

INTERVENTION BY AMBASSADOR HARDEEP SINGH PURI, PERMANENT  
REPRESENTATIVE AT THE MEETING OF THE GROUP OF 77 ON BRAINSTORMING ON  
CLIMATE CHANGE : EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE POST-COPENHAGEN PROCESS AND  
THE WAY FORWARD AT THE 64<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY ON FEBRUARY 03, 2009

Mr. Chairman,

As I am taking the floor for the first time this year in a G-77 meeting, please allow me, at the outset, to congratulate you on your election as Chair of the Group of 77 for 2010.

This is yet another challenging year for our Group with many a critical multilateral negotiation staring us in the face. I have no doubt your vast experience will allow you to provide the Group leadership that will allow a successful pursuance of the common interests of the developing countries. Please be assured of my delegation's full support in your efforts.

I would also like to thank you for your initiative in organizing today's meeting on the very important and topical issue of climate change. It is vital that the G-77 remains actively engaged in unity on this issue that has very significant implications for all of us.

Mr. Chairman,

India, like other developing countries, faces enormous development challenges.

Nearly 200 million of our citizens live on less than US \$1 a day and nearly 500 million do not have access to modern sources of energy. Our overriding priority, therefore, has to be eradication of poverty.

Yet, like many other developing countries, we are among the worst affected by climate change.

India, therefore, has a major interest in ensuring that climate change is addressed substantively and constructively. Hence our repeated assertions that we would like to be part of the solution.

We are voluntarily and proactively undertaking numerous measures to address climate change. We have a detailed National Action Plan on climate change.

Key elements of the Plan include enhancing solar energy production to 20,000 MW by 2022, accelerating afforestation, promoting sustainable agriculture, utilizing clean coal technologies, mandating fuel efficiency standards, establishing a nation-wide climate observatory network that will also involve the launch of our own satellite next year, and improving energy efficiency.

While our economy already has one of the lowest emissions intensity, we have set ourselves a voluntary domestic target to further reduce emissions intensity by 20-25% by 2020 on 2005 levels. This has also been conveyed to the UNFCCC Secretariat in terms of the relevant provisions of the UNFCCC.

However, Mr. Chairman, there cannot be any renegotiation or dilution of the principles and provisions of the UNFCCC, in particular the principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

Mr. Chairman,

In December 2007 the international community decided to start negotiations under the UNFCCC to enhance its implementation, the so-called LCA track. It was also decided to proceed apace with the negotiations under the Kyoto Protocol for quantified emission reduction commitments of Annex I parties for the period beyond 2012.

It is imperative that these two tracks of negotiations, under the UNFCCC and under its Kyoto Protocol, together known as the Bali Road Map, proceed in an invigorated manner and deliver on ambitious and equitable outcomes in Mexico at the end of this year. We cannot accept attempts to simply do-away with the Kyoto Protocol, which must continue to deliver as a valid legal instrument and Parties to the Protocol should deliver on their solemn commitments under the Protocol.

Moreover, efforts to address climate change must be firmly embedded in a demonstrably equitable access to atmospheric space for every citizen of the globe, with adequate finance and technology available to all developing countries.

It is imperative that the G-77 remains united in pursuing these common objectives. The solidarity that has been the bedrock of this diverse Group must be maintained and strengthened.

Mr. Chairman,

To brainstorm on climate change negotiations post Copenhagen India organized a meeting of the Environment Ministers of Brazil, South Africa, India and China, the BASIC countries, in New Delhi on January 24, 2010. We had invited the Chair of the G-77 but unfortunately, and as you are aware, the Honorable Environment Minister of Yemen could not attend.

In their joint statement, the BASIC countries re-emphasized the importance of the G-77 working closely together and their own commitment in this regard. They underscored the centrality of the UNFCCC process and the COP decisions to carry forward the negotiations on the two tracks of the AWG-LCA and the AWG-KP leading up to COP-16 and COP/MOP 6 in Mexico. They also stressed that all negotiations must be conducted in an inclusive and transparent manner.

In this regard, the BASIC countries called upon the COP President to convene the two negotiating groups next month and to ensure that the AWGs meet at least 5 times before the Mexico Conference.

The BASIC countries also called for urgent action by developed countries to ensure the flow of US\$ 10 billion in 2010 for financing adaptation, with focus on LDCs, SIDS and African countries.

As regards the Copenhagen Accord, while acknowledging that this was a high-level political understanding among the participants on some of the contentious issues, they hoped that it would facilitate the two-track negotiating process under the Bali Roadmap.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, let me quote my Prime Minister, who said at Copenhagen that whatever emerges from the negotiations must address the glaring injustice that those worst affected by climate change are the least responsible for it.

This injustice is acute to countries of Africa, to the LDCs, and to the SIDS whose very survival as viable nation states is in jeopardy. The G-77 must remain united as we strive to redress this injustice.

Thank you.

**BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS**