

Agenda Item 95 (g): Protection of Global Climate for Present and Future Generations of Mankind

Statement by Hon'ble Mr. Balbir K. Punj, MP on October 31, 2000

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, my delegation wishes to associate itself with the statement made by the representative of Nigeria on behalf of G77.

Environment is a matter of common concern and damage to it will ultimately affect all of us - nations and individuals, rich and poor alike. Scientific evidence is increasingly showing that man-made pollution contributes substantially to climate change and that if green house gas emissions are not curtailed, earth's average temperature can be expected to rise by 11 degrees Fahrenheit by the end of this century, resulting in a seriously adverse impact on the environment.

India is strongly supportive of international co-operation in the field of environment and is committed to work constructively on the basis of a global partnership that simultaneously seeks to protect the environment while addressing the development needs and aspirations of the developing countries. We seek the fulfillment of the legally binding commitments for the parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change to reduce their emission of Greenhouse Gases as contained in Annex B of the Kyoto Protocol. Those who misused the environment earlier, even if unintentionally, and continue to do so at excessive and unsustainable levels on a per capita basis, should pay for its rehabilitation.

We would like to draw attention to the call by the Non-aligned countries at the Durban Summit in 1998 and at the Cartagena Non- Aligned Ministerial meeting in April 2000 to developed countries to undertake urgent and effective steps to implement their commitments under the Kyoto Protocol through domestic action. It is our belief that emissions trading for implementation of such commitments can only commence after issues relating to the principles, modalities, etc. of such trading, including the initial allocation of emissions entitlements on an equitable basis to all countries, have been agreed upon by the Parties to the Convention.

My delegation would like to emphasise the urgent need for immediate measures to provide developing countries with the necessary financial and technological resources and environmentally sound technology to enable them to meet their existing commitments under the Framework Convention on Climate Change. We would also like to express our deep concern at the tendency to look upon the Kyoto Mechanisms as the vehicles for investments and technology transfer, ignoring the commitments made under the Convention for provision of new and additional financial resources and the transfer of technology on concessional terms.

India attaches great importance to the forthcoming Conference of Parties meeting of the Framework Convention on Climate Change being held in the Hague in November and will be participating actively in this meeting. We will work along with other countries for a productive outcome. India was privileged to host two informal consultations, one on the Kyoto Mechanisms and the other on the Compliance System, in New Delhi this October, as part of the preparations for COP-VI. We trust that the deliberations during the informal consultations will contribute to enhancing greater understanding of the complex issues that the Parties would be considering at the Conference of Parties. We are hopeful that there will be an agreement on the principles, rules and modalities for the three Mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol. In our view, the major portion of emission reductions by the developed countries of their commitments under the Protocol should be met through domestic action and emission reductions through the Mechanisms should be supplemental to domestic action, as provided in the Protocol. Moreover, the choice of areas and technologies for the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) should be left to the recipient governments so that their sustainable development priorities can be fully respected. Environmental effectiveness underpinned by real, measurable emission reductions and not subject to any scientific and measurement uncertainties is important while considering CDM projects. Another area of critical importance for CDM is that of project baselines. We do not favour the idea of self-generation or unilateral generation of CDM projects by the recipient countries as the Protocol envisages every CDM project to have a developing country party and a developed country party.

My delegation firmly rejects the attempts to link the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol to voluntary commitments of developing countries.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, my delegation calls for widest possible co-operation by all countries in the environmental field and their participation in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities as well as their social and economic conditions.