

DELEGATION OF INDIA

UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

STATEMENT TO THE

SECOND SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Geneva, 18 July 1996

Mr. President, Excellencies and distinguished delegates,

The delegation of India is honoured to be provided this opportunity to address the second session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Essentially, the conference has addressed two basic issues : (1) strengthening the commitments of developed countries for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and (2) enhancing the capacities of developing countries for sustainable development by transfer of technology and financial resources. The conference was described as a stocktaking exercise. But the last few days at Geneva have seen the convention process intensified.

At the same time there are concerns that the process is not living up to the high expectations of the Berlin conference. Developed countries have fallen much short of their existing commitments. Elaboration of policies and measures for strengthening the commitments of developed countries has not been possible in the absence of reduction targets. The expected transfer of technology and financial resources to developing countries has not commenced in any meaningful manner. Much time and effort is being spent over

issues not seminal to the process. Yet the road to Kyoto beckons ahead. What we do in the coming months will pave the way for progress on the Convention.

Action is needed on many fronts. But first, the developed countries will have to cast away any self doubts about the lead role which they have to perform. Implicit in the responsibility assigned to developed countries by the Convention are conspicuous North-South differentials in respective contributions to greenhouse gas atmospheric concentrations and the means at their disposal for responding to the problem.

The recent detailed and comprehensive Second Assessment Report of the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change indicates that the adverse impacts would be the maximum in the tropics. This would include agriculture productivity losses, tardy forest regeneration, migration of species towards the poles, irreversible desertification, and more, as scientific evidence continues to unfold. Climate Change is likely to have wide ranging adverse impacts on human health. The impact on food security has been highlighted in terms of potential accentuation of resource degradation and scarcity.

India would like to underline some areas for special focus in the Convention process:

- * Emission reduction targets for developed countries for return to 1990 levels by the end of the decade are not being attained by many. An effective mitigation effort under close review is called for.

- * National Communications from Developed Countries. Policies and measures to modify longer term trends ^{with performance indicators} need to be enumerated clearly in the national communications in the interest of

transparency, consistency and comparability. Performance indicators should be structured in.

* Strengthened Commitments for developed countries, in accordance with the Berlin Mandate, require determination of reduction targets, time tables, commensurate policies and measures towards ^{legally} binding obligations.

* Resource Transfers from developed to developing countries is an obligation which should not slip into a morass of non-performance. Developing countries need financial and technical wherewithal for responding to the Convention. The Convention is explicit: "The extent to which developing country Parties will effectively implement their commitments under the Convention will depend on the effective implementation by developed country Parties of their commitments under the Convention related to financial resources and transfer of technology..."

* Financial Mechanism, presently functioning through the Global Environment Facility, should conform to the basic approach in the Convention. Accordingly, guidance has to be imparted to the financial mechanism by the Conference of the Parties.

* Transfer of Technology is the key for building developing country capacities for environmentally sound management practices. The terms of transfer of technology should be accorded clarity and greater content; and the most appropriate mechanisms for transfer deployed.

* National Communications from Developing Countries should entail country specific values of co-efficients, continuing measurements and standardisation. Commensurate financing should be made available.

* Activities Implemented Jointly will have to be oriented towards a developing country perspective as an appropriate policy response to the country's long term development needs.

* Subsidiary Bodies need to complement each other more comprehensively. This process will be helped if the advisory panels on technology and methodology get constituted under the Subsidiary Body on Science and Technology. A more functional relationship between the IPCC and the SBSTA also needs outlining.

It is our belief that action on the points highlighted will impart momentum in the right direction.

Mr. President, in the ongoing negotiations it must be emphasised that for developing countries, poverty eradication, avoiding risk to food production and sustainable development are the most important elements. Delays in reducing emissions by developed countries will make adaptation even more difficult and diminish significantly the options and opportunities available to developing countries. The industrialised countries are primarily responsible for the greenhouse effect; the poor, the most vulnerable, bear the brunt of the adverse impacts. The redistribution element in climate change, the equity in the use of environmental space on a per capita basis, should not get lost in the theory and data of atmospheric science.

The first and overriding priorities of the developing countries is economic and social development and poverty eradication. The articulation of the doctrine of "common but differentiated responsibilities" in the Convention was in acknowledgement that "... per capita emissions in developing countries are still relatively low and that the share of global emissions originating in developing countries will grow to meet their social and development needs...".

We expect the developed countries to comply with their commitments under the Convention and the Berlin Mandate. We, on our part will continue to comply with our commitments. As always, India will remain an active participant in the building of a sustainable earth. Mr. President, let me conclude by saying that sustainable development has been an intrinsic part of our heritage. As far back as 1000 BC the "Atharva Veda" had summed up our way of life in the following way:

" What of thee I dig out,
Let that quickly grow over,
Let me not hit thy vitals,
Or thy heart."

I thank you, Mr. President.

RECORD OF MINISTERIAL SEGMENT

COUNTRY: India NAME OF SPEAKER: Mr. Vijai Sharma
 DAY: 18 July TIME: _____ NOTE-TAKER: Pascale STATEMENT PICKED UP? ☒

AGBM-RELATED ISSUES

The speaker indicated:	<input type="checkbox"/> a preference for an amendment <input type="checkbox"/> a preference for a protocol <input type="checkbox"/> that s/he cannot indicate a preference at this time <input type="checkbox"/> AOSIS <input type="checkbox"/> EU	Comments:
The protocol/ other legal instrument should include:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> mandatory policies and measures <input type="checkbox"/> voluntary policies and measures	Policies or measures specified: <u>Called for strengthening commitments for developed countries in accordance w/ the Berlin mandate require determination of reduction targets, timetables, commensurate</u>
Does the country support any particular target?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: _____ % by _____ year <input type="checkbox"/> no <u>Top priority = poverty eradication.</u>	Comments: <u>policies + measures towards legally binding obligations. Supports concept of "common but differentiated responsibilities"</u>

SBSTA-RELATED ISSUES

Reaching targets within the country by the year 2000 (Annex I Parties)	Comments: <u>Emission reduction targets for developed countries for return to 1990 levels are not being reached. Calls for an effective mitigation effort under close review.</u>
Development and transfer of technology <u>terms of trade of tech. should be clearly stated</u>	Comments: <u>Stated that the expected transfer of technology and financial resources to developing countries has <u>not</u> commenced in any meaningful manner. Much time is being wasted on <u>unreal</u> issues not central to the process.</u>
IPCC Second Assessment Report (SAR)	Comments: <u>North to South resource transfers should not "slip into a morass of non-performance".</u> <u>Subsidiary bodies need to complement each other more. This would be helped if the advisory panels on tech. & method. get constituted under the Subsidi. Body on Science + Tech.</u>

A more functional relationship between IPCC + SBSTA + various advise

SBI-RELATED ISSUES

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Should the GEF be the permanent financial mechanism?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	Comments: The financial mechanism functioning thru the GEF should conform to the basic approach in the Convention. Much guidance is needed to be given to the fin. mechanism by the COP
Activities Implemented Jointly (AIJ)	<input type="checkbox"/> in favour of pilot phase <input type="checkbox"/> distinction made between JI/AIJ	Comments: Should be oriented towards developing country perspective as an appropriate policy response to the country's long term development needs.
Preparation of non-Annex I communications	Comments: Regarding natl. communic. from developed countries, called for policies + measures to modify longer term trends w/ performance indicators are needed to be enumerated clearly in the natl. communications	

OTHER COMMENTS: Performance indicators should be structured. Same holds true for natl. commun. from developing countries. Financing should be made avail. to developing countries for this purpose.