

**Extempore remarks by Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri,
Deputy Permanent Representative at the Arria Formula Meeting of
the UNSC on “The Security Dimensions of Climate Change” on
February 15, 2013**

....

Mr. Chairman,

Thank you very much for giving me the floor. Given the shortage of time, I will be brief.

At the very outset, let me say that climate change is one of the most serious challenges confronting us today. My country, perhaps more than anyone else, is subject to its vagaries, and is one of the most vulnerable.

We, therefore, call for concerted and very strong action of by the global community in cooperation and collaboration with each other. These actions need to be based on the principles of common but differentiated responsibility and equity. Developed countries must own their historical responsibility and undertake real and significant emission cuts, and provide finance and technological support, especially to the most vulnerable countries, the small island developing states and the least Developed Countries.

We recognize that the sea level rises pose an existential threat to the small Island Developing States and coastal societies. We are particularly aware of the gravity of the situation given the number of islands, over a thousand, which are there within the territories of India.

Having said this, Mr. Chairman, I want to strongly align myself with the Statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of Fiji on behalf of the G-77 and reiterate what has been said by the G-77 on several occasions. The issue of climate change rests squarely in the UN FCCC and the UN General Assembly.

The UN charter provides for clear division of functions between the General Assembly and the Security Council. These must be fully respected.

We, therefore, want to reiterate what has been made clear many a time that by merely adding the words security dimension, it does not become a matter fit for discussing in the Security Council.

Mr. Chairman, in 2007 your country (UK) organized a thematic debate on climate change in the Security Council. In 2011 my colleague from Germany organized a thematic debate there.

I very much thank H.E. the Ambassador of Pakistan which is a strong and founding member of the G-77, for having ensured that this time it was only an Arria formula meeting.

Thank you very much.

BACK TO SECURITY COUNCIL