

Partnering for a Greener Planet

India and France should collaborate to evolve acceptable solutions for the emission reduction regime to be adopted in 2015

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I am participating in the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit (DSDS) following the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Durban for pursuing the work that had enabled the adoption of a key agreement in December 2011. This agreement on climate change is first and foremost an extremely encouraging sign aiming at an effective multilateral regime for reducing global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. We cannot but rejoice at having reached such a compromise.

The Kyoto Protocol and its flexibility mechanisms have also been saved, as India desired, and extended for a second commitment period.

If we are extremely satisfied with the Durban Agreement, which helps resume the path towards reduction of global GHG emissions, we are aware that considerable work lies ahead of us, i.e. defining the content of this regime. The extensions of the Durban conference helped highlight India's actions and resolves. The implementation of India's National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) is a tangible proof of the actions and efforts undertaken by India and the commitments of major developing countries. It is also high time that other subjects, the foremost of which is equity, be dealt with. We would like to work with Indian teams for better taking into consid-

eration the notion of equity. France has always been open to this idea. It appears necessary to us to include this idea in the larger framework of sustainable development. The idea of equity helps deliberate on the possible distinctions of actions to be undertaken depending on the development levels of each nation and envisage appropriate responses. There are numerous possibilities to consider, but it is obvious that this idea will not remain outside the ambit of UNFCCC negotiations. It will help provide incentives to countries like India, not to curb their development, but to develop in a more intelligent manner than that previously followed by currently industrialised countries. Taking considerations of equity into account should enable us to create a regime for emission capping and reduction that promotes access to sustainable development for all countries.

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In this context, we deplore the fact that high GHG-emitting, developed countries continue to distance themselves from the strong mobilisation that we felt in Durban. France was, in fact, among the most willing countries for pursuing the utilisation of the Kyoto Protocol and its mechanisms, which largely benefit India.

This is because we feel that the mechanisms from this tested instrument should inspire the future emission capping and reduction regime. It therefore appears that there is much ground to cover for succeeding in mobilising our partners from the Northern hemisphere, and we firmly believe that India has an important role to play in achieving this.



Unfortunately, time is running out as it is the most vulnerable developing countries that will be affected the soonest. We cannot afford the luxury of waiting for all countries to find the perfect conditions before acting:

► The global financial crisis should not halt our imagination in our quest for solutions and that is why in 2012 France will continue to advance ambitious proposals, such as creating innovative financing mechanisms for abundantly contributing to the green fund.

► The current targeted levels of emission reduction declared by each country are not sufficient for capping global warming to 2°C. This is an essential

challenge of the global agreement that we will adopt in 2015.

► We must therefore deliberate together on solutions acceptable by the greatest number, truly effective solutions that will coordinate the emission reduction regime to be adopted in 2015 with the larger context of sustainable development.

That is why France wishes to strengthen its collaboration with India to place the issue of development at the core of the emission reduction regime currently being formulated for 2015.

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