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Statement by Mr Surya Deva
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Mr Chair, Excellencies and distinguished delegates,

I am honoured to present to the General Assembly my report on "Financing for inclusive, sustainable and participatory development".

However, before presenting my report, let me address a serious concern. As the Chair of the Coordination Committee of the UN Special Procedures, I condemn the US Government's sanctions against my colleague Francesca Albanese, the Special Rapporteur on the occupied Palestinian territory. Sanctioning a Special Rapporteur appointed by the Human Rights Council violates international law and is a direct attack on the integrity of the entire UN human rights system. I call on the General Assembly to denounce these sanctions and seek an advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice.

Mr Chair

My report highlights why States must finance only inclusive, sustainable and participatory development. By analysing the Sevilla Commitment adopted by States at the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, I prepare a balance sheet of achievements and missed opportunities. I also propose a roadmap beyond Sevilla to ensure that the financing for development not only reaches the furthest behind first but also preserves harmony with nature.

Why does the world need a new model of development? The answer is simple. We need a new model of development because the current model is leaving too many people behind by design. It is also destroying the planetary ecosystem.

In my view, the world is witnessing an emerging "world disorder" comprising economic disorder, environmental disorder and institutional disorder. Most current global challenges – such as economic inequalities, disregard for territorial integrity, impunity for egregious international crimes, collapse of multilateralism, geopolitical divides, unilateral sanctions, neocolonial debt traps, corporate capture of the State, private profiting from conflicts and the silent takeover by disruptive technologies – are reflective of this world disorder.

Worsening economic inequalities – both within and between countries – are a key component of the economic disorder engulfing the world. Over 690 million people live in extreme poverty. At the same time, the richest 1 per cent of the global population own almost 45 per cent of all global wealth. Moreover, in 2023, 54 developing countries dedicated at least 10 per cent of government funds to debt interest payments and, consequently, 3.3 billion people live in countries that spend more on debt payments than on health or education.

The prevailing economic development model is also destroying the planetary ecosystem, with six of the nine planetary boundaries already breached. Businesses, including fossil fuel companies, are a major source of this environmental disorder. Moreover, the use of weapons in conflicts and the consequent destruction of water bodies and biodiversity is directly linked to the environmental pollution.

The institutional disorder is illustrated by the inherent unfairness of the current international financial architecture. The failure of the Security Council to fulfil its mandate of maintaining peace and security also demonstrates the institutional disorder. This failure is directly linked to the unrepresentative character of the permanent membership the Security Council and the unprincipled use of the veto power by permanent members.

Distinguished delegates

States should see the "world disorder" as an opportunity to construct a new international order that is not only fair but also fit for the purpose to address the challenges of the twenty-first century. A new development model must be an integral part of such a new order.

States, UN entities, international financial institutions, multilateral development banks, businesses and other actors must only finance development that is inclusive, sustainable and participatory. Such development will address the economic, environmental and institutional disorder.

Achieving truly inclusive development would require a shift in the mindset of decision makers to move away from the GDP-driven growth and the extractive model of development. Considering that many people in society continue to face multiple forms of discrimination,

States must also integrate an intersectional approach into all their development policies, programmes and projects.

The sole focus of development on human beings is also problematic, because human beings are not the only living organisms on the Earth. In fact, actions of human beings are the primary cause of the environmental disorder. Therefore, the world should embrace an ecosystem approach to development and move from "people-centred" to "planet-centred" development. The planet-centred focus does not exclude people – it merely underscores the coexistence and harmony of people and nature.

Development should also be participatory, because active, free and meaningful participation in decision-making is an essential element of the right to development. Participation requires recognizing the agency of people from diverse backgrounds and co-sharing powers with them to make decisions about all development-related policies, processes and projects.

Mr Chair

The Sevilla Commitment lays out a path to closing the financing gap in developing countries. The consensual adoption of the Sevilla Commitment provides a glimmer of hope for multilateralism. While the Sevilla Commitment makes important advances in some areas, its ambition falls short on multiple counts. Therefore, I recommend elements for a road map beyond Sevilla on which States and other actors should focus. They should leverage additional sources of financing, tame tax avoidance/evasion and illicit financial flows, deliver on debt relief, promote substantive gender equality, pursue development within planetary boundaries, promote responsible business conduct, embrace peace and disarmament, strengthen good governance, and reinforce international cooperation.

Thank you very much for your kind attention and I look forward to the interactive dialogue.