



INDIA
भारत

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to convey our warmest felicitations to you and other members of the Bureau on your election, and to assure you of our full cooperation in the work of this Commission. We thank the Secretary-General for his report related to the priority theme viz. "Financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women". My delegation associates itself with the statement made by the

distinguished representative of Antigua and Barbuda, on behalf of the G 77.

The achievement of Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 2 will contribute

Gender equity and equality has been a key guiding principle of the Common Minimum Programme of the Government of India. India's planning process is fully committed to enabling women to be equal partners in development. A separate Department for Women and Child Development, created in 1985, was upgraded to a Central Ministry in 2005. The Joint Parliamentary Committee of the Indian Parliament on Empowerment of Women plays a crucial role in monitoring

has acknowledged that gender budgeting has gained wider acceptance and credibility, and noted that 4 more gender budgeting cells have been set up in Indian Ministries/Departments increasing the total to 54.

The total magnitude of gender budget has increased from 3.8% to 5% of the total Union Government expenditure during the last four years, covering demands for grants from 27 Ministries/Departments. We are now going beyond the Women's Component Plan towards gendering all facets and aspects of the 11th Five Year Plan (2007-12). We have emphasized strict adherence to gender

budgeting across the board.

To improve the financial independence of women, particularly in rural areas, a number of schemes have been launched with women as the primary beneficiaries. A number of schemes have been launched in 2006 providing

improving land records and to provide them with technical, financial and management support.

Mr. Chairman,

India stands ready to work with the international community for the early realization of the Millennium Developmental Goals through effective implementation of gender empowerment and gender mainstreaming both within


