

Ministry of External Affairs
UNP Division

No.:U.II/551/18/2014

Dated: 13th October, 2014

To

Shri Amit
974, 2nd Floor
Dr. Mukherjee Nagar,
New Delhi

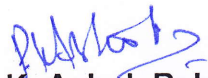
Kindly refer to your RTI Application dated 24.08.2014 forwarded to this division by Deputy Secretary (EA-I) vide letter No. 2855/DSEA-I/2014 dated 08.10.2014 in order to reply to para (i) of your RTI Application (*Lecture by Mr. Navtej Singh Sarna, Special Secretary(International Organisation & Political) on India and the UN-Current Priorities and Concerns*).

2. In this regard, we wish to inform you that the information sought is available on official website of the Ministry of External Affairs and can be accessed from the following URL.

"<http://www.mea.gov.in/distinguished-lectures-detail.htm?106>"

However, hard copy of the same is attached for your perusal.

3. If you are aggrieved with this reply, you may file an appeal with Shri Tshering W. Sherpa, DS(UNP) & Appellate Authority, Ministry of External Affairs, Room No. 0102, A Wing, Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan, 23-D, Janpath, New Delhi-110011 within 30 days of receipt of this letter.


(P. K. Ashok Babu)
Under Secretary(UNP) & CPIO
Room No. 0104, A Wing,
Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan,
23-D, Janpath, New Delhi-110011

Copy to:

1. DS(UNP) w.r.t. his letter No. U.II/551/18/2014 dated 09.10.2014 for information.
2. Deputy Secretary (EA-I), Room No. 183 B, South Block, New Delhi w.r.t. his letter No. 2855/DSEA-I/2014 dated 08.10.2014 for information.
3. US(RTI), Room No. 2021, A-Wing, Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan, New Delhi for information.
4. Soft copy to DS(DD) (dsdd@meaindia.in), PO(XMM) (poxmm@meaindia.in) and SO(RTI) (sorti@mea.gov.in) for uploading the application and reply on MEA Website under Head "E-Citizen/Tenders-Right to Information"

India and the UN- Current Priorities and Concerns



By: Mr. Navtej Singh Sarna, Special Secretary (International Organisation & Political)

Venue: National Law School of India, Bangalore

Date: August 07, 2014

Following is a summary of the major points made:

India and the UN

- India's engagement with the institutions of modern multilateral diplomacy began with the Treaty of Versailles which ended the First World War. Article 1 of the Treaty created the League of Nations, the precursor of the United Nations.
- India was among the 26 original signatories of the Declaration by United Nations in 1942. India was also one of the 51 countries that signed the UN Charter in 1945. As a founding member, India strongly supports the purpose and principles of the UN and has made significant contributions to implementing the goals of the Charter.
- In the 1950s and 60s, India led the charge of newly independent countries in the UN to argue and secure freedom for still enslaved countries in Africa and Asia. India co-sponsored the landmark 1960 Declaration on Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples which proclaimed the need to unconditionally end colonialism in all its forms and manifestations.
- India was also at the forefront in the fight against apartheid and racial discrimination in South Africa. India was the first country to raise the issue in the UN in 1946 and played a leading role in the formation of a sub-committee against Apartheid set up by the General Assembly. India was one of the earliest signatories to the Convention on Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination adopted in 1965.
- India has over the years also championed the cause of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. India was the first country to call for a ban on nuclear testing in 1954, for a non-discriminatory treaty on non-proliferation in 1965, for a treaty on non-use of nuclear weapons in 1978, for a nuclear freeze in 1982, and for a phased programme of complete elimination in 1988.
- India's has been one of the most eloquent voices helping the United Nations shape its

agenda on behalf of the developing world. Both as one of the founders of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the Group of 77 developing countries, India has argued within the *UN for a more equitable international economic and political order*.

- India is today at the forefront of all UN activities aimed at meeting the current challenges facing the world. Whether you talk of democracy and development, poverty eradication, climate change, terrorism, piracy, disarmament, human rights, peace building and peacekeeping, you will always find India articulating positions in the spirit of enlightened multilateralism.

UNSC Reform

- The United Nations is like a mirror, or microcosm, of the world. As we live in an imperfect world, the United Nations cannot be perfect, and it is not. One of the most glaring drawbacks of the UN is the way its Security Council is structured.
- India has taken a leadership position in pushing for reform of the United Nations to make it effectively respond to global challenges and better reflect contemporary geo-political realities. Our efforts have been focused on seeking expansion of both the permanent and non-permanent categories of membership of the Security Council.

