



STATEMENT BY MR. SUDHIR MITAL, JOINT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS, ON THEMATIC DISCUSSION: INTER-LINKAGES AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES, INCLUDING MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION, 15TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ON MAY 02, 2007

Mr. Chairman,

I would first of all like to state that we fully associate ourselves with the statement made by Pakistan on behalf of G-77 on the thematic area of Inter-linkages and Crosscutting Issues and also share some of the concerns of the Small Island Developing States expressed by Grenada on behalf of AOSIS particularly, on the need for review of all multilateral funding and for looking at ways and means to reduce the transaction cost in a transparent and understandable form.

Mr. Chairman,

As all of us are aware the Rio Conference of 1992 provides the fundamental principles and the programme of action for achieving sustainable development. It is important to recall that the primary mandate of the CSD is to review the implementation of commitments agreed to at major UN Summits and Conferences such as the JPOI and Monterrey Consensus. The outcome of CSD 15 should clearly reflect policy options and that practical measures to expedite implementation with time bound commitments that benefit all, particularly women, youth, children and other vulnerable groups. Furthermore, the implementation should involve all relevant actors through partnerships especially between Governments of the North and South, on the one hand, and between Governments and major groups, on the other, to achieve the widely shared goals of sustainable development, as reflected in the Monterrey Consensus notably early and full realization of ODA targets.

Mr. Chairman,

We should eschew the temptation to accomplish the goals through environmental norms and standards that we have failed to realize through the fulfillment of commitments especially in the area of international cooperation. We have consistently maintained that without making available means of implementation many

developing countries will not be able to achieve their sustainable development goals. To this end, we commit ourselves to undertaking concrete actions and measures at all levels and to enhancing international cooperation, taking into account the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to seek more substantive treatment of how to promote greater financial flows to developing countries as well as development and deployment of environmentally sound and advanced technologies, including clean energy technologies, to developing countries on favourable terms and on changing unsustainable patterns of productions and consumption with the lead to be taken by affluent countries.

Mr. Chairman,

We must remain cognizant of the imperative of poverty eradication as the primary and overriding objective of developing countries. Redirection of resources from the development agenda to the environment is not the way forward. We need to ensure greater access to innovative and adequate sources of finance for developing countries, including through means of leveraging public and private resources. We could also consider establishing financial mechanisms including disbursement of loans with extended repayment time frames, micro-finance schemes and revolving funds.

Mr. Chairman,

Furthermore, there is an urgent need to promote technical capacity building and know how, including through support from multi-lateral financial institutions. The focus should be to increase the investments in R & D while strengthening the arrangements and incentives of technology transfer on favourable terms to developing countries, including the LDCs and SIDS while taking into account the need to balance rewards to innovators and the need for affordable access to technologies by developing countries.

Mr. Chairman,

We heard with interest in the last two days the issues raised by the distinguished delegates representing various groups and from different countries and feel encouraged by the pledges and commitments made in order to move ahead towards the goal of achieving sustainable development. We would now wish to see these commitments being translated on ground in a time bound manner. The past experience belies such pledges. Let CSD 15 be the change.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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