security of diplomatic personnel should be fully respected. **Mr. President,**

Terrorism remains one of the most potent threats to international peace and security.

The international community must adopt a 'zero tolerance' approach towards terrorism and focus on efforts to dismantle the infrastructure of terrorism including its invidious network of epicenters, training facilities and financing.

It is high time we demonstrated the necessary political will and agreed on a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism to strengthen the normative framework against the increasingly sophisticated and globalized terrorist challenge.

India continues to be gravely concerned by the menace of piracy and armed robbery at sea. Apart from major economic and commercial consequences of this scourge, it has serious humanitarian implications for the large number of seafarers held hostage by the pirates.

The need of the hour is once again concerted international action, under the UN auspices, with special attention being paid to address the welfare of seafarers and their 4

families.

Mr. President,

Peacekeeping and disarmament are among the most unique pursuits of the UN because they embody the promise and innate potential of the organization to make the world a better place.

India has a proud history of participation in UN peacekeeping operations dating back to the 1950s, having taken part in as many as 43 peacekeeping operations.

The challenge before the international community today is to ensure that UN peacekeeping is adequately resourced and enabled to meet the realities of today, including in post-conflict and peacebuilding contexts. In this regard, we are hopeful that progress will be made in all outstanding issues between Sudan and South Sudan.

India is committed to achieving a nuclear weapons-free world. The principles of the Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan of 1988 for achieving nuclear disarmament in a

time-bound, universal, non-discriminatory, phased and verifiable manner remain relevant even after more than two decades.

There is need to forge a renewed consensus on non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament. There is also need for meaningful dialogue among all states possessing nuclear weapons to build trust and confidence and for reducing the salience of nuclear weapons in international affairs and security doctrines.

Measures must be taken to reduce nuclear risks, including the grave risks posed by terrorists gaining access to weapons of mass destruction, thus strengthening nuclear security.

The Conference on Disarmament – the international community's sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, deserves our support in discharging its mandate of negotiating treaties on issues on the international disarmament agenda.

Mr. President,

The crisis in Syria continues unabated and is a matter of serious concern for us. Any further militarization of the crisis can have catastrophic consequences for the region.

We urge all parties to commit themselves to resolving the crisis without any further bloodshed through an inclusive, Syrian-led political process that can meet the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people. We support the efforts of the UN and urge all sides to cooperate with the Joint Special Representative, Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi, in good faith.

Support for the Palestinian cause has been a cornerstone of India's foreign policy. We were privileged to receive President Mahmoud Abbas in India earlier this month. We

support their aspirations for enhanced status at the United Nations.

It is imperative that there be an early realization of a sovereign, independent, viable and united State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital living within secure and recognized borders, side by side and at peace with Israel, as endorsed in the Arab Peace initiative, Quartet Road map and relevant UN resolutions.

Mr. President,

India desires constructive and friendly relations with all its neighbours. We have a vision of a peaceful, stable and prosperous region with enhanced cooperation and connectivity linking us with Central Asia, the Gulf and South-East Asia.

Within South Asia, we have sought to enhance bilateral relations individually with each of our neighbours and through the aegis of the SAARC.

We have embarked on a resumed dialogue process with Pakistan and advocate a step-by-step approach to normalizing our bilateral relations.

An unwarranted reference has been made to Jammu and Kashmir from this podium. Our principled position on the issue has been consistent and is well known. The people of Jammu and Kashmir have chosen and reaffirmed their destiny repeatedly through India's well established democratic processes. We wish to make it abundantly clear that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India.

India supports the Government and people of Afghanistan in their endeavour to build a peaceful, stable, democratic and prosperous country. We are ready to partner with the Afghan people as they rebuild their country in accordance with their own priorities and national circumstances.

The continuing existence of safe havens and sanctuaries for terrorists beyond Afghanistan's borders is the major impediment to the restoration of peace and security in Afghanistan.

India is committed to creating an enabling environment where the Afghan people can live in peace and security and decide their future themselves, without outside interference, coercion and intimidation.

Mr. President,

The United Nations and the norms of international relations that it has fostered remain the most efficacious means for converting today's challenges into opportunities.

We need to, however, ensure that the architecture of global governance reflects contemporary realities. Sticking to structures designed at the end of the Second World War only constrains multilateralism from delivering on its promises.

The most important and decisive step towards remedying this situation pertains to the UN Security Council, which must be expanded in both permanent and non-permanent categories.

The reformed Council must include countries that are capable and willing to bear additional burdens relating to the maintenance of international peace and security and be able to sustain global campaigns against new and emerging global threats.

Let me also stress that we must address, sooner rather than later, the incongruity of the lack of permanent membership from Africa.

Equally, India will promote and lend her weight for enhancing the voice and participation of developing countries in decision making in global economic and financial institutions.

The IMF's quota reform process must be accelerated with altered quotas reflecting contemporary economic weight.

Mr. President,

Speaking in this Assembly, on 14 October 1968, Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi, said, "The United Nations is the trustee of the world's peace and represents the hopes of mankind. Its very existence gives a feeling of assurance that the justice of true causes can be brought fearlessly before the world. This Assembly and the agencies of the United Nations should, in all that they do sustain those hopes and promote the causes of peace."

These words remain true to this day.

Let me conclude by assuring you Mr. President and the members of the General Assembly that India will continue to abide by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and strive to strengthen the United Nations.

I thank you.



672. Statement by Mr. S.m. Krishna, External Affairs Minister, at Open High Level Meeting on 'Fifteen Years of the Cwc: Celebrating Success, Committing to the Future' at United Nations Headquarters, New York on October 01, 2012.

H.E. Mr Ban ki-Moon, UN Secretary General

H.E. Mr. Ahmet Uzumcu, Director General of the OPCW Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a pleasure to address this special meeting to mark 15 years of the Chemical Weapons Convention. This meeting provides us with an opportunity to take stock of the achievements and the challenges that lie ahead in the task of full and effective implementation of the Convention.

India views the Convention as a unique, multilaterally-negotiated and non-discriminatory disarmament instrument, which serves as a model for the elimination of an entire category of weapons of mass destruction. As an original signatory to the Convention, India attaches the utmost importance to the success of the Convention and its full and effective implementation. The international legal norm against the use of chemical weapons anywhere must not be breached.

Disarmament is a primary goal of the Convention and should remain the priority till the complete destruction of all chemical weapons. We have demonstrated our commitment and sense of responsibility by destroying all our chemical weapon stockpiles under OPCW verification within the timeframe prescribed by the Convention. Timely destruction of chemical weapons by all States Parties is critical for upholding the credibility and integrity of the CWC. We call on the remaining possessor States to fulfil their obligations within the shortest possible time.

India is the third largest country in terms of industry declarations and recipient of one of the highest number of industry inspections every year. We have implemented all our industry-related verification obligations. We also believe that the future verification efforts should continue to be guided strictly by the provisions of the Convention, without an undue burden on industry. Apart from National Implementation, which India views as key, Assistance and Protection as well as international cooperation are of interest to a large number of State Parties and deserve greater attention.

India has contributed to the working of the OPCW through participation in several of its subsidiary bodies, namely the Scientific Advisory Board, Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters and Confidentiality Commission. Our National Authority has played a key role in the discharge of our CWC obligations

and in international cooperation and assistance programmes. We are privileged that the Permanent Representative of India to the OPCW is currently chairing the Executive Council.

The accession of 188 State Parties to the CWC is commendable and must spur our efforts towards universal adherence of the Convention. We commend the role of the Director General and the OPCW for their efforts in ensuring the smooth implementation of the Convention and for advancing the common goal of a world free of chemical weapons.

Thank you.



673. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Chairman Ctc and Permanent Representative at the 11th Meeting of the Heads of Special Services, Security Agencies and Law-enforcement Organization, Moscow, Russian Federation on October 04, 2012.

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

I would like to begin by expressing my sincere thanks and gratitude to our hosts, the Federal Security Service (FSB), for organizing this Eleventh Meeting of the Heads of Special Services, Security Agencies and Law-Enforcement Organizations.

As I speak, I also wish to recall the comprehensive deliberations that we have had in the magnificent city of Saint Petersburg last year.

Mr. Chairman,

I avail this opportunity to present before you some thoughts in my personal capacity as Chair of the Counter Terrorism Committee.

To say that terrorism today constitutes the most serious challenge to international peace and security would be both a self-evident truism and an understatement.

No cause or grievance can justify terrorism.

Effectively combating the global scourge of terrorism requires necessary political will of member states and greater international and regional cooperation.

We need to constantly expand the scope of the legal instruments taking into account the changing nature of the threat and expand enforcement efforts to destroy safe havens for terrorists, their financial flows and their support networks. We also need to evolve a powerful counter-narrative to combat incitement and radicalization.

It goes without saying and in fact it is absolutely essential that measures taken by States to combat terrorism comply with all their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law.

As Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, it has been my endeavour to ensure the effective implementation of Security Council Resolutions 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005) and 1963 (2010). All these Security Council resolutions do not only advance counter-terrorism measures adopted by the Council but also advance the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy adopted by the General Assembly. This in turn enhances cooperation among all nations to combat the scourge of terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

The UN's convening power is unparalleled and it has played a seminal role in combating terrorism and capacity building of member States. Our efforts at the UN are now increasingly focussed towards enhancing greater cooperation, coherence and coordination of counter-terrorism efforts amongst various UN entities including the CTED, UNODC and the CTITF Office.

The success in the fight against terrorism goes hand-in-hand with progress in strengthening counter-terrorism cooperation and exchange of information at the international, regional and sub-regional level. The CTC enjoys a close and symbiotic relationship with international, regional and sub-regional organizations and I would like to applaud the efforts of CTED in this regard. I am happy with the CTC's regular and fruitful exchange of views with the Federal Security Service.

Mr. Chairman

The last one year has been an eventful year for the Committee. I should like to recall that on the 10th Anniversary of the establishment of the 1373 Committee, on 28 September 2011, the Committee organized a Special Meeting at the UN in New York with participation from member-states, UN entities, international and regional organizations.

During the Special Meeting, the Committee adopted an Outcome Document, which is a major landmark in providing strategic direction to the work of the Committee aimed at strengthening capacity of States in their counter-terrorism efforts. It raised the benchmark in the fight against terrorism to a higher level and approved a zero-tolerance approach which is now part of the counter-terrorism lexicon.

Coinciding with this Special Meeting, the Committee issued an updated global survey of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001). The global survey provides a comprehensive overview – on regional as well as thematic basis - of the status of counter-terrorism efforts around the world and evaluates Member States strengths and vulnerabilities, identifies gaps in implementation of resolution 1373 (2001), and recommends further action.

The Committee also issued a global survey of the implementation by Member States of Security Council resolution 1624 (2005) in December, 2011. Both these global surveys suggested regional approaches and recommended areas for improvement.

Next month, the Committee intends to organize with Member States, international and regional organizations including FATF and FATF style regional bodies focussing on “preventing and suppressing terrorist financing”

Further, as part of its outreach efforts, the Committee will also explore the possibility of collaboration with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

The Committee, through CTED, has also been constantly improving its analytical tools to monitor and assess the progress in implementation of resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005) around the world. Having developed Preliminary Implementation Assessments of the entire UN membership and achieving considerable progress in stocktaking, the Committee has agreed to a revised assessment tools including the Overview of Implementation Assessment (OIA) and the Details of Implementation Survey (DIS). These tools are designed to further enhance thoroughness, consistency, transparency and even-handedness in the Committee's stocktaking process with a view to identifying States' strengths and challenges in countering terrorism worldwide.

Mr. Chairman,

Moving forward, it is important that the mechanism that has been developed to pool the resources and the knowledge of the international community needs to be augmented and made more effective.

I am happy to note the efforts of the Federal Security Service in developing the International Counter- Terrorism Database, which would be an effective instrument in counter-terrorism cooperation for security/intelligence and law-enforcement organizations.

I am confident that our comprehensive deliberations would be helpful in enhancing our understanding of the evolving terrorist threat and in working out appropriate strategies to confront the menace.



674. Statement by Shri L.k. Advani, Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation on “Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism” at the Sixth Committee of the Un General Assembly, on October 08, 2012.

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you for your election as the Chairperson of the Sixth Committee. I also congratulate other members of the Bureau on their election. I assure you of our full cooperation and support.

We would also like to thank the Secretary General for his comprehensive report on “Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism”.

Mr. Chairman,

Terrorism today constitutes the most serious challenge to international peace and security. Today, terrorists are not only globalized, but are waging an asymmetric warfare against the international community.

India condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. No cause or grievance could justify terrorism. We need to adopt a holistic approach that ensures zero-tolerance towards terrorism.

We need to constantly expand the scope of the legal instruments taking into account the changing nature of the threat and expand enforcement efforts to destroy safe havens for terrorists, their financial flows and support networks.

Mr. Chairman,

The UN has played a seminal role in combating terrorism and capacity building of member States. India strongly supports all efforts, especially within the purview of the United Nations that strengthen international and regional cooperation in the fight against terrorism. The success in the fight against terrorism goes hand-in-hand with progress in strengthening counter-terrorism cooperation and exchange of information at the international, regional and sub-regional level.

The Global Counter Terrorism Strategy is a unique and universally agreed strategic framework to counter terrorism. The setting up of the Counter Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) in 2010 has provided an institutional framework to support the implementation of the Strategy as well as the harmonization of an integrated counter-terrorism approach within the UN system.

In the UN context, an effective and balanced implementation of the Strategy requires greater international and regional cooperation than the international community has so far been able to achieve. We are hopeful that the newly established UN Counter Terrorism Center within the CTITF Office will supplement

these efforts, including through capacity building and play a meaningful role in assisting States, at national and regional levels towards achieving these objectives.

We must also continue to strengthen the normative framework at the United Nations. Time has come for adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism which has been pending for a long time. The Convention will further strengthen the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

As Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, it has been India's constant endeavour to provide a political direction to the work of the Committee and a greater momentum to efforts in bolstering member states' ability in confronting the scourge of terrorism.

Last year, the Counter-Terrorism Committee, organized a Special Meeting to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and establishment of the Counter-Terrorism Committee pursuant to that resolution. The Committee adopted an Outcome Document, which is a major landmark in providing strategic direction to the work of the Committee aimed at strengthening capacity of States in their counter-terrorism efforts. The Outcome Document urges all Member States to ensure zero-tolerance towards terrorism.

Next month, the Committee will organize another Special Meeting with Member States and relevant international and regional organizations focussing on "prevention and suppression of financing of terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

My own country, India, has faced the scourge of terrorism for over two-and-a-half decades. Indeed, our entire region, South Asia, has been wracked by the activities of the biggest terrorist actors in the world, be they Al-Qaida, elements of Taliban or Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jamat-ud Daawa and others. Terrorism, extremism and radicalization continue to pose a serious challenge to peace, progress and prosperity in the region.

Within the framework of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), we have adopted the SAARC Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism of 1987, and its Additional Protocol of 2004 on the financing of terrorism, and the SAARC Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters of 2008. India is working with fellow SAARC countries to strengthen counter-terrorism cooperation.

Mr. Chairman,

The Government of India has taken important steps towards strengthening its

strategic, legal and operational framework in the fight against terrorism. India is a party to 13 international counter-terrorism conventions and protocols.

The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act incorporates provisions dealing with all aspects of terrorism including conspiracy and incitement to terrorism. The Act criminalizes raising of funds for terrorist activities, holding of proceeds of terrorism, harboring of terrorists, unauthorized possession or use of any bomb, dynamite or hazardous explosive substance or other lethal weapons.

The Weapons of Mass Destruction (Prevention) Act, 2005 provides detailed measures to prevent weapons of mass destruction or dual use materials from falling into the hands of terrorists and non-state actors.

The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 seeks to further streamline monitoring of all foreign contributions received by non-governmental organizations and religious, educational and charitable organizations etc. to prevent their misuse.

India has concluded more than forty bilateral treaties on extradition and mutual legal assistance in criminal matters. India is also an active member of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

Mr. Chairman,

As part of our operational counter-terrorism framework, the National Investigation Agency is mandated to investigate and prosecute offences affecting the sovereignty, security and integrity of India, friendly relations with foreign States and offences under Acts enacted to implement international treaties, agreements, conventions and resolutions of the United Nations and other international organizations. The government has also created and empowered the Multi Agency Centre (MAC) as a dynamic institution for faster intelligence coordination on counter terrorism. A National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID), linking data bases for constructing actionable intelligence to combat terrorism and internal security threats, has also been set up. The Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System (CCTNS), covering the entire country, is currently under implementation. The Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND) has launched the Project FINnet (Financial Intelligence Network) with the objective to adopt industry best practices and appropriate technology to collect, analyze and disseminate valuable financial information for combating money laundering and related crimes.

Mr. Chairman,

The fight against terrorism has to be unrelenting and fought across all fronts. The international community cannot afford selective approaches in dealing with terrorist groups or in dismantling the infrastructure of terrorism. Terrorism is a

Frankenstein monster. Resort to the use of terrorism as an instrument of State Policy is short-sighted. Indeed, those who have taken recourse to it have invariably themselves suffered immensely from it proving the age old dictum that those who play with the sword, also perish by it.

Mr. Chairman,

We must step up our collective efforts with real cooperation among member states to confront the scourge of terrorism squarely and decisively.

Thank you.



675. Statement by Mr. Lal Krishna Advani, Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian delegation during the General Debate in the Third Committee on Agenda Item 27 'Social Development' at the 67th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on October 09, 2012.

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, on behalf of the Indian delegation, I would like to congratulate you and other members of the Bureau on your election and for chairing this important Committee.

I assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation in the deliberations and work of this Committee.

We would also like to thank the Secretary General for the various reports under this agenda item and the Under Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs for his statement.

India associates itself with the statement delivered by Algeria on behalf of G77.

Mr. Chairman,

Since the World Social Summit of 1995, progress has been recorded in all the three major pillars of Social Development, namely eradication of poverty, promotion of full employment and decent work and social integration. However, many challenges remain to be overcome in all three areas.

The Secretary General's report rightly points out that while many countries have reduced income poverty, they continue to face significant challenges in ensuring access to education, food and other basic goods and services. Moreover, concerns on un-employment, food and energy remain high throughout the developing world. The continuing grim global economic situation has further undermined the limited capacity of developing countries to cope with shocks and vulnerabilities in the global economic system.

It is, therefore, of utmost importance that we collectively undertake growth stimulating policies to boost demand and create jobs. With over a billion people in extreme poverty and hunger, we cannot afford but to make inclusive growth our priority.

At the Rio+20 Summit, the international community renewed its commitment to sustainable development, recognizing poverty to be the greatest global challenge.

The post-2015 development agenda must continue to prioritize the eradication of poverty and all efforts in the next couple of years made to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

Mr. Chairman,

We agree with the Secretary General that more practical efforts are required to address the domestic financing gaps faced by many developing countries.

They need to effectively mobilise domestic resources including, inter alia, through prudent management of natural resources, governance reforms, more effective taxation policies and strengthening financial inclusion.

Moreover, the issue of corruption needs to be tackled on a war footing and transparency and accountability ensured in the working of governments. While this problem afflicts both developing and developed world, its consequences are more severely felt in the developing countries where it undermines the delivery of services and impact the people directly. The generation of unaccounted wealth or black money also has a major debilitating impact on the economy limiting growth and investment in productive sectors.

The UN Convention Against Corruption needs to be ratified by all countries and meaningful cooperation brought about at the international level to recover monies and assets stolen through corrupt practices stashed abroad.

Noting that closing the implementation and enforcement gap remains an important priority, G20 leaders resolved at their recent Summit in Mexico, to pursue those who receive and solicit bribes as well as those who pay them. They also agreed to tracing assets in G20 jurisdictions and denying safe haven to the proceeds of corruption and to the recovery and restitution of stolen assets.

Scaling up efforts to mobilise domestic resources must be complemented by official development assistance which continues to fall significantly below commitments made by developed countries.

Mr. Chairman,

In India, achieving inclusive growth underpinned by empowerment of people, especially women, good governance, and investments in social sectors, education and health, skills training, affordable housing, are a major focus. Since 65% of India's population is located in rural areas, special emphasis has been placed on rural development initiatives. There are also several programmes targeted to the needs of the women and vulnerable groups.

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is the world's largest cash for work programme, which responds to the needs of 53 million poor rural households by ensuring them 100 days employment per year. At least 50% of the work is reserved for women. This programme has helped break down social inequalities, empower rural people, build up rural infrastructure and revive economic growth.

Initiatives in the field of education has led to India attaining nearly full enrolment in primary grades of schooling for both boys and girls and narrowing of gender gaps in middle and higher education. Similarly, health interventions have led to increased life expectancy, increased rates of immunization of children, and substantial decline in infant and maternal mortality rates.

Our targets for economic growth are anchored in measurable performance indices relating to poverty, education, health, women and children. These targets, disaggregated State-wise which implement most programmes, have helped monitor, assess and improve them.

Mr. Chairman,

India has a comprehensive legal framework to assist persons with disabilities. We seek to create an enabling environment that provides them with equal opportunities, protection of their rights and full participation in society, including in the areas of education and employment. India was one of the first countries to sign and ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2007.

We have around 100 million persons, who are over 60 years of age. We believe that the elderly can contribute beyond retirement to their place of work and their communities. We have taken a number of steps including through enacting legislation to ensure that older persons live a life of dignity.

These measures include supplementing the care provided by the family, providing adequate healthcare facility, setting up old age homes, promoting research and training facilities to train geriatric care givers and providing protection including legal services.

We consider it important to also strengthen our endeavours as a global community to address gaps in the implementation of the 2002 Madrid Plan of Action and other related issues.

Mr Chairman,

Comprehensive and inclusive social development is essential for fostering stable, harmonious, peaceful and just societies and bringing about broad-based improvement in the quality of life of all people

Let me reaffirm our commitment to all necessary action at the national and international level to translate this aspiration into a global reality.

I thank you, **Mr. Chairman.**



676. Statement by Mr. E. Ahamed, Minister of State for External Affairs, on Report of the Secretary-General on the Work of the Organization at the 67th Session of the UN General Assembly on October 09, 2012.

Mr. President,

I am privileged to address the General Assembly today. Allow me to begin by congratulating you on assuming the Presidency of the 67th General Assembly.

The Secretary-General's annual Report on the Work of the Organization covers the wide spectrum of issues that inform the activities of the United Nations.

It underscores the global and interdependent nature of the challenges we face. It shines a spotlight on the unfinished agenda of development and reform. It points to the turbulent times we live in. It reinforces our conviction that the need of the hour is genuine multilateralism.

The socio-political upheaval in West Asia and North Africa since last year has unleashed profound change and transition that the region is still coming to terms with. India is very concerned at the escalating situation in Syria. We support UN efforts to find a solution to the crisis through dialogue and an inclusive, Syrian-led political process.

It is a matter of regret that the question of Palestine remains unresolved and we support their request for an enhanced status at the United Nations. India firmly supports the aspirations of the Palestinian people to achieve a sovereign, independent, viable and united state of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital, living within secure and recognized borders, side by side and at peace with Israel. Mr. President,

Even as we approach the finish line of 2015 for the Millennium Development Goals, there is already haste to look at the post-2015 agenda.

The quest for poverty eradication and sustainable development remains as salient as ever. Significant roadblocks still stand in the way of food and energy security, health and education for much of the developing world.

Countries are only tentatively emerging from the shadow of the worst economic and financial crisis since the Great Depression. The magnitude of the challenge is driven home by the fact that more than a billion people worldwide continue to languish in extreme poverty and hunger.

One thing abundantly clear is that unmet development priorities must be well integrated in the new post-2015 framework. The RIO+20 Conference handed us a robust agenda on sustainable development. We must now train our energy on the best way to implement it in an inter-governmental setting.

As we embark on a process of framing Sustainable Development Goals, crucial issues such as that of resource mobilization, be it ODA, technology transfer, trade or FDI, must find appropriate priority and be enshrined in the principles of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR) and equity.

On Climate Change, India will work with others to design a comprehensive, equitable and balanced outcome at the upcoming 18th Conference of Parties at Doha, Qatar.

We ourselves are currently hosting the 11th Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Our expectation is that all Parties will work for a strong development oriented outcome and for early implementation of the Nagoya Protocol to ensure equitable sharing of the benefits of biodiversity.

In so far as our development partnership initiatives go, we are resolved to carry forward and expand our multi-faceted and vibrant cooperation with Africa, including through the framework of the India-Africa Forum Summit.

Similarly, we will continue to build on our commitments for enhanced cooperation with the Least Developed Countries, the Landlocked Developing Countries, and the Small Island Developing States within the rubric of South-South Cooperation.

Mr. President,

The international community has long acknowledged the ever present and pervasive threat posed by terrorism. No country, city or region is immune from this global scourge. And yet, regrettably, we have failed ourselves by continuing to procrastinate on concluding the Comprehensive Convention against International Terrorism. It is high time that member-states summoned the necessary political will to agree on the CCIT as a sound legal framework for the fight against terrorism.

We need concerted global action. Such action should be predicated on 'zero tolerance' towards terrorism and aimed at systematically dismantling the infrastructure of terrorism.

Mr. President,

India has a proud and time-tested association with UN peacekeeping dating back to its very inception. We have contributed over 130,000 personnel so far to this flagship endeavour of the United Nations.

As peacekeeping moves forward, we must remain mindful of the challenges of operating in increasingly complex environments. Particular attention should be paid to ensuring that complex mandates are matched by adequate resources so as to get the job done safely and effectively. In this process, it is of utmost

importance that there is real, effective, and continuous consultation with Troop-Contributing Countries in framing and implementing mandates.

It is also not lost on us that to be enduringly successful, peacekeeping requires to be seamlessly dovetailed with peace-building efforts. The UN needs to pay better attention to evolving a cogent and coherent peace-building framework that takes into account the capacities at hand and the complexities on the ground.

Mr. President,

One final word on the Secretary-General's internal reform efforts. We have taken note of the initiatives to modernize and reform the Secretariat, including through large-scale business transformation projects such as the new enterprise resource planning system (Umoja), International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) and the Capital Master Plan. While each involves considerable investment, we see them as important drivers in modernising the UN.

Nevertheless, it is our deep-rooted conviction that the relevance of the United Nations ultimately hinges on more fundamental reform of its governance architecture that is frozen in another era that perpetuates the rights of the haves of the mid-1940s.

It is only through such governance reform that the UN can truly invigorate action on issues of pressing global concern, be it peace and security, climate change, development, or human rights.

Let me therefore conclude, Mr. President, by raising something that inexplicably does not find mention in the Secretary-General's report. That is, the important issue of Security Council reform where intergovernmental negotiations have seen much movement and a clear affirmation by an overwhelming majority of the member-states for expansion in both the permanent and non-permanent categories.

We regard the omission of the progress made in the intergovernmental negotiations on the issue as a significant drawback of the Secretary-General's report. We further hope to see it corrected in future reports.

In terms of the process itself, India looks forward to capitalizing on the momentum so far to see real, fruitful and productive negotiations in the current session of the General Assembly on this important reform.

I thank you.



677. Statement Delivered in Hindi By Mr. Dharmendra Yadav, Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation on Agenda Item 83: "The Rule of Law at the National and International Levels" at the Sixty-seventh Session of the United Nations General Assembly, on October 10 2012.

Mr. Chairman,

I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your assuming the chairmanship of the Sixth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly. I also congratulate the other members of the Bureau on their election.

Mr. Chairman

I would like to begin by congratulating the United Nations for having hosted for first time a successful High-Level-Meeting on the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, last month. In particular, I congratulate the Co-facilitators for their efforts in the process of preparing the outcome document of the Meeting, member States, and other stakeholders, whose active involvement in negotiations led to the finalization of the outcome document.

I thank the Secretary-General for his report A/66/749. I also recognize the sincere efforts of the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group and the Rule of Law Unit in this endeavor.

Mr. Chairman

The outcome document reaffirms commitment of the international community towards the rule of law and adhering, for their purpose, to the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law.

It takes stock of the contemporary political, social and economic conditions and stresses upon the implementation of the rule of law related principles, in order to achieve the objective of the maintenance of international peace and security, peaceful co-existence and development.

The document stresses the importance of continuing efforts to reform the Security Council. We consider it essential to reform the Security Council at the earliest possible to make the body broadly representative, efficient and transparent.

It strongly condemns the acts of terrorism wherever, whenever and by whomever committed. We stress for collective action in the fight against terrorism, which continues to pose a serious threat to the international peace and security.

Mr. Chairman

India believes that the advancement of the rule of law at the national level is

essential for the protection of democracy, economic growth, sustainable development, ensuring gender justice, eradication of poverty and hunger and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

We consider that the law making activity at the national level is exclusively the domain of the national legislature.

Mr. Chairman

We thank the Secretary General for his report A/67/290 entitled "Strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities", submitted pursuant to the General Assembly resolution 66/102. The report throws light on the achievements and challenges in strengthening the rule of law at the national and international levels through the past year.

We agree with the assertion in paragraph 12 of the report that the challenge lies in ensuring implementation of and compliance with the existing international legal framework. We stress for the honest and effective implementation, by States, of international legal framework to combat terrorism including ensuring denial of safe havens to terrorists in any part of the world.

Mr. Chairman

We took note of the list of sub-topics in paragraph 70 of the report of the Secretary-General and those suggested by some states in an Annex to the report. We consider it appropriate that the Sixth Committee, after due consideration, takes a view with regard to the sub-topics. We prefer to take up fewer topics at one point of time to be able to concentrate in a proper manner.

Mr. Chairman

We reiterate the importance of strengthening the capacity of States, especially the developing and the least developed States, to enable them to carry out the rule of law related activities and to fulfill their obligations.

The rule of law assistance should be in line with the national priorities of the recipient States to ensure proper utilization and the benefit of assistance.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.



678. Statement (delivered in Hindi) by Mr. Dharmendra Yadav, Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian delegation on Agenda Item 104: 'Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice' and Item 105: 'International Drug Control' during the General Debate in the Third Committee of the UNGA on October 10, 2012.

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, let me thank the Secretary General for all his reports under these agenda items and the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for his statement.

Mr. Chairman,

The World Drug Report 2012 documents the continuing challenges that we face. It notes that while drug consumption has decreased in the developed world, it has increased in the developing world and there are new markets emerging.

While the global illicit drug use is reportedly stable, what is alarming is the reported increase in the non-medical use of prescription drugs and the abuse of new psychoactive substances, not under international control.

Annual quantum of global drug trafficking market over US\$ 320 billion starkly illustrates the severity and depth of the problem. Clearly, the international community needs to reinvigorate its efforts in the campaign against drug trafficking.

Mr. Chairman,

India has always supported strong international cooperation to confront the challenges posed by illicit trafficking and abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

We remain firmly committed to the 'Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem' adopted at the 20th Session of UNGA in 1998.

The Government of India announced a comprehensive updated National Policy on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances earlier this year.

India has actively supported the Paris Pact Initiative of the UNODC. We hosted the Expert Working Group on Precursors under the Paris Pact Initiative and the 35th Meeting of the Heads of Narcotics Law Enforcement Agencies of the Asia Pacific Region in 2011.

Mr. Chairman,

India is a licit opium producing country. We have traditionally recognized the

therapeutic properties of opium. We also export Opiate Raw Material for medical purposes.

We are committed to the 'Principle of Balance' espoused by the UN Drug Control Conventions. While steadfastly fighting drug trafficking, we must not lose sight of the need to ensure their adequate availability for medical and scientific purposes.

Mr. Chairman,

Drug trafficking is one of the most severe challenges that confronts humankind today. That money from drug trafficking finances other forms of criminal activity, including terrorism and transnational organized crime, is well documented. There is deep-rooted nexus between drug mafias, arms dealers and money launderers.

Mr. Chairman,

Terrorism remains one of the most serious threats to international peace and security.

