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## FOREWORD

On behalf of the Government of India, I have great pleasure in presenting India's Initial National Communication in fulfillment of our commitment in this respect under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The Communication has been prepared by a national effort involving more than 350 scientific personnel constituted into 131 multi-disciplinary teams. This exercise was coordinated by the Ministry of Environment & Forests. The Communication has been prepared in terms of the requirements of Article 12 of the Convention and in accordance with the relevant decisions of the Conference of Parties. We committed to maintain the highest standards of scientific rigour in conducting this exercise and the research outputs underpinning the National Communications has been extensively peer reviewed.

This national effort has built up human and institutional capacities in the different disciplines related to the preparation of this Initial National Communication. However, we are aware and have identified in our Communication the constraints and the gaps that still exist, and the related financial and capacity building needs, which are required to further improve upon this effort in our future National Communications.

I congratulate all those who have been involved in this national task. The Government of India is also thankful to the UNDP-GEF for providing the necessary financial support for conducting this exercise.

  
(A. Raja)

Place: New Delhi

Dated: 16.06.2004