

Country Statement by India at the 6th Programme and Implementation Committee (PIC)
Meeting, Vancouver, Canada on 29th October 2008

Mr. Harlan Watson, Chair and co-Chair of the Task forces, dear colleagues,

At the outset, I and my delegation would like to express our sincere thanks to the government of Canada for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for our meeting here. I would also like to thank the Administrative Support Group for all the hard work they have put in to make the arrangements for this meeting.

Mr. Chairman,

The world today is facing a financial and economic crisis of immense magnitude. This will have a deep and profound impact on the way the world deals with various issues including climate - and clean development issues. It is at times like this that we need to work closely together to ensure that all action that we take is for the benefit of the world at large. The financial crisis has shown that we can work together cooperatively when a crisis looms before us. This is a good and encouraging sign and in this regard, the Asia Pacific Partnership for Clean Development and Climate can play an important role in demonstrating that we can actually work together cooperatively.

India considers the APP as an excellent mechanism for both inter-governmental action as well as collaborative action between governments and industry. Since May this year when we met in Seattle, we have progressed further and have concretized many of the works that are currently underway. Indian representatives in the different task forces have participated in the various meetings and have completed many of the tasks assigned to them and have even suggested some new projects which will be submitted to the PIC for approval. In this regard, we would like to place on record our appreciation for the excellent and painstaking work being done by the different task forces. We, on our part, have been successfully co-chairing the Steel and Coal Task forces.

Mr. Chairman,

While we are satisfied with the way the Task forces have been proceeding with their work, there is a small matter of concern. Currently the procedure for approval of projects is through an automated approval procedure through the Internet where after a lapse of 4 weeks of being posted on the net, the project is said to be approved. In India it is the Ministry of Environment and Forests who are the nodal agency handling all matters relating to the APP. They feel that the current method of approval is creating problems of coordination where there is no record of approved projects and where projects are approved without the nodal agency knowing about it. This results in complications of ensuring compliance and of ensuring regular monitoring of the project. It also results in problem of allocation of resources etc.

It is our proposal that for all new projects that are being proposed, the approval of the participating countries be obtained and thereafter the PIC could give its concurrence. Regarding

projects that have already been approved, we would like the Chairs and co-Chairs to kindly send a brief on the project to participating countries so that a record is maintained of all projects underway in each country.

Mr. Chairman,

As you are aware India has recently released its National Action Plan on Climate Change. This Action Plan envisages, among others, eight national missions on various issues such as solar energy, energy efficiency etc. A large part of the work envisaged in the Action Plan has a bearing on the work we are doing in the APP and we are confident that this will give a boost to the work we are doing in the APP.

As I said before, India attaches great importance to the work of the APP and we are really happy to see the work we have achieved so far. We feel, however, that there are some issues which need to be strengthened if the APP is to be a success. The most important issue is that of technology development and transfer. Technology is the critical factor in the projects undertaken in the APP and an effective mechanism for smooth and obstacle-free transfer of technology would provide a fillip to the work currently underway in the different task forces. This should include addressing issues of intellectual property rights. The other issue of concern is that of availability of adequate funding. This is particularly crucial if we are to incentivise participation of the private sector and academia in the different projects.

Mr. Chairman,

We have come a long way and have achieved a lot in such a short time. If we are to continue to do better we need to look at ways and means to make the Partnership stronger. On its part, India remains committed to be actively engaged in the work of the Partnership and will considerably scale up its engagement in the years to come.

Thank you.