

**Statement**

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## Statement in the Opening Plenary

Ladies and Gentlemen! A big Namaste from India for this august gathering.

I consider it a privilege to be present at this important meeting which will focus on emerging policy issues under the overall theme of contribution of UNEP to the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (also known as “Rio + 20”). At the very onset, I would also like to place on record the excellent preparatory work, particularly the documentation prepared by the UNEP Secretariat for the Council meeting.

Rio +20 is at our doorstep. India is aware of its role as a responsible and enlightened member of the international community and would continue to provide leadership and partnership in our collective quest for sustainable future. India will be hosting a Ministerial Dialogue in New Delhi in October, 2011 on Green Economy and Sustainable Development. We will be hosting the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP 11) to the Convention of Biodiversity and 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP/MOP 6) to the Cartagena Protocol on Bio-safety in October, 2012. The ABS protocol adopted at 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of Parties COP 10 to the CBD at Nagoya is a balanced protocol, where everyone has made some compromise. All the countries are expected to gain from the protocol, and for sure, it would contribute to conservation of biodiversity and equitable sharing of benefits. India will like the parties to come forward and ratify the protocol at the earliest. During the session we will share country specific success stories on ABS. India's National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) is meant to achieve a sustainable development path that simultaneously advances economic and environmental objectives. Through 8 Missions it focuses on promoting understanding of climate threats, adaptation and mitigation, energy efficiency and natural resource conservation.

In the light of our own experiences on International Environment Governance, India would support initiatives on creating a strong and credible interface on science and policy and market development, achieving effectiveness and coherence within the UN System, securing sufficient, predictable and coherent funds and ensuring a responsive approach including technology transfer and capacity building. India has launched the Indian Network of Climate Change Assessment (INCCA) in 2009 as a network based scientific program that brings together over 120 institutions and over 220 scientists from across the country to under scientific

assessments of different aspects of climate change at every 2 years interval. The INCAA has inventorised GHG emissions for the country, a first time attempt in the developing world. And it is working on the second NATCOM report to be presented to the UNFCCC in 2011. This communication will present vulnerability areas and impact assessments. It will also indicate action for mitigation and adaptation.

India has a unique distinction of not only stabilizing the forest cover, but to record net increase in the forest cover. Between 1995 to 2005, India added 3.16 million ha of forest and tree cover. This record will look far more significant, given the fact that our forest ecosystems have livelihood dependency of about 275 million people, and we are one of the fastest growing economies.

India has taken several initiatives towards greening the economy, which is seen as an opportunity to further growth. But the possibility that the discourse of Green Economy become a stumbling block in the way of other overriding priorities of developing economies should be guarded against. The scope of green economy should be clearly defined and universally accepted to open windows of cooperation.

I and my delegation will offer specific remarks during the deliberations over next few days.

Thank you.