Effectively combating this global scourge requires necessary political will of member states and greater international and regional cooperation.

While combating terrorism, we need to adopt a holistic approach that ensures zero-tolerance towards terrorism. We need to remove the moral and legal ambiguities that allow terrorists to gain succor and even legitimacy.

We need concerted international efforts to dismantle the infrastructure of terrorism including its invidious network of epicenters, training facilities and financing.

It is high time that the international community demonstrates the necessary political will to conclude the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism to strengthen the normative framework against the increasingly sophisticated and globalized terrorist challenge.

Mr. Chairman,

Trans-national organized crimes continue to adversely impact many parts of the world threatening the rule of law and hindering economic development. We are deeply concerned about the new emerging areas such as cyber-crime, economic fraud, education related fraud and identity thefts, and their links with other criminal and terrorist activities.

We re-affirm the mandate entrusted to the Inter-governmental expert group to conduct a comprehensive study of cyber-crime and how to respond to this threat.

It is necessary to have greater coordination among law enforcement and criminal

justice institutions at the international level. We also need to place greater emphasis on capacity building and technical assistance, especially in dealing with new and emerging forms of crime.

We strongly advocate the centrality of crime prevention and the criminal justice system to the rule of law and support the UN efforts in this regard.

Mr. Chairman,

India has ratified the UN Transnational Organised Crime (UNTOC) and the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC).

India has enacted strong domestic legislation and entered into bilateral agreements to prevent money laundering, and counter terrorism and organized crime. India is also a member of the Financial Action Task Force.

We welcome this year's theme chosen by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) – "violence against migrants, migrant workers and their families". This topic is of critical relevance. The international community must formulate balanced policies for both the countries of origin and the destination countries to address the issue.

Mr. Chairman,

We are gravely concerned by the menace of piracy and armed robbery at sea. Apart from major economic and commercial consequences of this scourge, it has serious

humanitarian implications for the large number of seafarers held hostage by the pirates.

There is need for concerted international action, under the UN auspices, with special attention being paid to address the welfare of seafarers and their families.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, I would reiterate our strong support and commitment to the work of the UN system towards a world free of illicit drugs, money laundering, trafficking in persons, illegal arms transaction, transnational organized crime and terrorism.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



679. Statement by Mr. L K Advani, Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation at the Joint Debate on Agenda Items 115: Implementation of the Resolutions of the United Nations & Agenda Item 116: Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly at the 67th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on October 11, 2012.

Mr. President,

Let me begin by congratulating you on assuming the Presidency of the 67th session of the UN General Assembly. You carry an enormous responsibility on your shoulders. I wish you the very best for the year ahead.

Mr. President,

Many of us with long living memories thought that the decade that ended in 2010 was the most challenging the international community had witnessed since the Second World War.

But today we know better.

Never before has the need for enduring calm and certainty in international relations been felt as ardently as in the last few years.

The political upheaval in West Asia, the Gulf and North Africa that began in early 2011 and I feel is still continuing is unprecedented both in terms of scale and impact.

The on-going global financial and economic crisis beginning in the developed world and spreading southwards has exposed the downside of globalization and seriously undermined the Cold War era structures of global governance.

Mr. President,

Our responses to the most challenging socio-political and economic crises of the last fifty years cannot be patchy and half-hearted.

The process should begin here at the UN and must be guided by a sense of urgency.

Mr. President, today itself I was listening to you very carefully when you made your introductory remarks. And I fully agreed with what you said about the urgency of what you propose to do about it today. To quote you, you said this morning "I'm afraid that we are confronted with the choice of either adapting to the new times, or simply being left behind to watch the gap between our duties and our capabilities widen by the day. I am not advocating haste or revolution" you said, Mr. President, "but I am trying to instill a sense of urgency."

The on-going global financial and economic crisis is certainly asking us to do this immediately.

First and foremost, the deficit in global governance must be addressed. The Security Council of the United Nations with a structure and a set of governing norms that harkens back to the realities of the late 1940s I stress is an anachronism.

In order to make the Security Council reflective of current geopolitical realities, it needs to be expanded in both the permanent and non-permanent categories. A reformed Council must include countries that are willing to bear additional burdens relating to the maintenance of international peace and security and be able to sustain worldwide campaigns against new and emerging global threats including terrorism and piracy.

This is exactly what you stressed when you said that the gap between our duties and our capabilities are widening by the day.

Next, we need to revitalize the General Assembly.

We need to change it from a mere talk shop to a place where transnational issues that impact each and every one of us are addressed swiftly and truly global solutions prescribed.

We are therefore appreciative of the importance that you, Mr. President, have attached to this issue.

You told member-states on the first day of the current General Assembly session on 18 September 2012 and I quote "To revitalize this most universal of multilateral institutions is to renew our faith not only in the UN's programs and purposes, but also in each other. The Member States can count on me" you said, "to assist and facilitate in advancing the revitalization agenda, including the Security Council reform process."

We welcome your resolve. You can count on India's support in this regard.

Mr. President,

The starting point of my delegation's position is the firm belief that the General Assembly can be revitalized only when its position as the chief deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the United Nations is respected both in letter and spirit.

The Assembly should take the lead in setting the global agenda and restoring the centrality of the United Nations in formulating multilateral approaches to resolving transnational issues. In particular, revitalization must restore the primacy of the UN in development matters.

Mr. President,

Without prejudging the proceedings of the Ad Hoc Working Group that should start soon, I would like to place on record the Indian delegation's considered views on the two agenda items under consideration today.

I listened very carefully to your introductory remarks. I fully agree with what you said about the need for urgency

First of all, it is critical that we establish a relationship of respect for respective mandates between the General Assembly and the Security Council in the spirit of the Charter. The Council should not encroach upon the mandate of the Assembly through extremely wide and permissive interpretations of what constitutes a threat to international peace and security, breaches of the peace and acts of aggression and to the situations under which it can take action under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter. The Assembly's competence in areas such as the process of standard-setting and codification of international law must also be scrupulously respected.

It is clear that the Council's agenda is, to say the least, overburdened because it has anointed itself with the responsibility of dealing with issues, which though seemingly important, leave it with less time to deal with the real hotspots that constitute the real threats to international peace and security. The balance between the General Assembly and the Council is only one of the dimensions of what needs to be addressed.

Second, the Assembly we believe must have a greater say in the process of selection of the Secretary General. The continued circumscribing of the Assembly's role and responsibilities in the process of selection and appointment of the Secretary General needs to change in the interests of the United Nations system in general and the Assembly's prerogatives in particular.

We could also identify objective criteria for the candidatures, including commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter, extensive leadership, administrative and diplomatic experience with due regard being given to regional rotation and gender equality.

Equally useful and practical would be to encourage formal presentation of candidatures in a manner that allows sufficient time for interaction with member-states, and also requires candidates to present their views to all member-states of the General Assembly.

Thirdly, the Assembly and the other entities that form part of the UN system must reflect diplomatic best practices in its day to day functioning. And it has a lot to learn from member-states in this regard.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, let me re-emphasize the need to discuss substantive measures that would strengthen the role of General Assembly as the chief deliberative, policy-making and representative body of the international community.

The General Assembly can expect India's constructive support and participation in these efforts.

I thank you again, Mr. President.



680. Statement by Mr. L K Advani, Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation, at The 67th Session of the First Committee of the General Assembly on October 11, 2012.

Mr. Chairman,

Please accept my delegation's congratulations on your well-deserved election as Chair of the First Committee. We are delighted that a distinguished representative of Indonesia is chairing the First Committee this year. I assure you of my delegation's full cooperation in pursuing our collective work.

2. India aligns itself with the statement made by Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

3. It is a painful reality that the goal of universal, nondiscriminatory nuclear disarmament remains a distant one. India's Action Plan of 1988, put forward by Shri Rajiv Gandhi at the Third Special Session of the UN General Assembly, set out a roadmap for achieving nuclear disarmament in a time-bound, universal, non-discriminatory, phased and verifiable manner. The principles contained in the Action Plan remain relevant and valid and India's Working Paper on Nuclear Disarmament of 2006 retained the spirit and substance of the Action Plan. In order to raise awareness and research about global nuclear disarmament, a National Conference was held in New Delhi on August 21 this year for more than a thousand students and scholars.

4. We believe that the goal of nuclear disarmament can be achieved by a step-by-step process underwritten by a universal commitment and an agreed multilateral framework that is global and non-discriminatory. There is need for a meaningful dialogue among all states possessing nuclear weapons to build trust and confidence and for reducing the salience of nuclear weapons in international affairs and security doctrines. India subscribes to a policy of credible minimum nuclear deterrent. We do not subscribe to any arms race, including a nuclear arms race. India has espoused the policy of no first-use and non-use against non-nuclear weapon states and is prepared to convert these undertakings into multilateral legal arrangements. We support negotiations with a view to reaching agreement on effective arrangements to assure non-nuclear weapon States against the use and threat of use of nuclear weapons. We also support a Global No-first Use Treaty. India remains committed to maintaining a unilateral and voluntary moratorium on nuclear explosive testing. We are committed to working with the international community to advance our common objectives of non-proliferation, including through strong export controls and membership of the multilateral export regimes.

5. Without prejudice to the priority we attach to nuclear disarmament, we

support the negotiation in the Conference on Disarmament of a non-discriminatory and internationally verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices that meets India's national security interests. India is a nuclear weapon state and a responsible member of the world community, and would approach these negotiations as such. We share the disappointment that the impasse in the CD has persisted despite strong support for commencement of FMCT negotiations. We must work towards an early start of these negotiations in the CD as part of a comprehensive and balanced program of work and on the basis of the agreed mandate.

6. Mr. Chairman, the conclusion of the Chemical Weapons Convention demonstrated that given a shared political will a universally acceptable non-discriminatory disarmament treaty to eliminate comprehensively an entire category of weapons of mass destruction within a specified time frame under effective international verification can be negotiated multilaterally. The High Level meeting on the CWC, held in New York, was addressed by our External Affairs Minister on 1st Oct 2012. India is fully compliant with its CWC obligations including the destruction of its chemical weapon stockpiles as prescribed by the Convention and we call on the remaining possessor states to complete the destruction of chemical stockpiles as soon as possible.

7. India welcomes the outcome of the 7th Review Conference and hopes that this would allow the state parties to face new challenges facing the Convention in the 21st century including bio-terrorism. We also welcome the consensus reached on the new inter-sessional programme, which got off to a good start this year with a Meeting of Experts focused on international cooperation and assistance, national implementation as well as review of scientific and technological developments of relevance to the Convention.

8. The Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, including the safety of assets in space, should remain a priority. The international legal framework on space security needs to be strengthened to enhance security of space assets for all space users and to prevent the weaponisation of outer space. While universal and non-discriminatory transparency and confidence-building measures can play a useful complementary role, they cannot substitute legally binding instruments in this field.

9. India participated in the negotiations on an Arms Trade Treaty held in July this year. Given the complexities of the issues involved, it was not possible for the Conference to adopt an agreed text. We believe that further work needs to be done and a treaty of this nature involving legally binding obligations should not be rushed through. It is important to bring all stakeholders on board in a manner that promotes the prospects of a treaty that is practical and implementable and is able to attract universal adherence. India is prepared to engage in further

work in a consensus based process and outcome. India welcomes the consensus outcome of the 2nd Review Conference of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects

10. Mr. Chairman, India would be presenting its three traditional resolutions for action by the First Committee. The draft resolution on a Convention on the

Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons and the draft Resolution on Reducing Nuclear Danger reflect our belief that progressive steps are needed for the de-legitimization of nuclear weapons and for increasing restraints on the use of nuclear weapons before they are eliminated. Measures to reduce nuclear dangers arising from accidental or unauthorized use of nuclear weapons and de-alerting of nuclear weapons are essential steps in this regard. As in previous years we would also be presenting a draft Resolution on Measures to Prevent Terrorists from Acquiring Weapons of Mass Destruction. The High Level Meeting held on September 28 demonstrates that nuclear terrorism remains a priority area for action by the international community. It has been India's consistent position that without diminishing state accountability for curbing terrorism or its linkages with weapons of mass destruction, the international community must come together to eliminate the risks related to sensitive technologies and materials falling into the hands of terrorists and non-state actors, including through clandestine proliferation networks.

11. Before I conclude, Mr. Chairman, I wish to address the issue of the disarmament machinery. India has welcomed the initiative of the UN Secretary General to focus debate on the revitalization of the work of the Conference on Disarmament and taking forward multilateral negotiations. We have participated in the debates in New York and Geneva on this issue. We believe the CD continues to have the mandate, the membership, the credibility and the rules of procedure to discharge its responsibility as the single multilateral negotiating forum. It is up to Member States to make it work by negotiating multilateral treaties that can be implemented universally. Proposals that question the validity or relevance of the CD and weaken established multilateral negotiating institutions must be viewed with caution.



681. Keynote address delivered by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative and Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the UN Security Council at the VII PAM Plenary Session in Malta on October 12, 2012.

H.E. Senator, Dr. Fayez Al-Tarawneh, PAM President

Hon'ble Dr. Michael Frendo, Speaker of the Parliament of Malta

H.E. Mr. Tonio Borg, Deputy Prime Minister & Foreign Minister of Malta

Amb. Sergio Piazzzi, PAM Secretary General

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is both a singular honour and privilege for me to address the VIIth PAM Plenary Session. Your aims and objectives are not only complementary but add strength to the efforts of the United Nations to build a world in which there is freedom from fear; a world in which we are free to channel our energies into furthering the common good. Your efforts in the fight against terrorism and bolstering counter-terrorism cooperation are commendable. I avail this opportunity to present before you some thoughts in my personal capacity as Chair of the Counter Terrorism Committee.

To say that terrorism today constitutes the most serious challenge to international peace and security would be both a self-evident truism and an understatement. Statistics would indicate that the share of terrorism in global violence is at an all-time high.

Of particular concern to the Mediterranean region is the threat posed by Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) which continues to raise a considerable amount of money from kidnappings for ransom. Al-Qaida, despite considerable disruption in its leadership, remains a potent and dangerous force.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

In confronting the scourge of terrorism, the international community has made considerable progress. Ever since the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001), most States have now taken steps to criminalize terrorist acts in their domestic laws and regulations. Financial intelligence units (FIUs) and other mechanisms have been set up in many States to guard more effectively against terrorist financing. New systems of border security have been developed. The exchange of information now takes place in a more systematic manner.

I must complement PAM for its pioneering effort in adopting a definition of terrorism as early as 2009. There is now a clear understanding of the acts and actions that constitute terrorism.

Notwithstanding this progress, the efforts of the international community continue to face many challenges. Foremost is the need to remove the moral and legal ambiguities that allow terrorists to gain succour and even legitimacy. Progress under mutual legal assistance and extradition cases is still sketchy and is yet to be fully mainstreamed as part of regional and international counter-terrorism efforts.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

No cause or grievance can justify terrorism. It has to be confronted with resolute determination, not only by governments, but also by societies at large. Security Council resolution 1963 (2010) as well as the universally agreed Global Counter Terrorism Strategy recognize that terrorism will not be defeated by military means, law enforcement measures and intelligence operations alone.

Meeting violence with greater violence can never provide a lasting solution. Such an approach has its inherent limitations. Mahatma Gandhi, I would like to remind you at this stage, said that an eye for an eye makes the whole world go blind. The recent developments in West Asia and North Africa demonstrate that peaceful and non-violent mobilization of a population can be a more effective instrument of social change than violence.

What we need is to promote and ensure a holistic zero-tolerance approach towards terrorism. It is also absolutely essential that any measures taken by States to combat terrorism comply with all their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law.

Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

The success in the fight against terrorism goes hand-in-hand with progress in strengthening counter-terrorism cooperation and exchange of information at the international, regional and sub-regional level. The mechanisms that have been developed to pool the resources and the knowledge of the international community needs to be augmented and made more effective.

At the political and operational levels, Member States need to have comprehensive and integrated national counter-terrorism legal frameworks that are anchored in the rule of law and human rights. They also need to take steps to promote inter-agency coordination and the exchange of counter-terrorism information, both at the national and regional/international levels. Dedicated counter-terrorism units and enhance cooperation with INTERPOL would be useful from this perspective. Regional organizations, in particular, are well-placed in advancing these efforts. I would be remiss if I do not acknowledge PAM's extraordinary efforts in this regard.

The United Nations, with its unparalleled convening power, is playing a seminal role in combating terrorism including through extending technical assistance,

capacity building and sharing of best practices among member States. We are working towards strengthening cooperation, coherence and coordination of counter-terrorism efforts amongst various UN entities. The efforts have also been focussed on enhanced engagement among practitioners - prosecutors, police officers, judges, and immigration and border officials so that counter-terrorism efforts are well informed and better coordinated.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Counter-Terrorism Committee, which I Chair, adopted a landmark Outcome document in its Special Meeting last year that raised the benchmark in the fight against terrorism to a higher level and approved a zero-tolerance approach which is now part of the counter-terrorism lexicon. Next month, the Committee intends to organize another Special Meeting focussing on "preventing and suppressing terrorist financing". Further, as part of strengthening its outreach efforts, the Committee is also exploring the possibility of collaboration with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Moving forward, it is imperative to have the necessary political will to squarely face the challenge of terrorism. We need to expand the scope of the legal instruments and strengthen enforcement efforts to destroy safe havens for terrorists, their financial flows and their support networks.

There has also been an ever increasing need to expand the normative framework to combat international terrorism taking into account the increasingly sophisticated and globalized terrorist challenges. An early conclusion of Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism will further strengthen the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

We also need to evolve a more powerful counter-narrative to combat incitement and radicalization. We need to inculcate values among our young minds that promote tolerance and respect for diversity and different cultures. We need to have mechanisms to ensure accountability and justice.

In concluding, I would like to quote the great European philosopher Edmund Burke. He said that "All that it takes for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." This is the philosophy behind the creation of the United Nations and this organization. It is in that spirit that I am here as Chairman of the United Nations Counter Terrorism Committee to urge greater cooperation and coordination between our organizations to face this contemporary evil.



682. Statement by Dr. Vishnu Dutt Sharma, Counsellor, on Agenda Item 76 - “Criminal Accountability of United Nations Officials And Experts on Mission” at the Sixth Committee of the 67th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on October 12, 2012.

Mr. Chairman,

We thank the Secretary General for his Report A/67/213 entitled “Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission, submitted pursuant to the General Assembly resolution 66/93.

The Report outlines the information received from member States regarding their national laws establishing jurisdiction over crimes committed by their nationals while serving as United Nations officials or experts on mission. It also provides information on cooperation among States and with the UN in the investigation and prosecution of crimes committed by such officials or experts.

Mr. Chairman,

We condemn the instances of crimes alleged to have been committed by United Nations officials and experts on mission as reported in paragraph 35 of the Secretary-General’s report. It is imperative that all UN officials and experts on mission perform their duties in a manner consistent with the UN Charter that promotes the image, credibility and integrity of the Organization.

Mr. Chairman,

The General Assembly resolution 66/93 strongly urges all States to consider establishing jurisdiction over crimes of a serious nature committed by their nationals while serving as United Nations officials or experts on mission, at least where the conduct of the person amounts to a crime both in the host country and the country of his nationality as well. Effective implementation of this element would help fill the jurisdictional gap in respect of member States that do not assert extra-territorial jurisdiction over crimes committed by their nationals abroad.

Mr. Chairman,

The provisions of the Indian Penal Code do extend to extra-territorial offences committed by Indian nationals. Accordingly, the offences committed by Indian officials or experts on mission while serving abroad are subject to the jurisdiction of Indian courts and are punishable under the Indian law. India is committed to punish those who may be found guilty of any misconduct.

The Indian law has provisions for assistance in criminal matters, which enables to seek from and extend to a foreign State assistance in criminal cases. These provisions are part of the Code of Criminal Procedure of India.

India has concluded bilateral treaties with about forty countries on mutual assistance in criminal matters, which are designed to provide and seek assistance in criminal matters that are necessary for the investigation and prosecution of offences.

Mr. Chairman,

Extradition of fugitive criminals and the related issues are dealt under the Indian Extradition Act, 1962. The Act allows for extradition in respect of extraditable offences in terms of an extradition treaty with another State. The Act also allows consideration of an international Convention as the legal basis for considering an extradition request in the absence of a bilateral extradition treaty.

Where there is no bilateral treaty on extradition or mutual assistance in criminal matters with a State, the Government of India can provide assistance on a reciprocal and case by case basis in accordance with the provisions of applicable national laws.

Mr. Chairman,

We are supportive of the strengthening of training materials and awareness-raising messages in order to ensure that the standards and values to be observed by the UN official and experts on mission are clearly communicated and understood.

In this regard, we note with appreciation the information in paragraph 44 of the Secretary General's report that the training and awareness-raising on United Nations standards of conduct remained central.

Mr. Chairman,

India considers it extremely important that any kind of violation of any national or international law by the UN officials and experts on mission are fully stopped.

We reiterate our view that dealing with the wrongdoings of UN officials or experts on mission, does not require the development of an international convention.

The member States need to ensure that their laws provide jurisdiction and have adequate provisions for prosecuting any such conduct of their nationals serving as the UN officials or experts abroad, and that their laws also have provisions for international assistance for the investigation and prosecution of the crimes committed.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



683. Statement Delivered by Mr. Ananth Kumar, Member of Parliament, Chairman, Parliament Committee on External Affairs and Member of the Indian Delegation, on Agenda Item 73: Report of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (Ictr) and the International Criminal Tribunal for the Territory of Former Yugoslavia (Icty) at the Sixty-seventh Session of the United Nations General Assembly on October 15, 2012.

Mr. President,

I am honoured speaking before the UN General Assembly.

At the outset, I would like to join others in thanking the President of the ICTY, Judge Meron and the President of the ICTR, Judge Joensen for their excellent presentations and congratulate them for expediting the work of the Tribunals.

India is committed to global peace, upholding human rights and is steadfast in its support for counter-terrorism.

India welcomes the progress made by the two Tribunals to implement their Completion Strategy.

We are happy that all organs of the Tribunals are ensuring their best efforts to complete their work expeditiously and to prepare for a smooth transition to the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals (MICT) .

We are also pleased to note that while focusing on their goal of completing their judicial proceedings as soon as possible, through intense trial, referral, and appeals activity and judgment drafting, the two tribunals were equally mindful that the due process is not sacrificed.

It is very reassuring that the preparations for the commencement of the MICT are on track, including the development of a budget proposal for the biennium 2012 and 2013 and a Rules of Procedure and Evidence for the Mechanism.

We welcome the opening of the Arusha Branch of the MICT that has started its operations from 1 July 2012.

We are confident that MICT will make good progress under the leadership of Judge Meron who is also double hatting as the President of MICT.

Mr. President,

We appreciate the close cooperation between the two tribunals and the Security Council.

We are happy to note that the recommendations made by the Security Council pursuant to the request of the Tribunals, including on hiring and retaining qualified

interns and other issues has brought tangible results and helped the Tribunals progress faster towards the implementation of completion strategy and the commencement of the MICT.

We appreciate the untiring efforts made by Judge Meron who adopted a variety of reforms to improve the functioning of various sections of the Tribunal.

As a result the trial of Mladic, Hadzic and Karadzic could be advanced many months ahead of their expected schedule. Similarly appeals in some cases were advanced significantly ahead of their schedule. This is a very positive sign and we congratulate Judge Meron for this welcoming development.

We are also happy to note that ICTR has completed work at the trial level.

The Appeals Chamber upheld the decision to refer the first ICTR case to Rwanda for trial and a further six cases of fugitive accused have been referred to Rwanda. It is important that all trials are on track and will be completed by end 2012.

Mr. President,

It is critical to help Tribunals finish their work on time.

We have listened very carefully to the concerns raised by the Presidents of the two Tribunals in relation to their ability to keep pace with their work while adhering to expected timelines until the 'close of business'.

The Judges have pointed out that trials and appeals continue to be affected by staffing shortages and the loss of highly efficient staff members. We share the concerns expressed by the Judges, especially on the need for retaining adequate and experienced staff.

Judges have also raised the issue concerning the relocation of acquitted persons and those who have already served their sentences. Some of them are living in safe homes in Arusha for the last 5 years. This is an important humanitarian issue and needs careful consideration.

We urge the Secretariat and the Security Council to give careful consideration to the suggestions made by the Judges on how to address this challenge.

This is a practical issue and requires consideration of pragmatic and innovative solutions and we stand ready to work with other members of the Council to solve this problem.

We also commend the efforts of the Prosecutors of the two Tribunals for undertaking outreach initiatives, including training, aimed at strengthening capacity of national systems to handle referred cases effectively.

We would like to see that the legacy of the Tribunals is preserved. We agree

with Judge Joensen's conclusion that the tribunal's impact will not only be challenging impunity, but also helping to improve the means to dispense justice for an entire region.

Mr. President,

The cooperation of all concerned States is vital to ensure the completion of the mandates of the Tribunals as well as for the successful implementation of the Completion Strategy.

We appreciate Serbia's sustained efforts in this regard and request other States to extend effective cooperation so that the remaining fugitives could be located soon and surrendered to end impunity.

We also note with satisfaction the progress made in the implementation of the MICT.

Any functional, operational or institutional issue in the implementation of the Completion Strategy or the MICT may be addressed by the Council in consultation with the Council's Informal Working Group on International Tribunals (IWGIT) and with the assistance of the Office of Legal Affairs.

Mr. President,

We believe that the two Tribunals have admirably implemented their mandates.

We consider that the support of the Security Council is crucial at this critical juncture in the life of the Tribunals.

At the same time, we urge both Tribunals to continue taking all necessary measures to keep the trial and appeal schedules on track. This will pave the way for successful trials of the remaining accused and a smooth implementation of an efficient MICT.

I thank you.



684. Statement by Mr. Derek Obrien, Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation, on Agenda Item 77 “Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the Work of Its Forty-fifth Session” at the Sixth Committee of the 67th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on October 15, 2012.

Mr. Chairman,

I congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the Sixth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly and also I congratulate other members of the Bureau on their election.

Mr. Chairman,

We attach great significance to the work of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (the Commission).

Through its working groups, the Commission has been and is engaged in preparation of legal texts in a number of important areas including the international commercial dispute settlement, transport law, electronic commerce, insolvency, sale of goods and, procurement and infrastructure development.

The legal texts and model laws developed by the Commission are directly relevant to commercial transactions of the individuals, corporations and States and thus have great practical value for all.

Mr. Chairman,

We extend our gratitude to the Commission for its report A/67/17 on its work at the forty-fifth session. During this session, the Commission adopted the draft Guide to Enactment of the UNCITRAL Model Law on Public Procurement. The Guide would be useful for States in updating and revising their existing laws on public procurement and in enacting the new legislations.

In the area of arbitration, the Commission adopted the recommendations to assist arbitration institutions and other interested bodies with regard to arbitration under the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules, as revised in 2010. We commend the contribution of the Commission in the field of international arbitration.

Mr. Chairman,

We appreciate the efforts of the Commission towards promoting the uniform interpretation and effective application of its legal instruments. The continued work of the Commission to ensure monitoring the implementation of the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards, 1958 (the New York Convention) deserves specific mention.

Mr. Chairman,

We also appreciate the efforts of the Secretariat of the Commission in suggesting three sub-topics in Secretary-General's report A/67/290 for consideration under the agenda item - the rule of law at the national and international levels.

They include: Means of achieving effective coordination of rule-making activities at the regional and international levels; Access to justice through alternative means of dispute resolution and; mutually reinforcing impact of economic development and the rule of law.

The decision as to the inclusion of any topics in the relevant agenda item of the Sixth Committee would however, require a careful examination and deliberations.

Mr. Chairman,

We reiterate the importance of technical cooperation and assistance to the developing countries, specifically in matters relating to the adoption and use of texts, adopted by the Commission, at the national level. We encourage the Secretariat to continue to provide such assistance to the broadest extent possible and to improve its outreach, in particular to the developing countries.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.



685. Statement by Mr. Derek O'Brien, member of parliament and member of the Indian delegation, at the general debate under agenda item 25 on operational activities for development covering QCPR and South-South cooperation in the 2nd committee of the 67th session of the United Nations General Assembly on October 15, 2012.

Mr. President, allow me to first compliment the Secretary General on extremely insightful reports on the funding of operational activities of the UN development system along with Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) and the state of South-South Cooperation.

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

While we welcome the significant strides made by the UN Development system and its agencies in recent years, we must also acknowledge that we are meeting at a time of an ongoing economic crisis and political ferment in the world. The Rio+20 Summit on Sustainable Development had just a few months ago, given us "the future we want" and suggested us the means to realize it. As we plan the roadmap on 'how' we go about achieving that and imparting substance to the ongoing QCPR process, my delegation would like to submit the following :

First, for the UN development system to be successful globally it needs to be firmly rooted in its core focus area, which has primarily to be development related ONLY. Poverty eradication still remains the over-riding priority for developing countries and the greatest global challenge. It is therefore our considered conviction that poverty eradication should be at the heart of UN's operational activities for development, as its primary objective. In Bengal, the region of India I come from, we call this humanistic philosophy one of '*Ma, Maati and Manush*' – signifying an equilibrium of the universally caring Mother, the Earth that nurtures us and the Human Beings who must be central to our developmental endeavors.

It is therefore important that within the process of the QCPR, which aims to set out the overall policy direction for the operational activities of the UN Development System for the next four years, we acknowledge upfront the enormity of this greatest global challenge, that still ails several developing countries, and subsequently, lay emphasis on achieving poverty eradication, while planning for future development projects, as its underlying objective.

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 development operational activities of the UN system must

therefore have the ability to respond and adapt to the evolving environment and expectations of individual countries, and the programming activities therefore, needs to be harmonised with the budgetary and planning cycles of recipient Governments.

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. And the diminishing quantity of finance available for developing countries, remains a central challenge for the attainment the MDGs.

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 that is pro-development, and by facilitating transfer of and access to advanced technologies by developing countries, and by expanded and innovative financing of development activities, such as donors putting in place five year plans to scale up disbursements by increasing programme based aid flows.

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 leadership, and deference to national development priorities must be the pivots around which UN development activities are modeled and 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 give it the 'muscle' it needs from the UN system. The paradigm construct of South-South cooperation requires that developing countries have the policy space for their own development. It is distinct from that of North-South development cooperation, with the clear understanding that South-South cooperation can complement North-South Cooperation but cannot substitute or dilute the obligation and quantum of North-South cooperation.

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 has a unique experience in nation-building given our large, diverse and complex reality. Our approach to South-South Cooperation has been therefore

to share this experience and knowledge in a spirit of solidarity with countries from the South treading similar paths of socio-economic development.

A key facet of our joint initiative with countries of the South, has been along with Brazil and South Africa, our IBSA initiative and we are extremely pleased that our partners in this are the now renamed, UN office for South South Cooperation. We therefore welcome efforts to upgrade and strengthen the UN Office for 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 and investment 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.

My delegation believes that for the operational activities of the UN development system to be a real 'force multiplier', it should foster national and local capacities, strengthen networks for sharing of knowledge and best practices, and promote national ownership by building institutional capacities in developing countries.

Seventh, while we plan for the post 2015 development agenda and impart substance to the ongoing discussions on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) process, we should look at forging synergies within the overall policy framework of the UN System. There are some basic paradigm differences in the contours of the development approach, which the QCPR must identify and attempt to address based on the principle of "No one size fits all".

And finally, economic development, social inclusion of all stakeholders and environmental sustainability are all equally critical as components of sustainable development architecture. The task before us is to give practical shape and content to this architecture in a manner that allows each country to develop according to its own national priorities and circumstances.

Thank you.



686. Statement by Mr. Ananth Kumar, Member of Parliament & Chairman, Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs and Member of the Indian delegation on Agenda Item 28 – ‘Advancement of Women’ during the General Debate in the Third Committee, 67th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on October 16, 2012.

Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for giving me the floor. I would like to express my appreciation for the Report of the Secretary-General in highlighting key issues regarding the advancement of women, and to the speakers for their contribution to this discussion.

Mr. Chairman,

From times immemorial, India has believed that societies and nations, where women enjoy equality, dignity and empowerment, are placed better to achieve well-being of its people and indeed for global peace and harmony. This sentiment is aptly captured in the ancient Indian scripture - *Yatra-nariyastu pujoyante ramante tatra devta - where women are honoured, divinity blossoms there.*

Women constitute half the population and they, therefore, have a pivotal role in the economic, social and political progress of the country. The advancement of gender equality and empowerment of women has been central to India’s political and socio-economic development agenda since our independence.

This principle found expression in our decision to grant full and equal voting rights to women six decades ago in 1950. The principle of gender equality is firmly enshrined in the Indian Constitution. The Constitution mandates that the State adopts special measures for women and children [Article 15(3)].

Our Constitution further recognizes the responsibility of the State to ensure “just and humane conditions of work and for maternity relief” [Article 42]; “renounces practices derogatory to the dignity of women” [Article 51(a)]; and refers to the provision of equal pay for equal work for both men and women in Article 39(d). 2

Mr. Chairman,

As the world’s largest democracy, India has set to herself very clear and visionary goals and objectives such as:

- (i) Creating an environment through positive economic and social policies for full development of women to enable them to realize their full potential

- (ii) The *de-jure* and *de-facto* enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedom by women on equal basis with men in all spheres – political, economic, social, cultural and civil
- (iii) Equal access to participation and decision making of women in social, political and economic life of the nation
- (iv) Equal access for women to health care, quality education at all levels, career and vocational guidance, employment, equal remuneration, occupational health and safety, social security and public office etc.
- (v) Strengthening legal systems aimed at elimination of all forms of discrimination against women
- (vi) Changing societal attitudes and community practices by active participation and involvement of both men and women.
- (vii) Mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development process.
- (viii) Elimination of discrimination and all forms of violence against women and the girl child; and
- (ix) Building and strengthening partnerships with civil society, particularly women's organizations.

Mr. Chairman,

We firmly believe that women need to be empowered both politically and economically to fully realize their potential in contributing to our national pursuit of inclusive development.

India proffered 33% reservation for women in rural and urban local governance bodies in 1992 through the 73rd Amendment Act of the Constitution to politically empower women and increase their participation in decision-making.

The Parliament subsequently raised the percentage of women representation to 50% in 2009. More than a million elected women are presently represented in local bodies constituting one of the biggest political mobilizations of women in the world. 3

Mr. Chairman,

The National Policy for Empowerment of Women was unveiled in 2001 and the National Mission for Empowerment of Women was subsequently launched to facilitate coordination and convergence of development programmes for women across several ministries. The National Resource Center for Women provides a central repository of knowledge, research and data on gender issues.

Mr. Chairman,

India's Eleventh Five Year Plan included significant targeted measures for gender equality and empowerment, with gender being a cross-cutting theme in all development plans. The inclusion and mainstreaming of women received special attention under education, health and skill development programmes.

There is a Joint Parliamentary Committee on Empowerment of Women which ensures that legislations passed by Parliament are gender-sensitive. Since 2005, the Gender Budget Statement has been introduced in the annual Union Budget to reflect budgetary allocations for programmes that benefit women.

Our targeted measures and interventions have brought about visible socio-economic progress for women. Maternal and infant mortality rates have reduced significantly; gender gaps in wage rates have diminished; there is almost full enrolment in primary grades of schooling and narrowing of gender gaps in middle and higher education.

Mr. Chairman,

At least 50% of the work is reserved for women in the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, which responds to the needs of 53 million poor rural households by ensuring them 100 days employment per year. The scheme mandates equal pay for men and women.

Many Indian provinces have successfully implemented and have created success stories through targeted programmes such as '*Kanya khelwani*' – education programme for girl child in Gujarat; '*Bhagya Lakshmi*' and '*Ladli Lakshmi*' – social and economic security schemes in Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh; '*Janani Suraksha Yojna*' and '*Madilu*' in Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh and '*Janani Shishu Suraksha Yojna*' in Rajasthan to provide health care, nutrition and post-natal care to reduce IMR and MMR; '*Indira Kranthi Patham*' in Andhra Pradesh for strengthening of Self-help Groups with focus on women empowerment and poverty alleviation and schemes such as free distribution of bicycles for school-going girl children in Bihar, MP and Karnataka. 4

Mr. Chairman,

Recognizing that rural women can leverage their strength, increase bargaining power and enhance capacities and skills through joint action, the Government has encouraged organization of Self-Help Groups (SHG) – a movement that started as peoples' initiative, and to channelize resources to these groups.

There are around 6 million SHGs of which 80% (4.8 million) are women's groups, covering 97.4 million beneficiaries. Women's Self-Help Groups are, thus, a very important vehicle for economic empowerment.

We are implementing special measures and programmes for disadvantaged

groups such as women in extreme poverty, women affected by natural calamities, women in less developed regions, the disabled, widows, elderly women, single women, women heading households, migrants, etc.

Mr. Chairman,

India enacted a comprehensive Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act which recognises that violence can take various forms, including physical, economic, social and psychological.

This Act provides a legal tool for women to fight violence within the family – both marital and familial abuse. The law seeks to provide support to women victim of domestic violence in form of shelter, medical help, compensation, maintenance orders, and temporary custody of children.

There is a comprehensive legislative and policy framework to address the problem of trafficking of women and girls. A draft Bill aimed at providing a safe and secure environment for women at the work place is presently before the Parliament of India.

Media should portray messages and images consistent with human dignity of girls and women and desist from demeaning, degrading and negative conventional stereotypical images of women and on violence against women. The media is being encouraged to evolve self-regulatory mechanisms in this regard.

Mr. Chairman,

Ensuring gender equality and women's empowerment is essential to the pursuit of building inclusive societies. It is also an imperative for building strong and resilient economies.

India reaffirms her international obligations/commitments as set out in the Convention on All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD+5) and other such instruments. 5 International, regional and sub-regional cooperation towards the empowerment of women will continue to be encouraged through sharing of experiences, exchange of ideas and technology, networking with institutions and organizations and through bilateral and multi-lateral partnerships. We reiterate our full commitment to advancing this goal globally and firmly support the efforts of the United Nations, in particular UN Women, which has recorded significant achievements in only two years since its establishment.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.



687. Statement by Mr. Derek O'Brien, Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation, on Agenda Item 84 "the Scope and Application of Universal Jurisdiction" at the Sixth Committee of the 67th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on October 17, 2012

Mr. Chairman,

I thank the Secretary-General for his report A/67/116 on this agenda item, which provides information about the law and practice of certain states concerning universal jurisdiction.

My delegation aligns with the statement made by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the NAM.

We hold the firm view that those who commit crimes must be brought to justice and punished. A criminal should not go scot free because of procedural technicalities including the lack of jurisdiction.

Mr. Chairman,

Assuming and exercising jurisdiction is however, a distinct subject in itself. The term "jurisdiction", in legal parlance, refers to two aspects: first, the rule-making and second, rule-enforcing. The widely recognized theories of jurisdiction include Territorial, which is based on the place where the offence was committed; Nationality, which is based on the nationality of the accused or the nationality of the victim; and Protective, which is based on the national interests affected.

These jurisdictional theories require a connection between the state asserting jurisdiction and the offence, including the nationality of the offender or of the victim or the place of the commission of offence.

We, under the present agenda item, are however deliberating upon a new and different type of jurisdictional theory, namely the universality theory, which lacks proper legal backing at both the national and international levels.

Mr. Chairman,

A State invoking the universal jurisdiction claims to exercise jurisdiction over any offender, irrespective of the question of nationality or the place of commission of the offence, or of any link between that State and the offender.

It assumes that each state has an interest in exercising jurisdiction to prosecute offences which all nations have condemned. The rationale for such jurisdiction is the nature of certain offences, which affect the interests of all states, even when they are unrelated to State(s) assuming jurisdiction.

Mr. Chairman,

Piracy on the high seas is the only one such crime, over which claims of universal jurisdiction is undisputed under general international law. We consider that the principle of universal jurisdiction in relation to piracy has been codified in the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982.

In respect of certain other crimes like genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and torture etc., international treaties have provided universal jurisdiction. They include among others the Four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and; the Apartheid Convention.

Mr. Chairman,

The question that arises is whether the jurisdiction provided for specific serious international crimes in certain treaties could be converted into a commonly exercisable jurisdiction in respect of a wider range of offences.

Several issues remained unanswered including those related to the basis of extending the application of such jurisdiction, the relationship with the laws relating to immunity, pardoning and amnesty, and harmonization with domestic laws.

Several treaties oblige the states parties either to try a criminal or handover for trial to a party willing to do so. This is the obligation of *aut dedere, aut judicare* ("either extradite or prosecute"). This obligatory principle should not be confused with the universal jurisdiction.

Mr. Chairman,

We thank the delegation of Chile for submitting a non-paper on this agenda item at the last session. The non-paper has raised the issues related to the universal jurisdiction in a comprehensive manner. We are of the view that consideration of the non-paper in the working group of the Sixth Committee would be of use in giving a direction to our discussion.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.



688. Statement by Mr. Ananth Kumar, Member of Parliament, Chairman, Parliament Committee on External Affairs & Member of the Indian Delegation, on Agenda Item No: 23: Group of Countries in Special Situations: (A) Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries. (B) Specific Actions Related to the Particular Needs and Problems of Landlocked Developing Countries: Outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation at the Second Committee of the 67th Session of the Un General Assembly on October 17, 2012

Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for giving me the floor. India aligns itself with the statement delivered by Algeria on behalf of the G-77.

The Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and the Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) are faced with unique challenges. India has long recognized their special needs and remains fully committed to their cause.

Mr. Chairman,

The response from the international community to the special needs of the LDCs continues to be wanting. In as many as four decades, we have only been able to graduate 3 Least Developed Countries (LDCs) out of the Group. We need to do much more.

And as we once again, today, commit to make the LDCs and the LLDCs equitable shareholders in our socio-economic progress, the question that we must put to ourselves is what we must collectively do?

To which my answer would be: we need to introspect; we need to integrate and we need to end their isolation. We must introspect to fill the gaps in our collective commitment, we must integrate to make them part of global governance, and we must work to end their physical and developmental disconnect with the world at large.

Mr. Chairman, India never professed the concept of a global village, we always believed in the concept of a global family. Our ancient scriptures proclaim "VASUDHAIVA KUTUMBAKAM" that essentially enunciates world as one family. A village may have inequalities and discriminations like rich and poor, privileged

and not so privileged, but the family is governed by one principle only, the principle of live and let live, mutual love, affection, and harmony where every member is cared for equally. India remains committed to this mantra of making all nations belong to a one global family. Our spirited effort, therefore, must be, to work for integration, and not allow isolation. Let's make the LDCs and the LLDCs equal partners in our shared destiny, a destiny they can rightfully own and a destiny then can heartily celebrate.

Mr. Chairman,

With majority of the population in the LDCs suffering from extreme poverty, hunger and disease, no credible action on achieving the MDGs or removing the blight of poverty can be complete without addressing their systemic vulnerabilities.

At the Rio+20 Summit we renewed our commitment to meeting the challenges faced by the LDCs, and this must now translate into concrete action as we move forward.

Poverty eradication, the overriding priority of the LDCs, must be given primacy in the proposed Sustainable Development Goals and the Post 2015 development agenda.

The ongoing impacts of the global economic crisis have hit these countries hard.

Unemployment, slackened economic growth and lack of domestic resources have undermined their socio- economic advancement.

Debt burden, shrinking demand for their exports and dwindling ODA have further aggravated their vulnerabilities.

At Istanbul, the LDCs set for themselves an ambitious target to bring 50% of the countries to the threshold of graduation by the end of the 10 Year Program.

In their aspiration,

Mr. Chairman,

they have legitimate expectations from us, and we must not belie them.

Mobilization of adequate resources to fill the huge financing gap for development in the LDCs should receive our highest attention.

We call upon the donor countries to urgently fulfill their long made ODA commitments of 0.15-0.20 % of GNI to the LDCs.

Transfer of technology, capacity building and enhanced economic support measures are equally crucial to strengthen their resource base.

South-South Cooperation support to the LDCs is also important but it cannot be a substitute for North-South Cooperation.

The majority of the LDCs are commodity exporting economies. Integrating and enhancing their participation in the global trading network through full implementation of the duty free and quota free market access, therefore, must remain a priority.

At the same time, with urgency, we must push for a development oriented outcome of the DOHA Round to create enhanced policy space for the LDCs.

Mr. Chairman,

As part of South-South Cooperation, we are pleased that the India-LDC partnership has gone beyond technical assistance to include trade, investment and humanitarian assistance.

In keeping with our WTO commitment, we have extended duty free tariff preference scheme to all the LDCs. Our Lines of Credit worth over 5 billion US Dollars to the LDCs since 2003 and Aid for Trade programs have led to significant expansion in the India-LDC trade, with the balance being in favour of the LDCs.

India has set up a dedicated Credit Line of US Dollars 1 billion in support of the Istanbul Program, along with a grant of US dollar 5 million for follow up of the Program. We urge the LDCs to make productive use of it.

Mr. Chairman,

The inherent geographical difficulties of the Landlocked Developing countries have placed them at a distinct disadvantage as far as international trade and economic linkages are concerned. This has been clearly recognized by the Almaty Programme.

Equally important is the understanding that any effective solution for the LLDCs must address the constraints and challenges faced by the transit developing countries that neighbour Landlocked Developing countries.

As we start to prepare for the 10 year Review of the Almaty Programme in 2014, we must focus on addressing the structural weakness of the LLDC economies, through export diversification, developing transport infrastructure and connectivity.

We welcome the recent steps taken at the regional levels to harmonize and consolidate policies to facilitate easy movement of goods from and into the LLDCs.

India has special bilateral cooperation agreements with its landlocked neighbours

for easy transit of their goods. We accord the highest priority to further strengthening our ties with these countries including through regional initiatives.

We stand committed to meeting the critical infrastructure needs of the LLDCs. We have offered financial assistance worth US dollar 300 million for the construction of the Ethiopia-Djibouti railway line.

We will continue to contribute economic and technical support to the development efforts of landlocked and transit developing countries, as part of South-South cooperation.

We would also urge cooperation for meeting special transit requirements of landlocked regions within a country, which due to geography or political boundaries have similar difficulties in accessing international markets as the LLDCs.

Mr. Chairman,

India never subscribed to the philosophy of the majority happiness of the majority people as we have always believed in "SARVE JANA SUKHINO BHAVANTU", i.e happiness for everyone in the world at large. Let's work to make it possible. We are fully committed, today and always, to strengthening our cherished partnership with the LDCs and the LLDCs.

I thank you.



- 689. Statement by Ms. Preneet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs, at the Joint Debate in Unga Under Agenda Item 63 (A) and (B) and 13 on New Partnership for Africa's Development and International Support; Causes of Conflict and the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa; Reports of the Secretary General (A/67/204 and A/67/205); and 2001 - 2010 Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularity in Africa on October 17, 2012.**

Mr. President,

I am honoured to address this august assembly at today's Joint Debate on the New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support, causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa including on the decade to Roll Back Malaria in developing countries.

Allow me to convey our sincerest appreciation to the Secretary General for his timely and extremely informative report on the agenda items under discussion today.

Mr. President,

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) articulates both a vision and a strategic socio economic development framework for Africa.

India applauds the progress achieved by Africa in the implementation of NEPAD priorities over the last ten years through multi sectoral initiatives in agriculture, infrastructure, health, education, science, information technology and environment.

However, despite these positive strides, serious challenges remain to be addressed before the African continent can achieve all round development and prosperity.

Extreme poverty, hunger, lack of adequate nutrition, conflicts and other malaises continue to shackle the tremendous potential of the African people.

It is therefore important to acknowledge that addressing Africa's development needs and challenges requires an unwavering commitment backed by resolute action, not only from within Africa, but equally important, from outside the continent.

It is imperative that the international community remain resolute in its support

for Africa through sustained cooperation including transfer of technology, resources, and an enabling international environment.

As has been pointed in Secretary General's report, as a proportion of total OECD global aid allocation in 2011, Africa's share remained virtually unchanged at a mere 37 percent.

Indeed, till date, Africa has received only around half of the pledged increase made at the Group of Eight Summit in Gleneagles.

The international community therefore needs to urgently address this gaping gap between promise and delivery.

In these times of political uncertainty and economic meltdown, it is more incumbent than ever for the continent's development partners to stay the course and help African countries achieve their developmental goals.

Mr President,

The India-Africa partnership is based on firm historical foundations, which over the decades, has grown into one of the most productive and durable partnerships.

Our similar historical experiences have engendered a common worldview. Understanding and sensitivity to each other's strengths, requirements and constraints has given our partnership lasting strength and resilience.

India is today on a path of rapid economic growth.

Africa is also witnessing a phase of robust resurgence. Some of the world's fastest-growing economies are in Africa. Africa is also blessed with a young and dynamic population.

We have, therefore, together with our African friends, transformed our age old and traditional bond into an enduring and multi dimensional relationship.

Our partnership with Africa is aligned with the priorities integral to the development goals of Africa and is built on the foundations of mutual equality and common benefit.

At the 2nd India Africa Forum Summit in 2011, India committed US Dollars 5 billion for the next three years under lines of credit to help our African partners, achieve their development goals.

We also committed an additional US Dollars 700 million to establish new institutions and training programmes in consultation with the African Union and its institutions.

We also decided to support the development of a new Ethio-Djibouti Railway

line to the tune of US Dollars 300 million in keeping with NEPAD's priority on infrastructure development.

Following the success of the Pan-African E-Network Project we are working on the establishment of an India-Africa Virtual University, which will help to meet some of the demand in Africa for higher studies in Indian institutions.

We are making available 10,000 new scholarships under this University exclusively for African students.

Our total commitment until 2014 by way of scholarships to African students, including under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme, stands at more than 22,000.

To strengthen trade and investment flows, we have earlier this year in May 2012, launched the India Africa Business Council, whose core sectors of cooperation include agriculture, manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, textiles, mining, petroleum and natural gas, IT/ITeS, financial services (including microfinance), energy, roads and railways.

Given the sheer potential of untapped trade, we have also raised our bilateral trade target to US Dollars 90 billion by 2015 from US Dollars 70 billion set earlier.

We are already making available duty free and quota free market access for goods from 34 LDCs in Africa, which covers 94% of India's total tariff lines and provides preferential market access on tariff lines that comprise 92.5% of global exports of all LDCs.

Moreover, under the IBSA Trust Fund, with our partners from Brazil and South Africa, we have completed several successful projects in Burundi, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau and Sierra Leone for strengthening of infrastructure and capacity building.

Mr. President,

India's partnership with Africa also spans capacity building programmes which include medical specialists to tackle pandemics like malaria, HIV and TB.

Our private sector has also invested substantially in pharmaceutical manufacturing facilities in several African countries.

We remain committed to the complete elimination of malaria and would like to thank the Secretary General for enlisting it as one of his top priorities.

Mr. President,

India's engagement with Africa is built on a strong focus on all round capacity

building and contributing to human resource development and facilitating greater intra African cooperation.

We have redirected our age-old bonds of friendship to respond to the contemporary aspirations of our peoples and build a partnership which is increasingly being cited as the '*beacon of South South cooperation*'.

This partnership, indeed, has the potential to strengthen global governance systems and democratise multilateral institutions.

In conclusion, I would like to quote the words of my Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh,

"The 21st century is often described as the Asian century. India wishes to see the 21st century as the Century of Asia and Africa with the people of the two continents working together to promote inclusive globalisation. Events in India and Africa in the middle of the 20th century changed the world. Today, we have a second chance to take charge of our own destiny, and give new meaning to the concept of sustainable, equitable and environment-friendly development."

I thank you, Mr. President.



690. Statement by Mr. Derek O'Brien, Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation on Agenda Item No: 22 (B) International Migrations and Development at the Second Committee 67th Session of the Un General Assembly on October 18, 2012.

Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for giving me the floor. India associates itself with statement made by Algeria on behalf of the G-77. I wish to speak on sub agenda item 22 (b): International Migration and Development.

Mr. Chairman,

The era of globalisation is an era of unprecedented mobility – mobility of ideas and technologies, of capital and resources, and of people. More people live outside their countries of birth or origin than ever before in human history. Indeed, our planet's most dynamic economies and societies are those that welcome migrants. A closed economy and a closed mind begin, we must remember, with a closed door. As such, bringing international migration and its impact on the global economy and development to the centre-stage of contemporary discourse is not simply a matter of choice. It is an absolute imperative.

India is happy that a High Level Meeting on Migration is to be held next year, and look forward to it imparting a strong political commitment to international migration as a development paradigm. In this interconnected world, Mr. Chairman, it is no gain saying that free movement of capital, goods, services, labour and technology remains of paramount significance. Managing international migration to transform it into a humane, orderly, and mutually beneficial process is a natural corollary. This, however, remains an acute challenge for all nations of the world.

Such frameworks must also address key issues of brain drain and capacity building in the South, which are certainly not compensated merely through individual earning and his/her willingness to plough some of it back home.

Remittance, however, has had measurable impact on development. UNCTAD studies have pointed out that 10% increase in remittance has led to 3.1% drop in poverty in developing countries. The salience of migration as a development tool could not be more compelling. This also brings us to the long felt need to put in place specialized institutional structures within the UN to attend to the ever expanding ramifications of international migration.

We hope these issues along with intra-country migration, in particular rural-urban migration in developing countries, would receive due attention in the ongoing discussion on the Post 2015 development agenda.

On a different note, Mr. Chairman, of late, in financing conversation globally, remittance has come to be compared or equated with ODA. We do not subscribe to this. Remittance to developing countries may have increased substantially in recent years reaching USD 372 billion in 2011 as per the World Bank, but it cannot be seen anything more than household income.

And surely cannot be passed off as another source of financing for development, for which the imperative is to meet the agreed international commitments.

Mr. Chairman,

International migration, in majority terms, continues to be a North-South phenomenon with migration to Europe and the United States being the most visible. But growing interconnectivity of goods and labor markets today feed multiple migratory circuits across the world. South-South migration in 2010, mostly dominated by labor migrants, was pegged at 73 million, not significantly lower than the 74 million South-North migrants.

The benefits that migrants bring to the destination society are many, and the developed world would do well to clearly recognize and accept this.

It adds to their economic competitiveness, meets the gaps in labor and skilled manpower supply and contributes to intellectual and institutional resource and capacity.

The movement of persons, especially from the South to the North, will continue to be propelled by the structural needs stemming from demography and labour supply gaps.

Mr. Chairman,

In today's globalised economy, the issue of short term migration especially from an economic perspective needs greater policy support.

There is also the issue of contributions to the Social Security Fund made by migrants in several developed countries which are lost once they leave the country. We must, therefore, work to develop frameworks to ensure portability of pensions and totalisation of social security benefits. These subjects must be brought forth in the ongoing discussion on inclusive social protection policies advocated by the ILO.

Curbing irregular migration is of concern not only in developed countries but also for many of us in the developing world. We clearly understand that such migration also has societal and security ramifications. We also need to work in a concerted manner to address the scourge of trafficking of persons, especially women and children.

Mr. Chairman,

India is perhaps the leading sending, destination and transiting state with a long

history of receiving migrants and sending people to other lands. Our composite civilization and free and tolerant society have drawn sustenance from the diversity and co-existence of people coming and settling in India over centuries. We are proud of the achievements of our citizens living overseas and of the Indian diaspora.

The unskilled overseas worker constitutes the most vulnerable section of our emigrant population. We remain committed to strengthen the mechanisms for coordination and cooperation with the Governments of the destination countries to give them requisite social and economic protection.

In recent years, we have taken several measures for protection and welfare of our migrant workers and those of our other citizens and diaspora. We have established the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, a Ministry exclusively devoted to their interest and welfare. We have set up the Indian Council of Overseas Employment to provide policy direction for recruitment procedures and employment contracts. We have also revamped our emigration rules and set up the Overseas Workers Resource Centre in New Delhi and Indian Workers Resource Centre in several destination countries including the UAE.

Mr. Chairman,

Migration is the oldest poverty alleviation tool. Yet we shy away from clearly recognizing the development aspects of international migration. The main reason for this is the reluctance or unwillingness of the developed world to accept and act on the fact that they have been and are beneficiaries of migration from the South. This needs to change and we all need to work collaboratively for international policies and frameworks to make international migration a 'win-win' situation.

We have to move to an understanding that migrants are not a burden; they are much more often an asset and a force multiplier. They need secure status at destination. This would help them realise their full potential, for the benefit of the migrants individually and their families, as well as for the benefit of the society that embraces them.

In respecting and protecting migrants, in giving them opportunities to flower, in integrating them into the social and institutional structures of the host country, we will also be promoting multicultural understanding and making our world a happier and better place. The results can be truly astonishing and dazzling. For evidence, we only need to leave this building and walk around in the wonderful and welcoming city outside – a global metropolis shaped and sculpted by generations of migrants.

I thank you.



691. Statement by Mr. Ananth Kumar, Member of Parliament, Chairman, Parliament Committee on External Affairs & Member of the Indian Delegation, on Agenda Item 51: International Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) 67th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on October 18, 2012

Mr. Chairman,

I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee to the 67th General Assembly, as also the members of the Bureau on their election. I assure you of my delegation's full co-operation and support. I would also like to congratulate former Chairman, the Permanent Representative of Romania, Ambassador Simona-Mirela Miculescu for the way she conducted the work of this committee during the 66th session.

Mr. Chairman,

The Indian delegation notes with appreciation that UNCOPUOS continues to be the unique platform at the global level for international cooperation in space activities, and to utilise outer space for peaceful purposes towards serving the humanity under the mandate of the General Assembly. The Indian delegation expresses its satisfaction over the deliberation of the 55th session of UNCOPUOS under the chairmanship of Mr Yasushi Horikawa of Japan, and the work carried out by the two sub-committees of UNCOPUOS.

Mr. Chairman,

While acknowledging the significant achievements of various member states in space endeavours during the last one year, the Indian delegation desires to brief the Assembly on the significant achievements made by India in the field of space since the last Session.

On October 12, 2011, the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV C-18) precisely placed the Indo-French Joint Satellite "MEGHA-TROPIQUES" and three other auxiliary satellites, JUGNU, SRMSat and VesselSat-1, in their intended orbits. The MEGHA-TROPIQUES satellite is a joint contribution by India and France to the global scientific community engaged in research on climate and weather systems. JUGNU and SRMSat were built by Indian academic institutions, while VesselSat-1 was built by Luxemburg. MEGHA-TROPIQUES will be one of the eight satellites of the Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM) constellation, contributing to the global scientific community's research to study the dynamics of the climate system.

On April 26, 2012, PSLV C-19, on its twentieth successive successful flight,

precisely placed the Radar Imaging Satellite (RISAT-1), India's indigenously built microwave remote sensing satellite meant for natural resources management, into its intended orbit. RISAT-1 carries a C-band Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) payload, operating in multi-polarisation and multi-resolution modes.

On September 09, 2012, PSLV C-21, on its twenty-first successive successful flight, precisely placed the French Earth Observation satellite 'SPOT-6' and a Japanese microsatellite 'PROITERES', into their intended orbits.

India's advanced communication satellite, GSAT-10 was successfully launched by Arianespace from Kourou, French Guiana on September 28, 2012. GSAT-10 carries 12 C-band; 6 Extended C-band and 12 Ku-band transponders, and a GPS Aided Geo Augmented Navigation (GAGAN) payload.

Significant progress has been achieved in realising GSLV Mk III, a heavier class launch vehicle, capable of launching 4-ton class communication satellites into a Geostationary Transfer Orbit.

In addition to augmenting the constellation of remote sensing and communication satellites, India is getting ready to launch the first satellite of the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS), and the first Indian space-based observatory for multi-wavelength observations of the celestial bodies and cosmic sources, named ASTROSAT.

Mr. Chairman,

The Indian space programme continues to integrate advances in space technology and applications with our national developmental goals. India places considerable importance on International Cooperation for peaceful uses of outer

space. Currently, formal instruments of cooperation are in place with 33 countries and three international organisations.

Mr. Chairman,

As part of capacity building in the field of space, India hosts "Center for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific (CSSTEAP)" affiliated to the United Nations, which has so far benefitted more than 1100 scholars from 52 countries.

A meeting of India-ASEAN Heads of Space Agencies was organised in Bangalore in June 2012, with the participation of all the ten member countries of ASEAN. A panel discussion was also organized to discuss the possibilities of space cooperation between ASEAN and India, and challenges in ensuring delivery of the benefits of space technologies to the developmental needs of ASEAN.

In July 2012, India hosted in Mysore the 39th Scientific Assembly of the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR), with the theme "Space - for the benefit of Mankind", with participation of more than 2000 scientists, researchers and students from 75 countries.

India is an active member of the Committee for Earth Observation Systems (CEOS), and will be hosting the Plenary at Bangalore in October 2012.

Mr. Chairman,

We are proud to mention that India's Chandrayaan-1 with many international payloads including that from USA, was instrumental in conclusively establishing the presence of water and hydroxyl molecules on the lunar surface. India has performed a unique joint experiment, known as Bi-Static Experiment involving Chandrayaan-1 and NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) spacecraft on August 21, 2009, for obtaining additional information on the possibility of existence of ice in a permanently shadowed crater near the North Pole of the Moon. Additionally, the analysis of data obtained by the Miniature Synthetic Aperture Radar (Mini-SAR) onboard Chandrayaan-1 spacecraft has provided evidence of the presence of ice deposits near the Moon's North Pole.

Mr. Chairman,

Indian space programme, aimed at achieving self reliance and developing capability to build and launch communication satellites for television broadcast, telecommunication and meteorological applications, has travelled a long way in achieving these objectives. The Indian Space Research Organization has played a central role in achieving these objectives, successfully operationalizing two major satellite systems namely the Indian National Satellites (INSAT) for communication services and Indian Remote Sensing (IRS) satellites for management of natural

resources; also, Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) for launching IRS type of satellites and Geostationary Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) for launching INSAT type of satellites.

I am proud to mention that the city of Bangalore in Karnataka State, to which I belong, is India's centre of space activities. With several key programmes and facilities of ISRO, including ANTRIX Corporation Ltd, Satellite Centre, Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre, Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network, Laboratory for Electro-optic Systems, located in the city, Bangalore is India's aerospace capital in every sense.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, the Indian delegation greatly acknowledges the potential of space technology and the need to maintain outer space for peaceful purposes.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.



692. Statement by Ambassador Sujata Mehta, Permanent Representative of India to Conference on Disarmament, Geneva at Thematic Debate on Nuclear Weapons, at the First Committee of the 67th Session United Nations General Assembly on October 19, 2012

Mr. Chairman,

Nuclear disarmament has been a priority for the United Nations since the very first UNGA resolution of 24 January 1946 and India has been consistent in its support for the achievement of this priority objective. India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru was among the first world leaders to champion the cause of nuclear disarmament in the 1950s when the nuclear arms race was rearing its head. Addressing the Third Special Session of the UN General Assembly on Disarmament in 1988, our late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi proposed an Action Plan for a Nuclear-Weapons-Free and Nonviolent World Order to attain the goal of nuclear disarmament in a time-bound, universal, non-discriminatory, phased and verifiable manner. We remain committed to the objective of that Plan and the realization of its vision of ushering in a nuclear weapon free and non-violent world order.

