

Statement by the Leader of Indian Delegation
Dr. Shailesh Nayak, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences
at World Climate Conference (WCC- 3)
on 3rd September 2009

Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

My delegation would like to congratulate the Conference on its decision to establish, in principle, a Global Framework for Climate Services. We would like to extend our heartiest congratulations to all those who participated in the discussions and showed flexibility in reaching consensus on a concise and actionable text of the Declaration.

2. It is important that the same spirit of cooperation and consensus prevails as we embark on the task of elaborating a Framework. It is only through a transparent, open and inclusive process that we can achieve a truly “Global” Framework which is subscribed to by all countries.

3. Developing countries, including India, are faced with the challenge of sustaining their rapid economic growth while dealing with the global threat of climate change. Climate change and adaptation efforts are important parameters that we have to factor into our development plans. Maintaining a high growth rate is essential for increasing living standards of the vast majority of our people and reducing their vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. Reliable and accurate information on future climate is one of the pre-requisites to achieve this goal. We need to establish a system for providing timely climate services through regional and global cooperation.

4. The advances in science and technology will enable us in improving the quality of climate predictions and their dissemination by the government to users within the country for formulating policy and effective planning. It may also help in planning appropriate interventions for minimizing the impacts of climate change. India has already launched its national action plan on climate change under the purview of the Honourable Prime Minister. Two missions on solar energy and enhanced energy efficiency have already been approved. Other six missions are at various stages of finalization.

5. The past data of 100 years show increasing trend in temperature and sea level, in conformity with the global trend. India has undertaken steps to enhance its observation network over land. The Indian Ocean observation system has already been planned along with the global community and being implemented. All these data are being organized in a climate data base and is available to the scientific community.

6. The major emphasis now is on generation of improved seasonal and decadal and long- term projections of climate change, extreme climate and their impacts on various socio-economic sectors like water resources, agriculture, health, ecosystems and coastal areas in the region. A dedicated Centre for Climate Change having high performance computing facility has been set up to address these issues. This Centre will have direct

linkage with the Regional Climate Centre. Manpower development programs are in place in various academic and research institutions.

7. India expresses its firm commitment to participating actively in the development and implementation of the Global Framework for Climate Services.

I thank you.
