

**Remarks by
Ms. Seema Pujani, Youth Delegate**

at the

**Thematic Session on SDG 13:
Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts**

ECOSOC Youth Forum

08 April 2019

1. In India, our aim is to achieve development in a sustainable manner by harnessing renewable energy and efficient use of resources. Despite our huge developmental challenges and limited availability of energy, we are taking leadership in this area including international initiatives such as the International Solar Alliance.
2. Our domestic efforts in expanding solar power have already brought down unit costs substantially to make it competitive. Young people in India are taking leadership role in environmental conservation, especially in the area of waste management.
3. However, global action based on equity is crucial to combat climate change and to achieve sustainable development envisaged in 2030 Agenda. Environmentally friendly technologies are an important vehicle for developing countries to deliver commitments in these areas.
4. Developing countries need resource and technical support, open and fair markets for their goods, and mobility for their trained human resource for achieving sustainable development. Faithful implementation of the Paris Agreement, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda, therefore, remains essential to achieve Right to Development.

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**Interactive Roundtable on Looking to the Future:
“A dialogue on the High-level Political Forum (SDG) Summit”**

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1. With median age of about 29 years, India is one of the youngest countries in the world. As a substantial segment of the Indian electorate, the youth stand to influence policymaking in the country.
2. We are aware that India's achievements in SDG implementation is critical to its success worldwide.
3. India's young population is scripting remarkable success stories. Young Indians are overcoming challenges and shining bright in all walks of life. Be they athletes like Dipa Karmakar and Hima Das or countless young entrepreneurs, artists, authors, engineers, doctors, lawyers and civil servants, India's young population is scripting remarkable success stories and making confident strides into the future.
4. Today, India has the 2nd largest startup ecosystem in the world. The median age of founders of these enterprises is only 31 years. Youth in India are also behind forging new alliances and partnerships across Government, civil society, business and academia which are critical for achievement of SDGs.
5. Youth empowerment and inclusive social development are at the heart of flagship programmes of the Government of India that seek to target gender equality, increased access to financial services, digital connectivity, skill development and higher education, universal health coverage, sanitation and housing for all.
6. India is among one the first countries to launch a comprehensive programme for its 250 million adolescent population, focusing on reproductive and menstrual health.

7. management, nutrition, mental health and substance misuse. So far 7298 Adolescent Friendly Health Clinics have been established across the country and around 6 million adolescents availed services in a year under this programme.

8. Even as individual countries make their own efforts, international political commitment and resource mobilization towards capacity building and technology transfer in the areas of education, health and employment generation would have to be forthcoming. This is an integral part of 2030 Agenda. We hope that collectively we can make the right choices in realizing full potential of today's youth and ensuring sustainable future for all.

Thank you.
