

**Permanent Mission of India
New York**

**ECOSOC Partnership Forum
2 February 2022**

INDIA Statement

Mr. President,

Thank you for giving me the floor. We welcome the convening of the Partnership Forum, as part of our joint efforts to move towards a recovery guided by the 2030 agenda.

2. The COVID crisis has forced us to rethink our priorities and purpose. Realizing that the Global South has been mostly left to fend for itself during the pandemic, South-South Cooperation has become even more crucial.

Mr. President,

3. India came to the forefront in the call for joint global action to address COVID-19. Prime Minister Modi's call for "**One Earth One Health**" approach underlines our continuing commitment, already evident in the supply of medicines to **150 countries** and vaccines to many nations in the developing world.

4. Our vaccination drive, the largest in the world, has gained further momentum with 75% of all adults now fully vaccinated. This has been enabled by our indigenous technological platform Co-WIN, which we are now offering as open source software to partner countries to deal with their health related challenges. Over 50 countries, many from Global South, have shown interest.

Mr. President,

5. India's development partnership approach is designed to release the full potential of developing countries. India has been very clear that South-South Cooperation, particularly Lines of Credit and soft loans, should not result in undue burden on the recipients. We are equally clear that any such assistance should not result in unsustainable indebtedness, thereby making it counter-productive for the recipient countries and hindering their overall development.

6. An initiative worth highlighting here is the US\$ 150 million **India-UN Development Partnership Fund**, managed by UN Office for South-South Cooperation that continues to support South-owned and South-led sustainable development projects with a focus on LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS. The Fund now has a portfolio of 66 projects in 52 countries, including those tailored specifically as part of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

8. In a true spirit of triangular cooperation of BAPA plus 40, India has also taken the lead in the establishment of the International Solar Alliance and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure.

Mr. President,

9. The post-*vaccine* world will still not be a post-*pandemic* world. This would mean continuous need to work together to find and then mainstream innovative, affordable and safe solutions to counter this virus. The unique tradition of promoting South-South cooperation can provide a way out as societies look to rebuild and regenerate in the wake of this crisis. While it is the primary responsibility of Governments to implement the 2030 Agenda, the United Nations must continue to play a central role in supporting as well as effectively coordinating the global response to achieve an ***Inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable*** recovery from COVID-19.

Thank you for your attention.