The session commenced with deliberations on the likelihood, nature, and scope of a LBA (legally binding agreement). The initial question on the need for an LBA was raised by HE Ms Lykke Friis, who stated that it was essential for mobilizing private sector resources and catalysing government efforts. HE Mr Brice Lalonde highlighted why we need an LBA given that members are democratically bound through public opinion, scientifically bound by the seriousness of the issue, in addition to being economically bound to achieving a transition towards a low carbon economy. HE Ms Stefania Prestigiacomo emphasized that for any long term project in a market based economy a legally binding agreement is crucial. HE Ms Teresa Ribera Rodriguez pointed out various constraints within which global climate policy needs to be crafted, such as resource constraints, geographical contexts, scientific uncertainties, and population issues. Speaking as the country that will have the next CoP presidency, HE Mr Juan Rafael Elvira Quesada emphasised that we must approach the process with a renewed sense of creativity in order to build upon the outcomes that we already have, towards the outcomes that we want in terms of nature, content and scope.

Finally as chairperson of the session, in his closing remarks, Mr Jairam Ramesh, summarised the discussions by focussing on mechanisms and methodologies towards compliance, drafting of an LBA around the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, and equity in the GHG flows.
Prof. Jeffrey Sachs began his keynote address by bringing out the lack of focus or any mention of the technology that would take the world on a trajectory of sustainable development. He also pointed out that the race to develop green technology need not be the solution to the problem of emissions as commonly presumed. Citing the example of China, he said that though China was racing ahead in the area of green technologies, it was still building huge coal-fired plants to fuel its burgeoning economy. He reminded that time was running out and the emissions were still accelerating. The problem is something to be addressed here and now and not over next 20 years.

Prof. Sachs said that we are neither on a sustainable nor a realistic trajectory of development. He presented a four-pronged approach that must be adopted immediately. He first stressed on the adoption of a concrete and serious formula rather than one based on generalities. For example, the proposal by some countries for a tax on GHG emissions. This would be followed by a need to begin the real life and death challenge of adaptation to climate change. He described the scenario in Africa where a whole region of 10 000 miles stretching across several countries was experience conflict due to the scarcity of water.

Focusing on the need to bring technology to the forefront, Prof. Sachs stated that unlike the belief prevailing in many quarters, we do not have existing technology that could take us on the path of sustainable development. We need to transform internal combustion engines to electrical ones and we need to handle nuclear waste, which is fraught with problems—mainly the challenge of radioactive waste. We need to upscale the production of wind and solar technologies. In short, there is a need to bring greentech out from the research and pre-commercial stage to the commercial stage, for which RDDD (research, development, demonstration, diffusion) was the essential requirement.

Prof. Sachs also explicated that the world cannot wait for the US anymore, but should go ahead of it putting a stop to the legalism and generalities and bringing on board engineers, businesses, and financiers. Financing is urgently needed for adaptation, scaling up the resilience of poor countries, transforming core technologies, and reducing the cost of green technology.
Ministerial session III
Building on the Copenhagen Accord

Chairperson • Dasho Paljor J Dorji, Advisor - National Environment Commission, Government of Bhutan
Speakers • Dasho Paljor J Dorji, Speaker - National Environment Commission, Government of Bhutan

The session was moderated by Dasho Paljor J Dorji who said that the issue of getting an agreement and building on the progress made in Copenhagen was important. In his keynote address through a video link, Mr John Kerry, focused on the significance of the fact that America went to Copenhagen. He expressed hope that eventually America will lead the world in the fight against climate change.

HE Ms Marie Pierre Emilienne said that the people of Seychelles were already suffering and losing territory everyday. Their survival itself was threatened. She lamented that even large developing countries did not take account of their concerns. She strongly called for an agreement which ensured temperature rise to be limited to 1.5 °C from the pre-industrial levels.

Rt Hon. John Gummer, started by admitting that UK had been a large contributor to global emissions. He highlighted the need for the creation of a new financial arrangement. Mr Gummer pointed out that the current capitalist arrangement was not adequate to deal with climate change. He urged developed countries to act first followed by other countries. Drawing parallel with the issue of human rights, he pointed out that Europe must achieve good human rights records first before pressurizing countries like Myanmar to improve their human rights records. Besides heads of states and governments, the involvement of the business community was key.