As a nuclear weapon state, India is cognizant of its responsibility and our support for global, non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament has not diminished. As Prime Minister Manmohan Singh stated in the Indian parliament in 2007 "The possession of nuclear weapons only increases our sense of global responsibility and does not diminish it." We believe that nuclear disarmament can be achieved through a step by step process underwritten by a universal commitment and an agreed global and non-discriminatory multilateral framework. There is need for a meaningful dialogue among all states possessing nuclear weapons to build trust and confidence and for reducing the salience of nuclear weapons in international affairs and security doctrines. Steps for the progressive de-legitimization of nuclear weapons are essential to the goal of their complete elimination.

Measures to reduce nuclear dangers arising from accidental or unauthorized use of nuclear weapons, increasing restraints on the use of nuclear weapons, de-alerting of nuclear weapons, measures to prevent terrorists from gaining access to nuclear weapons are all pertinent in this regard. In a working paper submitted to the UNGA in 2006, India suggested a number of such measures, including reaffirmation of the unequivocal commitment by all nuclear weapon states to the goal of complete elimination of nuclear weapons and specific legal measures such as a Global No First Use Agreement. India's Working Paper retains the spirit and substance of the Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan and aims to stimulate debate and discussion on what could be done today to implement the

abiding vision of that Plan. With this objective in view, a National Conference was held on August 21 this year in New Delhi with the participation of more than a thousand students and researchers to raise awareness and promote research on global nuclear disarmament.

Without prejudice to the priority we give to nuclear disarmament, we support the negotiation in the Conference on Disarmament of a non-discriminatory and internationally verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices that meets India's national security interests. We remain committed to maintaining a unilateral and voluntary moratorium on nuclear explosive testing.

Mr. Chairman, India is committed to working with the international community to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery, including through strong national export controls and membership of the multilateral export control regimes. All states should fully and effectively implement the obligations arising from the agreements or treaties to which they are parties. India's position on the NPT is well-known and needs no reiteration.

Nuclear energy remains an essential source of clean and sustainable energy especially for developing countries. Its expansion must be accompanied by enhanced international standards for nuclear safety, nuclear security and reduced proliferation risk. These international standards should be implemented through effective national action. The International Atomic Energy Agency has an irreplaceable role in this respect. India has contributed actively to the Nuclear Security Summit process launched by President Obama in 2010 and we participated in the recent High Level Meeting on countering nuclear terrorism. Our resolution on WMD terrorism in the General Assembly has received consensus support since it was tabled in 2002. We are tabling it on behalf of the sponsors at this session as well.

Mr. Chairman, India's resolutions in the First Committee give expression to our desire to work with other member states of the United Nations to achieve the goal of nuclear disarmament. We are introducing on behalf of the sponsors a draft resolution on "Reducing Nuclear Danger". The resolution highlights the need for a review of nuclear doctrines and immediate steps to reduce the risk of unintentional or accidental use of nuclear weapons, including through de-alerting and de-targeting of nuclear weapons. Since 1998, the resolution has advocated modest yet critical objectives for the safety and security of mankind. It is a matter of satisfaction that the issues raised by this long-standing resolution are finding greater resonance and recognition in the international community, including through another resolution on the subject.

Further, we have the honour to present on behalf of the sponsors a draft resolution

on a Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons. This traditional text reflects our belief that a multilateral, universal and legally binding instrument prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons will contribute to the process of de-legitimization of nuclear weapons and create a favourable climate for negotiations on an agreement on the prohibition of nuclear weapons.



693. Statement Mr. Derek O'Brien, Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation, on Agenda Item 65 – Promotion & Protection of the Rights of Children' at the Third Committee of the 67th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on October 19, 2012

Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for giving me the floor. I would like to thank the Secretary-General, the Special Representatives and the Special Rapporteur for their reports under this agenda item.

Mr. Chairman,

I come from India, where one in every five of the world's children lives. I come from India, where 400 million children and young people below the age of 18 live; this is larger than the population of America, Argentina and Australia put together. I come from India, which manufactures 40 per cent of vaccines used in universal immunization programs across the world, protecting small babies and little children from disease and death. I come from India, where investing in the future of our country's and our world's youngest citizens is recognized as not just an economic necessity but a moral imperative.

Mr. Chairman,

The Indian Constitution has several provisions providing for protection, development and welfare of children. These and the provisions of the National Policy for Children 1974 were subsequently updated and crafted in detail in the National Charter for Children adopted by the Government in 2004.

The National Charter for Children is a comprehensive document encompassing the following areas: health, education, protection from economic exploitation and all forms of abuse, protection of the girl child, protecting children with disabilities and the welfare of children of marginalized and disadvantaged communities.

A detailed Plan of Action was drawn up in 2005 focusing on four broad areas: child survival, child development, child protection and child participation. In India, we believe, that civil society needs to partner government in addressing children's issues.

Mr. Chairman,

Early childhood is the most crucial phase. This is when the foundations for physical, psychological, social and intellectual development are laid. The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), the flagship programme of the Government benefits 78 million children below the age of 6 in the area of nutrition, health and education.

Proper nutrition is essential for cognitive development of the young child. These measures include supplementary nutrition to bridge the caloric gap between the recommended intake and average intake of children in low income and disadvantaged communities; regular monitoring of the growth chart; and safeguarding in particular against vitamin A deficiency, to improve the nutritional and health status of children.

ICDS also covers these children with immunization, regular health check-ups and referral services as required as well as provides pre-school non-formal education to 37 million children in the age group of 3-6 years. The Scheme is now being universalised.

Several programmes are being implemented to address infant and child mortality. These include Universal Immunisation Programme, Integrated Management of Neonatal Childhood Illnesses, Total Sanitation Campaign, and the Reproductive and Child Health Programme.

I would in particular like to highlight the success of our Pulse Polio Immunization Programme in partnership with WHO, UNICEF and Rotary International that has led to the significant milestone of India being polio free in 2011.

The Indian Constitution provides for free and compulsory education for children up to the age of 14 years. As part of a public-private partnership, private schools reserve 25% of seats for children from economically weaker sections of society with budgetary support from the government.

Mr. Chairman,

Ending exploitation and violence against children is fundamental to ensuring a healthy future for every child. We have undertaken significant measures towards the creation of a protective environment for children.

To strengthen implementation of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000, the government launched the Integrated Child Protection Scheme in 2009 to cover offences against children which are not presently addressed in the law, and to increase the safety net for the protection of children.

This scheme unified several existing schemes of child protection and has provided better understanding on children's protection issues beside generating interest among all stakeholders.

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights was set up in 2007 . This was a significant step for speedy trial of offenders committing crimes against children and violating the rights of children.

The Government of India has recently notified a special law for the protection of children from sexual offences. We are also actively combating the trafficking of women and children.

The Government has taken several steps to provide family and community-based care arrangements for children deprived of parental care including sponsorship, kinship, foster care and adoption.

Mr. Chairman,

The eradication of child labour is a priority for the Government of India. We are strictly enforcing the ban on the employment of children under 14 years of age. At the same time, in recognition of the fact that this problem cannot be separated from its socio-economic circumstances, we are also implementing measures to improve the access to education, health and nutrition for children.

Mr. Chairman,

The girl child is one of the most vulnerable members of any society. I am particularly happy to be placing the statement less than a week after the UN observed 'Girl Child Day' on October 11th. India, you will be pleased to know, now observes January 24 as "National Girl Child Day". The occasion is used to generate awareness about the tremendous potential as well as to highlight the challenges faced by them.

The government has taken a number of steps to enhance the status of the girl child. Sex selective abortion and child marriage have been banned in India. Targeted interventions have led to almost full enrolment in primary grades of schooling and narrowing of gender gaps in middle and higher education.

Mr. Chairman,

Rabindranath Tagore, the poet from India and Bengal and the first Asian to win the Nobel Prize for Literature, wrote about children in his most elegant and memorable work, Gitanjali. "Children," Tagore wrote, "are living beings - more living than grown-up people who have built shells of habit around themselves. Therefore it is absolutely necessary for their mental health and development that they should not have mere schools for their lessons, but a world whose guiding spirit is personal love."

The child is an instrumental stakeholder in the social contract. We have an obligation to provide a safe and enabling environment for their development.

Let me reaffirm our commitment to the promotion and protection of the rights of our children and their children's children.

Mr. Chairman,

We wish to leave you with the words of Mahatma Gandhi, who had said, "If we wish to create a lasting peace, we must begin with children".

I thank you.



694. Statement by Mr. Ananth Kumar, Member of Parliament, Chairman, Parliament Committee on External Affairs & Member of the Indian Delegation, on Agenda Item No: 19 Follow-up to and Implementation of the Outcome of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development and the 2008 Review Conference at the Second Committee of the 67th Session of the Un General Assembly on October 22, 2012

Mr. Chairman, Thank you for giving me the floor. India associates itself with the statement made by Algeria on behalf of the G-77.

Mr. Chairman, We are just three years away from the MDG target year. While there has been progress in several areas, it is clear that many of the targets will remain unmet. A key element in our not being able to realize even the minimum goals that were set for those in the greatest need is the gap in development financing.

We remain deeply concerned that ODA in 2011 declined by almost 3% to US Dollars 133.5 billion, first such fall in global ODA since 1997, and to the Least Developed Countries by 9%. And we also saw new conditionalities to ODA, which undercut already dwindling investment in the productive sectors. The global financial crisis has further exacerbated the financing gap. High unemployment, soaring food and energy prices and dwindling tax revenues continue to plague most developing countries. In this environment, raising domestic financial resources for development has become an arduous task, beyond the means of most developing countries, especially the LDCs, LLDCs, SID countries and countries in Africa. It is essential that growth-promoting policies are pursued to boost resources. Progressive taxation and financial inclusion policies remain equally crucial to address development challenges.

Mr. Chairman, Foreign Direct Investment has long been identified as an engine for development. However, FDI, by itself, is not sufficient for eradicating poverty, hunger and disease in developing countries. In order to maximize development results, FDI needs to form productive linkages with the wider local economy and be consistent with the broader objectives of sustainable development.

The crucial role of international trade in development should not be undermined. Developing countries have long relied on their exports to boost their economies. However, protectionist measures adopted by developed countries, coupled with the uncertainties associated with the sovereign debt crisis, have resulted in reduction in export income for developing countries, especially the LDCs. A balanced and development oriented outcome of the Doha Round is needed, most urgently, to create a level playing field in international trade. Those who profess "Trade not aid" to be the mantra must take lead and show us the way.

The debt levels in several developing countries have now reached unprecedented levels, and their concern must not be made secondary to the Euro zone debt crisis. Concerted efforts to achieve debt relief and sustainability are of utmost importance.

Mr. Chairman, Over the past few years, south-south cooperation has assumed greater salience in development partnership. The increased importance of south-south cooperation should not, however, dilute the pivotal role of north-south cooperation. In a similar vein, it is important to recognize that the developing world, with their significant socio-economic challenges, cannot be expected to meet the obligations of developed countries. South-South Cooperation must be allowed to grow within its own space and within its own principles. It cannot be a substitute for North-South Cooperation.

India, on its part, is privileged and committed to share its development expertise with fellow developing countries. Under our flagship development cooperation platform, the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme, we are extending capacity building and technical support to 161 developing countries with around 7400 vocational training slots on an annual basis. Our development partnership in recent years has expanded to include lines of credit and grants to boost economic and trade partnerships.

On a different note, Mr. Chairman, of late, in financing conversation globally, remittance has come to be compared or equated with ODA. We do not subscribe to this. Remittance to developing countries may have increased substantially in recent years reaching USD 372 billion in 2011, but it cannot be seen anything more than household income.

And surely cannot be passed off as another source of financing for development, for which the imperative is to meet the agreed international commitments.

Apart from ODA, technology transfer and capacity building are crucial to enhance capacity of developing countries. At the RIO+20 Summit we have taken crucial decisions on a Finance Strategy and a Technology Mechanism to boost resource support for the sustainable development agenda. Time is of essence and we must move expeditiously on them.

Given the resource gap in financing for development, it is imperative that innovative sources of financing be explored. We, however, see innovative sources as additional to and not a substitute for ODA.

Mr. Chairman,

A comprehensive reform of the global governance is critical to addressing the present systemic weaknesses in the international financial architecture. India has been working hard to ensure that developing countries' representation at

Bretton Woods Institutions adequately reflect their growing economic weight in today's global economy.

Both the IMF and the World Bank have taken important steps to enhance their governance structures and to increase the voting power of developing countries, and we welcome them. These reforms must be implemented most urgently. We look forward to the comprehensive review of the current IMF quota formula to be completed in January 2013.

More effort, however, is required to ensure that global economic governance and the development agenda complement each other effectively. As we speak of this, it is critical that progress under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change proceed in a balanced and comprehensive manner, based on the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities. The developed countries who have over-utilized the atmospheric space must take on greater burden, and not subject developing countries to the double whammy of usurpation of their ecological space and shackles on their right to pursue sustainable and inclusive growth.

Mr. Chairman, The financing of the development process is at the core of the global development agenda. It is essential that international community recognizes this and adheres to the principles embodied in the Monterrey Consensus and Doha Review Conference in letter and spirit. I thank you.



695. Statement by Mr. Derek O'Brien, Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation at the Joint Debate on Agenda Items: Report of the Economic and Social Council [9] Intergrated and Coordinated Implementation of and Follow-up to the Outcome of the Major Un Conference and Summits in the Economic, Social and Related Fields [14] and Follow-up to the Outcome of The Millennium Summit [113] at the 67th Session of the United Nations Geneal Assembly on October 22, 2012.

Mr. President, Excellencies and distinguished delegates. I am privileged to address the General Assembly.

In Bengali: I bring you greetings from India. We are in the midst of our biggest festival of the year in Bengal, the state of India that I come from, and on behalf of its people, and the people of India, I would like you wish you a happy and prosperous Durga Puja.

Mr. President, At the Rio+20 Summit in June this year, the global community made a solemn promise to craft a future that would truly and really – and not just in some clichéd manner – belong to all; to all of us, every child of Mother Earth. It was a promise to the marginalised to deliver a life of dignity, a life of hope. It was a pledge to us to fight poverty as the greatest global challenge.

With just three years to go to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) finish line, where do we stand? The task at hand remains a daunting one. More than a billion people in developing countries continue to live in extreme poverty, hunger and hopeless desperation. We need to do much more.

On MDGs, we can take some comfort in collectively having made progress on poverty eradication, primary education, gender equality and sanitation. However, when we introspect, our record on maternal mortality, infant mortality and malnutrition remains a matter of deep and abiding concern. We will have a more populous planet in the 21st century than ever before in human history. Yet, are we doing enough to harness this demographic dividend?

In India, we have pursued the path of inclusive growth for achieving poverty eradication. We have brought down poverty numbers significantly as compared to the 1990 levels. But we continue to be challenged by more than 300 million people living below the poverty line of US\$ 1.25 a day. This is equivalent to the population of the United States, Mr President, Excellencies and distinguished delegates; and that should emphasise the enormity of the crisis and the moral obligation that still confronts us.

In primary education, India has achieved near 100% enrolment. In part, this has

been due to the Right to Education legislation, which makes eight years of schooling a legal right that the Indian state must ensure to every citizen. The challenge now is to focus on the quality of learning in our schools, and to further narrow the gender gap in secondary and primary schooling. We have for the first time in our history added more female literates than males in the past decade, an achievement that deserves appreciation and of which we are justifiably proud.

However, India is conscious of the health and social development gaps that are yet to be addressed. Our commitment to tackling infant and maternal mortality and augmenting women's empowerment remains absolute and unflinching. It is part of our nation-building tradition. As Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, one of the foremost minds of 19th century Bengal, a pioneer of modern India and among our country's great champions of gender rights, female emancipation and girls' education, wrote, "How sad! The country, whose male population is unkind, unreligious and unaware of the distinction between the good and the evil and don't care about justice and fairness and where abiding the rituals is the chief preoccupation of religion, should not give birth to girls!"

This philosophy, which Vidyasagar explained in the 1850s, 150 years ago, anticipated the enlightenment of the MDGs. The MDGs, Mr. President, represent the most cherished chapter of multilateralism. There should be no let-up in our efforts to achieving them. And the unfinished agenda of the MDGs must find a pivotal place in our work ahead. An inclusive Post-2015 development agenda can only be built if equity and poverty eradication remain its defining contours.

Mr. President,

At the Rio+20 Summit, we discussed practically every aspect of human endeavour and came up with a blueprint for action on sustainable development, one that rightfully integrates economic growth with social inclusion and environmental sustainability.

And to do so we agreed to establish several institutional frameworks: a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), developing a Financing Strategy and a Technology Mechanism, strengthening the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and setting up a High-level Political Forum on sustainable development. Time is of essence and putting these building blocks in place in the months ahead must be our priority. We have just begun this century, but let us not postpone its most efficacious and necessary achievements to too late in the century. We did that in the 20th century and look how our world suffered.

As we sit down to fashion the SDGs, we must do so with a clear idea that they would form the crux of the Post-2015 development agenda. Dealing with challenges related to poverty, food, energy and livelihoods issues should be our

priority. The MDG framework has given us valuable lessons as to what works and what does not. There is little value in trying to reinvent the wheel. The framework of MDG goals should be replicated in the new set of goals.

Mr. President,

Our commitment to the MDGs and the Rio+20 is unwavering. But the global economic situation does not seem to favour us. Slackened growth, high inflation – particularly food inflation – a mounting debt burden and high youth employment are undercutting the development gains made in developing countries. Therefore, it is of fundamental importance that we, as a global community, are able to pull the world economy back on track. Nothing can be more helpful as we do our best to put more resources into and bring greater focus on our development goals.

We must also redouble our efforts to push for urgent progress on the Doha Development Round. Those who profess “more trade and not aid” is the answer to the developmental gaps of our era need to put their words into action. Shibboleths alone cannot do. It is equally imperative to fashion a comprehensive and balanced outcome to Climate Change negotiations, based on the principles of common but differentiated responsibility and equity.

South-South Cooperation must also contribute and it must be allowed to grow within its own space and its own ecosystem, and in accordance with its own principles. It cannot, however, be a substitute for North-South Cooperation. The two processes are complementary. As a world community, we have to avoid limiting “either-or” choices.

Mr. President,

An issue of great import today for sustainable development is the deficit in global governance. Without addressing this, we cannot restructure the 21st century comity of nations as an equitable matrix that serves the cause of all. Decisions by the self-selected few can hardly provide the solutions we seek for the many.

It is crucial, therefore, that developing countries are given due voice and participation in the decision-making structures of the global economic and financial institutions, especially the Bretton Woods Institutions. And, here at the

United Nations, it is critical we move urgently on reform of the Security Council by expanding it in both categories, permanent and non-permanent, revitalise the General Assembly and strengthen the ECOSOC.

Mr. President,

The Convention on Biological Diversity, born out of the Earth Summit, remains

a seminal global compact on development. Movement on biodiversity goals and actions remains vital to integrate sustainability and equity into our development paradigm.

This past week in India, we successfully concluded the 11 Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity. We hope its outcome will help us achieve our collective commitments. I wish to thank all the delegations for their support in making the event a success.

Feeding our people and providing them with sustenance is a challenge that we, in the developing countries, grapple with daily. We are hopeful our biodiversity resources and conservation efforts will help us find new solutions to food security and livelihoods issues.

Mr President,

Space scientists call our Earth the Goldilocks planet – not too hot, not too cold, just right for life. Indeed, in keeping with that imagery, humankind’s evolution and prodigious attainments in the millennia that have passed have been nothing short of a fairy tale. A true miracle, I may say. True, our challenges are many. But given what we have achieved, given the diseases and scourges we have beaten back, given the disasters and calamities we have learnt to protect ourselves against, what we are left with is, frankly, only the last mile.

With our collaborative effort and collective will we can do it. We can fashion a better world for ourselves – and as a legacy for our children and succeeding generations. Acting multilaterally, through institutions and agencies such as the United Nations, we represent hope for millions around the world. This is a hope that seeks only basic necessities of life. This is a hope we cannot betray.

As the great Bengali poet Rabindranath Tagore put it in his eloquent words:

“I slept and dreamt that life was joy/

I awoke and saw that life was service/

I acted and behold, service was joy.”

Let us, as a global community, awaken to service. And to joy.

I thank you.



696. Statement by Mr. Derek O'Brien, Member of Parliament And Member of The Indian Delegation, on Agenda Item: 81 - "Consideration of Effective Measures to Enhance the Protection, Security and Safety of Diplomatic and Consular Missions and Representatives" at the Sixth Committee of The 67th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on October 24, 2012.

Mr. Chairman,

We thank the Secretary-General for his report A/67/126 entitled "Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives."

The report, *inter-alia* incorporates information received from certain States regarding serious violations of the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives; and also about the measures taken to ensure that such violations do not take place.

Mr. Chairman,

We consider that the diplomatic and consular missions discharge a very sensitive and high responsibility of promoting exchange of views among nations. These institutions have a pivotal role in the development of friendly relations among nations.

The diplomatic and consular representatives require personal protection in order to discharge their official functions smoothly. So is required the security and safety of missions' premises to ensure a peaceful and workable environment.

Mr. Chairman,

Granting of protection and privileges and immunities to the diplomatic and consular personnel is not to benefit them individually. It is for ensuring the efficient performance of their official functions.

We draw the attention to the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter concerning the sovereign equality of States, maintenance of international peace and security, and the promotion of friendly relations among nations.

The role of diplomatic and consular missions is crucial in carrying out the purposes of the United Nations Charter by applying the principles enshrined therein.

The protection of the diplomatic and consular missions and representatives is thus the basic foundation of diplomatic and international relations between States.

Mr. Chairman,

We strongly condemn all acts of violence against the security and safety of

diplomatic and consular missions and representatives. It is a serious concern that needs to be addressed effectively.

We firmly believe that crimes against diplomatic agents and other internationally protected persons create a serious threat to the maintenance of normal international relations which are necessary for cooperation among nations.

With the aim of ensuring the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives, the international community has concluded international instruments, including the Vienna Conventions on Diplomatic Relations; and on Consular Relations and their Protocols; and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons including Diplomatic Agents.

Mr. Chairman,

India is a Party to these conventions and protocols. The need of hour for all States parties is to realize the importance of these instruments and to carry out the obligations assumed there-under with a sense of high responsibility. We stress the need for those States that have not already done so to become a party to these instruments.

India believes that it is necessary to uphold norms of peaceful international discourse and in that the safety and security of diplomatic personnel must be fully respected.

Finally, **Mr. Chairman**, we stress that in addition to the existing international instruments, all measures that are necessary to protect the diplomatic and consular missions and representatives, must be taken at all levels.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.



697. Statement by Mr. Derek O'Brien, Member of Parliament & Member of the Indian Delegation, at the Joint Debate on Agenda Item 18: Macroeconomic Policy Questions: [A] International Trade & Development at the 67th Session of the Un General Assembly on October 24, 2012.

Mr. Chairman,

We thank the Secretary General and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) for their insightful reports. India aligns itself with the statement made by Algeria on behalf of the G-77.

Mr. Chairman,

The deceleration in world trade witnessed since 2008 continued in 2011. The overall global economic recovery continues to be fragile and halting. The prospects for global trade do not appear to be too encouraging.

The sovereign debt crisis in Europe and the recessionary trends in the traditional engines of the global economy have dampened capital markets which are showing signs of acute distress.

Developing countries cannot remain untouched by these economic sentiments. After the 2008 economic meltdown, it was said that large developing countries would replace the traditional economic engines. This has not happened. Growth in large developing countries is also slowing down. Unemployment, food and energy concerns remain high. This has further undermined the limited coping capacity of developing countries to absorb shocks.

It is, therefore, of utmost importance that we collectively undertake growth promoting policies to boost demand and create jobs.

Transforming trade into greater income opportunities through job creation remains a critical development challenge, more so in the present job-less growth scenario with a deficit of 50 million jobs in comparison to the pre-crisis situation. And with over a billion people in extreme poverty and hunger in developing countries, we cannot but afford to make inclusive growth our priority.

Declining global demand and availability of capital, increasing barriers to free trade and mounting debt pose a threat to the international trading and financial systems. Unstable capital flows and volatility in the currency market have further eroded the export competitiveness of developing countries. 2

To act as an engine of development, the international trade framework should work towards removing barriers that prevent developing countries from fully participating in global trade. Eschewing protectionism and enhancing market

access for developing countries are critical in this regard. We welcome the decision of the G-20 to renew its Standstill commitment until the end of 2014 and its pledge to roll back any new protectionist measures.

Mr. Chairman,

We are happy to note that South-South exports rebounded at a much faster pace in 2010, now representing 55% of developing countries' exports and a quarter of the world exports. We are equally encouraged by the trend of developing countries exploring South-South regional integration to promote economies of scale, diversification and resilience.

The UNCTAD report calls for strict regulation of the financial sector, and focuses on policies that emphasize income growth as the basis for sustainable and balanced development worldwide. We are pleased to note that the G-20 is actively pursuing these policy suggestions.

Mr. Chairman,

Commodities are key export products for a large number of developing countries, especially the Least Developed Countries and have a direct impact on their socio-economic advancement. Growing commodity price volatility is a matter of deep concern for us and is having a negative impact on global food and energy security. At the same time, increasing financialization and excessive speculation of the commodity market have become a factor of economic instability for most developing countries.

Mr. Chairman,

Due to their structural constraints, the LDCs are overwhelmingly dependent on trade as an engine of growth and development. However, their share in global trade in 2011 was only 1.14%. At this rate, the prospect of achieving the Istanbul Programme target of enhancing the share of LDCs in global trade remains a challenge.

We ought to create an enabling international environment to address their limited trading options. In this regard, we call for early implementation of the Duty Free Quota Free market access for the LDCs.

The DOHA Development Round presents a valuable opportunity to make international trade a vehicle for growth and development, and we must push for an outcome that it is fair, balanced and equitable. At the same time, the proliferation of bilateral and 3 regional trade agreements could be made more compatible and coherent with the multilateral system.

We must also be aware of the felt need to modernise the multilateral trading system to meet economic realities and challenges of the 21st century. This brings us to the seminal issue of global economic governance.

A comprehensive reform of the global governance is critical to addressing the present systemic weaknesses in the international financial and trading architecture. India has been working hard to ensure that developing countries' representation at the Bretton Woods Institutions adequately reflect their growing importance in today's global economy.

Both the IMF and the World Bank have taken important steps to enhance their governance structures and to increase the voting power of developing countries, and we welcome them. These reforms must be implemented most urgently. We look forward to the comprehensive review of the current IMF quota formula to be completed in January 2013.

More effort, however, is required to ensure that global economic governance and the development agenda complement each other effectively. We look forward to discussing these issues in the run to the Post-2015 development framework.

I thank you.



698. Statement by Mr. Derek O’ Brien, Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation, on Agenda Item 55: *Questions Relating to Information at the Special Political and Decolonization [Fourth] Committee of the 67th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on October 25, 2012.*

Mr. Chairman,

Let me begin by congratulating you on your election as Chairman of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee to the 67th General Assembly, as also the members of the Bureau on their election. We wish well and assure you of my delegation’s full co-operation and support. I would also like to congratulate former Chairman, the Permanent Representative of Romania, Ambassador Simona-Mirela Miculescu for doing an admired job in conducting this committee during the 66th session of the General Assembly.

Mr. Chairman,

We welcome the report of the Secretary General on “Questions relating to information” (A/67/307), which provides updates on activities of the Department of Public Information from February to July 2012 in the areas of strategic communication services, news services and outreach services. We also welcome the report of the Committee on Information (A/67/21).

Mr. Chairman,

The DPI has played an important role in spreading awareness about the concept of sustainable development and mobilizing support for the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio de Janeiro, June 20-22, 2012). We also note with satisfaction that DPI has organized various public information activities aimed at promoting important global issues like gender equality, development agenda beyond 2015, action against racism, and counter-terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

It is heartening to note the collaboration of the DPI with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Field Support and Political Affairs in organizing a training workshop and an event to mark International Day of UN Peacekeepers. It is important that the Department seek to further deepen and strengthen its collaboration with DPKO and DFS in the coverage and projection of the most noteworthy activities of the UN: often done under extremely demanding circumstances, by UN peacekeepers in strife-torn lands.

We also reiterate the crucial role performed by the UN Information Centers in enhancing the public image of the UN, and in disseminating information,

particularly in developing countries. These information outposts act as an interface between the United Nations and local communities, and they need to be further strengthened. India urges the DPI to work closely with host countries in these efforts. We would also support adequate budgetary resources being made available to strengthen public outreach and ensure the effective functioning of Information Centers in the developing world.

We note with satisfaction that Information Centers have collaborated with local partners in promoting important global issues. We would like to encourage them to further deepen their collaboration with local community organizations, while working to advance important UN agendas.

Mr. Chairman,

While concurring with the importance of capitalizing on new information technology and social media like Twitter and Facebook, for reaching new audiences, we would also like to stress the importance of using 360 degree communication, involving the widest range of methods, to make the work of the DPI accessible to all. It is important not to treat the digital media, which in many countries caters to a different segment of society, differently from traditional media, as that would be divisive. The end product offered by DPI needs to be dispensed through the widest spectrum of media channels, ranging from webcasts and podcasts to traditional means of communication like radio, television and print, which remain of especial relevance to the developing world. These so called traditional means of communication remain of tremendous importance in these parts of the world, and must not only continue to be used, but further strengthened, for they provide the means to reach out to the vast majority of mankind.

Among traditional media tools, radio holds a special place. It is still recognized as a major source of information, and is widely used in the developing world. We are of the opinion that there is need to raise awareness about the importance of radio, and enhance international cooperation for improving and diversifying the content of radio broadcasts. We welcome the proclamation by the 36th session of the UNESCO General Conference to celebrate February 13 as the 'World Radio Day'.

Mr. Chairman,

We appreciate DPI for its outreach programs on remembrance of the Holocaust, victims of Slavery and Transatlantic Slave Trade, and International Jazz Day.

We also commend DPI for its activities under the UN Academic Impact (UNAI) initiatives, aimed at interacting with institutions of higher learning and think tanks in order to build stronger ties between the UN and its diverse global

constituencies. UNAI's events and initiatives on issues ranging from Human Space Flight and Jazz Day to Mandela International Day and current issues and its global response, organized in partnership with organizations and institutions, such as the Young Changemakers and Raindance, the Brookings Institute, and the Queens Museum of Arts, present an excellent example of creativity and innovation in advancing the goals set by the United Nations.

India has always been in the fore front of supporting these initiatives, and has been a committed contributor to the activities of UNAI. India recently co-sponsored the event on the International Jazz Day, organized under the auspices of the Committee on Information on April 30, as part of the UNAI program on "Unlearning Intolerance", and has also made a financial contribution of US \$ 100,000 to the UNAI this year.

A number of Indian Universities are members of the Academic Impact initiative. I am particularly delighted to note that the University of Calcutta, one of our oldest and most cherished, renowned universities, has been designated as Academic Hub by the UN to develop teaching-learning expertise in Peace and Conflict Resolution Studies under the Academic Impact initiative.

Taking India's engagement with the UNAI to the grassroots, a youth NGO "Young Changemakers and Raindance", collaborated with the UNAI in organizing an event in Mumbai to mark Mandela International Day on July 18, 2012. Donations were collected to finance scholarship for school children living in slums.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me conclude by conveying India's good wishes to the DPI. We assure our continued support in fulfilling its charter, especially in its endeavor to project the work of the UN.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



699. Statement by Mr. Bansa Gopal Chowdhury, Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation on Agenda Item No: 26 Agriculture Development and Food Security at the Second Committee of the 67th Session of the Un General Assembly on November 01, 2012.

Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for giving me the floor. India aligns itself with the statement made by Algeria on behalf of the G-77.

Food Security, Mr. Chairman, is one of the most pressing issues on the global sustainable development agenda. At the RIO+20 Summit, we identified food security as a key priority in crafting a future for all. This seminal understanding must now be implemented, and also brought forward in the ongoing discussions on the Sustainable Development Goals and the Post 2015 development agenda.

