Opening Remarks

by

Ambassador Nalin Surie,

Director General, ICWA

on

'UN at 70'

at

Sapru House

31 August 2015

Your Excellency,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen

1. A very warm welcome to Sapru House. We greatly appreciate Mr. President your having found time to spend an evening with us. Your perspective on the 'UN at 70' holds great interest for us all.

2. Anniversaries are special occasions. The 70th is also known as the platinum anniversary. There are similarities between the UN and the metal, platinum. The latter is also referred to as the "noble metal"; a metal that is malleable and ductile but with a fairly high melting point (1770^{o}C). The UN has needed all these qualities in its 70 years of existence. And it remains an indispensible institution for meeting the common objectives and aspirations of its virtually universal membership of nation states.

3. You are more aware Mr. President, than any one of us, of the very high expectations of you as you prepare to preside over the 70th UNGA. You have already mentioned the main themes of your Presidency with a focus on a new commitment to action. This is most appropriate for there is much that the UN must do in terms of action on critical issues that continue to languish on its plate. Be it the UN

Convention on Terrorism, on UNSC reform, on climate change, the time for action is now. Early outcomes, based on consensus principles is the need of the hour. Objective realities have changed, often beyond recognition, and must reflect in the manner in which the UN, its agencies and the international community function.

4. Mr. President,

You have already met our PM and EAM. India's priorities and concerns are thus well known to you. You are no doubt also aware, notwithstanding the UN's shortcomings, of India's commitment to it. And, to multilateralism. This is true also of your own country Denmark and of the EU. There is thus much common ground for us to work together on.

5. May I now request you to deliver your address which will also be webcast live.

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