

**Statement by Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad,
Joint Secretary (Climate Change), Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate
Change at the High Level Event on Climate Change in New York on
June 29, 2015**

Thank you **Madam Chair**,

Ministers, Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates,

We believe that Climate Change is both a challenge and an opportunity.

A challenge in terms of concerted global action for emissions reduction while allowing space for eradication of poverty and promoting growth in developing countries and an *opportunity* to guide the international comity of nations on a collective path to sustainable development.

India is fully committed to both – facing this challenge with conviction and partaking of this opportunity for a decisive movement towards sustainability.

In our view, it is of utmost importance that global action continues to be based on the cardinal principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities with the developed countries taking the lead for an effective global response to climate change.

Madam Chair,

The world is looking at us with anticipation for delivering an ambitious and credible agreement at Paris later this year.

To ensure success in Paris, each country needs to play its part in a process that is inclusive, party driven and transparent. We need an agreement that is equitable, that is comprehensive and balanced and an agreement that delivers concrete action. This will only be possible if the agreement enhances the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention in a manner that respects its principles, provisions and structure.

The panacea is not an alternative regime distinct from the Convention but enhanced action and implementation under the Convention.

Madam Chair,

It is not that we have to act only after 2020. We need to act now and right now. That is why it is extremely important that actions in pre-2020 period receive our highest attention and endeavor.

Paris must also deliver on an ambitious pre-2020 outcome under the Convention. This will build trust and confidence in the process leading up to the post-2020 period. Unless we take ambitious actions now and up to 2020, our tasks in the post-2020 period would become much more than what may be required. And we believe that the developed countries have take the lead both in terms of mitigation and concomitantly in terms of providing financial, technological and capacity-building support to developing countries to enable them take more ambitious actions.

Madam Chair,

India has been and is a willing partner in the global efforts to address climate change.

We are well-on-course in terms of achieving our voluntary target of reducing the emissions intensity of our GDP by 20-25% over 2005 levels by 2020. We have declared way back in 2007 that our per capita emissions will not exceed that of developed countries. We have been implementing our National Action Plan on Climate Change spanning various sectors since 2009.

The new government of India attaches utmost importance to the issue of climate change and sustainable development. Among the many important and ambitious initiatives / programmes / schemes announced since last year include:

- Plans to augment Renewable energy capacity by 175 GW in the next few years which includes 100 GW of solar and 60 GW of wind energy
- A national Adaptation Fund with an allocation of USD 25 mlnto support climate change adaptation actions in the agriculture, water and forestry sectors
- Increase in Clean energy cess on coal from USD 1 to USD 4 per ton
- Allocation of 80 million US dollars for setting-up of Ultra Mega Solar Projects in several states of India
- Allocation of 100 million US dollars for a new scheme “Ultra-Modern Super Critical Coal Based Thermal Power Technology
- Allocation of 16 million US dollars for the development of 1 MW Solar Parks on the banks of canals.
- Plans to allocate about 6 billion US dollars to our states for afforestation activities.

We have also taken policy initiatives in several other areas. To highlight just a few:- enhancing the energy efficiency of coal based power generation, Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC) for the design of new commercial buildings, energy standards on high energy consuming appliances, an expansion of the Perform, Achieve, and Trade (PAT) programme to reduce the energy consumption in industry, and finally, the recently introduced Corporate Average Fuel Savings standards for new vehicles which are estimated to lead to a saving of over 20 million tonnes of fuel by the year 2025.

Our Action Plan for cleaning River Ganga will bring multiple benefits of pollution reduction and climate adaptation. We have also taken initiatives for coastal, Himalayan, and forest areas. Yet another initiative is to set up “One hundred Smart Cities’ with integrated policies to reduce the vulnerability and exposure of urban areas to climate change and also to improve their energy efficiency.

Madam Chair,

Our domestic preparations for formulating the INDCs are at an advanced stage and we hope to submit the same well-ahead of the Paris COP. We have gone through an extensive process of multi-stakeholder consultations, which included the Central ministries, provincial governments, civil society, think-tanks and media.

India is ready to contribute and play its due role in reaching a meaningful, equitable and effective Agreement at Paris.

We strongly believe that developing countries can do much more if they are enabled in their efforts by provision of finance, technology development and transfer and capacity building support from developed countries. Such an international compact of cooperation would help us tread a path that is urgently required to address climate change and its adverse effects.

I thank you.
