



# INDIA भारत

**Statement**

**by**

**External Affairs Minister**

**Smt. Sushma Swaraj**

**at**

**United Nations Secretary-General's High Level Meeting  
on Climate Change**

**73<sup>rd</sup> Session of United Nations General Assembly**

**New York**

**26 September 2018**

Thank you Mr. President. Thank you for organising this meeting. I attended this meeting last year and I am happy to be here again.

**Excellencies,**

Ancient Indian tradition conceives our cosmos as comprising of five basic elements panchbhutas. These are space, air, water, earth and fire. There is harmony among them. Trouble begins when their equilibrium is disturbed. From atmosphere to oceans; our actions are leading us into uncharted territories with possibly disastrous consequences.

**Excellencies,**

India is willing to take lead in climate action. Our commitment to combat climate change is rooted in our ethos, which considers Earth as Mother. Today, India is the sixth largest producer of renewable energy, and fifth largest producer of solar energy in the world. We have set ourselves a target of generating 175 Giga Watts of solar and wind energy by 2022. We have installed over 300 million LED bulbs saving US\$ 2 billion and 4 GW of electricity. The Kochi airport in southern India is the first solar-powered airport in the world.

**Excellencies,**

We will reduce the emission intensity of our GDP by 25% over 2005 levels by 2020, and further by 33-35% by 2030.

**Excellencies,**

India is a firm believer in multilateralism. The International Solar Alliance (ISA) launched with France, has been already signed by 68 countries. It aims to mobilise technology and finances to lower unit costs. Mr. Secretary-General, we look forward to welcoming you next week in India at the first meeting of the General Assembly of the ISA. Climate change poses significant developmental challenges, especially for developing countries. However, their capacity to translate commitments into tangible results is constrained by lack of predictable, sustained and adequate finances and technologies. The world needs a roadmap for finance and technology, to achieve the goals set out in the Convention and its Paris Agreement in everyone's collective interest.

**Excellencies,**

India will continue to work with all stakeholders for our common well-being.

Thank You.