



INDIA
भारत

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Statement

by

H.E. Mr. Nirupam Sen
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations

on

Agenda Item: 4
General Debate on National Experience in
Population Matters: Population Distribution,
Urbanization, Internal Migration and Development

at the

41st Session of the

UN Commission on Population and Development

Mr Chairman,

We congratulate you and other members of the Bureau of the 41st Session of the Commission on Population and Development and assure you of India's support in your conduct of the proceedings of this

The magnitude of the challenge facing us is brought out by the report on World Population Policies prepared by the Population Division of the UN which estimates that a third of urban dwellers in developing countries live in a slum. UNHABITAT tells us that while urban dwellers often fare better than their rural counterparts, there is growing evidence that living conditions in slums are sometimes as difficult as in some of the poorest rural areas and that more and more poor people globally are to be found in urban centres.

The year 2008 is a landmark in the sense that for the first time in history, the world's urban population will equal its rural population.

Mr Chairman,

Most of this population growth expected in urban areas will be concentrated in the cities and towns of the less developed regions of the world.

A fundamental assumption underlying the Government of India's policies is that rural and urban areas are interdependent and must grow

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the targets were set means that existing financial targets are insufficient to meet the needs of developing countries today.

Mr Chairman

I would like to endorse the Secretary General's call for the international community to mobilize the resources that are required. Additional

and reproductive health. These are essential in the context of our
common endeavours to attain the goals that we set out before ourselves