

Climate Action Network South Asia: Demands to the Government on Climate Negotiations at Bali and National Response Mechanisms

We, the members of the Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSA), hereby make this submission to the Government of India

CANSA through its International body has been calling for immediate action to keep the global mean temperature rise as far below 2°C as possible compared to pre-industrial levels in order to avoid the most catastrophic impacts of climate change.

Furthermore, from a moral, legal and practical perspective, we have also been exerting pressure on the industrialized countries that the initial burden of emissions reductions has to fall on them. Domestic reductions of at least 30% on 1990 levels (the 'baseline' year for the Kyoto Protocol) by 2020 from industrialized countries are required, with a target of at least 80% reductions by 2050.

We urge the Government of India to ensure that the developed nations agree to this level of reduction of emissions. **This we believe will not only help in keeping the global mean temperature rise as far below 2°C as possible, but will also result in widening the carbon markets thereby making it possible for the developing countries to mitigate and to adapt to unavoidable impacts of climate change to the maximum extent possible.**

Mitigation:

On the Mitigation front, India has a huge opportunity to show leadership on reducing the carbon intensity of its growth to the world by leapfrogging on to a de-carbonized energy path way while not compromising on development goals.

All these actions would clearly require resources and transfer of appropriate technology. The current funding mechanism under the Protocol for mitigation is the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) allowing developing countries to access the Carbon Markets.

It is acknowledged that clean development choices pay for themselves in the long run. However, there is an initial incremental capital cost in the short run. **India should demand that this cost be paid through a combination of an expanded CDM and new financial mechanisms under the post 2012 framework.**

The Carbon markets as they stand now are not appropriate to meet the incremental costs of mitigating the emissions from developing countries; neither does it ensure that the right kind of technological transfers take place. Hence CANSA asks the Government to ensure that the Post 2012 framework facilitates the inclusion of a comprehensive Technology Transfer mechanism. **Further we urge the Government to come out with a clear proposal at the UNFCCC meeting at Bali defining an appropriate technology bouquet.**

Adaptation

Given the urgency of the problem of climate change and the potential impacts on the vulnerable population in the country The CANSA asks the Government to initiate an urgent basis. **There is need for a detailed bottom-up assessment for adaptation needs, especially in the most vulnerable regions which include disaster-prone areas.** The government has identified plans and schemes that have a bearing on mitigation and adaptation actions but there is a clear need to further strengthen these programs for building in improved climate resilience.

We also seek from the Government to initiate new mechanisms for funding Adaptation needs. There are various estimates of the costs of Adaptation that have been floated that highlight the vast scale of resources to be invested for meeting the needs of developing countries.

The Government needs to ensure that the issue is discussed in detail at the forthcoming UNFCCC Forum. The Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) under the Convention has so far failed to meet expectations because of limited infusion of funds from Annex1 countries. Also the Adaptation Fund (AF) declared has till date not been operationalize by the Secretariat and the paltry 2% levy on CDM is just not enough to meet the Adaptation requirements.

We urge the Government to ensure that adaptation funding is not confined to Least Developed Countries (LDCs) only but can be accessed by any vulnerable Non-Annex-1 country. **Further there is a strong need for ensuring that resources committed by the developed world must be over and above the commitments for meeting the Millennium Development Goals.**

We would recommend that guidelines for the operationalization of the Adaptation Fund must be laid out at the earliest within the subsequent Post 2012 framework dialogue. Further we urge the Government to ensure that the management of the AF lies in the hands of the Parties signatory to the Kyoto Protocol. **Hence we would strongly recommend that the Government should lobby for the Adaptation Fund to be managed by a multi-lateral framework under the aegis of the COP/MOP.**

National Response Measures:

We recognize that the primary responsibility for dealing with Climate Change lies with the Industrialized Countries. Nevertheless India cannot wait forever for the bulk of action to be taken by Developed Countries. India also needs to undertake meaningful actions for safeguarding the future of its vast populations. **Therefore India must take whatever steps essential to raise funds for meeting the needs for Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change through appropriate budgetary and fiscal measures.**

For managing its domestic emissions Energy Efficiency needs to be the centre-piece of the national and state energy policy to ensure that India's energy security concerns are

not compromised. The only way to balance economic growth and satisfy domestic consumption needs without compromising the opportunities for long term economic growth is by gradually raising the level of energy efficiency across all sectors of energy use. **The threshold limits will have to ensure that applications which do not conform to the minimum efficiency standards be phased out. It is recommended that such legislation is in place by 2010 with the efficiency levels progressively increasing.**

Similarly on the energy production side, India should opt for an energy pathway which reduces its dependence on Fossil fuels. One way of doing this is to ensure that clean energy technologies such as Renewable Energy has a greater share in the Energy mix. **We urge the Indian Government to introduce a Renewable Energy law in the country not later than 2010, which will help in creating a favorable markets for Renewable Energy and thereby address the issue of high costs of some of the RE sources.** It is important that timely action is taken to mitigate GHG emissions before the costs for adaptation become prohibitive.

SIGNATORY ORGANISATIONS:

- a) Action Aid –India
- b) AFPRO
- c) CSE
- d) Development Alternatives
- e) Oxfam (India) Trust
- f) Greenpeace –India
- g) IRADe
- h) TERI
- i) Winrock – India
- j) WWF-India