

**STATEMENT BY**

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**HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT**

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Madame President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak to the international community on an issue of such a great importance.

India shares a great historical bond with South Africa. We gave you Mohandas Gandhi, the attorney. But you gave us the Mahatma, the Great Soul. We are proud of him and also the country that turned him into what he eventually became. I am sure, that same spirit will continue to inspire our common journey in future to address climate change. We are fully behind you to ensure that Durban CoP becomes a successful CoP for climate change.

We are a large country but with a very small carbon footprint. Our per capita emission is only 1.7 tonnes per annum. Our modeling studies show that, even in 2030, with a growth rate of 8-9 per cent per annum, our per capita emissions will not exceed 3.7 tonnes. Our Prime Minister has already stated that we will follow a growth path that will help us remain sustainable and not emulate the fossil fuel-intensive growth path followed by developed countries in the past.

We are a developing country that has large unmet energy needs. But we are moving fast towards using all possible avenues of generating cleaner energy. We have a National Action Plan on Climate Change. We have a target of generating 20,000 MW of solar power in 2020. We are doing this in phases, so that the market develops and costs come down. We are implementing ambitious energy efficiency programmes. In 2003, it used to take about 190 grams of oil to produce a dollar of GDP. Now, we need only about 140 grams in 2009 – a sharp decrease of about 30% in 6 years. This is because of a number of policy measures that we have taken. We have a cess on coal. We follow a regime of high energy prices, mandatory energy efficiency standards, and an innovative trading mechanism for energy efficiency.

As a developing country, India faces many challenges. Despite these we have been engaged very constructively in these negotiations. We are conscious of our responsibilities and have, in that spirit, taken new and additional mitigation actions in a regime of international transparency. We are fulfilling these obligations. It is time the developed countries stepped up to fulfill their part of the commitment under UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol as laid out in the Bali Roadmap.

It is very important that, in Durban, a clear and ratifiable decision on KP second commitment period takes place. We hope that this legally valid agreement to which all of us are parties will not be allowed to lapse due to inaction by some parties. This will undermine credibility in any future legally binding instrument.

We must also not forget that, for a very large number of poor in the developing world, the world has not changed. They continue to struggle with the challenge of eking out their livelihoods and meeting their basic needs. They cannot be expected to be legally bound to reduce their emissions when they have practically no emissions. Eradication of their poverty and social and economic development is the primary goal. Development is the best healer for the environment.

India wants and is hopeful that the Green Climate Fund (GCF) will be established at Durban. Developed country Parties who have commitment to provide resources should agree to capitalize the Fund, its legal status, and also to the structure of long term sources of finance for the Green Climate Fund.

Madame President,

We need to do substantial work in the days to come. Equity is a fundamental issue in climate change. It deals not only with Common But Differentiated Responsibility (CBDR), but more importantly, with equity in access to global atmospheric resources. Besides, the question of unilateral measures needs to be dealt with so that such actions do not become disguised trade actions. Similarly, we need further work in the area of IPRs to facilitate the goal of technology development and transfer at affordable costs.

I have come to Durban with an open mind and a constructive spirit. And, it is my conviction that we will effectively implement and sustain the regime of climate change if the regime is anchored within the framework of the existing Convention and adheres to these fundamental principles.

Thank you.