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Workshop: C

“Energy and Environment: Achieving
Sustainable Development”

(Speech-I by India Union Delegate)

Energy & Environment +
Achieve Sustainable Development

**Hon'ble Chairperson and
Distinguished Delegates:**

Climate change is a serious
environmental problem facing the
international community today. We are

now provided with clear scientific evidence that climate change is unequivocal, that it is one of the consequences of reckless human economic activities involving the

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burning of fossil fuels and that the global warming we are experiencing today is one of the several adverse effects of such activities. There is also no disagreement about the serious

consequences of global warming both in the short and the long run. It is time for the international community to find viable methods for effectively reducing the emission of greenhouse gases

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(GHG) in order to reduce their concentration in the atmosphere so as to help stabilize global warming. The question that we have to address,

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however, is 'how' and 'who' will reduce
and 'how much' emission.

Issues relating to climate change are
often discussed without linking them to
the developmental needs of developing

countries. Developing countries are saddled with the burden of poverty and socio-economic underdevelopment. With the imperatives of poverty alleviation and economic development

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to raise the standard of living of the
people, the emission level of developing
countries like India is bound to rise.
Nonetheless, we are consciously
strategizing our developmental efforts

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to consume less energy and cut down
(Green House Gas)
on GHG emissions with the adoption of
clean energy options and gradual
adoption of clean technology, wherever
possible. We are of the view that any

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long-term global warming stabilization goal has to take into account the imperatives of poverty reduction and economic development in the developing countries.

A balanced emission reduction without compromising on developmental concerns can be ensured only when the developed countries take on greater reduction commitments and

fulfill such commitments effectively and sincerely. It is unfair to force the developing countries to undertake emission reduction commitments without adequate financial resources

and other form of assistance in the form of technology.

India has been stressing at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and other

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Conferences for collaborative
development of clean energy
technologies and immediate transfer of
existing environmentally sound
technologies to developing countries.

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An important component of the strategy for clean development at the international level is the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) under the Kyoto Protocol that created a viable

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way of financing renewable energy projects. At present, India is one of the major recipients of projects sanctioned under the ^{Clean Development Mechanism.} CDM. Despite its development imperatives, India is

committed to a position that our per
Green House Gas
capita GHG emission level will not
exceed that of the developed countries.

In order to meet our national
development goals and to sustain

an 8% to 10% economic growth rate,
it is imperative for India to increase her
per capita energy consumption.

As India endeavours to increase energy
consumption to empower its people,

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our national policies are designed to ensure that the means are sustainable and include use of market mechanisms and relevant technology along with the

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promotion of energy efficiency,
conservation, and renewables.

The past few years have witnessed
the introduction of landmark
environmental measures in India that

have targeted conservation of rivers, improvement of urban air, enhanced forestation and a significant increase in the installed capacity of renewable energy technologies. These and similar

measures, have been implemented by committing additional resources as well as by realigning new investments. Besides, several other climate-friendly measures have been taken in recent

years that have a direct bearing on sustainable development. Some such measures such as the setting up of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency, power sector reforms, promoting hydro and

renewable energy, reduction of gas flaring, *etc.* are aimed at improving energy efficiency and conservation. Such deliberate actions, by consciously factoring in India's commitment to the

UN framework

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convention on climate change

UNFCCC (have, no doubt, realigned
economic development to a more
climate friendly and sustainable path.

Developed countries can offset some
of their mitigation costs by investing in

clean technologies in developing countries which can contribute towards economic development without any risk of increased ^{Green House Gas} GHG emission. Such investments and the resultant

technological upgrades and transfer will equip developing countries to adapt to changes required for mitigation action.

India particularly favours such mechanisms as the CDM and considers *Clean Development Mechanism.*

adaptation as a very important strategy
in the case of developing countries.

← Distinguished delegates, I sincerely
hope that the exchange of ideas and
views at this Conference would help us

to remodel our strategies to address the challenges of climate change and make our planet a better place to live in.

Thank you

Dr Habiba Aritany - Sr. Environmental
Specialist
with us today