

**High Level India-Europe Seminar on Climate Change and Sustainable Development
Cecilienhof, Potsdam, 27th – 29th May 2008**

Concluding statement by the Co-Chairs Nitin Desai and Sir Crispin Tickell

We start on the basis, now overwhelmingly supported by the science, that climate change is the greatest risk now facing humanity.

In his address to participants to the High Level India-Europe Seminar in Potsdam May 2008, President Barroso said that this event brought together diverse views seeking to converge on a common position. He referred to the compelling evidence of dangerous climate change, citizens' concerns and the need for a global response to bring about steep and rapid reductions in greenhouse gases: India and Europe had much in common which provided a basis for a constructive dialogue.

Our deliberations opened with reminders of the evidence of climate destabilisation as a result of accumulating carbon and other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and of the consequences, particularly for the poorest.

In response to these challenges, we recognise that the prosperity enjoyed by the industrialised countries, including many within the European Union, was achieved historically by the use of energy derived from fossil fuels, and that it is just that they should bear an appropriate share of the cost of enabling poorer countries to harness energy from clean and renewable sources. We need to identify practical steps that will enable India and Europe to exercise the leadership required to ensure that long term development can be advanced without damage to the planet.

We believe that India and the EU are ideal partners for initiating this promising co-operation on the basis of fairness and equality. As a solidly-based democracy, based on the rule of law, India offers a range of skills and capacities which could be developed in partnerships with European enterprises, not only in industry but also in the green-related service economy. For its part, the EU has taken the lead in negotiating the Kyoto Protocol and moving towards the post carbon economy.

We believe that recognition of convergence towards equal per capita emissions is central to the process of achieving common agreement, as stated clearly by Dr Manmohan Singh.

We note that clear principles are needed to achieve a democratic mandate and win political support for the scale of the transformation required.

We note that the EU and India are both challenged by climate destabilisation and the impact of possible tipping points, such rapid sea-level rise, sustained drought or black carbon reducing the albedo effect on the cryosphere, especially the Arctic and Himalayan glaciers with potentially dangerous results;

We should therefore resolve to accelerate progress on ambitious and effective climate mitigation and adaptation through interim flexible solutions and quick wins through Indian – European cooperation. Such new initiatives will support the Bali road map process within the UNFCCC framework and bring new impetus to tackle climate change while maintaining momentum towards sustainable economic development.

We agreed that:

1. The substance of these discussions should be communicated to the European Institutions to Foreign Ministers and to other relevant Ministries in the EU and India as a contribution to the EU-India Summit due to take place later this year.
2. An India-Europe Working Group should be set up to explore a joint and equitable approach to the challenges of climate change and development.
3. A further High Level Seminar should be organised in Delhi within eight months to consider proposals, based upon substantive research by the Working Group, into the following areas:
 - a. Processes and institutional arrangements
 - alternative time paths for equal per capita emissions by 2050, on the basis of equal per capita entitlements to the global atmosphere;
 - models to show how such a partnership might work, in both the short and long term, within the principle of equity;
 - the possibilities of linking India with the EU ETS and associated technical issues;
 - a road map to a global emissions trading system the political and economic institutions required to implement such proposals,
 - how an India-Europe partnership might in due course be enlarged to embrace other partners;
 - possible sets of minimum measures for effective action on climate change relevant and appropriate for the EU and India;
 - b. Research and development
 - the creation of a network of European and Indian research institutes on climate-related issues such as sustainable biomass, energy, black carbon, solar thermal, desalination, monsoon dynamics, health, economic impacts, and other issues;
 - c. Finance and technology
 - options for financing adaptation and sustainable development, including:
 - how an India-Europe partnership might promote sustainable investments in ecosystems and the services they provide, including further development of resource accounting and valuation techniques;
 - the scope for local and sectoral co-operation including technology transfer, eco-innovation and intellectual property rights issues;
 - information sharing to promote technologies which offer early success, including sustainable biomass, rural energy development, solar thermal and use of information technology;
 - ways of encouraging joint private sector partnerships to support adaptation and mitigation.

We look forward to a constructive response from governments and European institutions in support of closer cooperation to bring about practical solutions that can tackle climate change within the context of sustainable economic development.

Nitin Desai and Sir Crispin Tickell
Cecilienhof, Potsdam, 27 May 2008