



STATEMENT BY MR. SUDHIR MITAL, JOINT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS, ON THEMATIC DISCUSSION: CLIMATE CHANGE, 15TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ON MAY 01, 2007

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset I would like to state that we fully associate ourselves with the statement made by Pakistan as Chair of G-77 on thematic area of climate change and also share the concerns of the Small Island Developing States as expressed by Mauritius on behalf of AOSIS regarding the vulnerability of the Small Island States to adverse impacts of climate change.

Mr. Chairman,

Tackling the adverse impact of Climate Change is an urgent imperative as Climate Change manifestations could have highly disruptive impacts on all of us in the coming decades, but especially so in developing countries.

With negotiations under the Kyoto Protocol of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change for GHG reduction commitments of the developed countries in the second commitment period having already begun, in keeping with the principle of common but differentiated responsibility the political need of the hour is for developed countries to urgently accept significantly higher commitments than was the case for the first commitment period rather than try and renegotiate the compact. This would also give a long term and strong signal to the private sector and spur the Carbon market. The use of the Clean Development Mechanism, which is one successful example of developed and developing countries joint endeavors using market based mechanisms, would furthermore contribute significantly to sustainable development. Moreover there is need to address unsustainable patterns of production and consumption in developed countries without which no amount of mitigation efforts are likely to succeed.

Mr. Chairman,

There is much talk of setting a stabilization goal. The IPCC has done commendable work and we appreciate their efforts. However, determination of a stabilization goal requires detailed impact assessments at different levels of GHG concentrations so that there is scientific consensus to allow the UNFCCC to come to an appropriate decision. It is important to ensure that the application of the precautionary

approach may not be invoked in the absence of significant scientific evidence of risk. In any case any decision needs to be arrived at COP/MOP of UNFCCC through multilateral deliberations.

Mr. Chairman,

Over the many years of the climate change debate at various forums, several myths about the actual or potential contribution of developing countries, including India have been assiduously propagated. That we are among the major polluters in the world, that we have done nothing of significance on climate change, that our future GHG emissions would overwhelm any efforts by developed countries to abate GHG emissions. The facts, Mr. Chairman, are different.

Currently, India's per-capita GHG emissions are only 23% of global average, 4% of the US, 12% of EU, 15% of Japan.

It is surreal that attempts are being made here to focus the discussion on what 80% of the world, with less than 50% of GHG emissions should do, rather than what 20% of the world, with more than 50% of the emissions are prepared to do.

Mr. Chairman,

We also look at climate change in the context of promises made by the international community for technology transfer, adaptation and additional financing since Rio, which unfortunately has not resulted in any effective transfer on the ground. There is need to give real and urgent effect to these additional paradigms to tackle Climate Change.

Critical clean technologies have been out of reach of developing countries because of prohibitive costs. We would particularly like to see efforts in the area of collaborative R&D, providing additional resources for developing countries to access clean technologies. We should also try to see whether critical IPRs can be brought to the public domain balancing rewards for the innovator with the needs of humankind.

Mr. Chairman,

Adaptation, which has not attracted as much attention as mitigation, is, however, critical for developing countries and it is clear, that the resources, including technology R&D and transfer, required globally for Adaptation are of similar order of magnitude as for GHG Mitigation. For this we should realize resources from the entire carbon market, as is being done on a small scale from the 2% levy on the CDM proceeds, apart from providing new and additional resources. Diversion of ODA resources from economic growth and poverty alleviation in developing countries for adaptation is not the answer as development is the best form of adaptation.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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