

**STATEMENT BY MR. PREM CHAND GUPTA, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
ON AGENDA ITEM 87© ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT: PROTECTION OF GLOBAL CLIMATE FOR PRESENT AND
FUTURE GENERATIONS OF MANKIND AT THE SECOND COMMITTEE OF
THE 57TH UNGA ON NOVEMBER 15, 2002**

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation is pleased to participate in the discussions on Agenda item 87 (c) on the protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind. We would like to associate ourselves with the statement made by Venezuela on behalf of the Group of 77 under this item.

2. At the World Summit on Sustainable Development, we recognized that change in the Earth's climate and its adverse effects were a common concern of humankind and that the developing countries were facing increased risks of the negative impacts of climate change. We also undertook to work cooperatively to achieve the objectives of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and meet all commitments and obligations under the Convention.

3. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on Climate Change. Immediately after the Johannesburg Summit, India was privileged to host the Eighth session of the Conference of Parties (COP 8) to the Convention in New Delhi from 23 October to 1 November, 2002. This provided us an opportunity to look at measures to address the mandate of Johannesburg in practical and concrete ways.

4. Apart from adopting the conclusions of the subsidiary bodies, the Eighth session of the Conference of Parties adopted the Delhi Ministerial Declaration. The Declaration emphasized, inter-alia, that:

- (i) All Parties have a right to, and should, promote sustainable development.
- (ii) Policies to protect the climate system against human induced change should be appropriate for specific conditions of each country and should be integrated into national development strategies, taking into account that economic development is essential for adopting measures to address climate change.
- (iii) National sustainable development strategies should integrate more fully climate change objectives in key areas such as water, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity, and build on the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.
- (iv) All Parties, taking into account their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, and their specific national and regional development priorities, objectives and circumstances, should continue to advance the implementation of their commitments under the Convention to address climate change and its adverse effects in order to achieve sustainable development.
- (v) International cooperation should be promoted in developing and disseminating innovative technologies in respect of key sectors of development. Technology

transfer should be strengthened, including through concrete projects and capacity-building in all relevant sectors.

- (vi) Annex I countries should fully implement their commitments under the Convention in taking the lead on reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and also those relating to financial resources, technology transfer and capacity building in respect of Annex II countries.

5. It will be recalled that the Seventh session of the Conference of Parties held in Marrakesh in 2001 had successfully completed work on the rules, modalities and procedures for the Mechanisms, namely the Clean Development Mechanism, Joint Implementation and Emissions Trading. Consequently, the Eighth session paid attention to the need to address issues surrounding adaptation as a priority. The Delhi Ministerial Declaration recognizes that adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change is of high priority for all countries and requires urgent attention and action on the part of all countries. Effective and result-based measures should be supported for the development of approaches at all levels on vulnerability and adaptation, as well as capacity building for the integration of adaptation concerns into sustainable development strategies.

Mr. Chairman,

6. India has consistently argued that strengthening of global cooperation is central to any effort to address global environmental problems. This year, just before the Johannesburg Summit and almost at the same time as Brazil and China, we ratified the Kyoto Protocol. We call on countries that have not done so to accede to the Protocol.

7. India's economy has grown rapidly in the last two decades. A major part of this growth is due to the service sectors, including information technology, bio-technology, and media and entertainment. A cumulative effect of these policies has been that the energy intensity of our GDP has been declining steadily. India's contribution – indeed, the contribution of all the developing countries – to greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere is very little, compared to that of the industrialized countries. This will continue to be the case for several decades to come. Besides, our per capita Green House Gas Emissions are only a fraction of the world average, and of an order of magnitude below that of many developed countries. This situation will also continue to remain unchanged for several decades to come. At the same time, our per capita incomes are a small fraction of those in the industrialized countries. Developing countries do not have adequate resources to meet their basic needs. Any measures sought to be imposed on developing countries for climate change mitigation will bring additional strain to our already fragile economies, and will adversely affect our effort to achieve higher GDP growth rates to eradicate poverty speedily. Finally, the GHG intensity of our economies, even at purchasing power parity, is low, and in any case, far lower than that of industrialised countries. For all these reasons, we strongly feel that recent suggestions made for commencing a process to enhance commitment of developing countries on mitigating climate change beyond those included in the Convention, are totally misplaced.

Thank You, Mr. Chairman.