I am delighted to note that the second Delhi Human Development Report has been finalised. Delhi has changed significantly during the last seven years, since the first Report was published in 2006. We felt that it was time for a review as to how Delhi has fared since then and also to assess the progress achieved in the goals that we had set for ourselves.

I compliment the Institute for Human Development (IHD) for undertaking this work. I am happy that apart from secondary sources of data and information, the Report is also based on a survey of about 8000 households conducted by IHD to know what our citizens think and perceive of their lives and about city of Delhi.

We have made significant achievements in the last one decade or so. We have overhauled our transport system, we have seen great improvements in electricity and water supply, the quality of infrastructure in Delhi has improved substantially and so have indicators of health, education and environment. The per capita income in Delhi is highest in the country and its rates of growth have been robust despite the general economic slowdown witnessed across the globe.

I am happy to see that a very large proportion of Delhi citizens have said that they are satisfied with their quality of life, and even more have said that they are satisfied with their health, neighbourhoods and interpersonal relationships. These are positive signs. I am further driven to bolster these trends, and to delve into factors which are contributing to lesser satisfaction among people and sections.

It is heartening to know that people have appreciated our efforts to modernise the city transport systems. We are aware of the concerns particularly with regard to public safety, but we are committed to work towards a safer city with the help of citizens of Delhi. I congratulate the various departments of Government of Delhi and other organisations such as DMRC for their hard work. Nevertheless, we take the review in this Report with all seriousness and will sincerely work towards modernizing other departments and bringing about institutional improvements.

The Report also makes us aware of the vulnerability and needs of the elderly, women, children, the poor and some other social groups. We will continue to focus on their needs, so that all the citizens of Delhi participate in Delhi's development.

I once again congratulate the Institute for Human Development for preparing this Report. The Government of NCT of Delhi will seriously act on the suggestions and recommendations of the Report. The contents of this Report will be instrumental in guiding us to take further initiatives to ensure inclusive and all round development.

(SHEILA DIKSHIT)
We congratulate the Government of the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi for preparing the second Human Development Report 2013 for Delhi.

Delhi occupies an important place in the country’s development history and over the years has become the hub of education, industry, trade and commerce. As a result, the diaspora in Delhi is truly reflective of the diverse social, linguistic, and cultural traditions of the country.

This Report, while covering aspects central to the concept of human development such as health, education and standard of living, also places focus on the delivery of essential public services such as housing, water and sanitation, electricity and transport in an urban agglomeration. The Report strives to illuminate achievements, challenges and opportunities in human development, along with forward looking recommendations. Perhaps the most laudatory effort undertaken as part of this Report is the Public Perception Survey that has examined people’s views and concerns on development in the city and recorded their aspirations.

We are indeed pleased to note the efforts that have been made to follow a participatory approach in the preparation of this Report. The foundation for all future initiatives must be imbued with the voice of the people, and this Report is a step towards promoting responsive governance. We are confident that the findings emerging from this detailed study and the recommendations suggested will resonate with planners and policy makers, and contribute towards giving shape to innovative development strategies.

We applaud the Government of the NCT of Delhi on the publication of the 2013 State Human Development Report and wish the Government of the NCT of Delhi success in its endeavors to promote human development.

Tuhin K. Pandey
Joint Secretary (State Plans), Planning Commission, Government of India

Lise Grande
United Nations Resident Coordinator
UNDP Resident Representative