

YNDIA

10/12/2003 PM

Thank you very
much, Mr Chairman, for
your kind words.

Before I make my intervention
let me congratulate the Govt. of Italy
who have made such excellent
arrangements. I know from my
experience at COP 8, how much
of efforts would have gone into in
~~making~~ arranging this Conference

Sustainable development involves realization of -
- synergies and complementarities, between, economic -
- growth, equity, in both the intra and inter-temporal -
senses, and environmental protection. Each of these,
in turn, are shaped by a multiplicity of factors, -
technological change, trade regimes, historical -
patterns of access, to global resources, besides,
national policies. As far as India is concerned, all -
- facets of sustainable development, must contribute
positively, to the dominant challenge of our times -
that of poverty alleviation.

(3)

2. Despite the commitments in the UNFCCC, Greenhouse Gas emissions from the developed - countries, may increase by 10% over the 1990 levels by 2010. Emissions from countries, ^{51.5 (1997) Gt} with economies, in transition, are also starting to increase. Effective action needs to be taken, by the industrialised countries for curtailing GHG emissions, both domestically and through cooperative mechanisms.

3. Many current and emerging technology options, in energy efficiency, fuel switching, and renewable energy, show considerable mitigation potential, provided that obstacles, especially, financial and those related to IPRs, can be overcome. Serious action to overcome these barriers, is needed without further delay, as the adverse impacts of climate change are already being felt, by the poor, in developing countries, who are the most vulnerable to extreme climate events, such as floods, droughts, and severe heat waves.

4. In addition, adaptation, which involves, more than simply reacting to disasters, and extreme weather events, associated with climate change, must receive adequate support. Adaptation measures must enhance the ability of developing countries to effectively cope with unavoidable climate changes. Adaptation measures must be embodied in their overall sustainable development strategies.

5. In India, a number of key socio-economic sectors, like, water resources, human health, and the coastal zones, are increasingly at risk, from climate change, and this is likely to pose an additional and - significant challenge for us, in working towards our poverty reduction objectives.

6. The Delhi Ministerial Declaration, focussed —
— attention on adaptation and technology transfer.
 Adaptation to climate change by developing
 countries, will not be automatic. It entails
considerable costs. The UNFCCC and Kyoto
Protocol, as well as various decisions of past eight
Conferences of Parties, enjoin the developed
 countries, to assist the developing countries, with
financial and technological resources, for their
 impending adaptation needs.

7. Adaptation measures need to be supported and
 - facilitated through financial and technology transfers,
 by Annex-II Parties, under their UNFCCC
 commitments. I also reiterate, the need, for early
 operationalisation of the Special Climate Change
 Fund (and the LDC fund as agreed at COP-8).

25/06/2012 10:47 AM

8. Let me conclude, by reiterating, that India remains committed to implementing and fulfilling the objectives of the UNFCCC, and calls upon all Parties to strengthen their individual and collective efforts, for meeting their common, but differentiated responsibilities under the Convention.

**Statement by Dr Prodipto Ghosh,
Secretary Environment & Forests, India
Plenary II, COP-9 to the UNFCCC
Milan, 11 December 2003**

Mr. President, distinguished delegates:

I have two brief points to make:

First, since the adoption of the UNFCCC at Rio in 1992, there has been a great deal of talk on transfer of technologies to developing countries, to enable them to meet their Convention commitments while pursuing their respective paths for sustainable development. We have had decision 4/CP.7, which ~~set~~ ^{covers} out a framework covering 5 key themes for action, i.e. technology information; enabling environments; capacity building; and mechanisms for technology transfer.

We also set up the Expert Group on Technology Transfer (EGTT), to develop action plans for approval of SBSTA. However, while the EGTT has been active in organizing meetings and workshops, the only concrete outcome so far has been the creation of TT: CLEAR, a strictly market oriented mechanism, with clearly limited potential to accelerate technology transfer.

We must, accordingly, reluctantly conclude that efforts at promoting technology transfer to developing countries in pursuit of Art 4.5 have, been lukewarm and disappointing.

Where do we go from here? If developing countries are to pursue less GHG intensive growth paths, access to the relevant technologies is a necessary condition. Such access cannot be on strictly commercial considerations, because that would drain resources away from developing countries; resources which are essential for alleviating poverty, promoting economic growth, conserving their natural and manmade heritage, and protecting the environment. We need to find a way out of the *cul-de-sac* in which the question of technology transfer seems to have found itself.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that in another context, the global community has indeed realized an appropriate model. In a side agreement to the Doha round of WTO negotiations, developing and developed countries agreed that in respect of serious public health concerns in developing countries, concerns which arguably comprise a serious global externality, that IPRs in respect of the relevant pharmaceuticals and medicines would ~~be placed in the public domain~~. Mr. Chairman, in just a few months since that agreement, we have witnessed its dramatic impact on access of such medicines to the world's poor for treatment of HIV/AIDS - from several hundred US\$ per person per month, the cost has dropped to about US\$ 10 per person per month, and is expected to drop still further.

Does not apply in relation to manufacture and imports by these countries.

Can we bring ourselves to adopt this, or a similar model, to help save the world from climate change?

Second, Mr. Chairman, I believe that we need to appreciate the linkages between R&D in technologies for GHG abatement, and supportive policy frameworks. As of now, there is no actual dearth of low carbon technologies, whether in renewable energy, energy efficiency, fuel switching, or carbon sequestration. Many of these are even now competitive in cost with conventional, GHG intensive technologies. However, the pace of their uptake throughout the world, in particular in developed countries, is disappointing. Of course, we need further technology development, which may enlarge the set of available options, and perhaps reduce system wide costs further. But if we do not take on board the lessons learned so far on why the rate of adoption of existing technologies is disappointing, the results in the future may disappoint us again.

The answer, clearly, lies in the absence of sufficiently supportive policy frameworks. A central tenet of market economies is that, for societal welfare to be maximized, the costs of the effects on third parties of the actions of consumers and producers must be borne by the same consumers and producers. Of course, this simple principle lends itself to a rich diversity of actual policy instruments, applicable at the appropriate scale of the impacts – local, regional, global; contemporary, or inter-generational. They may be based on fiats, or on incentives.

Accordingly, Mr. Chairman, while focusing on further R&D to develop low carbon technologies, we must not lose sight of the imperative of developing supportive policies and instruments at each of the relevant levels. We must also understand the organic linkages between policies and instruments at different levels. Global policies will provide necessary signals to national governments about their responsibilities to human kind in line with established principles; national and local policies to producers and consumers within countries of their own responsibilities. We live, Mr. Chairman, in an interdependent world. We cannot escape from this reality.