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## Accelerating Growth and Development in the SDG Era

Venue: Yamuna, Taapti and Vyas, Shangri-La's Eros Hotel, New Delhi

Date: 30<sup>th</sup> August 2017 (10.30 -17.15)

India is committed to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the world's progress depends a great deal on India's progress. India plays a strong leadership role at the global level around the SDGs. By submitting a Voluntary National Review report on seven goals including poverty, health, hunger and nutrition as well as gender equality at the High Level Political Forum in July 2017, India has reiterated its commitment to meeting these development goals. At UNGA in September 2017, the SDGs will be a core agenda and high-level participation from India is expected.

The SDGs are fundamentally interdependent goals and action is required across various sectors in order to achieve each goal. Further, several of the goals and their collective externalities have the potential of contributing to India's economic growth. In fact, for India to realise her growth potential, it is critical to address fundamental building blocks – better health, enhanced nutrition, women's empowerment and digital financial inclusion – all of which have the power to unlock the demographic dividend.

This event is envisioned to be a multi stakeholder, cross-sectoral dialogue of policy makers and sectoral experts that underlines the interlinkages between the goals, and their criticality in India's economic growth.

### Key Messages:

- (i) Meeting the SDGs can help propel India's economic growth
- (ii) Given the strong linkages between goals, accelerated progress on the SDGs is possible if they are viewed in a holistic manner
- (iii) India's poverty reduction goal is near impossible without health protection for citizens

## Opening Session (10.30– 11.30): India for the world, India for India

India's performance on the SDGs is critical for the world to achieve the goals. Is there an "India model" that can offer learning to the world? For that, India must deliver on the SDGs in an equitable manner and ensure development for each of her citizens. India needs to move forward on this agenda by working on the SDGs in an integrated fashion. Each of the national goals, and their collective externalities have the potential of contributing to India's economic growth.

### Welcome Remarks:

**Mr Sunjoy Joshi, Director, Observer Research Foundation**

### Opening Remarks:

**Mr. Yuri Afanasiev, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in India**

### Keynote Address:

**Dr. David Wilson, Global Lead, Decision & Delivery Science, World Bank**

### Moderated By:

**Dr. Vikrom Mathur, Senior Research Fellow and Head, Climate Change and Development Initiative**

## Technical Panel 1 (11.30 – 12.30): India's 5 Trillion Rupee Challenge: Ensuring quality health services and financial protection to all

Meeting health goals has implications on India realising its demographic dividend and its growth potential. India stands to lose \$4.58 trillion due to productivity losses related to NCDs and mental health issues among other reasons, and every year, more than 60 lakh people fall under poverty line because of health expenditure. India's growth and development potential depends on the quality of its human capital. Public expenditure on health is only 1.2% of the GDP, although India's total health expenditure stands at 4.7% of GDP (around INR 5 trillion) – much of it is out of pocket health expenditure. Similarly, while 20-30% of healthcare is sought through the public sector, almost 70% of care is sought in the private sector.

Given the public-private mix of financing and service provision for health in India, do solutions also need to be hybrid? The SDGs bring with them a comprehensive approach – the goals are intrinsically linked, they focus on multi-sectoral action and emphasise equity. Can India respond to the health challenge by leveraging the entire health system – public and private to deliver on national goals?

### Chair:

**Mr. C K Mishra, Secretary, MoHFW**

### Speakers:

**Dr. Nachiket Mor, Country Director, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation**

**Mr. Anirudha Dutta, Capital Group**

**Prof. Santosh Mehrotra, JNU**

## Technical Panel 2 (12.30 – 13.30): Addressing malnutrition through a multi-sectoral approach: the unfinished agenda and emerging challenges

India's high economic growth and increasing food production have not transformed the nutritional status of its population: Malnutrition has deep impact on cognitive development in children.

Research and India's own experience shows that to address malnutrition, a multi-sectoral approach – prioritising action across poverty alleviation, education, gender empowerment, agriculture, sanitation – is required. Joint planning to make programmes nutrition sensitive, independent implementation and joint monitoring are the key to address malnutrition. This panel will discuss how a multi-sectoral approach can help solve the complex challenges that India faces.

### Chair:

**Mr. Rakesh Srivastava, Secretary, WCD**

### Speakers:

**Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, DG, ICMR & Secretary, DHR**

**Dr. Purnima Menon, IFPRI**

**Mr. Amarjeet Sinha, Secretary, MoRD**

## Lunch Break (13.30- 14.30)

## Technical Panel 3 (14.30-15.30): Better data for better decisions: Equity through Accountability

Lack of data often hinders effective evaluation of health schemes and reduces the scope for mid-course correction. This panel discusses the need to strengthen the national statistical system to allow for goals to be tracked at disaggregated levels, use of technology to streamline processes and an integrated system which allows for analysis to be run across different data sets. Experience of data-use by stakeholders will be discussed so as to identify systemic constraints to evidence-based decision making in the Indian health sector.

### Chair:

**Dr. David Wilson, Global Lead, Decision & Delivery Science, World Bank**

### Speakers:

**Mr. Manoj Jhalani, Additional Secretary and MD, NHM, MoHFW**

**Mr. Ashish Sharma, Partner, Strategy&**

**Prof Aasha Kapur Mehta, IIPA, New Delhi**

Tea Break (15.30- 16.00)

## In Conversation (16.00- 17.00): Integrated Solutions for Multifaceted Challenges: Role of Technology

An integrated set of solutions is needed to address complex issues challenging the economy and society. Ensuring progress on gender, health, and nutrition will be key to driving India's economic growth and development. While India has focused on a set of reforms, those in the area of human development have not received adequate attention. These reforms are critical to India's growth. India should acknowledge the strong linkages between national goals and act in an integrated manner, leveraging national initiatives like Make in India, Digital India, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and JAM (Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile) trinity to improve development outcomes.

Mr. Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog and Prof. Pratap Bhanu Mehta, VC, Ashoka University

in conversation with Dr. Samir Saran, Vice President, ORF

Closing remarks and Vote of Thanks (17:00 – 17:15)