STATEMENT BY MR. S.M. KRISHNA, at NAM COORDINATING BUREAU MINISTERIAL MEETING IN NEW YORK ON SEPTEMBER 27, 2010

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,

At the outset, I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to you, Mr. Chairman, for convening this meeting.

As we celebrate half a century of the founding of our Movement next year, the theme of today's debate is significant and timely.

Mr. Chairman,

The Nonaligned Movement, as it stands today, owes a great deal to the inspiration and foresight of its founding fathers like Prime Minister Pandit Nehru, President Nasser, President Tito, and President Sukarno. They shared the vision of the Non-Aligned Movement as an assertion of freedom of judgement and freedom of action, in international relations built upon the basic principles of solidarity, peace, justice and equity.

As early as in 1946, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minster, stated, "We propose, as far as possible, to keep away from the power politics of groups, aligned against one another, which have led in the past two world wars and which may again lead to disasters on an even vaster scale. We seek no domination over others and we claim no privileged position over other people. But we do claim equal and honourable treatment for our people wherever they may go, and we cannot accept any discrimination against them. We believe that peace and freedom are indivisible and the

denial of freedom anywhere must endanger freedom elsewhere and lead to conflict and war".

As a force representing the newly-independent former colonies emerging from variety of national liberation struggles, our Movement helped close a long and painful chapter of colonialism, imperialism and institutionalized racism- an achievement of which we can be justifiably proud and draw inspiration. However, the expectations that the political emancipation would lead to rapid socio-economic development and give the developing countries a greater say in shaping the world order are still far from being realized.

Mr. Chairman,

Today, our Movement stands at the crossroads. The challenges confronting us are much more complex, multidimensional and transnational in nature. In today's increasingly, inter-connected and inter-dependent world, the vision of our founding fathers is more relevant than ever before and must continue to guide our perspective as we move forward.

The central challenges of our times relate to management of global economy and finance, securing stable food and energy supplies, poverty alleviation, eradicating hunger and depriviation, tackling pandemics, raising literacy levels and coping up with climate change. Equally serious challenges are posed by terrorism, drug-traffickers and organized crime syndicates, and other challenges to international peace and security.

These challenges are heightened by persistent structural infirmities and democracy deficit in the architecture of international institutions of global governance. The apparent failings of our global political, economic and fiscal institutions limit our collective ability to respond to these challenges.

Mr. Chairman,

Our Movement remains well-positioned to address such challenges. We need to discover strengths of our past and there must be sharper focus on issues that unite rather than divide the members. Without solidarity of purpose and commitment, without a measured, result-oriented approach, we cannot address systematic challenges that transcend individual national capacities.

Moving forward, we need to reinvigorate our efforts towards a more democratic, equitable, and legitimized international architecture that reflects the contemporary realities. The world's international institutions, in particular, the UN and its Security Council and the Bretton Woods Institutions require fundamental changes which only developing countries can promote. The continuing democracy deficit in the UN, the parliament of nations, is unsustainable. Genuine reform is essential, in particular of the Security Council. It must encompass expansion in both permanent and non-permanent categories of membership and improvement of its working methods.

Terrorism is one of the greatest scourges of our times. The Movement cannot afford to equivocate on this vital issue and must be at the forefront of combating this menace. The Movement should ensure that terrorism is not condoned or justified on any ground whatsoever: political, religious, ethnic or any other. The fight against terrorism must be directed not only against the terrorists, but also against those who sponsor, abet or support them. We need to enhance the international cooperation against terrorism and plug gaps in the legal framework. This requires that the negotiations on a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) in the UN, which have been going on for over a decade, are finalised and the convention is concluded at the earliest.

India attaches the highest priority to the goal of nuclear disarmament which is also enshrined in the Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan of 1988. During the 63rd UNGA session, our Prime Minister reiterated the proposal for a Nuclear Weapons Convention prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons and providing for their complete elimination within a specified time frame. The Movement needs to play a more active and advocating role in efforts towards achieving universal and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament and a world free of all nuclear weapons.

Members of the Non-Aligned Movement are the largest troop providers to the UN peacekeeping operations. They are also host to most of the UN peacekeeping operations and peacebuilding efforts. It is therefore critical that the Movement must spearhead efforts towards ensuring a meaningful engagement in the substantive discussions on these issues.

As we have just undertaken a comprehensive review of the progress towards the realization of MDGs, Mr. Chairman, we are reminded of the long and arduous journey that lies ahead in realization of these goals. The developing and the developed countries need to work together to effectively tackle the challenges of food security, energy security, health, education and environment and climate change. Accelerated

and sustained efforts are needed towards eradication of poverty and lasting improvements in nutrition, health and education.

African countries form the largest single grouping in NAM. Nowhere are the challenges humankind faces more pressing than in the African continent. The Movement must continue to work towards ensuring Africa's pre-eminence in the global development agenda.

In this stocktaking, naturally, our thoughts also turn to the people of Palestine, who have endured great suffering and hardship. With the latest renewed impetus to the peace process in the Middle East, we hope that this would lead to a comprehensive, just, lasting and peaceful settlement of the Palestinian issue.

Mr. Chairman,

Today we are at the cusp of an opportunity. Our overall approach while addressing the overarching challenges that we face must be guided by a new, forward-looking and focused Agenda for our Movement, which brings conviction to our positions.

This will require consolidation of our Movement by building areas of commonality. We must strive to build unity and solidarity, recognizing that amongst 118 members, there will be diversity.

The imperative for a new agenda and discourse in our Movement has never been greater.

BACK TO NAM STATEMENTS