

High-Level India-EU Dialogue in Delhi, 3-4 February 2009

Co-chairs' concluding statement

We are brought together by our shared concern over the dangers of climate destabilisation and the many opportunities for enhanced cooperation between India and Europe.

The EU and India are Strategic Partners with regular Summits and a wide ranging Joint Action Plan agreed in 2005. The EU and India recognize progress towards a low carbon economy must go hand in hand with improving conditions for the poorest. To this end, in 2008 the EU and India established a joint work programme on energy, clean development and climate change.

We are encouraged by progress in the many strands of cooperation between India and the EU since our first meeting in Potsdam in May 2008 and by the high quality of contributions and outcomes from these two days in Delhi.

We heard about many initiatives in India and the EU to improve living standards and curb carbon emissions. We also learnt that reductions in Black Carbon and the use of biochar sequestration can make rapid contributions to global cooling, as well as major improvements to health and agriculture respectively.

We heard forceful evidence, however, that the pace of climate mitigation and adaptation, as well as poverty reduction and sustainable development, on both our continents, is still far short of what is needed. New findings in science and changes in the global economy and the political situation mean that fresh thinking is needed.

We also heard examples of how the institutional links between the EU, member states and India could be much more effective.

We therefore welcome the invitation by the EU Commission to bring forward suggestions on institutional links that might lead to long term enhanced cooperation and on practical projects for consideration by the EU-India Summit later this year.

We conclude these two days with a strong sense of common purpose in a shared journey towards a low carbon, environmentally sustainable and equitable world.

In the light of our deliberations, it was agreed that

1. We will prepare a report on high-level institutional mechanisms for more effective cooperation on climate and sustainable development, in consultation with the Governments of India and Europe, the European Commission, parliamentarians, bilateral organisations and civil society in time for consideration at the next EU-India Summit in Delhi in the autumn of 2009.
2. We call on the meetings of the G20 in April and G8 in June to take account of climate change as the greatest threat to humanity in their deliberations on the economy, and to channel investment towards measures for climate mitigation, adaptation and restoration in a 'Global Green New Deal'.

3. We urge the governments of Europe and India to:
 - a) Expedite the flagship joint EU-India Solar Programme in line with India's National Climate Change Action Plan and the EU package on climate and energy. We can learn from each other and global experience jointly to:
 - develop Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) and storage capacity;
 - research and develop HVDC transmission grids and smart grids;
 - promote large scale application of decentralised photovoltaic solar power to Indian villages;
 - develop financial mechanisms which provide grid parity for solar and other renewable energies.
 - b) Recognise Black Carbon as a significant climate driver and develop a joint programme to:
 - build international support for mitigation of the threat of Black Carbon to the glaciers of the Hindu Kush-Himalaya-Tibet area;
 - support a major clean cook stove initiative, including Project Surya and the application of pyrolysis and biochar.
 - c) Develop the potential of biochar as a method of carbon bio-sequestration and soil improvement.
4. The following areas of potential future collaboration were noted:
 - a) strategic dialogue on security issues raised by climate destabilisation;
 - b) studies of the impact of climate change at sub-national levels, including potential costs of adaptation, to inform local opinion and action;
 - c) the potential of low carbon zones as a mechanism for accelerating practical action on the ground;
 - d) arrangements to facilitate linkages of carbon markets;
 - e) enhanced cooperation on climate and clean development through trilateral cooperation between the EU, India and other countries;
 - f) practical steps to promote, facilitate and finance technology transfer of environmentally sound technology and know-how, including community-based technical diffusion programmes;
 - g) a joint initiative for innovation and assessment of energy efficiency.

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The India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, 4 February 2009

For further details of our deliberations in Potsdam and New Delhi, go to www.climatecommunity.org or contact: info@climatecommunity.org