

## **STATEMENT BY**

### **Ms MIRA MEHRISHI, SPECIAL SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AT THE HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT OF 18<sup>TH</sup> CONFERENCE OF PARTIES (COP 18), DOHA, DECEMBER 6, 2012**

Madam President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak to the international community on the important issue of climate change.

We are delighted to be in Qatar for the 18<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties to the Climate Change Convention which is unique in many ways. At Doha, we will create history by closing the ambitious deal that we struck, in Durban, last year. The New Year will see the end of the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol and the beginning of a period of renewed commitments. This is a great moment in history. I am sure that the collective vision and efforts of all parties gathered in Doha will help us achieve this task as ambitiously as possible and in the same spirit with which we first undertook the journey at Kyoto.

We are also holding this Conference in Asia after many years. No region of the world displays the amazing range and diversity of natural challenges and adversities as Asia. Asia is deeply vulnerable to climate change. Yet, Qatar's leadership of this Conference is reminder to the world that huge natural

adversities can be overcome ambitiously if we use our resources wisely and sustainably for the common good.

India is a large country with a very small carbon footprint. Our per capita emission is only 1.7 tonnes per annum. And, with our current growth rate, our per capita emission is not likely to exceed 3.7 tonnes, even in 2030. Our Prime Minister has already stated that we will follow a growth path that will help us remain sustainable and not emulate the fossil fuel-intensive growth path followed by developed countries in the past.

As a developing country, India faces many challenges. We have huge social and developmental constraints and have to address large unmet energy needs of our vast population. Yet, we are conscious of our global responsibilities.

Even as we work towards meaningful and enhanced actions at the global level, we have already started taking action under our National Action Plan on Climate Change. We have launched eight missions in areas of energy efficiency, solar energy, sustainable habitat, water, green India, sustaining the Himalayan ecosystem, agriculture and strategic knowledge for climate change. We have a target of generating 20,000 MW of solar power in 2020. We will do this in phases, as the market develops and costs come down. The energy intensity of our output has declined sharply by about 30% in 6 years because of a number of measures that we have taken. We have a cess on use of coal which currently yields US\$ 500 million a year, which is dedicated to the promotion and development of clean energy. We follow a regime of high energy prices, mandatory energy efficiency standards, and innovative trading mechanisms for energy efficiency and renewable energy supplied to the grid.

Over and above this, we are going to implement an ambitious domestic goal of reducing the emissions intensity of our GDP by 20 to 25% by 2020 compared with 2005 level.

Our Twelfth Five Year Plan for the period 2012-2017 will focus on specific initiatives in various sectors of the economy. These initiatives will put our development on a still lower carbon growth path. These actions will cost us tremendous amount of resources but we are committed to their implementation in the interest of our own social, economic and environmental goals in the long run. We will mobilize all possible domestic and international support in this endeavor to implement these actions.

India has thus responded with significant voluntary efforts to move towards the global goal of climate stabilization. India could do more if additional finance and technology were available. Unfortunately, there is little evidence of long term finance being available from public sources in the industrialized countries.

If we have to tackle the global goal of limiting the temperature increase to below 2 degree centigrade or less, effectively, the international community must come forward to share the burden equitably. We need to see very clear commitments from the industrialized countries on ambitious emission reduction targets upto 2020 that are consistent with the global goal. This is the biggest task before us in Doha. We should finalize ratifiable amendments to the Kyoto Protocol for its second commitment period. We hope that the Doha Conference will not fail in its main task of keeping the Protocol alive. This Conference will be a test of the will of international community to

protect the climate in accordance with the mandate of the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol.

There must be principled and ambitious actions for the protection of the environment within the multilateral framework. It was in this spirit that India showed considerable flexibility and participated in an agreement that established a roadmap for post 2020 arrangements. We did this with a view to reach a consensus on the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. The time has come for Annex I parties to fulfill this commitment.

The work under the Durban Platform for Enhanced Actions in future has also started in earnest spirit. Our future work in this regard must be anchored in the principles of Equity, in particular the principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities, keeping in mind that developing countries need space to eradicate poverty and pursue the goal of sustainable development. The recently held Rio +20 Conference explicitly recognized that poverty eradication remains the greatest global challenge and while doing so reaffirmed the cardinal principles which should guide our actions under UNFCCC.

In developing countries, sustainable development will increasingly be linked now and in future to the availability of clean, renewable and affordable energy. Technology is key to effective and practical solutions in this area. Our vision for the post 2020 period should, therefore, include multilateral arrangements for development and transfer of technology that makes this transformation possible faster and at affordable rates at the global level. As the Conference of Parties have explicitly recognised in Cancun, Bali and Marrakesh the importance of the matter of IPRs related to technologies, the

bodies of the Convention should be specifically mandated to consider mechanisms to address this issue in a multilateral framework. Such framework should also prevent unilateral actions that upset the balance in international cooperation and affect the credibility of the multilateral processes.

India will continue to play a constructive and responsible role in the on-going negotiations and will work with the international community to find practical, pragmatic and equitable solutions in this regard.

We would like to reaffirm our deepest appreciation of Qatar's leadership of the Doha Conference and extend our fullest support to the President of COP in his endeavors to ensure a successful outcome.

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