Why UNSC reform necessary:

- UNSC still reflects geopolitical architecture of Second World War.
- Expanded only once in 1963 to add 4 non permanent members.
- Since then the membership of the United Nations has increased from 113 to 193 without any change in the composition of the UNSC.
- No permanent member from Africa, despite 75% of work of the UNSC focused on Africa.
- Unable to respond effectively to situations of international conflict, e.g. Libya, Syria, South Sudan.
- **India's credentials:** India has served as a Non-permanent member of the UNSC for 7 terms, viz. in 1950 – 1951, 1967 – 1968, 1972 – 1973, 1977 – 1978, 1984 – 1985, 1991 – 1992, and 2011 – 2012. But India believes that it has all the credentials needed to become a permanent member of the UNSC. By any objective criteria such as population, territorial size, GDP, economic potential, civilizational legacy, cultural diversity, political system and past and on-going contributions to the activities of the UN-especially to UN peacekeeping operations- India is eminently suited for permanent membership of an expanded UN Security Council.
- **Efforts by India:** India along with Brazil, Japan and Germany, (together known as the G-4) has proposed expansion of the membership of the United Nations Security Council from the current fifteen to twenty-five with the addition of six permanent and four non-permanent members. Separately, India along with Brazil and South Africa, is spearheading a group of around 42 developing countries from Asia, Africa and Latin America - called the L.69 Group - which has demanded urgent action on the UNSC reform front. With a view to harness the support of the 54-member strong African Group, the L.69 has engaged in discussions with the Committee of Ten (C-10) of the African Union to evolve a joint position on UNSC reform.
- India is also pursuing the matter through bilateral channels with our interlocutors. A large

number of countries have supported India's initiatives for reform of the UNSC as well as endorsed its candidature for permanent membership.

- **Year 2015:** There is also broad support for the idea that there should be a concrete outcome on the issue of UNSC reform in 2015, which will mark the 70th anniversary of the UN and the 10th anniversary of the 2005 World Summit which had called for 'early' reform of the UNSC.

UN Peacekeeping

- Peacekeeping is one of the strengths of the United Nations and probably the most effective and well known of its activities. We see it as a critical and potent tool in maintaining international peace and security. India is amongst the longest serving and most consistent contributors to UN peacekeeping. We are cumulatively the largest contributor, having provided more than 170,000 peacekeepers. We have participated in 43 UN Peacekeeping Missions including in the most hostile terrains such as DR Congo, Sudan, Ivory Coast, Lebanon, Golan Heights and Liberia. And our soldiers have made the supreme sacrifice - with 156 lives lost - and counting - all under the blue helmet. At present, India is the second largest contributor of peacekeeping personnel after Bangladesh with 8,132 Indian personnel (troops and police) deployed in 9 of the 16 ongoing UN peacekeeping missions and the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan. Our biggest deployments are currently in MONUSCO (4,034), UNMISS (2,311) and UNIFIL (894). India has a unique position among troop contributing countries (TCC) by virtue of contributing a fully formed Police Unit (FPU) – a first in the UN peacekeeping - for the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). Our peacekeepers have carried out their duties in a commendable fashion given the severity of tasks, expanding mandates, shrinking resources, and complex political challenges.

Current challenges of Peacekeeping:

- Peacekeeping has undergone a significant evolution in the recent past, particularly in the 90s and the first decade of the new millennium, which has aroused serious concerns among Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs), including India, about the effectiveness and viability of peacekeeping in a rapidly changing and volatile environment.
- **Increased deterioration in PKOs:** In recent times the situation relating to UN Peacekeeping Operations has deteriorated sharply. The most tragic manifestation of this deterioration is the increasing number of casualties among UN peacekeepers. Troops from India, for example, have suffered seven deaths in UNMISS alone during the past nine months at the hands of armed groups.
- **Alteration of core principles of PKOs:** The three cardinal principles of peacekeeping viz., consent of the parties to the operations, impartiality, and non-use of force except in self-defence and defence of the mandate, are being insidiously challenged. In the past, peacekeepers were merely expected to separate hostile forces and observe cease-fires or truces. Major peacekeeping missions today are deployed not to keep peace between States, but both within and between States. They have to keep the peace not between two conventional armies, but deal with threats posed by armed groups, which calls into question

the principle of neutrality.

- **The issue of robust mandates:** As witnessed in recent conflicts involving ethnic-based disputes, internal political struggles or the collapse of state institutions, the environment for peacekeeping is no longer benign. There is also an increasing clamour for 'robust' peacekeeping. But it would not be fair to expect peacekeepers to go beyond their mandates and take on responsibilities for offensive actions against rebels in the name of robust peacekeeping.
- **Lack of consultations with TCCs:** This brings me to the issue which is closest to the hearts of all TCCs viz. the involvement of the TCCs in the consultation process during mandate determination or renewal. The Brahimi Report on Peacekeeping reform was quite explicit in recommending that Troop and Police Contributing Countries (TCCs and PCCs) should be involved more in the mandating and management of PKOs. Since United Nations peacekeeping operations would not be possible without the participation of contributing countries, it is critical that every effort be made to ensure that they are fully consulted on any decisions that may affect their personnel on the ground.
- **Mandate and resource gap:** The success of United Nations peacekeeping operations or missions is dependent to a large degree on a clear and achievable mandate with resources to match. Mandates also need to be relevant to realities on the ground. We find that mandates are getting more complex and ambitious but they are not being backed with sufficient financial, operational and logistical resources.

