

PRESS STATEMENT

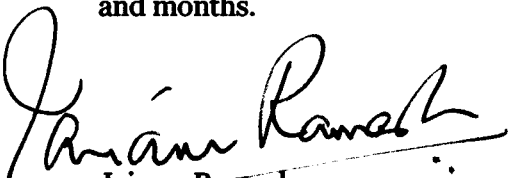
Yesterday, a leading newspaper had carried a news-item on a discussion note that I wrote on climate change. The news-item has quoted only partially and selectively from this note, and significantly added its own editorial interpretations, thereby completely distorting and twisting its meaning. Let me reiterate **India's non-negotiables** in the ongoing international climate change negotiations.

1. While India is prepared to discuss and make public periodically the implementation of its National Action Plan on Climate Change, India will never accept internationally legally binding emission reduction targets or commitments as part of any agreement or deal or outcome.
2. India will never accept any dilution or renegotiation of the provisions and principles of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). In particular, we will never agree to the elimination of the distinction between developed ("Annex I") countries and developing ("non-Annex I") countries as far as internationally legally binding emission reduction obligations are concerned. Internationally legally binding emission reduction targets are for developed countries and developed countries alone, as globally agreed under the Bali Action Plan.
3. India will agree to consider international measurement, reporting and verification ("MRV") of its mitigation actions **only** when such actions are enabled and supported by international finance and technology.
4. India, like other developing countries, fully expects developed countries to fulfill their obligations on transfer of technology and financial transfers that they committed to under the UNFCCC and the Bali Action Plan for both mitigation and adaptation actions.

There has always been a broad political consensus regarding the Indian position on climate change. India has been engaged in climate change negotiations, whether in UNFCCC or other multilateral fora, based on a clear and definite brief which has not changed since 2004.

My note suggested the possibility of some flexibility in India's stance, keeping the above non-negotiables firmly intact and **keeping India irrevocably anchored in the UNFCCC of 1992 and the Bali Action Plan of 2007**. I have never at any stage considered or advocated abandoning the fundamental tenets of the Kyoto Protocol, as was stated in the article—this is a mischievous interpretation of the newspaper. **My basic point is that India's interests and India's interests alone shall dictate our negotiating stance.** As far as the insinuations by the newspaper that I am reflecting a pro-US bias, I will let my actions speak for themselves. India is working, and will continue to work, closely with our partners in the G-77 and China in articulating a common position on this issue, while also engaging with other countries to our benefit.

I had written a comprehensive 7-page letter to a large number of MPs from all political parties and to all CMs in early October 2009 detailing our thinking, making our position very clear and stating that **accountability for our actions on climate change—through outcome-based legislation, if found acceptable by our Parliament—is to our Parliament and to our Parliament alone.** I welcome the feedback that I have been receiving on it. Earlier, in August, I had written to the Speaker of the Lok Sabha suggesting that four MPs—based on posts that they hold—be included in the official delegation to the UNFCCC Conference of Parties (CoP-15) to be held at Copenhagen in December, 2009. I will continue to keep political leadership across party lines and civil society fully engaged on this issue over the coming weeks and months.



Jai Ram Ramesh
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