

**Delhi High Level Conference on Climate Change
October 23 2009**

"An investment in our common future"

Introduction – Political momentum for a new deal

Minister Ramesh, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen! Let me start by commending the Indian government for hosting this conference. A timely and constructive initiative! As incoming presidency of the Copenhagen Climate Conference, Denmark will let us inspire from the Delhi Statement on Global Cooperation on Climate Technology.

As you well know, we are facing a tremendous challenge: We must provide a growing population with the basics of a modern life – food, shelter, transport, heating, cooling and electricity. And we must do so without heating the planet to levels where the climate gets out of hand.

The answer is as simple as it is complex. It is called green growth. In sync, we must sustain economic growth and mitigate climate change. But with a population projected to reach 9 billion on planet earth by mid-century, the magnitude of this challenge is almost impossible to grasp. However: I imagine that here in India – where more than 400 million people live without electricity – you have an idea of the scope of the challenge.

Providing a credible response to this twin challenge is basically what the Copenhagen conference in December is all about. Hopefully we will be celebrating an ambitious, binding and truly global agreement in less than two months!

Time is running out. Not just in terms of Copenhagen delivering. Also in terms of avoiding irreversible changes. So I have been pleased to note that there are clear signs of renewed political momentum. The UN Secretary General's meeting in New York was a clarion call for ambitious action. And over the last weeks,

several major players have demonstrated a very constructive attitude.

Japan has set a bold reduction target. President Hu Jintao of China has expressed will to implement concrete mitigation actions. Indonesia is targeting to deviate from business as usual emissions with 26%. Norway's goal is 40% below 1990 levels in 2020. And India, not least, has engaged actively in how to achieve stronger, measurable mitigation outcomes.

The technology challenge

Technology will be paramount when tackling climate change. Only if we avoid high carbon lock-in, can we achieve what is needed. The bad news is that the impacts of climate change are unfolding faster than we expected. Science tells us to peak emissions in 10-15 years to stay below a 2 degrees temperature rise. The good news is that together we can reach this goal by deploying existing technologies!

But we need to pull out all stops to make it. Massive and up-scaled technology cooperation is needed. No single country, no single plan can do the job.

Together, we must diffuse the best technologies of today and develop the technologies of tomorrow. I am confident that stronger technology cooperation is achievable. Such cooperation is an investment in our common future. And I am confident that an ambitious technology mechanism will be part of a global deal in Copenhagen.

A Copenhagen technology package

The recent UN climate negotiations in Bangkok proved convergence on a number of technology elements, some of which I know have been discussed and developed further over the last two days. This conference has further helped

to find commonalities and thereby provided a strong input to the negotiations ahead of us.

So: The pieces of the technology puzzle are finally coming together. The picture emerging contains a common vision and a concrete mechanism for developing and deploying the relevant technologies.

The common vision calls for development, deployment, transfer, diffusion and access to technology. It is a vision that calls for incentives and removal of barriers – and for cooperative action. A vision that links technology to our common goal of mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

But now is the time to be even more concrete. A mechanism decided upon in Copenhagen could include at least four broad elements:

- First, a commitment by the parties to scale up and increase co-operation on Research, Development, and Demonstration. This could include a goal for increased public investments in RD&D – similar to the agreement among Major Economies to work towards a doubling of RD&D spending by 2015,
- Second, the establishment of a network of technology innovation centres as proposed by India. Such centres could help make the link between global technologies and regional circumstances.
- Third, a new technology body or panel, to facilitate and support capacity building, training and access to information and know-how. Such a body could further provide timely technology advice to both countries and the Climate Convention.
- And the fourth element is guidance of technology actions by roadmaps, action plans, and assessments of technology needs in developing countries.

Let me emphasize, that I am not only thinking about technologies for mitigation, but technologies for adaptation – and especially for the most vulnerable countries. This was also a strong signal from this conference.

In less than two weeks, climate negotiations resume in Barcelona. My hope is that the momentum from this conference can be carried forward to Barcelona. I hope that this conference has helped paint a clearer picture of a technology package for Copenhagen. It is now time negotiators become much more concrete about the technology mechanism.

But let me stress this: A Copenhagen deal needs to include all the Bali building blocks. Without ambitious mitigation commitments and actions, we'll have no incentives to develop technology for a green future economy. Strong mitigation commitments by developed countries and mitigation actions by developing countries are the drivers of technology. This is what business needs to dare make the right investments and go further than would otherwise have been the case. And without ambitious reduction commitments we will have less finance for adaptation and mitigation. So: technology goes hand in hand with adaptation, mitigation and – not least – finance.

This conference has emphasized the role of both private and public finance. Finance is clearly imperative for implementing a technology package, and it is clear that without money, there will be no deal. However, tough issues remain in the negotiations - on mitigation, finance and governance. Here we also need the help from Heads of State and Government to make progress. We should work from the assumption that we can reach agreement on these core issues. We can't afford failure in Copenhagen!

Yes, I know time is limited. But now we must stop talking and start acting to bring the world on a new track. The world is

expecting us to do so. The world is watching and the world is waiting.

Closing – An investment in the future

Let me conclude with an appeal to the negotiators that are present here today: In Copenhagen we must turn controversy into compromise. You must provide politicians with a platform to do so. On the first day in Copenhagen, we need a negotiating text that maps the key options for political choice. We need a clear vision for technology and clear options on the concrete elements of the mechanism. Ministers expect this. The world expects this! And the clock is ticking. This conference has been a valuable step in painting the picture of a compromise.

So: I hope that in the week after next in Barcelona everybody will deliver progress on the substance. That implies coming to the table with constructive and flexible mandates. And most of all: the will to succeed! What we seek to achieve in Copenhagen is something from which we will all benefit. On the other hand, a failure comes at high cost: To the climate; to our countries and regions; and to our people's confidence in the ability of the international political system to deliver solutions to our common, global challenges.

So let us invest all our efforts in achieving a successful outcome in Copenhagen – a global, binding climate agreement.

It is an investment that will bring millions of green jobs in developed and developing countries.

It is an investment that will save us from chaos and catastrophe.

It is an investment in our common future.

And it is doable! Thank you!