



सत्यमेव जयते

**STATEMENT BY
HON'BLE MR. SURESH P. PRABHU
MINISTER OF POWER
INDIA**

**AT THE 6TH SESSION
OF THE CONFERENCE OF PARTIES
TO THE UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

The Hague

21st November, 2000

Mr. President, Excellencies and distinguished delegates,

We are very happy to see Hon'ble Minister, Jan Pronk in the Chair. Minister Pronk's personal qualities will ensure that the Conference is guided to productive outcomes.

Mr. President, the Hague conference has come to be poised at a significant moment. In less than two years, we will be reviewing the Rio agreements, including assessment of progress in the implementation of Agenda 21. Many leaders including the UN Secretary General, have called for the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol, keeping in view the Rio Plus Ten meet. This also finds echo in the declaration adopted at New York during the Millennium Summit recently. We trust that outcomes at The Hague will contribute substantially to progress in this direction.

Mr. President, we must bear in mind that North-South disparities are conspicuous. Per capita emissions in developing countries are many times lower than in developed countries. It is the emissions of developed countries, primarily, that are responsible for the climate change problem. The Convention had obliged developed countries to reach 1990 emission levels by the year 2000. But, we are all too aware of the significant shortfalls in this regard. Also, there has been little or no progress in the provision of new and additional financial resources and technology transfer to developing countries.

The Convention has different commitment levels for developed and developing countries. The existing equilibrium of commitments between developed and developing countries should not be disturbed. This differentiation draws from equity, the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities" and respective capabilities. The Convention also states that the extent to which developing countries will effectively implement their commitments will depend on the effective implementation by developed countries of their commitments related to financial resources and transfer of technology.

Equity is the corner stone of the Convention. Emission entitlements is a direct measure of human welfare. We believe that equitable emission entitlements on equal per capita basis should be the norm to strive for.

From the developing country perspective, build-up of endogenous expertise is required for identification of technology needs and enhancing capacities for its assimilation. Capacity building is also required for adaptation activities. It is important to ensure, also, that the CDM, a creation of the Protocol, does not subsume the commitments of developed countries in the Convention for transfer of environmentally sound and "state of the art" technologies to developing countries.

Mr. President, adaptation should move from the domain of ideas towards action. Adaptation technologies must facilitate vulnerable systems to cope with actual or likely pressures. Food and nutritional well-being is a priority issue. In this context, the poorest populations are the most vulnerable. Agricultural sustainability is a key area for developing initiatives related to adaptation. The impacts of climate change could be

particularly severe on agriculture systems in developing countries and on water availability. In India, about 70% of the population, including a significant number living in the coastal areas, derive their livelihood from agriculture-related activities, much of which is at subsistence levels. Anticipated is heat stress and drier soils. Most vulnerable will be the small and marginal farmers. About 200 million rural poor depend on rain-fed agriculture as a primary source of their livelihood.

Soon, we will be drawing up our national communications in accordance with the provisions of the Convention. We regard this as a significant enabling activity to advance sustainable development. Despite the fact that India's per capita greenhouse gas emissions are many times below the world average, and, of course, far lower than the average of developed countries, we have actively pursued energy conservation, promotion of cleaner fuels, renewable energy technologies, afforestation and wasteland development. Our initiatives for generating electricity through solar and wind power and small hydro projects have been much acclaimed.

We have raised the conversion efficiency of power plants. Industries are reducing their energy intensity. New fiscal policies are promoting low emission technologies. In the automobile sector, too, new technologies and corresponding regulations are reducing emissions. The national effort towards sustainable development is supported by a comprehensive statutory framework, a vigilant media with complete freedom of expression, watchful NGOs, and a judicial system which has recognized the citizen's right to a clean environment as a component of the right to life and liberty.

Mr. President, The Hague Conference must reinforce environmental integrity and climate change effectiveness. The Kyoto Mechanisms must not in any way compromise the modification of longer-term trends in emissions. The Mechanisms should be supplemental to domestic action. The emission reductions achieved should be real and verifiable, without accounting loopholes. Indeed, we are aware of the doubts, expressed on issues relating to permanence and certainty on the subject of "sinks" in the CDM, which need to be allayed. We are of the view that the host developing country should be the sole judge for deciding the areas and choice of technologies for CDM projects, to ensure conformity with national sustainable development priorities.

Mr. President, as we attempt to bring to fruition agreement on the various elements of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, we should remind ourselves of the historical significance of The Hague, which has promoted justice and peace in such substantial measure. We hope, that under your leadership, Mr. President, this climate summit at The Hague, will cross another milestone successfully in the global endeavour to protect the environment.

Thank you, Mr. President.
