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HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT ATTENDED BY MINISTERS AND SENIOR OFFICIALS

The Delhi Ministerial Declaration
on
Climate Change and Sustainable Development

Proposal by the President

The Ministers and other heads of delegations present at the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Recalling the ultimate objective and principles of, and the commitments under, the Convention,

Reaffirming that economic and social development and poverty eradication are the first and overriding priorities of developing country Parties,

Recognizing that climate change endangers future well-being and economic progress in all regions,

Deeply concerned that all countries, particularly developing countries, including the least developed countries and small island developing States, face an increased risk of the negative impacts of climate change,

Recognizing that, as Africa is the region suffering the most from the impacts of climate change and poverty, development initiatives such as the New Partnership for the Development of Africa, should be supported in the context of sustainable development,

Reiterating the view of the World Summit on Sustainable Development that poverty eradication, changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are overarching objectives of, and essential requirements for, sustainable development,

Taking note of the progress made in the process initiated by the Berlin Mandate, and the need for its full implementation,

Resolve that, in order to respond to the challenges faced now and in the future, climate change and its adverse effects should be addressed within the framework of sustainable development through enhanced international cooperation. Therefore, we call for the following:

(a) Parties have a right to, and should, promote sustainable development. Policies and measures to protect the climate system against human-induced change should be appropriate for the specific conditions of each Party and should be integrated with national development programmes, taking into account that economic development is essential for adopting measures to address climate change;

(b) All Parties, taking into account their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, and their specific national and regional development priorities, objectives and circumstances, should continue to advance the implementation of their commitments under the Convention to address climate change and its adverse effects in order to achieve sustainable development;

(c) Adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change is of high priority for all countries. Developing countries are particularly vulnerable. Adaptation deserves urgent attention and action on the part of the international community. Effective and result-based measures should be supported for the development of approaches at all levels on vulnerability and adaptation, as well as capacity-building for the integration of adaptation concerns into sustainable development strategies. The measures should include full implementation of existing commitments under the Convention and the Marrakesh Accords;

(d) The specific needs and concerns of developing country Parties arising from the adverse effects of climate change and the impact of the implementation of response measures should be given full consideration;

(e) International cooperation should be promoted in developing and disseminating innovative technologies in respect of key sectors of development, particularly energy, and of investment in this regard, including through private sector involvement and market-oriented approaches, as well as supportive public policies;

(f) Technology transfer should be strengthened, including through concrete projects and capacity-building in all relevant sectors such as energy, transport, industry, health, agriculture, biodiversity, forestry and waste management. Technological advances should be promoted through research and development, economic diversification and strengthening of relevant regional, national and local institutions for sustainable development;

(g) Access should be improved to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services and resources, taking into account national specificities and circumstances, through various means;

(h) Actions are required at all levels, with a sense of urgency, to substantially increase the global share of renewable energy sources with the objective of increasing their contribution to total energy supply, recognizing the role of national and voluntary regional targets as well as initiatives, where they exist, and ensuring that energy policies are supportive to developing countries' efforts to eradicate poverty;

(i) Actions at all levels are required to build and enhance scientific and technological capabilities, inter alia, through continuing support to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change for the exchange of scientific data and information, especially in developing countries. In general, the Third Assessment Report should be used routinely as a useful reference for providing information for deliberations on agenda items of the Conference of Parties and its subsidiary bodies;

(j) Annex I Parties should implement their commitments under the Convention, including, where applicable, those relating to the provision of financial resources and technology transfer, and demonstrate that they are taking the lead in modifying longer-term trends in anthropogenic emissions consistent with the objective of the Convention through the adoption of national policies and corresponding measures for the mitigation of climate change;

(k) Parties that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol should strongly urge Parties that have not already done so to ratify the Kyoto Protocol in a timely manner.