Prof. Emil Salim began by bringing into focus the unfinished agenda of Bali which was to be achieved in Copenhagen. He said it was essential to have a second edition of the Kyoto Protocol in the form of a legally binding agreement based on the principle of ‘Common but Differentiated Responsibilities’. He then said that the impacts of climate change are now visible after 29 islands have already sunk. We see water scarcity all around. There is erosion of biodiversity. All around. We also see new diseases emerging. He said an integrated approach was required that can deal with climate change challenges along with poverty eradication and other developmental priorities. He called for developing renewable and clean technologies to raise the value of natural resources through human resources development.

Climate Challenge in Africa

Chairperson • Prof. Lord Nicholas Stern, Lord Blarem of Brentford, Kt, FBA IG Patel Professor of Economics & Government, London School of Economics and Political Science, UK
Speakers • Mr Abdoulie Janneh, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Ethiopia • HE Mr Stanislas Kamanzi, Minister of Natural Resources, Rwanda • HE Mr Erastus Mwencha, Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Ethiopia • Dr Ligia Noronha, Director, Resources and Global Security, Centre for Global Agreements, Leg & Trade, TERI • Mr Gurjit Singh, Joint Secretary (East & Southern Africa), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India

The session focused on the main issues that are of utmost importance to the African conglomeration of countries in the light of the impacts of climate change on Africa. The session commenced with the remarks of Prof. Lord Nicholas Stern who stressed that in the case of Africa, development, adaptation, and mitigation are intricately intertwined. He also mentioned that several opportunities exist for Africa in the field of solar and hydropower.

Mr Abdoulie Janneh highlighted that Africa is already facing the brunt of climate change and although he felt encouraged by the IPCC and the recent Copenhagen Accord, he felt that the lack of action at present is the biggest hurdle to development. Mr Erastus Mwencha asserted that climate change could be looked upon as opportunity if in the international community supported Africa in its effort to combat climate change. He said that having learnt bitter lessons from the WTO, it would be better to start acting now on adaptation and mitigation strategies rather than losing precious time waiting for other parties to come on board.

Mr Stanislas Kamanzi expressed that Rwanda is already facing serious climate change threats. He also emphasized that natural adaptation capacities must be supported adequately by financial and human capacity. Dr Ligia Noronha stressed that India and Africa should learn from each other and build their capacities to make them less vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

Mr Gurjit Singh maintained that there is a need for concentrating on the existing IPR regime for provision of clean technologies to developing countries. He also emphasized that in the case of new financing care should be taken so that the terms of trade for Africa are not diluted. In his final remarks, Lord Stern was emphatic in mentioning that it is indeed possible and feasible to achieve two seemingly contrasting goals of managing climate change and removing poverty in Africa.
Transport and Climate Change

The special event on Transport and Climate Change focused on deliberating upon issues related to the current trends of transport growth and their impacts in terms of increasing energy use and CO$_2$ emissions. Dr Leena Srivastava, Executive Director, TERI highlighted the importance of the transport sector for all countries and the complex challenges that stand in the way of moving towards a low carbon path. Ms Ursula Schaefer-Preuss, Vice President (Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development), ADB emphasized the need for a paradigm shift in view of the growing challenges related to the transport sector, especially in Asian cities.

A series of presentations were made by experts to present the global, Asian, Indian, and urban perspective on transport and climate change issues. Speakers presented the on-going growth trends in the transport sector, their impact on energy use and CO$_2$ emissions, and the pathways to move the transport sector on a low carbon path. This was followed by a panel discussion.

Experts meet to deliberate on an alternative university appraisal system

Representatives of six educational institutions met on 6 February to deliberate and detail an Alternative University Appraisal system that is aimed at strengthening ESD (Education for Sustainable Development) in higher education institutions. The meeting was organized by Hokkaido University, Japan, United Nations University – UNU-IAS (Institute of Advanced Studies) and hosted by TERI University, both members of the Promotion of Sustainability in ProSPER.Net (Postgraduate Education and Research Network).

The AUA (Alternative University Appraisal) project, launched in June 2009, as a collaborative undertaking of ProSPER.Net, aims to support higher education institutions that plan to introduce ESD or that desire to strengthen their current ESD activities. The ultimate goal of the project is to create a learning community where higher education institutions can share good ESD practices and learn from one another.

ProSPER.Net, which is an alliance of higher education institutions in the Asia-Pacific region, aims to integrate sustainable development in the post graduate curricula. The network, currently consisting of 19 member institutions, is an initiative under the auspices of the UNU-IAS.