

Country Statement of India
Ministerial Segment
79th Commission Session of the United Nations ESCAP

Agenda Item 2 (a): General debate on theme topic “Accelerating climate action in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development”

(15 May 2023, 14:30 – 17:30)

Madam Chair,
Madam Executive Secretary,
Excellencies Ministers,
Distinguished delegates,

1. On behalf of my delegation, let me congratulate you, Madam Chair, for your election as the Chairperson of the 79th Session. I am grateful for this opportunity to share India’s perspective on the theme of the session. The theme is most relevant and needs renewed focus in the light of recent setbacks due to COVID-19 pandemic and other global challenges straining resources of economies worldwide.
2. Keeping in view its commitment to global climate action under UNFCCC and in spirit of multilateralism, India had submitted an ambitious Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) in October 2015 and ratified the Paris Agreement the following year in 2016.
3. Demonstrating higher ambition in its climate action, India submitted its updated NDC in August 2022, translating its ‘Five Nectar Elements’ or ‘Panchamrit’ announced by the Prime Minister of India at Glasgow into enhanced NDC targets. The updated targets in India’s NDC include reducing emissions intensity of its GDP by 45% by 2030 from 2005 levels; achieving about 50% cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030; and create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030 and propagating a healthy and sustainable way of living based on traditions and values of conservation and moderation, including through a mass movement for ‘LIFE’– ‘Lifestyle for Environment’.

4. India also submitted its Long-Term Low-Carbon Development Strategy (LT – LEDs) to UNFCCC, during the 27th Conference of Parties (COP27) held in Sharm-el-Sheikh. The LT- LEDS provides a roadmap for sectoral transitions needed for India’s transition to its target of net-zero emissions by 2070.

5. The Government of India stands committed to combating climate change through its several programmes and schemes including the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) which is the overarching policy framework and comprises of national missions in specific areas.

6. India has launched, and is nurturing many programs for green fuel, green energy, green mobility, green buildings, and green equipment, and policies for efficient use of energy across various economic sectors. Ethanol blending with petrol, the National Green Hydrogen mission, promotion of electric vehicles and tremendous push on the renewable energy front are some of the significant initiatives that India is pursuing towards a clean and green energy future.

Madam Chair,

7. India currently has a total renewable energy capacity of 172 GW and we plan to achieve 500 GW of installed electricity capacity from non-fossil fuel (Renewable Energy + Nuclear) sources by 2030.

Madam Chair,

8. We are pleased that the Summary note of the Secretariat acknowledges India’s efforts in electrification of two- and three-wheelers and increasing use of electric buses. Our Government has taken various initiatives to accelerate the decarbonisation of transport and adoption of electric mobility in the country. The Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (FAME) scheme launched in 2015 supports the electric vehicle market development and its manufacturing eco-system to achieve self-sustenance.

9. Indian Railway has set a target of becoming "Net Zero Carbon Emitter by 2030". This initiative alone will lead to a reduction of emissions by 60 million tonnes annually. Indian Railways is pioneering development of Technical

Specifications for manufacture of Hydrogen Fuel Cell Powered Rolling Stock (DPRS) with regenerative braking system.

10. Similarly, India's massive LED bulb campaign is reducing emissions by 40 million tonnes annually.

Madam Chair,

11. Apart from resolutely addressing climate change domestically, India has also proactively taken a lead in promoting international collaborations through International Solar Alliance (ISA) and Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI). India has undertaken various programmes and activities through these arrangements. At COP26 in Glasgow in November 2021, new initiatives under CDRI and ISA, viz, Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS) and Green Grids Initiative - One Sun One World One Grid (GGI-OSOWOG) were launched. Along with Sweden, India co-leads the Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT) for voluntary low carbon transition of hard to abate sectors.

Madam Chair

12. This year, India's G-20 Presidency, under the theme 'One Earth One Family One World' has included, among its priorities (i) green development, climate finance & LiFE; (ii) accelerated, inclusive & resilient growth and (iii) accelerating progress on SDGs.

13. Let me conclude by saying that India is moving forward on the subject of climate action with great ambition and determination. We appreciate the recommendations and policy options suggested in the Summary of theme study for enhanced regional cooperation needed for faster, bolder climate action for sustainable development in the region and are committed to play an active role towards this goal.

Thank you.