

MEF statement/CoP-MoP plenary/11.12.11

Madam President

We are here to find a solution to the entire issue of climate change.

In these negotiations, India has shown more flexibility than any other party. In these negotiations, the centerpiece of climate change actions should be equity. Madam, will you disagree with me on this issue? Equity is the central issue. And, the equity in burden sharing can not be shifted.

So many people have asked me in different voices and at different times about the issue of equity. And, it is not about India. It is about climate change.

Now, there is para 4 of the paper on the big picture. I am told that the world wants a legally binding agreement. But, Madam, the options for a legally binding agreement are all there in para 4- a protocol, a legal instrument, and a legal outcome. Some people want us to drop 'legal outcome'. And, I was told that India will be blamed if there is no legally binding agreement.

Madam, I want to make one thing clear. India will not be intimidated. India will not be blamed or be subject to any threat of this kind.

Let me tell you why I am so passionate about it. We are talking of livelihoods and sustainability here. How do I give a blank cheque, to sign away the rights of 1.2 billion people of India without even knowing what this legally binding agreement is? Where will the equity and CBDR figure in this agreement?

I am not doubting any one's sincerity. But, does fighting climate change mean we have to give up on equity? We must have equity and CBDR in the options.

Madam, look at the text. Is it a weak text? There is last para 10 in the text which says that it will apply equally to all parties. Is this the text that you want to reopen.

There is this LCA text which many countries opposed and we supported. We accepted it. We will not issue any threats to anyone. Is there any multilateral process where decisions will be taken on the basis of threats?

There is pain in my heart. I feel humble and I get agitated when I see the fate of millions of people living in the vulnerable areas of my country. That is the reason why I have agreed with the idea of raising ambition levels. It is possible to raise ambitions when we take actions based on equity.

Madam, India had proposed 3 agenda items on equity, trade and IPRs. These 3 items were not taken on the centrestage but parked somewhere. Yet, we have gone along. We have walked the extra mile. We did not issue a threat. Please do not hold us hostage and force us to say final goodbye to CBDR. We can not give up the principle of equity.

Madam, in the end, I would like to say that the 'legal outcome' is just one more option. How is it wrong? What is the problem in having one more option?

If there is insistence on reopening the text, we are willing to reopen the entire Durban package. We will reopen all sections of the LCA text where we have reservations-mitigation, adaptation and others where the text does not meet our expectations.

Thank you very much.