

**Statement made by Mr. A.R. Ghanashyam, Joint Secretary(UNES),
Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India during the
session on “Institutional Framework for Sustainable
Development”, 2nd PrepCom of Rio+20
8 March 2010, New York**

Mr. Chairman,

India would also like to join the list of Nations that have endorsed the views expressed by Argentina in its capacity as the Chair of G 77.

Over the years, we have formalized any number of Covenants, Conventions, Protocols and Agreements in the area of sustainable development. A number of independent entities have also been set up to implement them. These entities operate independent of one another and often from different capitals. They also work in a compartmentalized manner but on overlapping mandates.

Naturally, this has resulted in a number of gaps, loss of synergy, duplication of efforts and most importantly - inadequate implementation. The questions framed by the secretariat to facilitate debate and discussion in this regard are very useful. As is obvious, they overlap among themselves and the answers too often straddle on several questions.

At the very outset, India would like to support selective clustering of compatible conventions in specific domains. The cooperation between different conventions dealing with hazardous wastes and chemicals, for example, is a useful case for assessing and determining the direction such efforts should take.

Secondly, we do not subscribe to the view that creating an overarching umbrella entity dedicated exclusively to environmental governance would lead to desired results. Instead, we believe that it would be useful for the Economic and Social Council to take charge and promote greater coordination and effectiveness in the ongoing activities of its functioning commissions and programs.

Thirdly, in our view, the International institutional architecture seeking to address global environmental challenges should remain firmly anchored in the principles of equity and “common but differentiated responsibilities” embodied in the Rio Declaration.

A key aspect that the Institutional Framework should address relates to the support to the developing countries in terms of financial resources and technology transfer. This is absolutely essential for the success of environmental governance.

We believe that any consolidation and restructuring of global environmental governance that enhances regulatory control and develops across-the-board normative and prescriptive standards takes away the flexibility and safeguards available to developing countries under different environmental conventions.

India supports a deeper science-policy interface in environmental governance.

We are conscious that organizations like UNEP have not been provided with adequate resources to undertake the task of integrating environment with social and economic development and building capacities in developing countries. These issues must be urgently addressed.

We also hope that the ongoing discussions on Institutional Framework shall take into account national priorities and culminate in a commonly agreed and balanced approach to successfully tackle the global environmental challenges.

Thank You
