

Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting for CSD - 15

Intervention by the Indian delegation on Energy for Sustainable Development

[27 February, 2007]

Madam Chairperson,

We associate ourselves with the statement made by Pakistan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Removal of poverty is the immediate imperative for most of the developing countries. We have set ambitious development goals for ourselves in India. But it is clear that realizing them will require increased use of energy.

We need sustained R & D in new technologies, which would respond to concerns of global environmental sustainability, and economic growth, and are also relevant to the natural resource endowments of developing countries.

In this context, cooperation between R & D institutions in developed and developing countries, with sharing of the resulting IPRs, should be fostered we also need to recognize that the TRIPS agreement on IPRs needs to embody a new global compact, that of balancing rewards to the innovator, with the need to ensure dissemination of technologies for sustainable development in a manner which does not impede growth and poverty alleviation in developing countries.

Technology development may also be accomplished by giving long-term, and strong signals to the private sector, through commitments by developed countries to address their unsustainable patterns of consumption and production. Developing countries, for their part, may participate through market-based mechanisms, of which the CDM is one successful example, which are supportive of their sustainable development.

Madam Chairperson,

Fossil fuels will be around for several decades yet and it will be a while, before the clean energy technologies are developed to the point where they are cost-competitive, transferred, and deployed. In the interim, we must not demonize technologies such as storage hydropower, and civilian nuclear technology. Rather, we must take all necessary steps to eliminate curbs, or disincentives on their use.

Given the technology, capacity and resource gap, the renewable and non-conventional energy cannot be a substitute for conventional energy based on fossil fuel, which India is richly endowed with and which would continue to be our main stay of energy requirement in the near future. We cannot prescribe any targets for renewables and new energy sources except to make efforts through initiatives such as the Indian Energy Development Agency that seek external funds to exercise their share in the energy mix. It is essential that developing countries have the policy space to address their energy needs in the light of their individual circumstances so that they can promote local enterprise development and employment of women and the poor.

The true global imperative is the accomplishment of sustainable development in all societies. In this context, it is particularly important to address the question of means of implementation. What is needed is to adopt and monitor targets for means of implementation, including provisions of financial resources, by State Partners and multilateral financial institutions. This would be more in line with the mandate of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.