

INDIA COUNTRY STATEMENT FOR COP-24, KATOWICE, POLAND
Statement on behalf of Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Hon'ble Minister, Environment,
Forest & Climate Change, Government of India

12/12/2018

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I convey my thanks to Government of Poland for their warm hospitality and hosting the COP 24. **Mr. President**, India shares a harmonious relationship with Poland characterized by goodwill and cooperation. We have come here with the same goodwill and we assure you of our full support towards a successful COP 24.

Excellencies, COP 24 is an extremely crucial meeting in our ongoing efforts to save our planet for current and future generations. We welcome the recent IPCC Special Report which tells us that human activities are estimated to have caused approximately 1.0°C of global warming above pre-industrial levels and is currently increasing at 0.2°C per decade. The vulnerable populations are the worst hit by extreme weather events due to lack of resources to cope with them. The Report enjoins upon us to collectively address the issues of climate change with urgency that it deserves.

Excellencies, it is time we focus on finding common grounds and supporting each other based on the principles of equity and climate justice so that “No One is Left Behind”. It is important to ensure equitable access to global commons for all. Mr. President, Paris Agreement signifies progress towards enhanced implementation of Convention. While we do so, we have to maintain continuity in action by fulfilling pre-2020 commitments. While we continue to take stock of pre-2020 action and ambition next year as well, we expect that developed countries shall honour their pre-2020 commitments so that no undue burden is shifted to post-2020 period. We also look forward to see Doha Amendment come into force as soon as possible.

Mr. President, we all agree that Paris Agreement is non-negotiable. Therefore, the delicate balance reached between developed and developing countries must be retained, and the principles such as equity and Common but Differentiated Responsibility and Respective Capabilities must be given its due. The outcome at Katowice should be inclusive, consensus based and an integrated package including all the components of Paris Agreement Work Programme to reflect the global consensus reached three years ago on this very day while adopting Paris Agreement. Most importantly, we must stand with the poor, marginalized and vulnerable communities who would be most impacted by climate change to show that ‘WE CARE’.

Excellencies, India is home to a large number of poor and marginalized vulnerable populations with huge developmental needs, with about 30% of global poor population. However, despite our serious resource constraints and developmental priorities, India is strongly committed to fight climate change and assures that it will make every possible effort within its capacity.

Mr. President, India has already achieved its voluntary pre-2020 goal of reducing emission intensity by 20-25% from 2005 levels by 2020. We have further initiated the process to develop plans for our NDC implementation and are confident that we will be able to achieve our goals. India is guided by its own values and belief in sustainable lifestyles which respects nature, evident from the fact that our share in cumulative historical global GHG emissions is only about 3 percent and our per capita emissions are just about one-third of global average. Our renewable energy capacity stands at more than 70 GW today. We have further invested in energy efficiency measures, sustainable cities and transport systems. Our forest and tree cover has increased by **1 percent** as compared to assessment of 2015. We are also bringing citizens as part of solutions through schemes like LED distribution which has crossed the number of 300 million so far; distributing clean cooking stoves to women below poverty line which covering more than 58 million households and bringing mass movement by encouraging people to do atleast one 'green good deed', like saving

energy, conserving water, etc everyday. India also showed leadership by announcing the pledge to eliminate single use plastic by 2022. We would continue to do more. However, while we do our bit, key concerns such as, access to finance, technology transfer and capacity building, needs to be addressed as necessary enablers. Access to adequate climate finance, non-regression in these commitments and stronger commitment to the cause of technology is essential for developing countries to be confident in our collective journey towards sustainable development. We must keep our trust in multilateralism.

Excellencies, India's Hon'ble Prime Minister is amongst the thought leaders in this area and our commitment to climate action is second to none. We have always believed in mantra of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' which means world is one family and the best example of bringing together this family is International Solar Alliance, launched jointly by Hon'ble PM and President of France. With an unprecedented support from countries and other partners, it has now entered into force as a treaty-based international inter-governmental organization. 71 countries have signed and 48 countries have ratified the agreement so far. It was therefore, a proud moment for India when the world acknowledged India's contribution to the cause by conferring the Champions of the Earth Award, UN's highest environmental honour, on our Hon'ble Prime Minister.

Mr. President, India stands for action and will stand together with the world as a family to fight climate change. Therefore, let's commit ourselves towards working together in a balanced and inclusive manner to reach an outcome which is true to the goal of Convention, its Paris Agreement and its principles and provisions. Mr. President, let me assure you that India will always abide by its commitments and walk together with the global community.

THANK YOU!