Ensuring food security especially for the poor and the marginalized is a challenge that preoccupies Governments in developing countries foremost. Rising food 2 inflation and food price volatility are seriously undermining our efforts to fight hunger, poverty and malnutrition. The global economic slowdown has only made matters worse.

Recent spikes in global food prices have exposed the inherent limitations of unsustainable market practices, unsustainable consumption patterns and unsustainable farming to deal with food as a basic human need.

Today, we are producing enough to feed the global population. But high food prices, wastage of food, post harvest losses along with host of other systemic macro-economic issues are hampering our efforts to provide food for all. A large number of Least Developed Countries, especially in Africa perpetually remain in food insecurity.

Tackling waste remains critical to addressing food security and the issue must get greater attention in the global discourse on the matter. We waste 1.3 billion tons of food annually, including post harvest losses. This is roughly 1/3 of our annual global food production. If we are able to curb it, we would have enough to feed the 1 billion hungry people we still have to look after.

Mr. Chairman,

Unsustainable consumption patterns, emphasis on producing non-food crops, environmental degradation, and stagnant agricultural productivity has led to a mismatch between global food demand and supply.

There are, however, other systemic issues that are equally responsible for the

present global food uncertainties. We have consistently had higher global food prices in spite of bumper crop production.

In recent years, we have seen a surge in the flow of speculative capital into global commodity markets and increase in the number of future traded contracts in developed countries. Excessive speculation has led to spike in prices and high volatility in the market. We must make concerted effort to improve regulation in the world commodity markets.

Mr. Chairman,

Of late, we have seen persistent arguments being made to suggest that food security is a function of aggregate population. We do not see merit in such postulations. For if that was the case, developing countries by virtue of being home to a larger population would have been consuming much more than developed countries. Fortunately, that is not the case. 3

Mr. Chairman,

Agriculture development is a livelihood issue in developing countries. In India, around 70% of our population is dependent on agriculture. Two-third of our agriculture is rain-fed which is totally dependent on the vagaries of nature.

The Government of India has undertaken several measures to tackle food security and agriculture development in an integrated manner. Our national policy for farmers addresses the issue of improving the economic viability of farming; promoting sustainable use of natural resources; empowering small and marginal farmers; and undertaking appropriate price and trade policy mechanisms.

My Government's commitment to providing food security to every citizen of India remains resolute and unflinching. We are in the process of considering a food security bill that would guarantee subsidized grains to more than 600 million people in India, with special provisions for women and children. In the meantime, the Public Distribution System even though not a universal one is maintained to provide essential commodities which include food grains to the poor.

India has also launched a National Food Security Mission for enhancing production of rice, wheat and pulses. Efforts are being made to shelter the small and marginal farmers from the vagaries of the market through price support initiatives. India has taken steps for providing crop and cattle insurance. We have also made a beginning in providing information on market intelligence and price analyses to farmers and other stakeholders using Information and Communications Technologies.

Mr. Chairman,

The solution to enhancing global food security lies in global action.

We recognize the need to improve global policy coordination and coherence for food security among countries.

Our collective effort should be to ensure higher investment, greater use of modern technology, and access to farm credit to enhance agriculture productivity and growth. And while doing so, we must specially focus on empowering women as critical agents of change.

Our approach should equally keep in mind the concerns of ecology and environment, the need to empower small and marginal farmers and to give special attention to dry land agriculture. Our bio-diversity resources and traditional knowledge and practices should also be harnessed in an optimal way to feed our people.

The ongoing multilateral trade negotiations, where arguments for liberalizing trade in agriculture products are being put forth, must bear in mind the imperative of providing adequate safeguards to agriculture, food security and livelihood issues in developing countries.

India reiterates its support for the L'Aquila Food Security Initiative and calls upon countries to meet their financial commitments to enhance capacities of developing countries.

India remains committed to sharing its technical assistance to ensure food security of our fellow developing countries. At the India-Africa Forum Summit in Addis Ababa last year, we announced establishing an India-Africa Food Processing Cluster, an India-Africa center for medium range weather forecasting to harness satellite technology for agriculture and fisheries sectors and an India-Africa Institute of Agriculture and Rural Development. These initiatives are geared towards meeting the food security of the people of Africa.

I thank you.



700. Statement by Dr. Najma Heptulla, Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation, on Agenda Item: 71 - "Report of the International Court of Justice" at the 67th session of the United Nations General Assembly on November 01, 2012.

Mr. President,

I extend my sincere gratitude to Judge Peter Tomka, President of the International Court of Justice, for his comprehensive and detailed report, covering the judicial activities of the Court over the last year. I also thank him and Vice-President Judge Bernardo Sepulveda-Amor for their leadership of the Court over that period.

Mr. President,

India attaches the highest importance to the Court as the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. The foremost purpose of the United Nations is the maintenance of international peace and security. The peaceful settlement of international disputes is fundamental for achieving this objective. The Court has fulfilled admirably the task of resolving disputes peacefully since its establishment.

Mr. President,

The Court remains the only judicial body with legitimacy derived from the UN Charter and enjoying universal character with general jurisdiction, whereas other international judicial institutions have competence and jurisdiction in specific areas only. The Statute of the ICJ is an integral part of the UN Charter. This is a unique status enjoyed by the ICJ among the international courts or tribunals.

Mr. President,

As stated in the Preamble to its Charter, one of the primary goals of the United Nations is to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations of international law can be maintained. The International Court of Justice, as the only international Court with general international law jurisdiction, is uniquely placed to fulfill that role.

The report of the Court clearly illustrates the confidence that States have reposed in it, as shown by the number and scope of cases entrusted to it and the Court's growing specialization in complex aspects of public international law. This clearly establishes the universality of the Court.

Mr. President,

During the last year, the Court has handed down four judgements and one

advisory opinion. The Court has in one judgement highlighted the significance of the principle of sovereign immunity of States. In another judgement, the Court has confirmed the relevance of the principle of either prosecute or extradite. The Court's docket of pending cases has grown consistently in factual and legal complexity. Presently, the number of pending contentious cases stands at 11, involving States from all over the world.

Mr. President,

Since its inception, the Court has dealt with a variety of complex legal issues. The subject matter of cases before the Court varied widely, including territorial and maritime disputes, environmental damage, violation of territorial integrity, violation of international humanitarian law and human rights, genocide, and interpretation and application of international treaties.

The Court has remained highly sensitive in respecting political realities and sentiments of States, while acting within the provisions of the UN Charter, its own Statute and other applicable international law. The Court has contributed significantly towards settling legal disputes between Sovereign States, thus promoting the rule of law in international relations.

Mr. President,

Through its second function of providing advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by organs of the United Nations and specialized agencies, the Court continues to fulfill the important role of clarifying the key international law issues.

Mr. President,

I am glad to note that the Court has taken significant steps over recent years to enhance its efficiency to enable it to cope with the steady increase in its workload. We are happy to note that accordingly the Court has successfully cleared its backlog of cases, which further strengthens the confidence of States in the Court's competency and efficiency.

Mr. President,

I wish to reiterate, in my concluding remarks, the great importance the international community attaches to the work of the International Court of Justice and to draw the Assembly's attention to the importance of strengthening the functioning of the Court by providing all necessarily required means.

Thank You, Mr. President.



701. Statement by Ambassador Sujata Mehta, Permanent Representative of India to Conference on Disarmament, Geneva, on Thematic Debate of Conventional Weapons at the First Committee, of the 67th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on November 01, 2012.

Mr. Chairman,

India shares concerns about the challenges posed by conventional weapons, including small arms and light weapons, to international peace and security. We attach importance to measures aimed at conventional arms control to address these challenges and to make progress on the goal of general and complete disarmament. Since last year's First Committee meetings significant activity has taken place under the UN auspices on conventional arms. The Review Conferences of Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons and the Diplomatic Conference for negotiating an Arms Trade Treaty were held during this period. India engaged actively and constructively in these meetings.

India associates itself with the statement made by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-aligned Movement.

Mr. Chairman,

We welcome the successful conclusion of the Review Conference of the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons with the adoption of the outcome document by consensus. We attach high importance to the UNPOA as the cornerstone of multilateral efforts to prevent, combat and eradicate illicit trade in SALW. The full and effective implementation of the UNPOA and the International Tracing Instrument is a priority for India, especially as a means for combating terrorism and transnational crime which has adversely affected our national security. We note with satisfaction that the Review Conference reaffirmed the key commitments of States under the UNPOA. The Implementation Plans of the UNPOA and ITI and the Schedule of Meetings for 2012-18 outline the roadmap for the UNPOA for the next few years. It will be important to maintain consensus in the UNPOA process in the coming years while making further progress on both the political and technical aspects of the UNPOA implementation.

India is privileged to be a party to the entire CCW package and attaches importance to the spirit of the CCW which aims to strike a balance between addressing humanitarian concerns arising from the use of certain conventional weapons and the military necessity of such weapons. It remains the only forum of a universal character that brings together all the main users and producers of certain conventional weapons, thus ensuring that the instruments which emerge have greater prospect of making a meaningful impact on the ground. We were

disappointed that the CCW Review Conference held in November last year could not adopt the cluster munitions protocol. The draft protocol would have addressed the humanitarian concerns caused by cluster munitions and made a real impact on the ground by bringing into its ambit the States that produce and stockpile the bulk of the world's cluster munitions.

India remains committed to the CCW process in progressively strengthening the role and principles of international humanitarian law. India supports the vision of a world free of the threat of landmines and is committed to the eventual elimination of anti-personnel landmines. The availability of militarily effective alternative technologies that can perform cost effectively the defensive functions of anti-personnel landmines will facilitate the achievement of this goal. We support the approach enshrined in Amended Protocol II of the CCW which addresses the legitimate defence requirements of States with long borders. India has discontinued the production of non-detectable anti-personnel landmines and observes a moratorium on their transfer. We are also contributing to international demining and rehabilitation efforts. India participates in the Ottawa Convention meetings as an Observer. India has shouldered various responsibilities in relation to CCW's Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War; for the past two years we have coordinated the work on national reporting.

India supports the two major instruments promoting transparency in armaments, viz. the UN Register on Conventional Arms and the UN Standardized Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditure. India has regularly submitted national reports to the UN Register on the export and import of conventional arms and has contributed to the three-yearly reviews of the Register. India would support efforts for further improving the Register along with efforts towards universalizing participation in it. We also contributed to the work of the GGE on the standardized instrument for reporting military expenditures held in 2011.

India participated in the Diplomatic Conference held in July this year to negotiate an Arms Trade Treaty. Given the complexities of the issues involved it was not possible for the Conference to adopt an agreed text. We believe that further work needs to be done and a treaty of this kind which would be legally binding when in force should not be rushed through. The treaty should make a real impact on addressing illicit trafficking in conventional arms and their diversion to terrorists and other non-State actors. It should establish a balance of obligations of exporting and importing States and ensure that national implementation and domestic jurisdiction are fully respected. It is important to bring all stakeholders on board in a manner that promotes the prospects of a treaty that is practical and implementable and is able to attract universal adherence. India is prepared to engage in further work on an ATT in a consensus based process and outcome.

Thank you.



702. Statement by Ms. Annu Tandon, Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation, on Agenda Item No: 21 - Un-habitat at The Second Committee of the 67th Session of the Un General Assembly on Noember 01, 2012.

Mr.Chairman,

I wish to thank the Secretary General for his report on the Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements and strengthening the UN-Habitat. India associates itself with the statement delivered by Algeria on behalf of the G-77.

Mr. Chairman,

With more than half the world's population now living in urban areas, urbanization and its socio-economic linkages have come to occupy the center stage of the sustainable development agenda. The global urban population is likely to increase to 70% by 2050 with developing countries accounting for most of the change. By the middle of this century, developing countries are also projected to double their present urban population. Such demographic dominance of urban areas in developing countries entails new challenges for governments and policy planners.

In the months and years ahead, global efforts to combat poverty, promote inclusive growth and reduce environmental stress will increasingly be determined by the efforts we put in to integrate urban development into our larger socio-economic planning. The RIO+20 Summit held in June this year has given us a clear direction on how to make urban living a sustainable option, and we must take it forward.

Mr. Chairman,

Being a founding member of UN-Habitat, India values its partnership with the organization. Our delegation welcomes the progress made in the implementation of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan for the period 2008-2013, particularly the focus on pro-poor housing as well as basic infrastructure and services.

In this context, we urge upon all entities to contribute to further capitalization of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation so as to enable UN-Habitat to provide more financial and seed capital support for slum upgrading and prevention.

We are happy that the global community has achieved the MDG target of improving the lives of 100 million slum dwellers well before time. This is very encouraging. We need to continue with our concerted efforts.

Mr. Chairman,

Over the last few decades, India has seen massive shift in its population from

rural to urban areas. Presently, Indian cities and towns constitute the world's second largest urban system and contribute to half of our GDP.

Within the next two decades, we are poised to have over 590 million people living in urban areas, producing more than 70 per cent of GDP and accounting for 70 per cent of the new employment created. This growth in urban economic activity, however, requires infrastructure support such as power, telecom, roads, water supply, sanitation, solid waste management and mass transportation.

We are committed to meeting these expectations, and seek a holistic and integrated solution to urban issues. Our National Action Plan on Climate Change comprises a National Mission on Sustainable Habitat as its key component. The Mission looks to promote energy efficiency as a core component of urban planning and urban renewal. Initiatives launched under this Mission serve to advance improvements in energy efficiency in buildings, solid waste management and a modal shift to public transport. The Government of India, in its 12th Five-Year Plan (2012-2017), recognizes the challenges and opportunities of urbanization. We have undertaken several initiatives to cater to the needs of the urban poor.

In 2007, India launched the National Urban Housing and Habitat Policy – an initiative to promote sustainable development of habitat in the country with special attention to urban housing.

An important element of this policy- the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission- seeks to integrate the development of infrastructure services in cities. Other programmes such as the Basic Services to the Urban Poor and the Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme are initiatives for slum dwellers and the urban poor.

An urban poverty alleviation program called the “Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana” provides gainful employment to those in need through self-employment ventures and opportunities for wage employment.

The National Urban Sanitation Policy, launched by the Government of India, seeks to transform urban India into sanitized and healthy cities.

India has also been actively promoting affordable rural housing through programmes like the “Indira Awaas Yojana”, which provide financial assistance for construction and upgradation of dwelling units for the poor with special attention to their basic sanitation needs.

Mr. Chairman, providing clean and healthy living environment in urban areas is a pressing challenge today, especially in developing countries where environmental sustainability and growth must go hand in hand. In my own constituency Unnao, in India, we are facing a severe water and air pollution from industrial activity. We remain committed to addressing them in a holistic and sustainable manner.

Mr. Chairman,

The outcome document of United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The Future We Want", commits to the promotion of an integrated approach to planning and building sustainable cities and urban settlements. With the overall aim of achieving sustainable urban development, the document stresses on the need to strengthen mechanisms to ensure the implementation of the UN-Habitat Agenda. We must now singularly focus to implement these commitments.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation welcomes the progress made in the preparation for the third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable development – Habitat III.

We fully support the demand for enhanced budgetary resources for UN-Habitat. The recent financial crisis cannot serve as an excuse for donor countries not to fulfill their financial commitments.

Before concluding, Mr. Chairman, I would like to highlight India's efforts in sharing its experiences and knowledge in housing technology, particularly in field of cost-effective, environment friendly and disaster resistant construction, with fellow developing countries within the framework of South-South cooperation. These initiatives could be further strengthened through triangular cooperation.

I thank you.



703. Statement by Mr. Bansa Gopal Chowdhury, Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian Delegation, on Agenda Item 79 - "Report of the International Law Commission on the Work of Its Sixty-fourth Session- Part-1 A at the Sixth Committee of the 67th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on November 02 2012.

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset I would thank Mr. Lucius Caflisch, Chairman of the sixty-fourth session of the International Law Commission, for his detailed and informative introduction to the work of the Commission at its sixty-fourth session on the first cluster of topics, and for guiding the work of the Commission at this session.

I also commend all members of the Commission on a successful and productive session, in which the Commission adopted on first reading a set of 32 draft articles and commentaries thereto on the topic of 'expulsion of aliens'. The Commission also heard reports by the Special Rapporteurs and had debate on the methodological and substantive issues on the topics of: Immunity of State officials from foreign criminal jurisdiction; Provisional application of treaties and; Formation and evidence of customary international law. I also thank the Secretariat for their contribution to the work of the Commission.

Mr. Chairman,

We commend the Special Rapporteur Mr. Maurice Kamto on the presentation of the eighth report on the topic of "Expulsion of aliens", consideration of which by the Commission resulted in the adoption of a set of thirty-two draft articles and commentaries thereto on this topic.

The approach adopted by the Special Rapporteur in dealing with the right of a State to expel an alien and the rights and remedies available to the person subject of expulsion, including the legal consequences of unlawful expulsion is in general acceptable to us.

We recognize, in principle, the right of a State to expel an alien from its territory as provided under draft article 3 as exercised in accordance with the applicable rules of international law, particularly the human rights law. We would like to emphasize that the State concerned must also take into account the minimum standards of the treatment of aliens.

Mr. Chairman,

We found the provision under draft article 13, prohibiting expulsion in order to circumvent an extradition procedure, a convincing one. Although the expulsion and extradition both have the effect of a person leaving the territory of one state

for another, however, the legal basis and the laws governing the process and the procedure are altogether different and one cannot be used as an alternate for the other.

Mr. Chairman,

We consider that the issues relating to the suspensive effect of an appeal against an expulsion decision under the draft article 27, recourse to a competent international body and the re-admission of aliens in the expelling State under draft article 29 require further discussion as there is no sufficient State practice in this regard. Recourse to an international body might raise issues relating to competence of such bodies where the expelling State is not a party to the relevant international instrument.

Mr. Chairman,

On the topic 'Protection of persons in the event of disasters', we congratulate the Special Rapporteur Mr. Eduardo Valencia-Ospina for submitting the fifth report. The report elaborates upon: the duty to cooperate in the event of disaster under draft article A; the conditions for the provision of assistance under draft article 13 and; the conditions for the termination of assistance under draft article 14.

We appreciate the work of the Drafting Committee and the Commission which resulted in the provisional adoption of draft article 5-bis (Forms of cooperation); draft article 12 (Offers of assistance); draft article 13 (Conditions on the provision of external assistance and; draft article 14 (Facilitation of external assistance).

Mr. Chairman,

India is fully in agreement with the observation of Special Rapporteur that States should observe fundamental humanitarian principles in responding to disasters. The principle of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and non-discrimination as envisaged in draft article 6 should be central to any disaster response.

We would like to emphasize that disaster relief and assistance must start on the premise "respect for the principle of sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence" of the affected State. We stress for the need to ensure that the humanitarian assistance is not forcibly imposed on the affected State and that the concepts of international humanitarian law are not automatically applied, as the duty of protection in the event of armed conflicts differs from that of disaster situations.

Mr. Chairman,

The draft article 12 on 'Offers of assistance' confers the right on states and competent international organizations to offer assistance to the affected State.

While, we do recognize the importance of assistance in disaster situations, we are of the view that offers and acceptance of assistance should be viewed as part of international cooperation as opposed to the assertion of any right or imposition of any duty. We do not think that any such obligatory mandate exists in the field of international cooperation and are of the view that the crucial factor in this regard is the consent of the affected State.

Mr. Chairman,

The draft article 11 prohibits the 'arbitrary withholding' of consent by the affected State. It is however not clear as to what may constitute the 'arbitrary withholding' of consent and that what could be the criteria to determine the inability and unwillingness of an affected State to consent to external assistance.

Regarding draft articles 13 and 14, we appreciate the Commission's observations that the affected State should be entitled to impose conditions on the provision of assistance and that the termination of relief operations should be ultimately a matter for decision by the affected State.

In conclusion, **Mr. Chairman**, I once again congratulate the International Law Commission and, in particular, the Special Rapporteurs, for a successful session.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.



704. Statement by Ambassador Sujata Mehta, Permanent Representative of India to Conference on Disarmament, Geneva, on Thematic Debate on UN Disarmament Machinery at the First Committee of the 67th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on November 02, 2012.

The thematic debate on UN disarmament machinery has assumed greater importance in recent years. This year in particular the disarmament machinery faces several challenges to its integrity. We believe that there is a need to recommit ourselves to the disarmament machinery set up by the Member States for the UN to discharge its central role and primary responsibility in the field of disarmament in accordance with the Charter.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation associates itself with the statement delivered by Indonesia on this subject on behalf of NAM.

The First Special Session on Disarmament, SSOD-I, created the present disarmament machinery comprising of the triad of First Committee of the General Assembly, UN Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament. This triad is the mechanism by which we give expression and coherence to international efforts in the area of disarmament and international security. At a moment when there is renewed interest in the issue of the revitalization of the disarmament machinery and multilateral disarmament agenda, it is also important to recall that this was one of the motivations that led to SSOD-I. Let me explain India's perspectives on various bodies of the UN disarmament machinery.

We recognize the importance of and are committed to the work of the First Committee which is the main deliberative organ of the disarmament machinery. The First Committee embodies our faith in the benefit of collective action and of multilateral approaches to disarmament and related international security issues. It provides countries with diverse perspectives an opportunity to voice them and submit resolutions on issues of priority to them. We are open to suggestions to strengthen the work of the First Committee including by rationalizing its agenda as well as improving housekeeping and time management.

The UN Disarmament Commission is the only universal forum that provides for in-depth consideration of disarmament issues and can help in building greater understanding and consensus on issues on the international disarmament agenda. The Commission has produced several important sets of guidelines and recommendations for the General Assembly in the past including guidelines on CBMs, verification and international arms transfers. However, in recent years, including this year, the Commission has had to struggle to achieve consensus even on the agenda for its three-yearly cycles. This despite the fact that the General Assembly has decided that nuclear disarmament should remain one of

the agenda items for the Commission's meetings. We appreciate Peru's efforts as the Chair of this year's Commission meetings in ensuring consensus on the agenda for the next three years. We hope that all Member States would engage more seriously in the Commission to provide vitality to its work.

The Conference on Disarmament, recognized by SSOD-I as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, continues to have the mandate, the membership, the credibility and the rules of procedure to discharge its responsibility. We do not believe that the continuing impasse in the CD stems from the forum per se or its Rules of Procedure. There is no 'design flaw' as CD Secretary General Tokayev noted last week. On the contrary, the CD's Rules of Procedure provide the necessary assurance to Member States that their security interests are fully protected while they engage substantively with others in the CD on issues that have a bearing on vital national security interests. It is up to the Member States to make the CD work by negotiating multilateral treaties which can be signed, ratified and implemented universally. We believe that proposals which question the viability or relevance of the CD or even suggest unrealistic alternatives need to be viewed with utmost caution.

Mr. Chairman, The UN Secretariat, in particular the ODA, has an important responsibility in assisting States in pursuing the multilateral disarmament agenda. We believe that the ODA should be strengthened to facilitate the implementation of permanent treaty bodies under the UN such as the BWC and CCW. There is also a need to ensure greater coherence between disarmament work in New York and Geneva, including on small arms and light weapons.

There are two related bodies of the UN disarmament machinery to which we perhaps do not give as much attention as we should. These are UNIDIR and Secretary General's Advisory Board. Both these bodies find their origins in SSOD-I and in their own right play a role in shaping the multilateral disarmament agenda and discharging the important and impartial research function mentioned in SSOD-I. We believe that UNIDIR needs to be enabled fully with resources to realize its potential. The particular way in which UNIDIR was established gives us, Member States, a special responsibility in ensuring its viability. It deserves greater support from the regular budget of the UN so as to maintain its autonomy and impartiality and fulfill its role of providing in depth and long term research on disarmament issues. The Secretary General's Advisory Board should be made more representative so that it can reflect the broadest range of perspectives. It should take an inclusive and forward looking approach to global disarmament issues.

Mr. Chairman, in conclusion, I would also like to underline that the UN disarmament machinery cannot be looked at in isolation from the larger architecture of global governance. There is a need for revitalization and reform of the United Nations

and its principal organs, the General Assembly and the Security Council, to bring them in line with contemporary realities. India would continue to work towards strengthening multilateralism and UN's role in accordance with its Charter.

Thank you.



705. Statement by Ms. Annu Tandon, Member of Parliament, and Member of the Indian Delegation on Agenda Item No: 24 Eradication of Poverty: Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) at the Second Committee of the 67th Session of the Un General Assembly on November 05, 2012.

Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for giving me the floor. India aligns itself with the statement delivered by Algeria on behalf of the G-77.

The subject matter of the debate today – Poverty eradication and other development issues - is critical to the attainment of our cherished Millennium Development Goals.

We may take satisfaction in the number of global poor living on US\$ 1.25 a day to have come down from 1.8 billion in 1990 to 1.4 billion in 2005 but we still have more than a billion people living in extreme poverty and hunger. With just three years away from the MDG finish line the task at hand remains a daunting one.

At the RIO+20 Summit, we renewed our commitment to sustainable development. In doing so, we recognised poverty eradication to be the greatest global challenge. As we now move forward in framing the Sustainable Development Goals and the Post 2015 development agenda, tackling this development imperative should be our priority.

Without fighting poverty we can hardly make progress on our commitment to address global inequality or to combine sustainable development with equity.

Mr. Chairman,

The ongoing impacts of the global economic and financial crisis, and the faltering recovery, pose persistent impediments to combating poverty. High and volatile food and energy prices continue to erode the policy space developing countries have to advance their development goals.

Ensuring economic growth is, therefore, fundamental to eradicating poverty. Sustained economic growth in developing countries has been the principal instrument of poverty alleviation. In India, we have been singularly successful on this, notwithstanding the turbulence of the 2008 crisis and its aftermath. As per estimate, India would have taken out 188 million people out of the poverty net by 2015 compared to the 1990 level. But we would still be home to the largest number of global poor numbering more than 300 million.

My Parliamentary seat Unnao, situated in India's most populous state UTTAR

PRADESH, is India's largest constituency. Unnao is an underdeveloped rural district where poverty remains the greatest development challenge. I, therefore, have a deep understanding of poverty and related issues.

We do, however, recognise that growth in itself is not sufficient to distribute opportunities and resources and have, therefore, adopted policies to ensure inclusive growth. This is the overarching objective of our Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-2012) and without doubt would continue to be so for the future plans as well.

Mr. Chairman,

Recognising that poverty is multi-dimensional in nature, our Government has launched large scale socio-economic programmes and interventions to reduce poverty, fight malnutrition and hunger, reduce infant mortality and promote health and gender empowerment.

With a view to tackle poverty, enhance our food security and upgrade rural infrastructure, India has launched the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Scheme, the largest cash for work programme in the world. The programme guarantees 100 days of work annually to those willing. This pro-job strategy is of particular relevance at a time when the world is confronted with job-less growth.

We are committed to combining growth with equity. Our National Rural Health Mission, School Lunch Programme to fight malnutrition, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan for universal education and Swabhimaan programme for financial inclusion are all designed to meet this objective.

We have also kept women at the centre of all our development policies and programmes. We have been particularly successful in promoting participation of women in our local governance and have reserved 50% seats for women in our local bodies.

Mr. Chairman,

Strategies for poverty reduction in developing countries must have a key focus on rural development as majority of the people are dependent on agriculture and allied activities for livelihood. We need to enhance investment in irrigation, roads, cold storage and energy access to bolster rural productivity.

Countries must also adopt policies to spur job enhancing growth, undertake social protection measures to assist the poor and induce larger domestic mobilisation of resources through financial inclusion, micro-credit and other policies to boost small enterprise.

Fundamental to job-creation, especially in developing countries, is to pursue

skill development and training. In India, we have launched the National Skill Development Mission, a public-partnership initiative to build and upgrade employable skills with focus on the informal sector. The World Bank in 2008 initiated the Rural Migrant Skills Development and Employment Project to support transition of rural workers to urban areas. Such innovative programmes could be productive templates to follow.

Mr. Chairman,

Developing countries, constricted by the global economic slowdown, of which they have become the principal victims, need enhanced resources and policy space to pursue their development aspirations. The 0.7% ODA commitment of developed countries, with some honourable exceptions, still remain unmet.

We remain deeply concerned that ODA in 2011 declined by almost 3% to US Dollars 133.5 billion, first such fall in global ODA since 1997 and to the Least Developed Countries by 9%.

Developing countries, in particular the Least Developed Countries, the Landlocked Developing Countries, the Small Island Developing States and countries in Africa are in urgent need of an enabling international environment that is conducive for meeting their foremost challenge- poverty eradication. In this context, it is imperative that we move forward on the Doha Development Round, on Climate Change Negotiations to seek an ambitious and comprehensive outcome and on a comprehensive reform of the Bretton Woods Institutions for equitable participation of developing countries.

South-South Cooperation in recent years has complemented global resources targeted at the development agenda, but it cannot be a substitute for North-South Cooperation. It must be allowed to grow within its own space and in accordance with its own principles.

India has been privileged to share its development experience with fellow developing countries. We remain committed to doing more in the coming years with our partners in the South and stepping up our support to South-South Cooperation.

Let our actions to fight poverty be worthy of our commitment.

I thank you.



706. Statement by Ms Annu Tandon, Member of Parliament & Member of Indian Delegation on the Annual Report of the IAEA for the Year 2011 at the 67th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on November 05, 2012

Mr. President,

My delegation thanks the Director General, IAEA for preparing the Annual Report for the year 2011, as contained in document (85): note by the SG (A/67/152).

Mr. President,

The increasing global demand for energy, as well as concerns about climate change, volatile fossil fuel prices and the security of energy supplies remain essential factors in deciding an energy mix for any country. This is aptly reflected by the observation in the report that despite the nuclear accident in Japan in March 2011, nuclear power remains an important option not only for countries with existing nuclear programmes, but also for developing countries with growing energy requirements. We note that the IAEA's post-accident projections of global nuclear power capacity in 2030 are slightly lower than previously projected as some countries have deferred their decisions to introduce nuclear programmes.

Mr. President,

The Fukushima accident elicited a global response towards enhancing nuclear safety with Member States reassessing the safety of existing nuclear power plants. While the results of these reassessments would be further refined as necessary, in the light of new information that might emerge in the future, it is a matter of satisfaction that the data collected by the IAEA and the World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO) shows that in 2011 the level of nuclear safety among the 435 operating nuclear power plants in operation around the world remained high. However, as Fukushima has demonstrated there is no room for complacency. The IAEA should also take all necessary measures to allay misapprehensions in the public and Member States about the safety of nuclear power plants taking into account the current advances in relevant design and technology areas. Therefore, we would like to call on all the stakeholders to work collectively to continue to enhance nuclear safety. In this context we would like to encourage the IAEA to make concerted efforts for free flow of latest information, technology and equipment pertaining to nuclear safety among the Member States.

Mr. President,

Nuclear Energy has a crucial role to play in achieving the objectives of India's sustainable economic growth. At the same time India is extensively engaged in

development of nuclear technologies in diverse fields extending beyond nuclear power. This includes applications for improved crop varieties, crop protection and radiation based post-harvest technologies, radio-diagnosis and radiotherapy for diseases, technologies for safe drinking water, etc.

Mr. President,

The nuclear power programme in India is oriented towards maximising the energy potential of available Uranium resources and the utilisation of its large Thorium reserve. We believe that available global uranium resources cannot sustain the projected expansion of nuclear power without adopting the closed fuel cycle approach and subsequent adoption of thorium fuel cycle. In this context we would like to mention the IAEA technical meeting in October 2011 held in India where over 50 experts from 20 Member States deliberated on diverse subjects related to Thorium. The participants noted Thorium's promise in extending the global deployment of nuclear power and concluded that the technology is sufficiently mature for initial commercial deployment. We encourage the IAEA to further engage itself in Thorium fuel cycle. With its excellent physical and nuclear properties Thorium is widely and rightly viewed as the 'fuel of the future'.

