

**Statement by Shri Shyam Saran, Special Envoy to PM on Climate Change at the Press Conference in Barcelona ((06/11/2009)**

Dear Friends from the Media,

Today is our final day at Barcelona and we are in the process, as delegations from our respective countries, of taking stock of where we are and how we take the negotiating process forward at Copenhagen, barely a month away from now. I am aware that both civil society groups and international media have been following our work very closely and I can also appreciate the sense of disappointment and even anxiety over the apparent lack of progress in our deliberations. However, we must all recognise that these negotiations are complex and difficult, and we as India, are not prepared to give up too early and already settle for a weak and merely declaratory outcome. We will continue to exert all our efforts towards what the Bali Action Plan has mandated us to do i.e. aim for a comprehensive, balanced and above all, an equitable outcome at Copenhagen, which has a level of ambition in consonance with the urgent and compelling nature of the global challenge of climate change.

Let me give you a sense of the process as it will unfold on the road to Copenhagen. I understand that there will be a report from the Chairman of the Ad-Hoc Working Group on Long Term Cooperative Action, which will put together the various non- papers on specific elements of the Bali Action Plan, as they would have culminated at the end of the day. This, along with the compilation of submissions made by parties, which is our guiding document , will go to Copenhagen, where negotiations will continue in the first week and beyond until the High Level Segment meets. A similar report will also emanate from the parallel negotiating track i.e. Ad- Hoc Working Group on Kyoto Protocol.

In Barcelona, the various contact groups have further advanced their work, narrowed differences wherever possible and identified areas where convergence appears achievable. This is valuable work and sets the stage for us to continue to aim for a substantive outcome at Copenhagen. The key component, of course, remains the willingness of Annex I parties to come up with significant emission reduction targets, both for the medium term and the long term. Kyoto Protocol parties must do so as part of their legal obligation. They need to commit to specific, legally binding targets for the second commitment period commencing 2013. Those who are not parties to the Kyoto Protocol, must commit themselves to comparable commitments, as they are obliged to do under Bali Action Plan. This order cannot be reversed i.e. it is not that Kyoto Protocol Parties should reduce their level of commitments to that which may be determined by non-Annex parties. The Bali Action Plan is quite clear on this.

Whatever outcome is possible at Copenhagen, we must ensure that post- Copenhagen, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change continue to remain the foundation of our climate change action. The Bali Action Plan equally must continue to form the mandate of our continuing work. We must guard against a weak, declaratory outcome, which then becomes the template for our future work.

Questions are raised about what countries like India are prepared to. We have announced an ambitious National Action Plan on Climate Change with 8 National Missions. Unlike actions being pledged by several developed countries, we have not made our national actions conditional upon international support. We will do what we can within the limits of our resources. But it is reasonable for us to say that we can do more, if global support was available in the form of financial and technological resources.

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