

Statement by Sudhir Mital, Joint Secretary, MoEF, Government of India on the thematic area of 'Energy for sustainable development',
1 May, 2007
CSD 15, New York

Thank you Madam Chair.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset let me convey my delegations confidence that with the Chair's guidance and stewardship we should be able to move ahead in a time bound manner in fulfilling our obligations and commitments as enunciated in principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on common but differentiated responsibilities with developed countries taking the lead as reaffirmed in the preamble of the draft negotiating document in this policy session of CSD 15.

Madam Chair, We recognise that energy security is a pre-requisite for sustainable development and in this context we associate ourselves with the statement made by Pakistan on behalf of G-77 on the thematic area of energy for sustainable development.

Madam Chair, the Indian perspective on energy is shaped by the fact that the per capita supply of energies in India is only 530 Kg oe, against a world average of 1770 as such much higher levels of energy input, doubling every decade, over the next 3 decades are necessary to ensure that the MDG targets are met and a sustained target of 8% growth rate of GDP is maintained, as poverty eradication remains the greatest challenge in India's sustainable development programme.

Madam Chair, I would like to briefly highlight that with an annual growth rate of 7 to 8 % in last decade the electricity has grown by barely 5% and overall energy consumption less than 3% per year. This has led to India's energy intensity in terms of total primary energy supply per unit of GDP in PPP dollars to decline steadily and reach a level of 0.18 which compares quite favourably with the OECD countries figures of 0.19. We believe this decoupling has been achieved as a result of growing share of services sector which is less

energy intensive; vigorous energy efficiency improvements in the manufacturing sector such as cement and steel and an aggressive national policy to promote energy efficiency and renewable which account for 6 to 7 % of the total grid power installed capacity with a share of over 2.5% in the electricity mix. We expect that this mix of market pulls and policy push will continue to spur further improvement in India's energy intensity. However given the abundance of coal reserves in the country the fuel remains in the main stay of the Indian energy sector accounting for over 50% of the total energy supply.

Madam Chair, though India does not subscribe to any quota targets for the renewal energy and we do not accept any outside monitoring of the same we have set an aim of 14000 mega watts for renewals in the period 2007-2012, apart from ambitious projects for solar water heating and remote village lighting.

Madam Chair, the development of renewal energy technologies, cleaner energy efficient technologies and energy conservation technologies require concerted global action through joint research, design and development so as to reduce higher development cost and providing conducive policy framework to encourage mainstreaming of renewal energy. The developed countries need to play a proactive role in facilitating transfer of new and renewable energy technologies by reducing technical and licensing costs in the short term but with the cap of 0.7% of turn over with eventually rolling back of these costs to zero. Ultimately developed countries should provide excess to researchers and technologists from developing countries to the research institutions and also place such technologies in the public domain in the medium term.

Madam Chair, regarding the Carbon capture and storage, our position has been that these technologies are yet to become commercially viable and there are serious safety concerns regarding the storage of CO₂. Further the cost of electricity generated could go up very substantially if the CCS technologies are adopted in the present stage of development. We however, agree to international collaboration in R & D of CCS technologies.

Finally, Madam Chair, on the issue of subsidies, the provision of targeted subsidies including financial assistance for demonstration projects and financial incentive for promoting private investment in the renewal sector, has been one of the major prongs of our policy to improve access to cleaner fuels and in providing energy at affordable prices. The aim has been to increase production, expand the network of distribution and to ensure that the final consumer price is affordable for the poor. However, we do accept that at times there is a downside to such subsidies and Government is taking initiatives to both rationalize subsidies and improve the targeting.

Thank You, Madam Chair, we assure you of our full cooperation.

Statement by Indian delegation on the thematic area of 'Climate Change', 1 May 2007, CSD 15, New York

Thank you 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.

Statement by Indian delegation on the Inter-linkages and Crosscutting Issues, including Means of Implementation, 2 May 2007, CSD 15, New York

Thank you 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.