



**Intervention by Mr. Rajneesh Dube, Joint Secretary, Ministry of
Environment and Forests of India during "General comments on the
Chair's draft negotiating text", at the plenary of the 17th Session of the
Commission on Sustainable Development
4 May 2009**

Madam Chairperson,

At the outset, please accept my delegation's congratulations on your election as Chairperson of the CSD 17. We are confident that under your able guidance, the Commission will successfully complete its work.

We also wish to associate with the statement made by the Representative of Sudan on behalf of the G-77.

Madam Chairperson,

The text on Rural Development should recognize that there is a need to move towards a rights-based framework to secure entitlements of the rural poor to basic needs.

Climate change has emerged as a major issue in sustainable development. Negotiations on climate change must respect the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities to achieve an ambitious and equitable outcome. India has launched a National Action Plan on Climate Change, which is a major initiative involving eight national thematic missions.

Madam Chairperson,

Robust agricultural growth requires greater investment in the agriculture sector, consistent with the national agriculture and land use policies. Enhanced agricultural productivity coupled with scientific use of post harvest technologies needs to be linked to an equitable multilateral trading system which promotes greater market access for the agricultural exports of the developing countries. It will ensure that

agriculturists, landless labourers and marginal sections of rural communities in the developing world do not fall below the poverty line.

Madam Chairperson,

Critical, innovative technologies in the areas of agriculture and combating drought and desertification have remained out of the reach of developing countries largely due to the existing IPR regime. We need to make tangible progress in the CSD 17 towards evolving a new paradigm shift that balances rewards for the innovator with the imperatives of sustainable development.

Capacity building is a key imperative for developing countries. India has been, and will continue to be, honoured to be associated with South-South cooperation initiatives for capacity building for participatory and community development approach, and with providing technical services for developing scientific programmes.

Madam Chairperson,

The declining trend of ODA is a serious cause for concern to the developing countries, particularly in view of the current economic downturn and needs to be immediately reversed. We urge the CSD to facilitate the transfer of new and additional resources to mitigate the adverse impact of food, fuel and financial crisis being faced by the developing world.

Our engagement with the draft outcome document will be guided by these perspectives. We look forward to a constructive and meaningful Session.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

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