

Statement of India
79th Commission Session of the United Nations ESCAP
Agenda 4 (c): Environment and development

Madam Chair,

Preservation of the environment has always been a central pillar of Indian civilisation and culture. Living in harmony with nature has been traditionally ingrained in Indian ethos and same has been reflected by the mantra of LiFE or Lifestyle for Environment coined by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India. The mantra which focuses on nudging individual behaviour towards leading a sustainable lifestyle has received attention and appreciation from world leaders and leading experts across the globe and has been included in the cover decision text of Sharm El Sheikh implementation plan at the 27th Conference of Parties (COP 27).

The LiFE Movement aims to utilise the power of collective action and nudge individuals across the world to undertake simple climate-friendly actions in their daily lives. The LiFE movement, additionally, also seeks to leverage the strength of social networks to influence social norms surrounding climate.

With India taking over the G20 presidency, the discourse around sustainable development especially in the UN Critical Decade of Action has caught the global attention. The two meetings of G20 Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group held in February 2023 and March 2023 saw interest and commitments from all G20 countries to constructively work towards the objective of the three priority areas of Arresting Land Degradation, Accelerating Ecosystem Restoration and Enriching Biodiversity; Promoting a Sustainable and Climate Resilient Blue Economy and Encouraging Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy.

Madam Chair,

As part of its commitment to address climate change, India has already submitted its Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy (LT-LEDS) document during the COP

27 held in Sharm-el-Sheikh, Egypt. The LT- LEDS provides a roadmap for sectoral transitions needed for India's transition to its target of net-zero emissions by 2070. India's LT-LEDS rests on seven key transitions to low-carbon development pathways. These include electricity systems, transport systems, urbanization, industrial systems, CO2 removal, forestry, economic and financial aspects of low carbon development.

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 of solar energy, enhanced energy efficiency, water, agriculture, Himalayan eco-system, sustainable habitat, green India, human health and strategic knowledge on climate change.

Madam Chair,

India has created and has been nurturing the CDRI or Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure. India has been making concerted efforts to engage various stakeholder institutions and individuals to promote innovation and resilience in infrastructure. One such initiative is the "DRI Connect" which will be a web-based platform for stakeholders engaged in infrastructure sectors. The platform is envisaged to harness the collective intelligence of Coalition membership towards the creation of new knowledge and actionable solutions to address challenges in resilient infrastructure and foster an environment of action-based learning and innovation on disaster resilient infrastructure.

Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS) as a part of CDRI has been critical in achieving sustainable development through a systematic approach to resilient, sustainable, and inclusive infrastructure for Small Island Developing Countries who are particularly vulnerable to rising sea levels.

Madam Chair,

The Government has launched National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) as a long-term, time-bound programme to reduce air pollution in a comprehensive manner with the target to achieve upto 40% reduction in PM10 concentration level by the year 2025-2026 w.r.t. baseline of 2017-18. City specific clean air action plans under NCAP have been prepared and rolled out for implementation in 131 cities by the concerned stakeholders. The specific clean air action plans target the city specific air polluting sources viz. vehicular emission, road dust, biomass/crop/garbage/MSW burning, construction activities, industrial emission, and other city specific sources etc.

The impact of climate change on glaciers remain a global challenge which requires global efforts and actions. The Government of India is committed to protect the glaciers and has made efforts to reduce the impact through several adaptation and mitigation measures. This includes a number of programmes under National Action Plan on Climate Change. Various R&D projects are being supported for studying Himalayan Glaciers under the National Mission for Sustaining Himalayan Ecosystem and National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change. Several areas in the Himalayan States have also been declared as National Parks or Protected Areas and the Government of India through its various organizations has been carrying out regular scientific studies to monitor the changes in Himalayan glaciers.

Thank you.