

Durban Platform for Enhanced Action on Climate Change
Industry recommends upholding the principle of equity, having a transparent compliance regime and giving centrality to market based mechanisms

NEW DELHI, April 25, 2013. The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has submitted key industry recommendations to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on the Adhoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP). These recommendations assume significance ahead of the second session of Durban Platform negotiations to be held in Bonn, Germany for a week beginning on April 29, 2013.

The ADP's mandate is to launch a process to develop a protocol, another legal instrument, or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention that would be applicable to all Parties. The Durban Platform envisages in clear terms that the outcome must be under the Convention, that all decisions taken under the COP are brought under consideration, indicating that the existing climate change regime cannot be diluted in any form.

The goal of the Durban Platform is to raise the level of ambition to meet the climate challenge and ensure climate stabilization. The FICCI submission states that whilst it is important to raise the level of ambition of countries to meet the climate challenge and move towards a common goal of climate stabilization, this common goalpost should in its pathway not forfeit, rather retain the right of developing countries to build on their social and economic development.

It is crucial that the ADP results in an equitable outcome articulating actions to provide enabling and supporting framework for developing countries to undertake enhanced mitigation action. The actions that will raise the level of ambition would have to be espoused in mitigation, financing, technology, and capacity building. Each of these three pillars should provide an appropriate supporting framework for effective developing country action.

Indian industry is of the view that the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities must be the governing principles of the ADP outcome to enable a fair outcome within the specified timeframe. In line with the views of Indian industry, FICCI has made some key recommendations on certain issues and principles of the Durban Platform.

FICCI submission calls for market based mechanisms like the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) which have served as important tools for leveraging private sector financing to be given centrality under the ADP and be continued in a reformed manner alongside the new market based mechanisms that shall emerge in the future. The submission calls for new market based mechanisms to contribute to enhanced technology transfer and reduced transaction costs. The present compliance regime under the Kyoto Protocol has been commended as well established with a transparent, governance structure and procedural norms and standards. The submission calls for the Durban Platform to ensure that the compliance regime post 2020 should be similar to that under the Kyoto Protocol.

The FICCI submission also calls for operationalizing the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to ensure that steps are taken to implement the financial commitments of the developed countries towards the developing countries' adaptation and mitigation efforts. It also recommends that capacity building aimed at climate change mitigation and adaptation in developing countries must find a clear funding window within the Green Climate Fund. Technology development and transfer is another important area of focus for developing countries to supplement their climate mitigation efforts.

The upcoming negotiations in Bonn assume great significance since Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) have agreed to adopt a protocol or legal instrument by 2015 which will come into effect by 2020. Numerous stakeholders and governments are already working on their submissions and stand on diverse issues which will be addressed in these negotiations. The submissions made by Indian industry on the ADP assume importance in light of these developments and the run up to the next meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP) in Warsaw in December 2013. FICCI made its submission under the aegis of the FICCI Climate Change Task Force, constituted in 2007 and comprising members from different industries. The Task Force is chaired by Dr Prodipto Ghosh, Former Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India.