Mr. President,

Presently India has 20 operating reactors with an installed capacity of 4780 Megawatts and seven reactors under construction with an installed capacity of 5300 Megawatts. The first unit of the 1000 Mega Watt electrical Pressurized Water Reactor at Kudankulam is very shortly due to attain first criticality. The second unit is to follow soon after. Work is proceeding on four Nuclear Power Plants of indigenous design of 700 Megawatts electrical PHWR type, two each at Rawatbhata, Rajasthan and at Kakrapar, Gujarat. The Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor of 500 Mega Watt Electrical is also in an advanced stage of construction. A number of other reactor projects are under negotiation with prospective foreign vendors for the setting up of NPPs at different sites.

Mr. President,

We are happy to welcome three new members into the fold of INPRO in 2011. India has been associated with INPRO since its inception and has contributed to its progress. We believe that this programme has a great potential towards making nuclear energy accessible in a safe and sustainable manner, particularly to new entrants embarking on this path. The IAEA, through INPRO, should continue to play a central role in the area of development of innovative technology for safe utilisation of nuclear power.

My delegation fully supports other activities of the IAEA undertaken to stimulate innovation in nuclear power through Technical Working Groups for different reactor

technologies, small and medium sized reactors and for non-electric applications. The coordinated research projects organized by the IAEA provide an excellent forum for understanding and development of technology.

Mr. President,

India attaches great importance to the IAEA's work in the fields of nuclear science. We contribute to these activities through participation in the Technical Meetings and coordinated Research Projects and also support the IAEA's programme in nuclear fusion.

Mr. President,

My delegation believes that the IAEA's programme and achievements under nuclear applications in food and agriculture, human health and nutrition, water resources management, protection of the environment, and Industry go a long way in meeting the needs of developing countries. We will continue to provide our support to these IAEA programmes including by way of services of experts and offering seats in reputed institutions for training fellows from Member States.

With these comments, we take note of the IAEA's Annual Report for 2011. India supports the work of IAEA and has cosponsored the draft resolution on the Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency.



707. Statement by Dr. Vishnu Dutt Sharma, Counsellor, on Agenda Item 79: “Report of the International Law Commission on the Work of Its Sixty-fourth Session (Part-two)” at the Sixth Committee of the 67th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on November 06, 2012.

Mr. Chairman,

I thank the Chairman of the International Law Commission for the presentation of his report concerning the second cluster of topics.

Concerning the topic of “Immunity of State officials from foreign criminal jurisdiction”, we commend the Special Rapporteur Ms. Concepcion Escobar Hernandez for her preliminary report on this topic. We generally support the work plan devised by the Special Rapporteur. We also recognize the significance of the work done by the previous Special Rapporteur Mr. Roman A. Kolodkin on this topic.

Mr. Chairman,

This topic holds great significance as it is directly related to the performance abroad of the officials of a State. The topic is complex and politically sensitive. We agree with the Special Rapporteur that the substantive issues relating to this topic were cross-cutting and interrelated, but at the same time each and every issue needed to be looked into carefully and in a through manner. Consideration of this topic requires a balanced approach taking into account the existing law and practice on the related issues. In this regard, the in-depth examination of the judgement of the International Court of Justice of 3 February 2012 in the *Jurisdictional immunities of the States’* case would be desirable which inter-alia identified state practice in respect of immunities before national jurisdictions.

Mr. Chairman,

The issue of relationship between the *immunity ratione materiae* and *immunity ratione personae* would also need to be examined by taking into account the State practice and the ICJ judgement in the case, *certain questions of mutual assistance in criminal matters*. Concerning the applicability of *immunity ratione personae* beyond troika, we are in favour of identifying a clear criterion in establishing such practice by taking into consideration the judgement of the ICJ in the *Arrest Warrant case*.

We consider that the established legal order and certain aspects of immunity dealt under the existing international instruments should not be disturbed.

Mr. Chairman,

We congratulate Mr. Juan Manuel Gomez-Robledo for his appointment as the

Special Rapporteur for the new topic of 'Provisional application of treaties' and commend him for informal consultations on the topic and presenting thereupon an oral report at the Commission's session.

We support the view that aspects relating to the formation and identification of customary international law do not form part of the scope of this topic.

We are in favour of preserving the regime established under article 25 of the 1969 Vienna Convention on Law of Treaties and not to create new conditions and circumstances for the provisional application of treaties. On the question of the final outcome of the Commission's work, we agree with those members of the Commission who thought it pre-mature to take any decision as to the form of the outcome and that the topic did not necessitate the elaboration of draft articles.

Mr. Chairman,

We commend Special Rapporteur Sir Michael Wood for his detailed Note on the topic 'Formation and evidence of customary international law'.

Custom has been recognized as a source of international law and this is also reflected in the Statute of the International Court of Justice annexed to the UN Charter. Customary principles of international law develop out of behaviour of the States in their international relations through a unique process and are not always easily defined. It may be therefore difficult to advance new rules on the formation and evidence of customary international law. We are of the view that the work of the Commission should be mainly focused on ways and methods concerning the identification of the rules of customary international law and that how the evidence of those rules could be established.

We agree with the Special Rapporteur that elaboration of conclusions with commentaries or guidelines on this topic would be of high practical value for the judges, scholars and practitioners facing the questions of customary international law both at the international and national levels.

Mr. Chairman,

In our view, the work on the codification and clarification of issues concerning the topic of "the obligation to extradite or prosecute" is of great importance given the fact that the obligation is based on the rule that a criminal should not go scot free and should be brought before the justice. The progress on the topic is slow for which the reason in the report appears to be the absence of basic research on whether or not the obligation has obtained the customary law status. In this regard, we would agree with those members of the Commission who are of the view that the absence of the customary nature of the obligation should not pose insurmountable difficulties in the further consideration of the topic.

We consider that the obligation to extradite or prosecute and the concept of

universal jurisdiction are not interrelated in the sense that one is dependent on the other and so agree with those members of the Commission who have opined to delink the topic from the universal jurisdiction.

We agree with the observation of the Working Group on this topic that the in-depth analysis would be required of the ICJ judgement of 20 July 2012 in the case *Questions relating to the obligation to prosecute or extradite* in order to assess its implication for this topic.

Mr. Chairman,

Turning to the topic of Most-Favoured-Nation clause, we commend the work of the ILC Study Group on this topic ably chaired by Mr. Donald McRae.

We appreciate the efforts of the ILC in reviving its work on this topic since 2007 particularly by revisiting the temporal relevance of draft articles on the MFN clause by the ILC in 1978. Since then, the state practice in relation to MFN provision has been, to a large extent, superseded by specific multilateral, bilateral and regional arrangements. The GATT, and resort to the dispute settlement under the investment agreements has resulted in the interpretation of MFN provision in the investment context.

We agree with the Commission's observation that the reason of the peculiarities of the application of MFN clause in the mixed arbitral decisions is the different nature of the parties to the proceedings, the claimant being a private person and the respondent being a State and that the tribunal acts as a functional substitute for an otherwise competent domestic court of the home State.

We appreciate Commission's efforts toward providing authoritative guidance on the interpretation of MFN clause. The Commission may in this process consider the studies that have been undertaken by other trade related bodies such as the WTO, UNCITRAL and OECD.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



708. Agenda Item 62: Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions – Statement by Mrs. Najma Heptullah, Hon’ble Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian delegation during the general discussion at the Third Committee of the 67th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on November 06 2012.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation would like to thank the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for his report, as well as his presentation before this Committee. His report highlights the central challenges being faced by the UNHCR and the organization’s efforts to address them.

Mr. Chairman,

Refugees and stateless persons are a particularly vulnerable group, having been forced to leave the country of their nationality or origin. As per the latest UNHCR report, there are 10.4 million refugees globally. During 2011, there were 0.876 million new individual claims for refugee or asylum status.

It is, therefore, important that the international community remain cognizant of their plight and extend all help to address the needs of protection, relief and rehabilitation of refugees. In this context, we wish to recall that voluntary return of refugees is the core solution for the refugees and all efforts of the international community should focus on ensuring the creation of conditions conducive to voluntary return.

It is predominantly developing countries that constitute countries of origin as well as asylum. A large number of developing countries with limited resources continue to meet their humanitarian obligations, often risking their delicate economies. Their problems deserve particular attention. International solidarity and burden sharing are the foundations on which refugee protection rests.

UNHCR’s mission, therefore, needs to strengthen cooperation on burden-sharing with host States. Its relationship with Member-States must recognize and acknowledge the in-kind contribution and services of the States hosting refugees.

Mr. Chairman,

The year 2011 and 2012 so far has been notable for a large number of humanitarian emergencies in the Middle-East, West and North Africa that have been and are being commendably handled by UNHCR. Its engagement in emergencies must

also clearly take into account an exit strategy to enable the State mechanisms resume their core functions in discharge of responsibilities to their people.

We wish to recall that the fulfillment of UNHCR's responsibilities in emergency situations requires full cooperation with the affected States as per UNGA Resolution 46/182 and urge UNHCR to adhere to this principle.

Further, such engagement by UNHCR in emergency situations should not adversely impact or reduce its responsibilities towards its core mandate, that of international protection, assistance and help to refugees.

Mr. Chairman,

We remain concerned at protracted refugee situations, and the increasingly challenging environment marked by rising numbers of those seeking refuge and protection. A major adverse impact has been the role of non-state actors in situations of armed conflict, that has prevented humanitarian assistance from reaching the victims of conflict and those seeking refuge and protection.

It is important that the international community squarely address this issue of ensuring that non-state actors to respect the humanitarian framework and machinery.

Mr. Chairman,

Reference is frequently made to mixed migration flows. We need to guard against the intersection of the two constituencies of migrants and refugees as the apprehensions of one should not be transposed on the other. International migration needs to be promoted in a regular non-discriminatory and orderly manner as migrants add value in economic terms both to the destination as well as sending States.

We must therefore develop capacities to maintain a clear distinction between refugees and economic migrants so as to better address the protection needs of the former.

Mr. Chairman,

As per the latest UNHCR report, the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) was an estimated 26.4 million in end- 2011, of whom 15.5 million benefitted from UNHCR in some manner.

The primary responsibility to look after the IDPs lies with national authorities. UNHCR's involvement in IDPs should, therefore, only be with the concurrence of States concerned with a view to complement the efforts of national authorities.

In case the situation is one of a collapse of national authority, then the UNHCR

should take action in conformity with the conditions approved by the UNGA. Such involvement should be based on due consideration of UNHCR's mandate, modality of intervention, availability of resources and careful examination of all the implications.

Mr. Chairman,

Our view is that the 1951 UN Convention on Refugees, is limited in scope and that international protection needs to be viewed in terms of on-the-ground commitment by host States to provide protection and hospitality to refugees.

Our civilization has an underlying pluralist and tolerant ethos. India has received and has hosted diverse streams of refugees over thousands of years. We shouldered two of the biggest population exodus in recent times – one related to the partition of India in 1947 and the other during the liberation struggle of Bangladesh in 1971.

Even today we are host to some of the largest refugee populations in the world. We have cared for them from our own resources while affording these refugees full protection under our laws. At all times, we have demonstrated our abiding commitment to the principles of protection and non-refoulement.

Mr. Chairman,

India remains committed to working in concert with UNHCR and the international community to address the present and emerging challenges to the international refugee protection agenda in a spirit of cooperation and solidarity.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



709. Statement by Mrs. Annu Tandon, Member of Parliament and Member of the Indian delegation, on Agenda Item 67: Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance & Item 68 – Right of people to self-determination, during the general discussion at the Third Committee of the 67th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on November 06, 2012.

Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for giving me the floor. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Secretary-General for his reports and all other reports presented under these agenda items dealing with racism and racial discrimination and rights of peoples to self-determination.

I also thank the speakers for their presentation and contribution to this important discussion.

India associates itself with the statement of the G-77.

Mr. Chairman,

India is a multi-religious, multi-ethnic and multi-lingual society. Our civilizational ethos has been underpinned by peaceful coexistence and tolerance, values that Mahatma Gandhi, the father of our Nation, placed at the core of India's national life as he led our struggle for independence.

Mahatma Gandhi had previously experienced the full force of discrimination based on colour during his nearly two decade long stay in South Africa at the turn of the twentieth century. Indians too had to contend with the abhorrent facts of racism and racial discrimination under colonial occupation.

Given this background, and very conscious of the destructive impact that racism and racial discrimination can have on society, the leaders of our freedom struggle ensured that the Indian Constitution enshrined the principles of equality and expressly prohibited discrimination on account of race.

These constitutional provisions are anchored in our comprehensive legal framework and vigorously safeguarded at different levels by our democratic, 2 pluralistic and secular polity, an independent and impartial judiciary, a vibrant civil society and free media.

Mr. Chairman,

The fight against racism and efforts to rid the world of racial discrimination and colonization were, therefore, an important priority of our foreign policy as we

gained independence. At the UN, our delegation was actively involved in drafting the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD).

While the era of colonialism is well behind us, its legacy unfortunately finds continuing expression in the mindset and behaviour of some individuals, fuelling racial hatred, discrimination and xenophobia.

Despite international efforts, there are still manifestations of racial discrimination and intolerance around the world. We share the concern at the increase in the number of racist incidents in several countries.

We would like to reiterate our firm commitment to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and seek to create more effective measures to enhance its effective implementation.

We also need to take effective measures nationally. Promulgation of appropriate laws and their strict implementation and more importantly, ensuring attitudinal change and inculcation of tolerance through appropriate educational strategies would perhaps provide the surest guarantee against racial prejudice, discrimination and xenophobia.

Mr. Chairman,

The right to self-determination is a fundamental right for people of non self-governing territories and trust colonies. This right allows people to freely choose and establish their governance structures.

India's contribution to secure the right of peoples to self-determination and our role in the struggle for decolonization has been momentous and vital in ensuring that people who live under subjugation, domination and exploitation, are afforded the right to freely determine their own political status and pursue their economic, social and cultural development.

Mr. Chairman,

Unwavering support for the Palestinian cause has been a cornerstone of India's foreign policy. We received President Mahmoud Abbas in India in September this year. We support their aspirations for enhanced status at the United Nations.

It is imperative that there be an early realization of a sovereign, independent, viable and united State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its 3 capital living within secure and recognized borders, side by side and at peace with Israel, as endorsed in the Arab Peace initiative, Quartet Road map and relevant UN resolutions. **Mr. Chairman,**

It must be emphasised here that the right to self-determination cannot be abused for subversive political agendas to encourage secession and to undermine pluralistic and democratic states.

The international community has always agreed that this right cannot be distorted and misinterpreted as extending to component parts or groups based on ethnic, religious, racial or other such narrow lines, to undermine the sovereignty and territorial integrity of state.

Let me add here that ethnic or religious segregation cannot be legitimised on the ground that societies need to be constituted on homogenous lines before they can be tolerant towards diversity and accept multi-culturalism. Such a view will only aid forces of extreme nationalism.

Mr. Chairman,

We totally reject the unwarranted reference made by the delegation of Pakistan to the Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir, which is an integral part of the Union of India.

The people of Jammu and Kashmir have chosen and reaffirmed their destiny repeatedly through India's well established democratic processes. Free, fair and open elections have been regularly held there.

Pakistan's reference to Jammu and Kashmir is a blatant attempt to divert attention from its dismal record of gross and systematic violation of human rights, including in Pakistan occupied Kashmir. Pakistan would do well to introspect before casting baseless allegations against India.

We would also urge the delegation of Pakistan to refrain from using this forum to detract from the important cause of the Palestinian people and their inalienable rights to self-determination.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, the task ahead of us remains challenging but we must firmly believe in the goodness of the human race. Equality and peace are fundamental to our existence. Collective and coordinated action at the international, national and local level is essential and must be vigorously pursued. 4

We should jointly purge the world of racist, xenophobic and discriminatory practices and facilitate the legitimate right of self-determination for nations seeking freedom.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



710. Statement by Mr. Vinod K Jacob, First Secretary, on Agenda Item 52-“United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (Unrwa)” at the Fourth Committee of the 67th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on November 7, 2012.

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to begin by expressing the Indian delegation’s appreciation for the work of the Commissioner General, Mr. Filippo Grandi and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). We would like to thank the Commissioner General for his extremely informative and detailed briefing to the Committee on the activities of UNRWA. We also thank the UNRWA Advisory Committee and the members of the working group on the Financing of UNRWA, for their efforts in support of the Agency.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Arab world has been undergoing unprecedented transformation during the last two years. Democratic aspirations of people in several countries are being addressed through national political processes. It is, however, regrettable that the Palestinian question and the related Arab-Israeli issues have largely remained unaddressed and unresolved. Also, the Palestinian application for full membership of the United Nations submitted more than a year ago has not evinced any positive action from the Security Council, despite overwhelming support from the wider UN membership.

It is, in this context, that the role of UNRWA in providing critical assistance to the Palestinian refugees assumes significance. Today, the Agency is a symbol of the international community’s commitment to the well-being of the Palestinian refugees until a just and durable settlement of the issue is achieved. India commends UNRWA for its exemplary work, carried out under extremely difficult circumstances for the nearly 5 million Palestinian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. I also take this opportunity to commend the cooperation of host countries to UNRWA’s work.

We are happy to learn that the Job Creation Programme, undertaken as a part of UNRWA’s Emergency Appeal for 2011, created 22 million employment days in the Occupied Palestine Territory, in addition to using poverty-based targeting methods to ensure that poor and food insecure households were prioritized with eligible families receiving assistance according to their poverty rank and food security gap. We encourage UNRWA to pursue these programmes more rigorously.

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to take this opportunity to place on record that support for the Palestinian cause has been a cornerstone of India’s foreign policy.

We firmly support the struggle of the Palestinian people to achieve a sovereign, independent, viable and united state of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital, living within secure and recognized borders, side by side and at peace with Israel. We will also continue to support Palestine's bid for full and equal membership of the United Nations.

Bilaterally, India is committed to support the development and nation-building efforts of Palestine. During a recent visit by President Mahmoud Abbas to India in September 2012, MOUs were signed to enhance cooperation in the areas of Information & Communication Technology, vocational training and education. The Government of India also announced a contribution of US Dollar 10 million to Palestine's budget for this year to help address its financial requirements. During the visit, President Abbas also inaugurated the new Palestinian Embassy building, which had been built with Indian support. The building is a symbol of the enduring friendship between our two countries and its peoples. We have also consistently provided development support to the Palestinian Authority. From the financial year 2009-10, we enhanced our annual contribution to UNRWA to US\$ 1 million, in addition to a special contribution of US \$ 1 million to UNRWA in response to a flash appeal in 2010. During the last three years alone, India has contributed US\$ 10 million annually as untied budgetary support to the Palestinian Authority. We are also offering 100 slots to the Palestinian Authority for capacity building and human resource development under our technical and economic cooperation programme.

Along with our IBSA [India-Brazil-South Africa] partners, we have through the IBSA Trust Fund, invested in several projects in Palestine, which include a multipurpose sports complex in Ramallah, a recently launched center in Nablus for assisting people with severe intellectual disabilities, and also rebuilt and refurbished a cultural and hospital center in Gaza, all in partnership with the Palestine authorities, to assist them in their endeavors for capacity and institution-building.

Mr. Chairperson,

The report under this agenda item, clearly illustrates the severe challenges UNRWA continues to face.

The immediate challenge before UNRWA that needs to be addressed therefore is the crisis of chronic underfunding. Shortage of funds adversely impacts the quality and maintenance of the existing level of services.

We support the efforts of UNRWA to enlarge the donor base. In spite of the current difficult global economic condition, it is important that the international community continues to show commitment to the cause of Palestine.

Mr. Chairperson,

The blockade of Gaza has entered its sixth year, and is causing severe hardship

to the population. The humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate, and essential services, economic activities and infrastructure development have been disrupted. While there has been improvement in restrictions on West Bank and movement of humanitarian supplies and construction material into Gaza, approval of UNRWA projects, restrictions due to the separation barrier, closures, and curfews in the 3

Palestinian territories is causing severe hardships to the affected population. The restrictions on freedom of movement of UNRWA staff members continue to hinder the work of UNRWA.

We call upon Israel to lift the blockade and allow the resumption of normal socio-economic activities in Gaza and facilitate free movement of UNRWA staff.

Mr. Chairperson,

During the visit of President Abbas to India in September this year, India reaffirmed its firm support for a sovereign, independent, viable and united state of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital, living within secure and recognized borders, side by side and at peace with Israel, as per relevant resolutions of the UN, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet Roadmap.

We strongly support all efforts towards realization of that objective, including Palestine's enhanced status in this organization as announced by President Abbas during the General Debate of the 67th session of the UN General Assembly in September this year. We hope that this vision will be realized sooner rather than later.

Until then, Mr. Chairperson, it is imperative upon all of us member states to fully support UNRWA, as the primary source of humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian refugees.

Thank You.



711. Statement by Mr. Manjeev Singh Puri, Ambassador & Deputy Permanent Representative, at the Un General Assembly General Debate on the Comprehensive Question of Peacekeeping on November 08 2012.

Mr. Chairperson,

Let me congratulate you and the bureau members for organizing today's important General Debate on peacekeeping. Allow me also to welcome Ms. Ameerah Haq the Under Secretary General for the Department of Field Support to the 4th Committee for the first time and commend both the USGs for their briefings. My delegation also aligns itself with the NAM statement.

Mr. Chairperson,

Peacekeeping is UN's flagship activity. Today's debate reflects the enduring relevance of UN peacekeeping in fulfilling the Charter obligations towards international peace and security. Our peacekeepers on the ground remain the sole sentinels of the peacekeeping missions that we conceptualize and mandate here. We salute these silent warriors for tireless efforts that make our work worthwhile here.

Mr. Chairman,

Having withstood tests of times for over six decades now, Peacekeeping has witnessed shifts in its designs and configurations. This evolving and adaptable attribute of UN peacekeeping continues to be its core strength.

The past one year has particularly been challenging for the peacekeepers and an unusually high number of peacekeepers have lost lives in line of protecting the mandates. We pay our tributes to all those who have laid down their lives in the service of international peace and security.

Mr. Chairman,

UN Peacekeeping debates today are compelled to tackle the twin challenges emanating from the field and of the finance. Our evaluations that are based on cost considerations alone do not capture the entirety of mission mandates and our obligations towards international peace and security.

Ambitious mandates, resource overstretch, and field-headquarters gaps continue to challenge the ability of peacekeeping to deliver for examples peacekeepers to continue to protect civilians while supporting national elections and great lakes initiative in DRC within existing resources. My delegation recommends strong field orientation in everything we do and to leverage the expertise available with the TCCs and field experts in peacekeeping.

Peacekeeping today stands on the firm foundations built over decades on the building blocks of impartiality, consent and non-use of force. Alterations in the established rules of the game should not be undertaken with undue haste and without evidences from the ground. Our convictions must emanate from our own belief systems but also from what we observe and learn on the grounds.

My delegation firmly believes in the inter-governmental sanctity of the peacekeeping reform and policy process. Secretariat therefore must continue with efforts to capture views and opinions from the wider membership.

Peacekeeping partnership hinges on the abilities that each brings to the table. Our decision-making mechanisms should reflect this reality. Burden sharing and rewards should be commensurate with the efforts invested by each. We keenly look forward to improvements on this count.

Mr. Chairperson, C-34 remains the sole legislative GA body invested with peacekeeping. It accords us an opportunity to deliberate as a collective. It is in our interests to strengthen the democratic basis of this mechanism and work on our abilities to deliver within its norms and conventions.

Protracted conflicts have often resulted in peacekeeping missions staying in the fields for long periods. Lasting and durable peace requires that we at the UN think through the challenges before launching the missions. Not only do we need to manage the expectations of host populations but also those of ours. The practice of acting first and thinking later with hindsight needs to be curtailed. Peacekeeping is a long haul process and peacebuilding even more.

My delegation would be keen to see greater conversation between our peacekeeping and peacebuilding departments. Objectives of state and institution building require matching commitment in resources. Processes that undertake to keep and build peace can not be set far apart at HQs. Mission priorities should also be aligned firmly with national needs and priorities and are not transplanted from elsewhere.

Peacekeeping reform agenda should strive for greater balance. Police, rule of law, security sector, and disarmament are some critical areas that have received little attention in recent times due to our collective focus on field support. Basic governance, preliminary frameworks of administrations should remain our primary goals in post conflict scenarios. The strategies of development and economic revitalization will not take roots in situations of poor governance and absent administration.

We encourage the Department of Field Support to engage the larger membership in substantive aspects of discussions and deliberations. We must not lose sight of its objectives that are about bringing efficiency to mission 3 operations.

My delegation notes efforts with regard to the Civilian Capacity Review. We firmly believe that this process should be set in the inter-governmental settings and should be membership driven. We continue to encourage its Steering Group to be focussed on benefits to the United Nations and to keep membership updated on its implementation road map.

My delegation welcomes DPKO's efforts in gender mainstreaming in all peacekeeping missions. India's all women's formed-police-unit (FPU) in Liberia have served Secretary General's goal commendably in this regard. I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate our support to zero tolerance in respect of disciplinary and conduct issues.

Mr. Chairperson,

My country has supported and nurtured peacekeeping since its inception in the 1950s. The universal legitimacy that UN peacekeeping enjoys derives from the sacrifices that our peacekeepers endured. With over 100,000 uniformed personnel in 40 UN peacekeeping missions India remains committed to the work for international peace and security as a partner of the UN.



712. Statement by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Deputy Permanent Representative, on Agenda Items 69[B] & 69[C] – Human Rights Questions at the Third Committee of the 67th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on November 08, 2012

Mr. Chairman,

We thank the Secretary General for his various reports under Agenda Items 69[b] and 69[c] the Special Rapporteurs for their reports as well.

Mr. Chairman,

We welcome the report of the Working Group on the Right to Development. The Right to Development is a fundamental link in the web of human rights that mark the social progress and better standards of life for every person.

We were privileged to have the late Dr. Arjun Sengupta, whose contribution in furthering a rights-based approach to development had been noteworthy as the Chairman of the Working Group on the Right to Development.

We note with satisfaction the full integration of the Right to Development into several areas of the work of the UN system such as the follow-up to Least Developing Countries IV, UNCTAD XIII and United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. Much more, however, remains to be done in the full realization of the Right to Development and its mainstreaming in the work of the UN.

While no one can deny the national responsibility of States to promote the Right to Development, one cannot disregard the imperative of international cooperation essential for creating a conducive environment for the genuine realisation of this right.

We agree with the Report that there is a need to enlarge the constituencies in support of the Right to Development, and that shared responsibilities, human rights-based policy coherence and systemic integration could further strengthen the global partnership for development among Member States, development agencies and the international development, financial and trade institutions.

Mr. Chairman,

With regard to the Secretary General's report on "Globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights", we believe that the development must be at the heart of the globalization process, and that development must be inclusive and sustainable.

At RIO+20, the international community renewed its commitment to sustainable

development, recognizing poverty eradication to be the greatest global challenge. In this context, we must ensure that the approach to development is one that takes into account the needs, priorities, and objectives of the developing countries and its people.

International cooperation and solidarity between States are indispensable for seizing the opportunities and combating the challenges posed by globalization. This concerns all spheres of cooperation, including aid, trade, investment, debt relief, transfer of technology, financing for development, food security, access to medicines, and climate change.

In this regard, the reform of global economic governance is equally vital so as to ensure that all countries and peoples can benefit more equitably from globalization.

Reports of the *Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education* focusing in particular on technical and vocational education and training, and the *Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food* provide valuable inputs in meeting the challenges facing us.

Mr. Chairman,

The report of the Secretary General on the steps taken by States to combat intolerance, negative stereo-typing, stigmatization, discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons based on religion or belief and the interim report of the *Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief* highlights the necessity of States to ensure principles of equality and non-discrimination for all its citizens.

India supports all efforts to build bridges of understanding between nations, peoples, religions and cultures across the many fault-lines that exist in today's world. India's great experiment of a billion people of great diverse persuasion, working together seeking their salvation in the framework of a democracy can offer useful insights for all multi-cultural societies.

Our nation was built on the foundations of deep and abiding commitments to the value of democracy. Pluralism, secularism, multi-culturalism and the principles of equity, social justice and the rule of law are core values of our democratic polity and the bed-rock of our Republic.

Mr. Chairman,

Terrorism remains one of the most serious threats to international peace and security, and also a major threat to full enjoyment of human rights. Terrorists violate the most fundamental human right of their victims - the right to life. They also infringe upon several other basic human rights. Terrorism is an attack on democracy, human dignity, human rights and development.

Effectively combating this increasingly sophisticated and globalized scourge requires necessary political will of member states and greater international and regional cooperation.

States must take unequivocal and resolute position against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. We need to ensure zero-tolerance towards terrorism. We need to remove the moral and legal ambiguities that allow terrorists to gain succor and even legitimacy.

It is, therefore, timely that the *Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism* has focused on the human rights of victims of terrorism. We support the point that the victims of terrorism must be recognized as victims of grave violations of international human rights laws.

Mr. Chairman,

With our democratic, pluralistic and secular polity, an independent and impartial judiciary, a vibrant civil society, a free media and independent national human rights institution, India has been successful in ensuring effective guarantees for the promotion and protection of human rights.

Our vibrant democratic polity also requires that we continuously pursue higher norms and standards, be it in the area of human rights or development. As the world's largest democracy, India considers it an obligation and a moral imperative to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms of each and every citizen. It will be our constant endeavour to continue to do so.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.



713. Statement by Mr. Randhir Jaiswal, Counsellor, on Agenda Item 17: Information and Communications Technologies for Development at the Second Committee of the 67th Session of the Un General Assembly on November 12, 2012

Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for giving me the floor. India associates itself with the statement made by Algeria on behalf of the G-77.

We thank the Secretary General for his reports on the follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information society and other ICT issues.

Mr. Chairman,

Internet has evolved itself into a powerful, ubiquitous, empowering and liberating medium, even though only a fragment of its full potential is known and has been exploited by humankind so far. Internet with its immense transformational potential can provide the means for sustainable and inclusive development.

India is deeply committed to the free growth of the Internet, and is determined on its own and would urge others, to exploit this tremendous opportunity.

Mr. Chairman,

We remain deeply committed to the true spirit of the vision outlined in the Tunis Agenda, i.e. the international management of the Internet should be multilateral, transparent and democratic, with the full involvement of governments, the private sector, civil society and international organizations.

Given the nature of the Internet, we need to put in place a system designed for cyberspace – a system which is collaborative, consultative and inclusive for dealing with all public policies involving the Internet.

It should be evolutionary so as to meet the ever-changing requirements of the Internet space. The processes should evolve through dialogue that is continuous and continuing. The consultations in the process should involve all stakeholders and work to make the digital divide a thing of the past. They must also factor in regional and national sensitivities and divergences.

The system should put in place a mechanism for accountability in respect of crimes committed in the cyber space. A new cyber jurisprudence needs to be evolved, which deals with cyber crime without being limited by political boundaries so that cyber justice can be delivered in real time.

The system of representation should be truly reflective of the ground realities.

We are hopeful that the Second Committee Resolution on ICT this year will

make a new beginning to give shape to the Tunis vision of Enhanced Cooperation. We seek support of all Member States for the formation of a CSTD working group on Enhanced Cooperation, with multi-stakeholder participation, as proposed by India in the Resolution, for examining the mandate of the WSIS regarding Enhanced Cooperation and recommending necessary steps to operationalize it.

I thank you.



714. Statement by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Deputy Permanent Representative, on Agenda Item 41: Necessity of Ending The Economic, Commerical and Financial Embargo Imposed by the United States of America Against Cuba at the 67th Session of the Un General Assembly on November 13, 2012.

Mr. President,

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to address the General Assembly.

My delegation associates itself with the statements made by Algeria on behalf of the G-77 and Iran on behalf of the NAM.