Post 2015 Development Agenda

- Our views on this debate arise from our priorities to lift the vast number of poor in our country out of poverty through rapid and inclusive economic growth. While in recent years, considerable success has been achieved in lifting millions of our peoples out of poverty, considerable numbers still live in extreme poverty. India has a very high proportion of the world's extreme poor. We, therefore, welcome the emphasis on poverty eradication in the global debate. Also, while a lot of work has gone into infrastructure development, massive challenges to reach development to all sections of society remain.
- These challenges continue to be faced by all developing countries across the world. Our position, therefore, is closely aligned to that of the G-77.
- The Post 2015 Development Agenda has to be an agenda for development. Issues of poverty eradication and development through inclusive economic growth. Additional resources and capability are required to undertake these mammoth tasks. Genuine international cooperation is needed to facilitate such development that can be achieved in a limited time and which also becomes sustainable. Adequate means of implementation such as enhanced ODA and technology transfer are important in helping the developing countries work towards sustainable development.
- A balanced approach on making progress on all the three dimensions – social, economic and environmental – is necessary to develop the Post 2015 Development Agenda, as mandated by the Outcome document of the Rio+20 Summit of 2012 which was agreed to by the world leaders.
- India has been on track in making progress on several MDGs. At the same time, more work

is needed on some others. We have in the past undertaken consultations with various stakeholders both within and outside the government on these issues, both in the lead-up to the Rio+20 Summit and also since then. Many of the focus areas being considered in the discussions on SDGs are similar to the MDGs.

- At the same time, the SDGs cannot be just a set of prescriptions for one set of countries. A truly universal set of goals implies, first and foremost, that the developed countries also take on concrete commitments and deliverables. They must take the lead in addressing environmental issues and to promote sustainable consumption and lifestyles.
- A universal agenda also demands that developed countries support the efforts of developing countries with enhanced financial and technological support and through reform of global governance to enhance the voice of developing countries in global decision making.

CLIMATE CHANGE

- India has been an active player in the UNFCCC negotiations that commenced in 1992. India has highlighted issues relating to equity, historical responsibilities and per capita emissions as the basis for a differentiated approach to the collective arrangements considered at the negotiations.
- While in 1992 India was not among the major emitters, today India is targeted by the developed countries on account of our rising CO₂ emissions. However, India's position continues to be guided by the above principles in view of the massive scale of development challenges still facing us, which requires continuing rapid economic growth. Also, India's per capita emissions remain a fraction of those by all major emitters.
- India has been among the main proponents of the concerns and interests of the developing countries through the Group of 77 and other such groupings. In recent years, India's negotiating position is closely aligned in BASIC (along with Brazil, South Africa and China) and LMDC (Like Minded Developing Countries) groupings.
- Climate Change is a cross cutting issue directly affecting the lives of people and nations. The principles enshrined in the 1992 UN Climate Convention describing the differentiation between the developed and developing countries, relating to equity and common but differentiated responsibility, remain as relevant today.
- We hope that a comprehensive and balanced agreement on Post 2020 arrangement will be worked out by the end of next year (at the Paris COP – 21st session of Conference of Parties of UNFCCC).
- It is important that our developed country partners do more towards reducing CO₂ emissions and providing assistance to developing countries in their efforts to meeting the challenges of climate change.
- We look forward to ambitious announcements by developed countries in terms of their 'intended nationally determined contributions' (INDCs) comprising of their mitigation targets as well as provision of finance, technology transfer and capacity-building support to developing countries. This is necessary for building trust and confidence in the process.
- While we have participated in some of the international initiatives taken outside the UNFCCC process, India strongly believes that the UNFCCC is the only negotiating forum on climate change issues. We believe it is important that the process of finalizing the post-

2020 agreement is a transparent and inclusive one. That it is driven by the Parties themselves.

- India has been undertaking serious efforts to meet the challenge of climate change though greatly expanding the use of low carbon and renewable technologies and improving energy efficiency. India has one of the lowest rates of energy intensity of GDP growth among the major economies of the world. We are taking ambitious actions to fulfill our pledge to bring down the emission intensity of our GDP by 20-25% by 2020 over the 2005 levels.

