

Intervention by Ms. Saheli Ghosh Roy, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests, during the Thematic Discussion on “Interlinkages, Cross Cutting Issues and Means of Implementation” during IPM to CSD-17, 27 February 2009

Madam Chairperson

We associate ourselves with the statement made on behalf of G-77.

Poverty, which is a common thread traversing the domains of agriculture, land, rural development, drought and desertification has a significant environmental dimension. A sharp focus on poverty reduction should therefore be the core element of sustainable development.

This implies equitable access to social and economic services such as health, education, drinking water, sanitation, clean energy, markets, natural resources, credit, insurance, and physical infrastructure. In this regard, India’s planning for ‘inclusive growth’ has enhanced human, social, financial and natural capital, particularly in rural areas, and has built up sound institutions to implement these plans. India’s decentralized local governance has ensured gender and social inclusion and equity for millions of our people.

Madam Chairperson

While each country is primarily responsible for its sustainable development, concerted and concrete measures are required of the international community to enable the developing countries to achieve the IADGs, including the MDGs, particularly as contained in Agenda 21 and the JPOI.

Critical technologies, particularly in the field of agricultural productivity, drought and desertification, have been out of reach of developing countries, largely due to the existing IPR regime. There is an urgent need to revisit the same, in a way that ensures a balance between rewards for innovators with a common good of human kind. Collaborative R&D between developed and developing countries

needs to be promoted and financed, with sharing of resulting IPRs. The Green revolution, which many delegations referred to, would not have been possible without the relevant IPRs being in the public domain.

The declining trend of ODA needs to be immediately reversed. Further, new and additional resources must be provided to mitigate the adverse impacts of food, fuel and financial crisis.

Unfortunately, the international community has not delivered on its past promises and commitments. Action is urgently required, including on access to markets for products from developing countries, removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers, and elimination of agricultural subsidies by developed countries.

Madam Chairperson

We hope CSD 17 will mark a new phase, one that focuses on implementation. We need to consider practical policy options, taking into account the inter linkages among the discussed thematic clusters, towards eradication of poverty and hunger and achieving sustainable development.

In conclusion, we would like to reiterate the importance India attaches to the work of the CSD, and its efforts towards ensuring an international order conducive to development. India remains ready to contribute through capacity and institution building, as well as through sharing her knowledge and experience gained.

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