Mr. President,

This is the 21st year in a row that we are here to consider the resolution tabled by Cuba. In all these years, this Assembly has emphatically rejected the imposition of laws and regulations with extra-territorial impact and all other forms of coercive economic measures that hurt the progress and prosperity of people the world over.

And while doing so, this Assembly has also called upon all States to respect their obligations under the United Nations Charter and international law, as well as repeal and invalidate laws and measures that have "extra-territorial effects" on other States.

In spite its rejection by this august assembly, year after year, the US embargo on Cuba continues to remain in full force. We see this as a violation of the world opinion, and an act that severely undermines multilateralism and the credibility of the United Nations itself.

Mr. President,

The half a century old US embargo on Cuba has brought immense suffering for its people. The embargo, which perhaps, has no parallel in history, is a transgression of the right of a sovereign state to development and to enjoy the freedom of trade, economy and navigation.

The embargo has denied a life of respect and basic standard to the people of Cuba and has severely undermined the progress of the country, including sustaining the Millennium Development Goals, which it achieved long before their adoption. 2 The impact of the embargo during the present global economic slowdown has been particularly severe for the Cuban economy. Spiraling food and energy prices have made matters worse.

The embargo has denied Cuba access to US market, investment, technology,

financial services and scientific, educational, cultural and sporting institutions. Cuba has had to pay enormous extra cost for sourcing products, technology and services from third countries located thousands of kilometers away.

The extra-territorial application of the US embargo has discouraged investment, technology transfer and sale and other forms of business collaborations between Cuba and third countries.

The denial of technology and related scientific support, particularly due to extra-territorial application of the embargo, has severely impacted health care, an MDG commitment, in the country. It has also undermined its ability to provide health assistance to developing countries as part of South-South cooperation

Mr. President,

The report of the Secretary General on the agenda item is illustrative of the detrimental impact the embargo has had on international efforts to undertake socio-economic advancement in Cuba. The UN Resident Coordinator in Havana has noted the high cost and negative impact of the embargo on development and humanitarian cooperation implemented by the UN system.

Mr. President,

There is huge potential for strengthening economic and commercial ties between Cuba and the United States, especially in the tourism sector.

Taking advantage of limited openings under the US Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000, the US has become the largest exporter of agricultural products to Cuba.

Congressional efforts in the United States to relax or lift the embargo lend further credence to the annual UN resolution calling for lifting of the US embargo.

Mr. President,

People to people contact between the US and Cuba holds immense possibilities to foster better understanding. The steps taken by the US Administration in January 2011 to reduce restrictions on travel and remittances to Cuba are positive developments. However, it is far from making a fundamental change in the complex framework of laws and regulations which are part of the embargo against Cuba. Much more needs to be done.

India joins other nations in calling for an immediate end to the US embargo. India supports the resolution moved by Cuba.

I thank you.



715. Statement by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Deputy Permanent Representative, on Agenda Item 50 – Effects of Atomic Radiation at the Special Political and Decolonization Committee [Fourth Committee] of the 67th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on November 13, 2012.

Mr. Chairman,

I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee to the 67th General Assembly, as also the members of the Bureau on their election. I assure you of my delegation's full co-operation and support. I would also like to congratulate former Chairman, the Permanent Representative of Romania, Ambassador Simona-Mirela Miculescu for the way she conducted the work of this committee during the 66th session.

Mr. Chairman,

The United Nations Scientific Committee on Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR) is the only Scientific Committee in the UN system, and we acknowledge the continued high quality work of the Committee (UNSCEAR) as reflected in its report to the 67th General Assembly.

Mr. Chairman,

A few years ago, UNSCEAR had initiated a new programme of work. Foremost among its deliberations were those related to the issue of attribution of health effects to radiation, and understanding of the uncertainties in the risk assessment for cancer due to exposure to ionizing radiation. India notes with satisfaction the progress made towards the finalization of the scientific annexes on these two very important topics.

The other important issue is that of discharges during nuclear electricity generation. The intended constitution of an expert group to collect and compile data from different countries and its analysis, is a step in the right direction.

Mr. Chairman,

The last decade has witnessed a revival of global interest in nuclear energy. India considers nuclear energy as an essential energy source.

The most unfortunate accident at the Fukushima-Daiichi NPP in March 2011, has once again raised concerns about nuclear safety, which must be addressed to restore public confidence that nuclear energy would be pursued conforming to the highest international standards. It is, therefore, essential to critically analyze the events of Fukushima, including subsequent data on releases of

radioactive elements, and exposure to workers and general public using time honoured scientific methodology of UNSCEAR to allay public fears. It is heartening to note that the Scientific Committee has begun this exercise in right earnest. India has also provided data, based on its independent measurements, for this purpose.

The Fukushima accident has in a way diverted the Committee's attention from its original plan of work envisaged and approved 2 years ago. It has also strained its budgetary resources, though many countries have offered expert services free of cost to the Committee. It is, therefore, important to strengthen the Committee's resources to complete these assessments. Since there are several bodies in the UN system which are actively involved in assessment of the aftermath of the Fukushima accident, an overlap in data collection and analyses is inevitable. There is therefore an urgent need for well thought out coordination among different UN agencies.

Mr. Chairman,

The two scientific annexes to the report to the UNGA which Member States, the scientific community, policy makers, regulators and the international legal community are eagerly looking forward to, are on attributability of health effects radiation, especially at low doses, and uncertainties in risk estimation. From the summary of discussions on attributability provided in UNSCEAR's report to the 67th session of the UNGA, it is clear that only tissue injury like deterministic effects can be attributed to acute radiation exposure of high doses.

As a Committee of the world's leading experts in various aspects of radiation biology, physics, epidemiology and other related disciplines of science, it is imperative that the Committee addresses the question of mechanism of radiation action at low doses and dose rates. The Committee should periodically review developments in basic sciences and assess their impact on risk assessments or in terms of causal relationship. Such reports, when published for public information, would do a great service to the scientific community.

Mr. Chairman,

The Chernobyl and Fukushima accidents have raised the issue of radiation effects in children. The world is also witnessing increased exposure of children during medical procedures. It is satisfying to note that the committee will be undertaking the assessment of radiation effects in children as a part of its ongoing programme of work.

Collection of data on medical exposure is one of the most difficult tasks, as it is apprehended that in most countries information may not be easily available. UNSCEAR has to, therefore, join hands with IAEA, WHO and national health

authorities to obtain this information through a global medical exposure survey. The data on radiation workers may be relatively less difficult to obtain. India assures its full cooperation in facilitating collection of this data.

A major source of the UNSCEAR's risk estimates are the epidemiological studies. There are very few studies on human populations exposed to very low level chronic radiation. Epidemiological and genetic studies carried out in India in the population living in high level natural radiation areas of Kerala is one of them. Indian studies indicate no significant increase in the incidence of cancer. Further, recently published Indian studies on incidence of congenital malformation in over 140,000 new born and case control study on cleft lip and mental retardation do not indicate the association of high natural radiation level with Down's syndrome or other malformations detectable at birth. It is heartening to note that UNSCEAR has initiated the preparation of a scientific document on the epidemiological studies on low level chronic radiation exposures from natural as well as artificial sources of radiation. It goes without saying that these studies will have significant implications for addressing public concerns.

UNSCEAR's future programme includes some of the issues mentioned by me hereinabove. In addition, it is noteworthy that it will continue work on internal emitters and public information.

Mr. Chairman,

As in preceding years, India is happy to co-sponsor the resolution proposed by Germany on the subject of Effects of Atomic Radiation.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to conclude by reiterating that India will continue to contribute in every manner possible to the work of UNSCEAR.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



716. Statement by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Deputy Permanent Representative, at The 2012 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities at the 67th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on November 14, 2012.

Madame President,

At the outset, allow me to extend our sincere felicitations to you on your election as Chair of the 2012 United Nations Pledging Conference. We wish you all success and hope that under your stewardship the Pledging Conference would achieve even greater results.

Madame President

At the Rio+20 Summit on Sustainable Development held just a few months ago, our Heads of State and Government had recognised eradication of poverty as the greatest global challenge and while outlining “the future we want” suggested to us the ways and means to address such challenges.

Any stasis in resource mobilisation or a decline in funding to the development activities of the UN poses a threat to the viability of operational activities and severely circumscribes its ability to work at the country level.

As a developing country, while India has its own plate full of developmental challenges to be addressed, even then, we have always attempted to contribute to increasing the availability of core resources for development activities of the United Nations system.

In keeping with this long-standing tradition, I now have the honour to announce India’s pledges of contributions for operational activities of development for the year 2013.

This list is not exhaustive and we shall be undertaking further commitments to other entities in due course of time.

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|----|--|---|
| 1. | United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) | USD 4,500,000 |
| 2. | United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) | USD 900,000 |
| 3. | United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) | USD 500,000 |
| 4. | United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) | USD 100,000 |
| 5. | World Food Programme (WFP) | USD 1,920,000 (Biennium 2013-2014) |
| 6. | UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) | USD 1,000,000 |

7. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) **USD 300,000**
8. United Nations Human Settlements Programme **USD 100,000** (UN-HABITAT)
9. Voluntary Fund for Technical Co-operation **USD 100,000**
10. Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery **USD 25,000** (VTFCFS)
11. Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Torture (VTFVT) **USD 25,000**
12. UN Volunteers **USD 15,000**

In addition, we also have a standing 5 year commitment of USD 5 million towards UN Women, of which, USD 2 million has already been contributed so far. I thank you, Madame President.



717. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative of India to UN (in his capacity as President of Security Council) at the Memorial Service in honour of the United Nations personnel who have lost their lives while serving the Organisation from 1 November 2011 to 31 August 2012 (Delivered on 14 November at the United Nations).

H.E. Mr. Ban ki-moon, Secretary General of the United Nations & Madame Ban,
H.E. Mr. Vuk Jeremic, President of the General Assembly, & Mrs Jeremic,

Excellencies, colleagues and members of the larger UN fraternity, & most importantly, families of those who have lost their lives defending the cause of the United Nations,

On behalf of my colleagues at the United Nations Security Council, allow me to first salute all the 29 United Nations personnel - civilian, military and police- whom we remember today- for having made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty- martyrs to the cause of peace.

No cause is greater than the belief and conviction, which our 29 brethren stood for, and laid down their lives for - the cause of global peace, espoused by this cradle of multilateralism - the United Nations.

They were out there performing their official duties, a responsibility that we, member states had mandated them to do, either in the pursuit of peace keeping, peace building or at times, even promoting development in inhospitable terrains- all behind the hallowed blue flag of the United Nations- and yet they had to make that supreme sacrifice.

It is therefore, incumbent that we all come together with the highest sense of respect and gratitude because no ceremony or parade, no hug or handshake is enough to truly honour the sacrifice they have made in the line of duty. We must commit today to ourselves, to do more in serving them and their families, as they served the cause of the UN.

Today's solemn moment also reinforces the challenges of the high risk environment in which UN personnel are increasingly called upon to perform their assignments. Even though continuous enhancements to staff security, safety systems, emergency preparedness and risk mitigation are being made, the UN still continues to face extremely tragic losses of its own personnel in the line of duty.

It is therefore imperative that the safety and security of UN personnel - civilian

and uniformed- must be accorded the top most priority for all involved: the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Secretariat. And all three must work closely with host countries, who bear the primary responsibility for safety and security, to ensure that all measures are in place so that any avoidable casualty can be eliminated. Another thought that I would like to flag for the consideration of this august assembly today is that we must look at building systems, whereby families of those who have laid down their lives in the line of duty, are tended to and well looked after collectively by all of us, including the UN system.

Am reminded of a quote from Francis Quarles in this regard and I quote, "Our God and soldiers we alike adore even at the brink of danger; not before: After deliverance, both alike requited, Our God's forgotten, and our soldiers slighted".

Let us today resolve to ensure that this should never happen as I sure that this will not happen.

Amongst the list of 29 brethren whom we remember today, are also two soldiers from my country, Naik Krishan Kumar and Lance Dafadar Ravindera Poonia, and in my national capacity I would like to place on record that their courage and dedication to the cause that they laid their lives for, would never ever be forgotten. While their families have been unable to join us today, allow me to promise the full support of the Indian Government towards any assistance that they may ever require. We stand together with them to honour their commitment to their ultimate sacrifice in the service of peace.

And before I conclude, I would like to complement the UN Secretary General H.E. Mr. Ban ki-moon, for his initiative to make the memorial service an annual event in New York. It not only provides us with an opportunity to remember our fallen colleagues, but also to draw inspiration from their remarkable dedication to work even harder for the collective cause envisaged in the United Nations charter: to keep peace and to promote better standards of life in larger freedom.

For let us always remember that: A UN soldier does not fight because he hates the enemy in front of him, he fights to keep the peace, for that is the only cause he loves and leaves behind !

Thank You.



718. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, on the Annual Report of the UN Security Council At the United Nations General Assembly on November 15, 2012.

Mr President,

1. I would like, first of all, to congratulate you, on behalf of the members of the Security Council, on your election as President of the General Assembly.
2. It is for me an honour, as President of the Security Council for the month of November, to introduce the annual report of the Security Council. The presentation of this report is more than a regular reporting exercise pursuant to the UN Charter. The report underscores the importance of the relationship of both principal organs of the United Nations, and provides an excellent opportunity to debate and exchange views with the general membership on the report on the work of the Council. I'm therefore grateful to you, Mr. President to have arranged this meeting for the consideration of the Security Council's annual report.

Mr President,

3. The report covers the period from August 2011 to July 2012. The introduction to the report was prepared by the delegation of Colombia, which held the presidency in July 2012. I wish to thank Ambassador Nestor Osorio and his team for their efforts in preparing the introduction on which I call your attention as it gives a helpful overview on the different activities under the responsibility of the Council during the reporting period. Allow me also to thank the Secretariat, which prepared the other parts of the report that you have now before you.
4. I would also like to highlight the monthly assessments by each presidency which are mentioned in the report. They contain information, on a monthly basis, on the most relevant activities carried out by the Council on each item of its agenda, thus adding to the overall comprehension of the report. This is an important exercise regularly undertaken on the responsibility of each Presidency aimed at informing the wider membership on the work of the Council and on which I would like to call your attention as well.

Mr President

5. During the reporting period, the Council adopted 60 resolutions and 25 presidential statements, and issued 83 statements to the press. The Council held 222 formal meetings, of which 205 were public meetings. Open meetings, including open debates, increase transparency in the work of the Council and allow for an enhanced participation by the wider membership and the international community.

6. Presidencies of the Council and of the General Assembly continued throughout this year to meet regularly, and monthly briefings by the Presidents of the Council to the wider membership on the Council's work continued to be held. Meetings with 2 troop contributors have also taken place as a regular practice, in particular prior to any decision with impact on UN peacekeeping mandates, as a way to enable collecting relevant inputs.

7. These practices represent useful steps to promote a better dialogue with the general membership on the work of the Council and we encourage delegations to make use of these opportunities to increasingly ensure such interaction. The Council continued its implementation of Note S/2010/507 on working methods and sought to reform its working methods further wherever possible, including by better planning and spreading out its workload, ensuring reporting requirements were fit for purpose, the more efficient use of conference resources and more interactive exchanges among Council members. Presidencies have promoted useful practices aiming at increasing efficiency and expediency, such as streamline introductions made by the presidency and video conferences in open briefings or debates to provide updates from the field.

8. Council members have agreed to reduce the use of speakers' lists and better use Other Matters to discuss issues of concern. Informal interactive dialogues were also held regularly as a useful consultation practice.

9. During the period of the report many of the activities of the Council were centered, as in previous years, on situations in Africa, including Sudan (Darfur), South Sudan, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Somalia, the question of piracy off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Guinea. The two missions conducted by the Council this year were to Haiti in February 2012 and West Africa (Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, and Sierra Leone) in May 2012. The Council also held a consultative meeting with the African Union Peace and Security Council in New York in June 2012.

10. The Security Council closely followed the unresolved disputes between Sudan and South Sudan after the latter's independence in July 2011. After the resumption of fighting on the border, it adopted resolution 2046 in May 2012 to endorse the AU roadmap and demand that parties achieve a negotiated solution for all post-secession unresolved issues in a period of three months. The Council also continued to closely follow the implementation of resolution 2046 and remained seized of the ongoing negotiations between Sudan and South Sudan to resolve the outstanding CPA issues under the auspices of the AUHIP.

11. On Somalia, the Security Council's strong support to the transition process was instrumental in bringing about the most representative Somali leadership in decades. The joint African Union-UN technical assessment mission resulted in

a revised concept of operations for AMISOM, which contributed to a significant improvement in the security situation across the country.

12. The Council considered the events in various countries on its agenda prior to, during and after elections that took place during the period under review.

13. Following developments in Libya and taking note of the Declaration of Liberation, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2016 (2011) on 27 October 2011, reiterating the need for the transitional period to be underpinned by a commitment to democracy and respect for human rights, and terminating the mandates regarding the protection of civilians and the no-fly zone as stipulated in resolution 1973 (2011).

14. The Security Council reacted repeatedly with concern to the worsening security and humanitarian situation in Eastern DRC due to the violence caused by the M23 and all armed groups.

15. Following the deterioration of the security situation in Mali with the 20 March 2012 military coup and the Northern part of the country being occupied by armed rebel and terrorist groups, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2056 (2012) on 5 July to set a comprehensive path to solve all aspects of the crisis. The Security Council also requested the elaboration and implementation of a United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel.

16. Reiterating its strong condemnation of the 12 April 2012 military coup that occurred in Guinea-Bissau, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2048 (2012) on 18 May, demanding the restoration of and respect for the constitutional order.

17. Developments in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question, as well as the ongoing effects of the "Arab Spring", remained prominent on the Council's agenda.

18. The Council held monthly briefings and consultations on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question, and quarterly open debates on the issue. The members expressed concern at the continuing stalemate on the Middle East peace process and urged negotiated settlement of all issues. The Council also heard briefings from the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the OCHA on the human rights and humanitarian situation in the occupied Palestinian territory.

19. The Council closely followed developments in Syria, Yemen, Iraq and Lebanon. One of the main issues considered by the Council was the application of Palestine for membership in the United Nations.

20. Following the adoption of various press statements in 2011, the Council

in April 2012 unanimously adopted resolution 2042 (2012), authorizing an advance team to monitor the ceasefire in Syria, and resolution 2043 (2012) establishing the United Nations Supervision Mission in Syria (UNSMIS) to monitor and support the implementation of the six-point proposal of the Joint Special Envoy of the United Nations and the League of Arab States, Kofi Annan. 4

21. With respect to the situation in Yemen, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2051 (2012), expressing support to President Hadi and the Government of National Unity of Yemen to move the transition process forward, and encouraging the international community to provide active and increasing support to help the Yemeni government meet the forthcoming political, security, economic and humanitarian challenges.

22. The Council also continued to monitor developments in Afghanistan, as well as other countries in the Asian region, including the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Myanmar and Timor-Leste.

23. In Europe, the Security Council followed up on its long-standing interest in exploring means and ways to support Bosnia and Herzegovina in its institutionalisation process; as well encouraging the progress of negotiations in Cyprus; and monitoring the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and pacific settlement of differences through the Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue.

24. The Security Council reaffirmed its commitment to ensure stability and security as well as assist Haiti in the rebuilding process by extending the mandate of United Nations Stabilisation Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) through resolution 2012 (2011).

25. The issue of the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction also figured prominently on the agenda.

26. The Council also considered issues concerning international tribunals for Rwanda and former Yugoslavia, and heard reports from the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court and the President of the International Court of Justice.

27. Other priorities of the Council's work were the thematic, general and crosscutting issues. Debates and consultations were held on Peace and security in Africa, support for the United Nations Office in West Africa (UNOWA) and the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA).

28. The Council commended and promoted cooperation with sub regional organizations and in particular with the African Union via resolution 2033 (2012), which encourages the enhancement of the relationship.

29. The issues of children and armed conflict, women and peace and security,

the protection of civilians and post-conflict peacebuilding also figured on the Council's agenda, with several important debates being held during the period. In August 2011, after an open debate on peacekeeping operations, the Council adopted a presidential statement, which, inter alia, sought to deepen the existing cooperation among the Council, the Secretariat and the troop and police contributing countries. During the reporting period, the Security Council also approved 25 resolutions extending the mandates of various peacekeeping and monitoring missions. In July 2012, the Council held an open debate on "Post-conflict peacebuilding" to consider the Annual Report 5 of the Peacebuilding Commission, which was followed by an interactive dialogue focused on how to meet the Peacebuilding Commission's full potential and bring all partners together around common strategies.

30. The Council remained seized of the threat posed by terrorism and heard regular briefings from the Chairs of the 1267/1989, 1373, 1540 Committees. In various press statements, the Security Council strongly condemned the terrorist acts that occurred in different locations between August 2011 and July 2012.

Mr President

31. I could go on and on in referring to matters that were under consideration by the Council during this reporting period. But I should rather listen to you and other member-states. I have, therefore, not mentioned several other issues which find detailed mention in the report and may be referred to.

Mr President

32. The annual report you have before you includes an important number of analytical, descriptive and statistical information on the work of the Council, the preparation of which requires a significant effort both by delegations in the Council and the Secretariat.

33. I hope that member-states will seize this opportunity to discuss the report, and I will be glad to take your suggestions back to my colleagues in the Council. There is always room for improvement, and the Council members will benefit from your comments and suggestions.

Thank you.



719. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative and Chairman, Counter-terrorism Committee at the Special Meeting of the Counter-terrorism Committee With Member States and International Regional and Sub-regional Organization on 'Preventing and Suppressing Terrorist Financing' at United Nations Headquarters on November 20,2012

H.E. Mr. Jan Eliasson, Deputy Secretary General,

Mr. Bjørn Skogstad Aamo, FATF President,

Mr. Mike Smith, Executive Director, CTED,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I warmly welcome you to the third special meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee to take place under the chairmanship of India.

Prevention and suppression of terrorist financing lies at the heart of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and promoting and facilitating its implementation is one of the core mandates of the Committee. The resolution requires States to undertake wide-ranging measures aimed at preventing and suppressing terrorist financing. In order to achieve effective compliance, the Committee has encouraged Member States to be guided by the relevant United Nations international instruments, as well as to use the best practices including recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

The international financial system, represented by the organisations participating here today, is the first line of defence against terrorist financing. The progress that we have been able to achieve so far would not have been possible without the work that FATF, and the FATF-style regional bodies, as well as other international organizations like UNODC, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, have undertaken in recent years, in addition to assisting Member States in implementing the UN instruments that tackle terrorist financing, such as the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, resolution 1373 (2001), resolution 1267 (1999) and resolution 1989 (2011).

With international community's concerted efforts spanning over a decade, the use and abuse of the formal banking system is more difficult and more expensive for terrorists than ever before. Despite the progress, terrorists continue to exploit advances in technology and have been able to find ways and means in raising and moving funds. It is therefore, imperative for the Member States and the

international community to continue to update and strengthen the legal, regulatory and institutional framework in combating this challenge.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

The Committee regularly addresses counter-financing of terrorism issues relevant to the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) through dialogue with Member States on legal provisions; institutional structures; practical applications; human rights issues; and technical assistance needs. Indeed, CTED, acting on behalf of the Committee, is engaged in numerous initiatives which facilitate the delivery of technical assistance to Member States in these areas. The support and participation of the FATF, FATF style regional bodies and relevant international, regional and sub-regional organizations has been crucial to the success of these initiatives and is very much appreciated by the Committee.

FATF is an important and valued partner of the Committee in our common efforts to deal with terrorist financing. It has a leading global role in developing best practices, and promoting the effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating money laundering and terrorist financing.

The Committee also profoundly values the important contribution and regional perspectives that the FATF style regional bodies bring to bear in assisting Member States in meeting this global challenge. Through their unique local knowledge and expertise, these bodies are often best placed to understand the challenges faced in their region and respond effectively to address them.

The Executive Director, Mr. Mike Smith will elaborate in the first session upon the cooperative relationship with the FATF and the FATF style regional bodies and some of the specific technical assistance initiatives CTED is taking forward in this regard.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

The Committee recognises that combating the terrorist financing threat is a complex and highly technical undertaking. It is supportive of all efforts to provide assistance to Member States in implementing the UN instruments that tackle this threat in accordance with international law, in particular international human rights law, refugee law, and humanitarian law.

This meeting is intended to contribute to these efforts and provide a forum for a genuinely interactive discussion on the most pressing challenges we face together in our common effort to tackle terrorist financing. It is an opportunity to exchange views, to deliberate on experiences and importantly to identify effective measures that could address these challenges. It is also an occasion to draw attention to best practices including the revised FATF Recommendations and

their relevance for the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) and the relevant capacity building activities and initiatives in this regard.

But most of all, this meeting represents a call, heard, answered and repeated by the number of organisations and Member States represented here today, to further raise awareness of the threat of terrorist financing, to ensure tackling this threat remains an urgent priority and to further work together with a renewed sense of energy and purpose.

Before I conclude, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Mr. Mike Smith, Executive Director, CTED and his team on behalf of the Committee for organizing this meeting. We have a comprehensive agenda ahead of us and a diverse array of speakers from member states as well as international, regional and sub-regional organizations. I would encourage all participants to adhere to the time-schedule which would be helpful in having an interactive discussion.

Thank you.



720. Statement by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Deputy Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations at the Unga Debate on ‘Situation in Afghanistan’ on November 27, 2012.

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to express India's appreciation for scheduling this discussion. I also avail this opportunity to commend the German delegation for coordinating inter-governmental negotiations in an excellent manner that has led us to this annual General Assembly resolution on the "Situation in Afghanistan".

As we have been doing for the last several years, we are happy to co-sponsor this resolution, which is traditionally adopted by consensus.

Mr. President,

Major international and regional conferences on Afghanistan have been held during the last one year against the backdrop of ongoing security transition. The international community's has renewed its commitment for peace, security and development in Afghanistan at conferences in Bonn, Chicago and Tokyo and at the regional level in Istanbul and Kabul.

As the Afghan government assumes responsibility for security and governance with the drawdown of the ISAF by end 2014, we welcome the pledges of \$16 billion of financial aid through 2015 and to sustain support through 2017 at, or near, levels of the past decade at the Tokyo Conference. At the same time, we are conscious that these figures represent a base-line or minimum requirement for Afghanistan to sustain itself.

The Delhi Investment Summit of June 28 hosted by India was an important endeavour in focussing regional and international attention towards investments in Afghanistan and their potential in providing economic development and stability to Afghanistan during the transition period.

Mr. President,

Amidst the ISAF drawdown and accompanying economic downturn, it is indeed worrisome that the infrastructure of terror is still intact in the region. The Secretary General's latest report notes that 'little has changed in the underlying dynamics to mitigate a deep-seated cycle of conflict'. Further, a 'diminished international presence will have a large financial impact in many areas which, at least in the short term, may even exacerbate predatory behaviour'.

Afghanistan continues to face an existential threat from terrorism, drawing upon

ideological, financial and logistical support from beyond its borders. The security situation remains fragile and there has been a sharp increase in the variety, spread and intensity of attacks by the Taliban and their backers. Moreover, cross-border shellings of 2 last few months have caused large-scale disruptions to normal life and have sparked public outrage. The Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) are ill-equipped to repel this challenge without substantial assistance from the international community.

We need concerted action to isolate and root out the syndicate of terrorism which includes elements of the Al-Qaida, Taliban, Lashkar-e-Taiba and other terrorist and extremist groups.

As Afghanistan takes forward the task of national reconciliation in accordance with the criteria as laid forth in the Kabul communiqué, we fully support the efforts for regional confidence-building as a critical component of international efforts to support the country.

Regional cooperation and connectivity are critical for Afghanistan's political and economic progress. The Istanbul 'Heart of Asia' process is an important step in this direction. Towards strengthening this cooperation, India has taken the lead in two commercial Confidence Building Measures under the Istanbul process.

We are fully cognizant that the economic viability of Afghanistan depends on its fuller integration into its neighbourhood, so that it can regain its historical role of a land-bridge between South Asia, Central Asia, the Middle East and Eurasia. The development of transport infrastructure and transit arrangements linking Afghanistan to the North, South, East and West, including, through the Chabahar port, would benefit not only Afghanistan but the entire Central Asian region by creating trade, transit and investment linkages.

Mr. President,

Afghanistan and India have had a long shared history going back over millennia. The two countries are natural strategic partners by virtue of geography and a common vision of peace and cooperation in the region.

Our bilateral relationship is extensive, multi-faceted and characterized by high level interaction. President Karzai visited India earlier this month. This visit offered an opportunity to review the entire gamut of bilateral relationship and discuss regional and international issues of mutual interest. During the visit, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh reiterated India's support to Afghanistan during the crucial period of transition till end 2014 and thereafter.

The implementation of the Strategic Partnership Agreement of October, 2011 between the two countries has already been set in motion with the convening of the first meeting of the Partnership Council on May 1, 2012.

During the last decade, India has pledged up to \$ 2 billion in development and humanitarian assistance. We have managed to carry out some of the most economical and cost-effective projects in Afghanistan. The \$ 500 million assistance announced by Prime Minister of India in May 2011 is being spent from 2012-2015. The projects under consideration will be in line with the projects suggested under the National Priority Programmes of the Government of Afghanistan. The pace and nature of the utilization of the present and future Indian assistance will be determined by the preference, comfort level and absorptive capacity of the Afghan government.

Mr. President,

India remains unwavering in its commitment to assisting the people of Afghanistan in their endeavour to build a peaceful, stable, democratic and prosperous nation.

We support the good work done by UNAMA. It is important that amidst the cutback in UN foot-print in Afghanistan and reconfiguration of UNAMA due to budgetary constraints, all efforts should be made to avoid adverse impact on its operational effectiveness.

Moving forward, we need to create an enabling environment where the Afghan people could live in peace and security and decide their future themselves, without outside interference, coercion and intimidation. The international community must continue to work with renewed vigour and unity of purpose towards strengthening efforts of the Afghan government in seeking solutions that are inclusive and led by the Afghan people themselves.

Thank you.



721. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, at the Second Regular Session of 2012 of the Executive Board of UN Women on November 28, 2012.

Mr. President,

My felicitations to the Executive Director and Under Secretary-General, Madam Michelle Bachelet for her extremely informative statement and our complements for a well analysed report on the administrative, budgetary and financial implications and implementation of the Regional Architecture review plan, which has been placed for consideration before the Second Regular Session of the Executive Board.

Mr. President, when we adopted the Decision 2012/4 at the Annual Session on Regional Architecture Review, earlier this year, there were questions on how the process would evolve and even doubts on the transparency of the whole process.

Let me submit, at the outset, that your comprehensive and detailed report on this subject at this Session, coupled with the briefings which preceded this Session, have allayed concerns of most member states, through an extremely well thought out, consultative and transparent process.

As outlined in the conclusion of your report, the regional architecture process is a change management response to the vision of the UN Women Strategic Plan, which sees UN Women achieve a much greater impact than its constituent entities were previously able to do, in the pursuit of results, in particular at the country level, including results achieved through leveraging the capacities of the United Nations system as a whole.

While my delegation broadly aligns itself with the overarching objective of this exercise, and hopes that by the end of 2013 when you envisage to complete the process, the UN Women entity would certainly be a more dynamic, lean, effective and efficient unit, which would partner with national governments in the pursuit of gender equality and women's empowerment.

We also hope that this transition to the new architecture is carried out with the minimum disruptions to operations of UN Women, particularly at the country level, thereby minimising the one off costs and adverse impact on staff, associated with such changes and incorporates flexibility to allow for adaptations to the plan, if opportunities or unforeseen risks to its viability do arise.

