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Climate change impacts small nations more

AGE CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Feb. 3: Speaking at the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit, President of Afghanistan Hamid Karzai lamented that the last 30 years of war in his country had resulted in "the massive destruction of trees, soil, earth and all the support systems on which his country had survived".

Mr Karzai also regretted that growing consumerism (which he described as the arrival of money in Afghanistan) was resulting in a lavish and unsustainable lifestyle.

Two other leaders — President of the Dominican Republic Dr Leonel Fernandez and President of Seychelles James Alix Michel highlighted how the impact of climate change was being more strongly felt in the small nation states.

Mr James Alix Michel of Seychelles stressed that a small island state like the Seychelles with a population of 85,00 cannot fight climate change alone and needs concrete steps to be taken by the remaining 200 nation states in order to arrive at a joint global strategy.

Dr Leonel Fernandez of the Dominican Republic also emphasised how the Dominican Republic was vulnerable to rising sea levels and hurricanes whose intensity was on the rise.

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