

# Equity must be basis of climate action, says PM

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**New Delhi:** In one of his most emphatic statements reaffirming the return of 'equity' in India's climate change stance, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said global cooperation on climate change "must be based on the foundation of the right to development and the need for an equitable distribution of burden".

Coming days before India makes its submission outlining the frame for a post-2020 climate regime, PM's statement was a closely watched event at the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit organized by TERI.

"The need for equity is starkly reflected in the fact that the emissions per capita in industrialized countries are 10 to 12 times those of developing countries. We know that total emissions in the world must decline, but what does this imply for emissions in individual countries? We must find a way of solving this problem in a way that does not deprive developing countries of their right to develop," Singh said.

This was also the first public statement by the head of the government after the Durban meet in Nov year, which saw India bring 'equity' back to the table as one its key non-negotiable principle.