Mr. President, allow me to submit that UN Women's strategic plan needs to have a specific strategy for the special challenges and opportunities in South Asia, along with a specific identification of corresponding structure of implementation, and that this exercise of the review of regional architecture of

UN Women should continue to respond to these priorities. These should also include, active partnerships with national governments of countries in South Asia, especially where there are a large proportion of women populations. It is also our considered submission that the proposed architecture of UN Women should not adversely impact or dismantle the South Asia focus of UN Women, and inadvertently subsume it under an overarching 'all Asia approach,' which may not take into account the regional specificities of South Asia.

My delegation therefore would like to submit that in the process of the regional architecture being carried out, it would not be desirable to dilute UN Women's presence at the proposed multi country office in India.

Given this backdrop, we hope that the regional architecture review would affirm to the red lines drawn by you in Para 52 (b) of your report, and therefore attempt to cause least disruptions to the existing operations of the sub regional office in New Delhi, as you plan to expand the future role and scope of UN Women's operations in the South Asian region.

Mr. President, representing a country which is home to more than 500 million women, women's economic and political empowerment has been the cornerstone of **our policy making**, all along.

More so, when 69% of our total women population (*nearly 405 million women*) reside in the rural areas alone. It is in this context, that contribution of rural women to our GDP growth and their central role in poverty reduction has been a key guiding factor in the framing of our national policies.

In this regard, allow me to place my Nodal Ministry (*the Ministry of Women and Child Development*)'s sincerest appreciation for UN Women, for their active partnership and constructive advice in the Working Group for the Twelfth Plan Chapter on Women's Agency and Empowerment. Your agenda of making 'gender a lived reality' finds resonance in the overall policy approach of the Government of India, which has also been outlined in the 12th Five Year Plan of my country.

While economic empowerment of Indian women at the grass roots level, especially through the Self-Help Groups has been a hall mark of India 's success story, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA), the world's largest enabling project at grass roots democracy, has helped engender the REAL political and economic empowerment of women by ensuring that at least one third of its beneficiaries are women. During the extremely successful visit of Madam Bachelet to India in October this year, Madame, you witnessed at first, the fruits of the project, which we have achieved in partnership and with the support of UN Women in Rajasthan, where 65000 women counsellors at the grass roots level, have been trained to provide leadership and vision to their community.

Mr. President, we are happy to note the significant achievements that UN Women has achieved within a short operational span of two years, since its inception, under the dynamic leadership of Madame Bachelet.

As the UN embarks upon the process of the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) to shape the overall policy direction for the next four years for the UN Development agenda, you can count on our support to ensure that Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment remains a fundamental pillar which is given due weightage in setting the development agenda. In this regard, we are happy to note the evolving text of the QCPR draft resolution under discussion, especially the emphasis on women's empowerment as outlined within the Chapter IV on National Capacity Building.

My delegation also calls for a comprehensive resource mobilisation strategy to secure the resources required by UN Women in meeting its global commitments. Let me also re-iterate that as part of our stated commitment of five million US dollars to UN Women's core predictable funding, India has already contributed two million US dollars to UN Women, so far. We will continue to provide full political and financial support to UN Women and count on the support of others, to do likewise.

Let me conclude, Mr. President, by reaffirming India's steadfast commitment to all round social, economic and political empowerment of our women, whatever effort and resources, the task might take. It is upto us, members of the Executive Board to ensure that UN Women, under the leadership of Madam Bachelet, is given the necessary authority, mandate and resources to deliver. We assure you that in this journey of yours, India would never be found wanting.

Thank You.



722. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, IN HIS CAPACITY AS PRESIDENT OF SECURITY COUNCIL on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People on November 29, 2012.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1. Let me begin by thanking the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People for inviting me in my capacity as the President of the Security Council for November to address this meeting to commemorate the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.
2. The Security Council remains committed to a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East, based on the vision of a region where two democratic States, Israel and Palestine, live side by side in peace within secure and recognized borders. The Security Council also remains committed to seeking a comprehensive resolution of other Arab-Israeli issues and in this regard, recalls its previous relevant resolutions and notes the importance of the Arab Peace Initiative.
3. Throughout the past year, developments in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question, remained prominent on the Council's agenda. The Council has remained seized of these issues, and continued to receive monthly briefings on the situation from the Secretary-General's Special Coordinator and the Department of Political Affairs and held regular open debates. The Security Council also discussed these issues at a High Level Meeting, during the month of September 2012 on strengthening of the relationship between the Security Council and the League of Arab States. In the context of recent hostilities affecting the Gaza strip and Israel, the Security Council also held a private meeting on 14 November 2012.
4. The application of Palestine for membership to the United Nations was one of the main issues considered by the Security Council and its Standing Committee on Admission of New Members in the last quarter of the year 2011. The issue remains before the Council following adoption of the report by the Committee on Admission of New Members in November 2011. The Security Council also discussed early this year an invitation extended on behalf of President Mahmoud Abbas and the Palestinian leadership for the Security Council to undertake a visit to the region.
5. Over the course of the year, members of the Council expressed concern at, and many condemned, the steady expansion of Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory, terming them as illegal under international law or illegitimate. The members also reiterated their view that such actions undermine peace efforts and the viability of the two-State solution, and stressed the need for respect of international obligations in this regard.

6. Despite several commendable bilateral and multilateral initiatives leading to some notable developments, the Council members regret to note that the direct talks between the parties have not resumed. The members have repeatedly stressed the importance of resumption of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, and encouraged both sides to keep direct contact so as to maintain positive momentum towards resumption of dialogue and negotiations.
7. Council members continue to view the situation in Gaza with concern and repeat their calls for the full implementation of Security Council resolutions 1850 and 1860, and in that context they stress the need for a sustained and regular flow of goods and people to Gaza, an end to the smuggling of weapons and rockets, as well as unimpeded provision and distribution of humanitarian assistance throughout Gaza. The Council members also continue to express concern at, and many condemned, the firing of rockets from Gaza into southern Israel. The Council, in a press statement on 21 November, welcomed the ceasefire agreement reached in relation to the Gaza Strip in order to bring about a sustainable and durable cessation of hostilities affecting the Gaza Strip and Israel and expressed their continued support for the ongoing international efforts to consolidate the agreement. The members of the Security Council also deplored the loss of civilian lives resulting from the recent escalation.
8. Council members have noted the results of the most recent Ad Hoc Liaison Committee meeting on 23 September 2012. In the meeting, the donors based on reports and recommendations from the parties, the UN, the World Bank, the IMF and the Quartet Representative, reconfirmed their assessment that the institutions of the Palestinian Authority are above the threshold of a functioning State. Council members have welcomed this positive appraisal, and stressed the need for continued strengthening of Palestinian institutions. Council members are also cognizant of the importance of continuing financial support to the Palestinian Authority, in view of its critical financial situation.
9. The past year continued to witness historical developments in the Middle East. The momentous changes across the region have emphasized even further the urgency of realizing a peace agreement that ends the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and resolves all claims. The Security Council, has thus called upon Palestinians and Israelis to seize the opportunity to reach a peaceful and final settlement.
10. The Security Council expresses the hope that urgent efforts will be made, based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, 1397, 1515, 1850, the Madrid principles including land for peace, the Roadmap, and the agreements previously reached between the parties, towards a comprehensive resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Such a solution should end the occupation that began in 1967 and result in the emergence of an independent, democratic, contiguous and viable Palestinian State, living side by side in peace and security with Israel and its neighbours.

11. The Security Council has recognized the key role of the Quartet in the efforts to re-launch the Middle East Peace Process and the importance of the Arab Peace Initiative as well. Council members have expressed their full support for the continued efforts of the Quartet and its statements, including that of 23 September 2011.

12. The Council urges the parties to work constructively with the Quartet towards this endeavor, and stresses that unilateral actions by either party cannot prejudice the outcome of negotiations and will not be recognized by the international community.

13. The Security Council remains fully committed to a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East based on the vision of two States, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security with mutually agreed and recognized borders. Council members have underscored that a peace agreement between Israelis and Palestinians and the final settlement of all core issues can only be achieved through direct negotiations. Council Members have also reiterated their support for an agreed, just and fair solution to the refugee issue. The Security Council remains committed to upholding its duties and supporting a credible negotiations process between the parties, aimed at the early conclusion of a peace agreement.

14. Finally, the Security Council commends the laudable efforts of humanitarian organizations and agencies on the ground, particularly those of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and its staff. The Council encourages all members of the international community to support the Agency with much needed financial contributions at this critical time.

15. In view of the critical situation on the ground and of the need for progress to be made in the political process, the Security Council will remain seized of the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question, and will continue to consider the issue on a regular basis and to act to uphold its responsibilities under the Charter and consistent with the relevant Security Council resolutions on the matter.

16. In conclusion, allow me to assure all Member States of the commitment of the Security Council to the ultimate goal of achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East and to the realization of the legitimate and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people for an independent and democratic State.

I thank you.



723. Statement by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative, on Agenda Item 37 - 'Question of Palestine and the situation in the Middle East' at the United Nations General Assembly on November 30, 2012.

Thank you, Mr. President,

At the outset, please allow me to express our appreciation to you for convening this discussion on the Question of Palestine at the General Assembly. I also would like to thank the President of Palestine, H. E. Mahmoud Abbas, for his statement yesterday.

2. I would like to congratulate the leadership and people of Palestine on the upgradation of Palestine's status in the General Assembly to a non-member observer state. While we have long supported the aspirations of the Palestinian people and leadership for the full membership to the United Nations, the vote yesterday in the General Assembly is an important milestone towards that goal.

3. Mr. President, the Arab world has been undergoing unprecedented transformation during the last two years. Democratic aspirations of people in several countries are being addressed through national political processes. It is, however, regrettable that the Palestinian question and the related Arab-Israeli issues have largely remained unaddressed and unresolved. Also, the Palestinian application for full membership of the United Nations submitted more than a year ago has not evinced any positive action from the Security Council, despite overwhelming support from the UN member-states.

4. For more than two years now, there have been no direct talks between Israel and Palestine. Meanwhile, the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories has been deteriorating due to settlement activities in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. These activities are creating new realities on the ground, and threaten the very premise of a two-state solution. Settlements, roadblocks and the related infrastructure of occupation have also exacerbated the humanitarian problems of the Palestinian people and are affecting adversely the normal functioning of Palestinian state institutions. The Palestinian Authority is also facing a severe financial crisis that could erode the significant progress made by the Palestinian Authority in building state institutions.

5. The blockade of Gaza has entered its sixth year, and is causing severe hardship to the population. The humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate, and essential services, economic activities and infrastructure development have been disrupted. We strongly condemn the violence and deeply regret the loss of human lives during the recent hostilities. We hope both the parties will uphold the ceasefire agreement and implement its provisions in good faith.

6. Mr. President, we hope that the vote in the General Assembly yesterday will pave the way for the resumption of serious, direct talks between the Palestinians and the Israelis. India has a long history of solidarity with the Palestinian people. India was the first non-Arab country to recognize the state of Palestine nearly 25 years back. In his message to the friendly people of Palestine on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity, our Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh has reiterated India's unwavering support for the Palestinian People's struggle for a sovereign, independent, viable and united state of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital, living within secure and internationally recognized borders, side by side and at peace with Israel as endorsed in the Arab Peace Initiative, Quartet Road Map and relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions.

7. In conclusion, Mr. President, I would like to reiterate India's continued support for the Palestinian cause.

I thank you.



724. Statement by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Deputy Permanent Representative, at the General Discussion on Agenda Item 129: Review of the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations-Civilian Capacity in the Aftermath of Conflict at the Fifth Committee on December 07, 2012.

Mr. Chairman, thank you very much. Mr. Chairman, first of all please allow me to congratulate you on assuming the Chair of the 5th Committee. I am speaking here for the first time under your Chairmanship and I am particularly delighted to see you there. Let me also assure you that when we come at the crunch time of the 5th Committee you shall have our constructive and very strong support. I wish you all the very best on our behalf.

Mr. Chairman, I also apologize to the interpreters as I intend to deviate from, although well-crafted statement, actually to address what I have been hearing in the last hour or so.

Obviously I want to begin by thanking the Missions of Canada and Indonesia for their outstanding work in bringing us to the place where we are today on the Civilian Capacity processes. Also want to note the Secretary General's Report and the ACABQ's views and I am very delighted to see the current Vice-Chair and the soon to be Chairman of the ACABQ here. Thank you very much Carlos and I wish you all the best in your endeavours too.

Mr. Chairman, I am, of course, very happy to see Special Advisor Sarah Cliff herself here and briefing the 5th Committee. She has been the pivot of all the work which has gone on here along with her team and having the briefing directly from her and giving us an opportunity to interact with her is of a particular importance.

Let me say another thing right at the outset. His Excellency the Permanent Representative of Pakistan spoke just before me and addressed several issues on the Civilian Capacity Report and the way he believes and his delegation believes things should go forward. I strongly agree with all what he had said especially on the linkages with the peacekeeping and peacebuilding processes and the way the budgetary and financial mechanisms of the Civilian Capacity processes should unfold here at the United Nations. We, of course, align ourselves with the statement delivered on behalf of the G-77.

Mr. Chairman, you know governance, basic services, public administration – these are some of the formidable challenges that countries face when in transition from conflict to the lasting peace. Support to national Civilian Capacities in post-conflict situation is obviously critical and the United Nations must engage itself in this process. My delegation has strongly supported the efforts of the

United Nations and Ms. Cliff in this regard and we will continue to be strongly there for them and with them in this matter. However, let me repeat what as I mentioned to you the Permanent Representative of Pakistan had mentioned the Civilian Capacity is a critical element but within the overarching framework of peacekeeping and peacebuilding. Their proposal, therefore, cannot be an alternative to peacekeeping or in any way tend to dilute from the budgetary resources and other resources which are available for peacekeeping which is not only the flagship activity of the United Nations but certainly its most critical activity in the service of international peace and security.

Mr. Chairman, I am very glad to see that this process has finally come really into the realm of inter-governmentalness and at the 5th Committee which is the principal deliberative organ for trying to take these particular things forward in an inter-governmental setting.

My delegation strongly believes that this is the way things should go forward. We also believe that the vibrant deliberation in C-34 is particularly critical and will make the outcomes on Civilian Capacity initiative inclusive and more productive. I think I also need to highlight that budgetary, personnel and recruitment aspects of the United Nations approved by the General Assembly need to be adhered to strictly in all circumstances. Transparency, fairness, judicious deployment of scarce resources are priorities, these shall certainly have overriding priorities. I need to use this opportunity to mention that this is particularly important that we work through regular processes and regular budgets. Voluntary fundings, etc. have kick-started many things but it needs to move on to the regular scale and which is the way of doing things here; which is the norm here at the UN which has stood us in very good stead over the past 60 years. I also hear the words flexibility, no bureaucracy, no rigidity, these are very good words and we all subscribe to them but I think we have very good reasons why we have processes and it is particularly important that the processes are neither short circuited nor by-passed. That the processes need to be improved is a matter on which you couldn't have a stronger voice than mine and you Mr. Chairman and I stand very strongly for the reforms of the United Nations especially its critical organ the United Nations Security Council.

Mr. Chairman, let me also allow to elaborate on a few other specific aspects. Now that we are in an inter-governmental setting it is particularly important that the Civilian Capacity initiative moves from these conceptual and thematic stages to the programmatic domain and details are provided to the member states. This, I believe, would allow us to move in a much more inclusive manner with the complete involvement of Member States of the United Nations and also take care of this entire aspect which has so far been the hallmark of most of the issues here which is episodic sharing of information. Of course a great deal of efforts has been made by Ms. Cliff and her team to reach out to countries but it

is also useful and particularly important that this is done across the board in this kind of setting here in an inter-governmental and of course in addition to all the individual efforts which are much appreciated and we are particularly fortunate that we have had the opportunity of a very strong interaction with her on this matter including her having visited my country which has been very good. I think I also need to highlight especially since we are here in the 5th Committee that the Civilian Capacity initiative needs a lot organizational address, it needs to be anchored somewhere in the UN that is particularly important. That is what allows for proper processes. Processes can be improved as I said and for proper accountability in the General Assembly and in the United Nations in general. It also allows for due diligence and it allows us to use the various processes that we have the tools at our command to ensure that, you know, the proper verification is done including the issues such as use of NGOs, to minimize reputational risks for this organization, the implications for using budgetary resources, etc. And of course, it goes without saying that duplications under all circumstances should be avoided. It is not only question of efficiency but we also live in a time when financial and other resources are scarce and we need to optimize their utilization here. I also want to make another point and Ms. Sarah referred this to in a briefing – the strong outreach to the countries in the South is much appreciated, really much appreciated. I think many of our countries have expertise which is of particular relevance and use and I can say at least on behalf of my country that we have been in the process of making whatever expertise we have available to fellow Member States of the United Nations who may wish to partner with us and in terms of South-South Cooperation and various other fora which would continue to do so strongly through your initiative Ms. Cliff and the Civilian Capacity initiative and all other particular fora. It is my considered view that the Member States in their own domain, i.e. in their own government system have the best of the expertise that we can be utilized and leveraged that would be the top priority and the highest priority in terms of the reach out to where you can source these particular Civilian Capacities. I have spoken I think longer than what I should have but I want to say that I have done so and also I am present here because that we take this initiative to be not just very serious but very important. We consider this as an initiative that has far reaching implications and important and very significant ones. For the way we as Member State as well as the United Nations is there to assist countries within their own national priorities and in keeping with their national ownership priorities at times of post-conflicts.

I want to end by reiterating our very strong support for the initiative of the United Nations and Ms. Cliff and her team.

Mr. Chairman, thank you very much.



725. Statement by Ambassador H.S. Puri, Permanent Representative and Chairman, Counter-Terrorism Committee at the meeting of NATO and Ambassadors from the Partnership for Peace countries within the framework of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council. Brussels, December 11, 2012.

H.E. Mr. Anders Fogh Rasmussen, NATO Secretary General

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is both a singular honour and privilege for me to address NATO and Ambassadors from the Partnership for Peace countries within the framework of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council.

I would like to thank you Mr. Secretary General for the kind invitation and I recall the briefing by Ambassador Gabor Iklody, Assistant Secretary General to the Counter-Terrorism Committee last September.

I avail this opportunity to present before you some thoughts in my personal capacity as Chair of the Counter Terrorism Committee.

Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

Terrorism today constitutes the most pressing challenge to international peace and security. It is a global threat that recognizes no border, nationality, ethnicity or religion. There is hardly any region of the world that has not been scarred by terrorism. The situation is further compounded with the increasing ability of terrorist to inflict catastrophic damage to critical infrastructure.

Terrorists are not only globalized, but are waging an asymmetric warfare against the international community. Terrorists have made borders irrelevant and are adept in exploiting advances in technology. They recruit in one country, raise funds in another and operate in others. Statistics would indicate that the share of terrorism in global violence is at an all-time high.

We all have a vital interest in battling this horrendous scourge. Effectively combating terrorism requires necessary political will of member states and greater international and regional cooperation.

Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

The UN's convening power is unparalleled and it has been in the forefront of global effort in combating terrorism. Despite gaps, the normative framework agreed at the UN is fairly comprehensive and comprise of UN conventions on

terrorism and protocols, the Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005) and subsequent - 2 - resolutions and the universally agreed Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. However, considerable ground is yet to be covered when it comes to implementation.

Terrorism has to be confronted with resolute determination, not only by governments, but also by societies at large. The preventive aspect needs much greater attention than ever before. Security Council resolution 1963 (2010) as well as the universally agreed Global Counter Terrorism Strategy recognize that terrorism will not be defeated by military means, law enforcement measures and intelligence operations alone.

Meeting violence with greater violence can never provide a lasting solution. I come from the land of Mahatma Gandhi. He led what is now a nation of over a billion people to freedom through non-violence. The recent developments in West Asia and North Africa demonstrate that peaceful and non-violent mobilization of a population can be a more effective instrument of social change than violence.

We need a holistic zero-tolerance approach towards terrorism anchored in human rights and rule of law. We also need greater outreach and, enhanced cooperation, coherence and coordination of international counter-terrorism efforts as well as amongst various UN entities including the CTED, UNODC and the CTITF Office.

During the last two years, the Counter-Terrorism Committee, which I Chair, has organized three Special Meetings with participation of the wider UN membership and international regional and sub-regional organizations. The Committee organized a Special Meeting in New York last month focusing on prevention and suppression of terrorist financing with participation of the expert bodies - FATF, FATF Style Regional Bodies (FSRBs), IMF and the World Bank. The Meeting was immensely helpful in putting a spotlight on the issue of terrorist financing, which lies at the heart of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001). The Meeting built upon the success of the two Special Meetings held last year - the Strasbourg meeting which focussed on the prevention of terrorism and the commemorative meeting at in New York on the tenth anniversary of adoption of UNSCR 1373 (2001) where the Committee introduced a substantive and qualitative higher benchmark of "zero tolerance" in the counter-terrorism lexicon.

The Committee, through CTED, has also been constantly improving its analytical tools to monitor and assess the progress in implementation of resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005) around the world. The Committee issued updated global surveys of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005) last year.

The Committee has also agreed earlier this year to a revised set of assessment tools including the Overview of Implementation Assessment (OIA) and the

Detailed Implementation Survey (DIS), which are designed to provide greater objectivity to the Committee's stocktaking process of identifying States' strengths and challenges in countering terrorism worldwide. - 3 - **Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,**

Notwithstanding the progress achieved so far, the efforts of the international community continue to face many challenges. Foremost is the need to remove the moral and legal ambiguities that allow terrorists to gain succour and even legitimacy. Progress under mutual legal assistance and extradition cases is still sketchy and is yet to be fully mainstreamed as part of regional and international counter-terrorism efforts. We need to expand the normative framework and strengthen enforcement efforts to destroy safe havens for terrorists, their financial flows and their support networks.

The success in the fight against terrorism goes hand-in-hand with progress in strengthening counter-terrorism cooperation and exchange of information at the international, regional and sub-regional level. A large number of terrorist plots can be neutralized by international cooperation. The sharing of information is of fundamental importance. The mechanisms that have been developed to pool the resources and the knowledge of the international community needs to be augmented and made more effective.

We have witnessed important progress at the international and regional levels including the recently established Global Counter Terrorism Forum (GCTF). We would need a scaling up of some of the concrete ideas emerging from these processes. In these times of austerity, it becomes imperative to fully coordinate the international efforts and avoid duplication of efforts leading to diversion of resources, which probably could be better used elsewhere.

NATO remains an important partner for the CTC/CTED in our common efforts to deal with the terrorist threat. Further, with its considerable expertise and the resources that NATO has dedicated in confronting the cross-cutting and ever evolving terrorist threat, it stands well-placed in sharing its valuable experience with CTC/CTED and the UN. We need to consider expanding synergies in areas of capacity-building, training and technical assistance.

I am glad that the CTC/CTED and NATO have a healthy interaction and this need to be strengthened further.

Before I conclude, I would like to echo the UNSG's clarion call : "we must take collective and concerted action to prevent terrorism from posing an existential threat to human kind".

Thank you



726. Statement by Ambassador H.S. Puri, Permanent Representative and Chairman, Counter-Terrorism Committee at the meeting of NATO and Ambassadors from the Partnership for Peace countries within the framework of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council. Brussels, December 11, 2012.

H.E. Mr. Anders Fogh Rasmussen, NATO Secretary General

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agreed at the UN is fairly comprehensive and comprise of UN conventions on terrorism and protocols, the Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005) and subsequent - 2 - resolutions and the universally agreed Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. However, considerable ground is yet to be covered when it comes to implementation. Terrorism has to be confronted with resolute determination, not only by governments, but also by societies at large. The preventive aspect needs much greater attention than ever before. Security Council resolution 1963 (2010) as well as the universally agreed Global Counter Terrorism Strategy recognize that terrorism will not be defeated by military means, law enforcement measures and intelligence operations alone.

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We have witnessed important progress at the international and regional levels including the recently established Global Counter Terrorism Forum (GCTF). We would need a scaling up of some of the concrete ideas emerging from these processes. In these times of austerity, it becomes imperative to fully coordinate the international efforts and avoid duplication of efforts leading to diversion of resources, which probably could be better used elsewhere.

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I am glad that the CTC/CTED and NATO have a healthy interaction and this need to be strengthened further.

Before I conclude, I would like to echo the UNSG's clarion call : "we must take collective and concerted action to prevent terrorism from posing an existential threat to human kind".

Thank you



727. Opening remarks by Ambassador Manjeev Sing Puri, Acting Permanent Representative, as the Chair of the 13th Plenary Session of the Contact Group on Piracy Off the Coast of Somalia at UN Headquarters in New York on December 11, 2012.

Excellencies and Dear Colleagues,

It is a privilege and honour for me to chair the 13th Plenary Session of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia today on behalf of India.

Maritime piracy off the coast of Somalia and the humanitarian plight of hostages held by pirates remain a major cause of concern for India. Much of India's trade passes through the Gulf of Aden, estimated at over US \$ 160 billion annually. Indians constitute 7% of the world's seafarers and a consequence of piracy has been the tremendous human cost that these seafarers have had to pay.

Given the adverse impact of acts of piracy and armed robbery at sea has on maritime trade, seafarers and security, India attaches high priority to combating piracy, including in waters off the coast of Somalia. India has actively supported international efforts at the operational level, including through the participation in anti-piracy patrols in the Gulf of Aden since 2008 and has also deployed its ships in the Eastern and North Eastern Arabian Sea. Operations by the Indian Navy have helped neutralize several attempts of piracy.

While we will continue with counter-piracy operations, there is also an urgent need for the international community to address the serious problem of seafarers being taken as hostages and consequent humanitarian problems faced by them and their families. This would require active cooperation in the sharing of information for prosecution of pirates as well as in efforts to achieve an early release of seafarers that are held hostage by pirates. 2 During the course of last year there has been remarkable political progress in Somalia. This is a historic opportunity that must be seized for the full restoration of peace and stability in Somalia after two-decade long conflict. We hope that Somalia will continue to accord a high priority to counter-piracy.

There has been a welcome decline in the number of successful piracy attacks in 2012 compared to the previous years. As noted in various reports, the Piracy activity off the coast of Somalia has seen a significant drop this year. This is largely due to successful international counter-piracy efforts, including improving compliance with BMP and security measures, and continued counter-piracy naval action. However, as of 22 August 2012, the Somali pirates still held 11 ships and 188 hostages, including 42 Indian seafarers. The situation, therefore, continues to be fragile and the gains made against piracy could easily be

reversed. We therefore, cannot afford to let our guard down at this stage or be complacent.

During its Presidency of the UN Security Council during November 2012, India organised an open debate of the Council on the issue of Piracy on 19 November. The Council adopted a significant Presidential Statement which expressed serious concern at the continuing violence used by pirates against seafarers and stressed the need for greater cooperation among all stakeholders for liberation of hostages and seafarers.

The UN Deputy Secretary General told the Council that three challenges required our immediate attention – better information sharing and trust building among countries and agencies involved in counter piracy efforts; stronger capacity to prosecute piracy-related cases; and the establishment of a framework governing the use of privately contracted armed security personnel on board vessels to ensure appropriate regulation and accountability.

India is a founding member of the CGPCS and we are very happy to be chairing this Plenary Session. This Contact group has played a pivotal role in international community's response to the threat of the piracy off the coast of Somalia which threatens the freedom of maritime navigation and has a destabilising effect on global trade and security and a negative humanitarian impact on seafarers and their families.

Chairing the Contact Group is largely a collaborative exercise involving the Chair as well as the Chairs of the Working Groups and other participants. I would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to the Chairs of the five working Groups for their support and as well as Spain which chaired the 12th Plenary Meeting in July 2012. Special thanks are also due to the Netherlands which shared their useful notes on the Contact Group workings with us making our job much easier. 3

In our discussions today, we would be examining the recent trends seen in the incidence of piracy attacks off the Coast of Somalia and in the wider Indian Ocean. We will also review the work done by the five Working Groups of the Contact Group and as well as other Groups since the last plenary meeting in July in coordinating counter-piracy efforts in their respective areas. I look forward to working with you in our deliberations today on how we can address the challenges and make our efforts more successful in taking the work of the Contact Group forward.

AGENDA

The Agenda of the today's meeting is based on the standard format of the previous Plenary meetings

As you will see from the Agenda placed before you, which was circulated earlier by email that we will today listen to briefing by the Chairs of the five Working Groups of the Contact Group about the important work being done by them in their respective areas.

From the UN, Assistant Secretary General of Political Affairs, Mr. Taye-Brook Zerihoum will brief the Contact Group. We will also get an opportunity to listen to the Somalia's point of view from the PR of Somalia.

In addition to the five main working groups, we would listen to briefing from the US on the Meeting of Ad Hoc Working Group they had held in Washington on 12 September 2012 on the use of Privately Contracted Armed Security Personnel (PCASP) which was attended by 24 states as well as representatives of the Industry.

UK will also be providing a briefing on Piracy Ransom Task Force whose Final report is will be circulated today.

In the post Lunch Session, we look forward to listening to briefing by the UN Department of Public Affairs DPA on the activities of the Trust Fund to Support Initiatives of States Countering Piracy off the Coast of Somalia.

If this Agenda is acceptable then we can proceed with adopting the Agenda.



728. Statement by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri, Deputy Permanent Representative, on Agenda Item 114 – Follow-up to the Commemoration of the Two Hundredth Anniversary of the Abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade at the 67th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on December 17, 2012.

Mr. President,

I would like to welcome the Secretary General's report on the program of educational outreach on the transatlantic slave trade and slavery and for his status report on the UN Trust Fund for Partnerships for the Permanent Memorial to and remembrance of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade. I would also like to pay rich tribute to Ambassador Raymond Wolfe of Jamaica for his tireless efforts on the Permanent Memorial.

Mr. President,

The transatlantic slave trade ravaged the African and the Caribbean nations to satisfy the rapacious economic greed and exploitation of the colonizers. The effects of its violence and human suffering are still visible today.

It is, therefore, imperative that we commemorate the great struggles and battles that have been fought to get rid of this scourge, and pay homage to the victims of slavery and slave trade. The permanent memorial will be a small commemoration for the millions of victims who suffered silently with no hope of freedom before they disappeared into the night.

This memorial will not only serve as a hallmark for us to pay our respect but will also be a reminder for the international community about the grief and tragedy borne by the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade.

We have noted that the first phase of the international design competition for the permanent memorial has been completed. UNESCO has shortlisted designs from a number of proposals received globally. The Permanent Memorial Committee is taking the next steps.

The "United Nations Trust Fund for Partnerships – Permanent Memorial" established to receive contributions to erect the Permanent Memorial has so far only received close to US \$ 1.3 million as against the anticipated expenditure of US \$ 4.5 million for the construction of the Memorial.

India, with a contribution of US \$ 260,000/-, is the lead contributor to the Trust Fund. The international community, in particular those who benefited from the transatlantic slave trade, must come forward and contribute generously to this

noble cause. The international community cannot let the idea of this memorial just remain on its design board.

Mr. President,

We also recognize the importance of education of current and future generations about the history, causes and impact of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade. We support the initiatives undertaken by the United Nations in spreading awareness about this important issue.

India welcomes the various remembrance activities and programmes undertaken by the Department of Public Information, including the commemorative activities at the UN in March 2012. We support the efforts of the Department of Public Information to utilize its network of global information centres to build awareness on this issue.

We also welcome the initiatives undertaken by States in reaffirming their commitment to implement paragraphs 101 and 102 of the Durban Declaration aimed at countering the legacy of slavery and honoring the memory of the victims of slavery and the slave trade.

Mr. President,

Let me conclude by quoting George Mason, one of the founding fathers of the United States, who said, "the augmentation of slaves weakens the states; and such a trade is diabolical in itself and disgraceful to mankind".

We have a chance to pay tribute to the victims who suffered this disgrace by openheartedly contributing to the Trust Fund.

This is, Mr President, the least we can do.

Thank you.



