



Indian Council of World Affairs
Sapru House, Barakhamba Road
New Delhi

September 2, 2015

Press Release

on

Speech

by

H.E. Morgan Lykketoft
President –elect of the 70th Session,
United Nations General Assembly

on

“UN at 70”

Held at ICWA, Sapru House on August 31, 2015

1. The Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) hosted a speech on “UN at 70” delivered by H.E. Morgan Lykketoft, President –*elect* of the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). The event was chaired by Ambassador Nalin Surie, Director General, ICWA. It was attended by diplomats, academicians, journalists research scholars and analysts.
2. Welcoming the President- *elect*, Ambassador Surie said that it is a special occasion because the UN has entered into its platinum year. In this platinum year the UN must take steps to address critical issues like terrorism, climate change etc. They pose a grave challenge to the global commons.
3. In his address H.E. Morgan Lykketoft disclosed his thoughts on agenda-2030, which is based on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). He said that, as a President-*elect* of the UNGA’s 70th session, he has three priorities: i) implementation of outcomes in development, climate and financing;

ii) strengthening the UN's role and performance in peace and security; and iii) human rights, including gender and Rule of Law. The Millennium Development Goal (MDG) accepted in 2000 by the UN members has been successful in meeting some of its target, still not able to completely eradicate extreme poverty and inequity across the world. The global population is on constant rise, it has increased three fold in last seventy years. To meet the demands of the people there is a need to change in consumption and production patterns. He said that climate change is one of the most serious problems which has a potential to jeopardize the future of the planet earth. To tackle the effects due to climate change the world requires major investment amounting to trillions of dollars. There is also a need for the members of the UN to work together on this issue. It is not only the States but non-State actors like private business houses, non-government organizations and international organizations that have also to play a significant role in fulfilling the goal of Agenda-2030 and SDGs. He called on the big economies like USA, China, India, EU etc to support the agenda -2030. He alluded to voluntary carbon emission reduction among the major economies.

4. Other than Agenda -2030, the President-*elect* talked about issues considered as threats to the global peace. He said that the UN is still a relevant organization. The nature of wars is changing and their number is on increase. The wars have caused many problems like migration, displacement and violence. Addressing the causes and consequences of the on-going wars is high on agenda in the 70th session of the UN. He also called on member states to support the process of peace and reconciliation in the conflict zones. He also hoped that the member states would cooperate on the issue of disarmament. He said that the report would be circulated and discussed.
5. Regarding the expansion of the UNSC and India's membership to it, the President-*elect* said that for the first time the member states will be involved in the process of discussion over this issue. He informed about the working of Inter-governmental Negotiations on Security Council Reform, under Jamaica's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Courtenay Rattray.
6. The lecture was followed by a brief Question & Answer session. Questions were asked on: Expansion of the UNSC and India's permanent membership into it; Financing of the Sustainable Development Goals in Agenda-2030; Achievements of the UN; and Building Consensus on the issue of terrorism.

(Prepared by Dr. Amit Ranjan, Research Fellow, Indian Council of World Affairs)