HUMAN RIGHTS

- The core of India's Human Rights policy has been that the promotion and protection of human rights is the primary responsibility of the State.
- India believes that the Council represents a distinct improvement over its predecessor Commission in terms of the emphasis that it places on dialogue and cooperation.
- The Human Rights Council in Geneva, as a deliberative forum, should play an encouraging and supportive role through the provision of technical assistance and capacity building by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in consultation and consent of the Government concerned.
- India believes that promotion and protection of human rights can be best pursued through dialogue and cooperation. Consistent with this approach, India has strongly argued for preserving the inter-governmental character of the Council mechanisms and recognizing the primacy of national efforts in the realization of human rights.
- India believes that human rights should be addressed constructively in a fair and equal manner, with objectivity, respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, impartiality, non-selectivity and transparency as the guiding principles.
- The political, historical, social, religious and cultural particularities of each country are also important. India believes that there should be an emphasis on capacity building of states through technical and financial assistance.

डायरी सं०
Dy. No. 425 DS (UNP)/20.14
दिनांक/Date 9/X

URGENT
RTI MATTER

No.U.II/551/18/2014
Ministry of External Affairs
(UNP Division)

Sub: Information sought under Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005.

Please find attached an RTI query of Shri Amit, which was received by this Office from DS(EA-I) on 9 October 2014. In the said correspondence, DS(EA-I) has requested that UNP Division may reply to Part (a) of query of Shri Amit directly to Shri Amit.

2. This has been inadvertently addressed to me. As the CPIO, you are directed to take further necessary action as per the extant Rules/Guidelines of the RTI Act, 2005.

Tshering W. Sherpa

(Tshering W. Sherpa)
Deputy Secretary (UNP) and Appellate Authority
9 October 2014

Shri P. K. Ashok Babu
Under Secretary (UNP) and CPIO
UNP Division, MEA.

Copy to: US (RTI), MEA.



No. 2855/DSEA-I/2014

08th October 2014

To

Shri Amit
974, 2nd floor
Dr. Mukherjee Nagar
New Delhi


Subject : Information sought under Right to Information Act, 2005

Sir,

Please refer to your application dated 24th August 2014 addressed to Ministry of External Affairs filed under RTI Act, 2005 requesting speech of Amb. (Retd.) Dr. Aftab Seth at Pandit Deen Dayal University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat on 22nd July 2014 on "Potential of India-Japan relations in context of recent changes'.

2. The copy of the said speech is attached herewith.

3. If you are aggrieved with this reply, you may file an appeal to Shri Pradeep Kumar Rawat, Joint Secretary (East Asia) and Appellate Authority, Ministry of External Affairs, South Block, New Delhi within a month from the date of receipt of this letter.


(Shilpak Ambule)
Deputy Secretary (EA-I)

Separate copies to :

1. Shri Pradeep Kumar Rawat, JS (EA) & Appellate Authority
2. Ms. Meera Sisodia, US (RTI), RTI Cell, MEA
3. Mr. Tshering Sherpa, DS (UNP), MEA

(Officer listed at Sl. No. 3 may kindly reply para (i) of the said RTI application directly to the applicant under intimation to RTI cell)

RTI REQUEST DETAILS

Registration No. :	MOEAF/R/2014/61025	Date of Receipt :	24/08/2014
Type of Receipt :	Online Receipt	Language of Request :	English
Name :	amit	Gender :	Male
Address :	974 IInd floor, Dr mukherjee nagar, new delhi, Pin:110009		
State :	Delhi	Country :	India
Phone No. :	Details not provided	Mobile No. :	+91-8744808428
Email :	amitrathee09@gmail.com		
Status(Rural/Urban) :	Urban	Education Status :	Graduate
Is Requester Below Poverty Line ? :	No	Citizenship Status :	Indian
Amount Paid :	10	Mode of Payment :	Payment Gateway
Mode(s) of information Supply :	Hard Copy		
Does it concern the life or Liberty of a Person ? :	Details not provided.	Request Pertains to :	DS(EA-I)
Information Sought :	<p>good afternoon sir</p> <p>ministry organized two Lecture under its Distinguished Lectures series</p> <p>the details are</p> <p>(a).India and the UN- Current Priorities and Concerns By: Mr. Navtej Singh Sarna, Special Secretary (International Organisation&Political) Venue: National Law School of India, Bangalore Date: August 07, 2014</p> <p>(b) Potential of India-Japan relations in context of recent changes</p> <p>By: Amb (Retd) Dr Aftab Seth Venue: Pandit Deen Dayal University, Gandhinagar, Gujrat Date: July 22, 2014</p> <p>I. please provide the text of these lecture as it is not uploaded on website.</p>		
<input type="button" value="Print"/> <input type="button" value="Close"/>			