

## **Speech of the Minister of Environment Forest & Climate Change at the launch of India's LT-LEDS**

Today we are releasing India's 'Long-term Strategy for Low Carbon Development' which will be submitted to the UNFCCC. This is an important milestone. Once again, India has demonstrated that it walks the talk on climate change. With this release, India joins the select list of less than 60 parties that have submitted their LT LEDES to UNFCCC.

Last year, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi at COP26 had presented to the world India's *Panchamrit* of climate action including achieving the goal of 'net zero emissions by 2070'.

Correspondingly, in August 2022, India updated its NDCs. With the updated NDC we stand further committed to:

- First, reduce the emissions intensity of its GDP to 45% below 2005 levels by 2030
- Second, achieve about 50% cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030; and
- Third to put forward and further propagate a healthy and sustainable way of living based on traditions and values of conservation and moderation, including through a mass movement for 'LiFE'— 'Lifestyle for Environment' as a key to combating climate change. As articulated by Hon'ble Prime Minister, this is a call for a shift from mindless and destructive consumption to mindful and deliberate utilization.

We are now presenting India's Long-Term Low-Carbon Development Strategy that articulates India's vision and action plan for achieving its NDC goals and the target of net zero emissions by 2070. And we are placing before all, the key elements of India's transition to a low-carbon development pathway.

Our approach to low-carbon development is based on the following four key considerations:

1. India has contributed little to global warming. Despite being home to one-sixth of the world's population India's historical contribution to cumulative global GHG emissions is minuscule.
2. India has significant energy needs for development.
3. India is committed to pursuing low-carbon strategies for development and is actively pursuing them, as per national circumstances.
4. India needs to build climate resilience.

The two themes of "climate justice" and "sustainable lifestyles" are emphasized in our strategy alongside the UNFCCC principles of equity and common but differentiate responsibilities and respective capabilities. It also imbibes the spirit of LiFE.

Similarly, the LT-LEDS has been prepared in the framework of India's right to an equitable and fair share of the global carbon budget. This is the practical implementation of India's call for "climate justice." We have ensured that the

strategy emphasises energy security, energy access and employment while keeping focus on our vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat or Self-Reliant India, and Make in India. A strong emphasis on research and innovation is the key in all sectors and will be pursued vigorously.

We have provided long term vision of our transition in all sectors of economy including electricity, transport, industry, urban, forestry and carbon removal technologies. Our document also makes it clear that this effort to transform India's economy would require huge financial resources.

This Strategy is the product of extensive consultations inside Government, and other stakeholders including State Governments.

The journey to net-zero is a five decade long one and India's vision is therefore evolutionary and flexible, accommodating new technological developments and developments in the global economy and international cooperation. But we also need to be mindful of the risks that this journey will entail. The need to eradicate our development deficits and ensure our food and energy security, while rationally using our natural resources, are therefore themes that pervade our low-carbon strategy.

We are particularly happy to present our Strategy at COP27, which is the COP of Implementation. Our strategy relies on a number of actions that are to be undertaken, in different key sectors of our economy. Our Strategy document elaborates on these. India's emphasis is not on words. Mere numbers are not the goal, and India will surprise the world, not with promises but with actions that are undertaken.

At the same time, we also call upon developed countries to elaborate on their immediate plans on how they would achieve their targets. We see that following the current energy crisis, many have turned back to increased fossil fuels for energy security. It is not enough to say that targets for emissions reduction will be met, when the reality is that they will unequally consume even more of the carbon budget.

In a COP of Implementation it is essential to make progress on adaptation and loss and damage. Now is the time to tell the developing world how the promise of USD 100 billion is to be met. We, at Glasgow, noted with regret that it is indeed not being met. The world would like to know how the resources for meeting the world's adaptation needs, whose estimates are rising constantly, are to be mobilised.

The past year has also shown us the reality of loss and damage and finance to enable developing countries to cope with it is essential.

In setting our targets for 2030, and our enhanced ambition in mitigation, we cannot forget that achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, whose target date is also 2030, is the over-riding priority for developing countries. Ending hunger and malnutrition and ensuring food security globally must be an essential part of our perspective for climate action. Mitigation alone, one SDG among all others, cannot be singled out for consideration.

We cannot have a situation where the energy security of developing countries is ignored in the name of urgent mitigation, while developed nations put their energy security above their duty to increase their ambition to mitigation through practical action.

We must always recall that global warming is global collective action problem that must be solved through international cooperation. The best of science today recognizes that equity and CBDR&RC are essential to making a “liveable” world. But we need far more work and effort by the global scientific community to actually develop the scenarios that show us what the pathway is and how to evolve along such a pathway.

Our future vision of long-term development must imbibe the spirit of equity and climate justice, learning from and sharing with each other, to create an inclusive and just world that leaves no one behind.

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