

OPENING STATEMENT BY SMT. JAYANTHI NATARAJAN MINISTER
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Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me take this opportunity to thank the Polish presidency and people of Poland for the excellent arrangements and hospitality extended to us in this important 19th COP. We have historic and close links with Poland and I am extremely pleased to be here. We also appreciate Poland for taking the initiative to host the Conference of Parties for the second time.

Mr. President this is an important COP held in the backdrop of initial reports of IPCC AR 5, which reaffirm the need for action. We have also seen the devastation caused in the Philippines by the typhoon Haiyan. Our hearts go out to them. Even parts of our country and south Asia are regularly suffering because of extreme weather events that have become more intense and devastating in the recent past. I am convinced that any delay in acting on combat climate change will be very costly for all of us.

However, in a scenario where we need to do more, not just on mitigation but adaptation, what I hear with dismay is the scaling down of ambition and lowering of targets for emission cuts by some countries. We still have 7 years to go for 2020, and we cannot afford to give up the momentum at this point.

Mr President, India is a large country with a very small carbon footprint. Our per capita emission is only 1.7 tonnes per annum. We have also committed that our per capita emissions will not exceed those of the developed countries in future also. We are implementing the ambitious voluntary domestic goal of reducing the emissions intensity of our GDP by 20 to 25% by 2020 compared with 2005 level.

As a developing country, India faces many challenges. Poverty eradication stands as our foremost priority. 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. We are committed to follow a growth path that will help

us remain sustainable, given the constraints of our energy mix and heavy dependence on imports for oil and natural gas.

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, forestry, sustaining the Himalayan ecosystem, agriculture and strategic knowledge for climate change. We have set a target of generating 20,000 MW of solar power by 2020 and already achieved about 1200 mw presently. We have also introduced an innovative trading mechanism (Namely PAT – Perform, Achieve and Trade) for energy efficiency. A National Clean energy Fund (NCEF) has also been set up by imposing a cess on coal of Rs. 50 per tonne for financing renewable energy and environment friendly projects.

Efforts have been made to encourage the states to put together their action plan on climate change. Most of our states have already planned their activities to tackle climate change. We have committed substantial resources on our own and are also looking for additional funds for these activities.

There is a huge ambition gaps between what developed country Parties have pledged and what is required by science and their historical responsibilities. The irony is that developing countries have pledged much more than developed countries in pre 2020 period. Therefore, in keeping with Article 3.1, the developed countries should take the lead in bridging the ambition gap.

I would like to underline that it is not conceivable that we can get high post -2020 ambition through low pre 2020 ambition. High ambition is the bedrock for 2015 outcome. I would take this opportunity to urge upon the developed countries to ratify their pledge for the 2nd Commitment period of Kyoto Protocol. Delay on this count sends a very wrong signal to the world about our commitment to address climate change.

I am equally convinced that enhanced ambition should not be just in mitigation but in adaptation, finance and technology support. For developing countries, provision of support - technology transfer and finance are critical for NAMAs in the pre 2020

action.

I am happy that the focus of UNFCCC relating to agriculture has been on adaptation. Climate change has direct impact on our farmers, most of whom are subsistence farmers and it takes a toll of our food security and poverty reduction goals. Adaptation is our priority and will remain so.

It is time that our COP delivered on finance. Simply creating the institutional arrangements like Green Climate Fund does not help as its coffers are still empty. This brings us to the need for a clear roadmap on provision of finance for 2013-15, 2015-2017 and then up to 2020. Public finance should be the primary source of fund for climate finance.

I cannot emphasise enough the matter of technology transfer. India has put forth a new proposal which would reward innovators, but at the same time, help all developing countries and facilitate technology transfers in a meaningful way. We have called for creating a new window in the GCF for funding IPR protected technology to developing countries by paying the difference in cost. Otherwise TEC and CTCN will remain a paper exercise.

I would like to submit that international cooperative initiatives must follow the principles of the convention especially equity and CBDR, if they are to be accepted under UNFCCC. Developing countries should be provided the flexibility to choose their actions. Many of such initiatives are already part of national strategies and they don't bring any additionality to the ambitions. The availability of specific financial and technological support for effective implementation of such international initiatives is also not spelt out or assured. We therefore, insist that supplementary actions for increasing ambition at the international level must fully respect the national priorities of sustainable development and be based on the availability of means of implementation in accordance with the principles the Convention.

The issue of HFC has to be addressed by us under this convention. In the meeting of Montreal Protocol in Bangkok last month, many countries, including some from G 20, have opposed amendments to bring it under MP. The issue should not be seen from a business perspective of providing markets to domestic companies. Developing

countries need clarity on identified substitutes, their costs, safety and economic feasibility. We can't take a leap of faith without knowing the exact path and the pitfalls. It is time that we had an honest dialogue instead of raising the rhetoric

Loss and damage is an important area of work affecting developing countries mostly. The decision of the last COP to set up a mechanism for addressing loss and damage must be taken to its logical conclusion.

Many parties have been repeating the view that the proposed new architecture is applicable to all. I would like to inform and reiterate that the UNFCCC Convention and the Kyoto Protocol are also applicable to all. Universality does not mean uniformity.

Mr. Chair, the world is watching us. We have a historic opportunity to change the trajectory of our future development by taking bold decisions. The developed countries must take the lead and incentivise actions for developing countries in these global efforts.

Thank You.