

FICCI submits report to Government on 'Industry Perspectives on INDCs and Corporate Initiatives on Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation in India'

NEW DELHI, September 29, 2015. FICCI submitted a report titled 'Industry Perspectives on INDCs and Corporate Initiatives on Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation in India' to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India.

FICCI hopes that the report will serve as valuable information to the Government, helping to attract international support for the implementation of domestic climate actions. In addition, this report also signals the areas where the Government could help industry scale up diverse range of climate mitigation and adaptation initiatives that industry has taken on its own outside its conventional business and which could be replicated across all sectors.

In preparation for the Conference of the Parties (COP 21) in Paris, scheduled from November 30 to December 11, 2015, many developed and developing countries have submitted what post-2020 climate actions or Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) they intend to take under a new international agreement. Countries which have not yet submitted their INDCs including India are expected to submit it to UNFCCC soon.

The report is a culmination of the industry consultations on INDCs that was organized by FICCI as well as questionnaire responses on existing climate initiatives and sector-specific focus in INDCs. FICCI also carried out a secondary research on the climate change mitigation and adaptation related initiatives implemented by over 50 companies across 13 key sectors including leading PSUs as per the publicly available information from their sustainability and CSR reports.

A range of climate mitigation and adaptation initiatives implemented by the companies across sectors like power, oil and gas, iron and steel, chemicals, pharma etc are assessed in the report. These initiatives were either as a part of companies' Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR); voluntary action to reduce environmental impact of their operations; initiatives embedded in their core business operations; and some could be under the ambit of Government programmes and schemes. Although in this report, the attempt has been to project initiatives taken by companies outside of Government programmes. Leading companies across key sectors in the country are implementing a breadth of climate mitigation initiatives including renewable energy generation, energy efficiency improvements, resource conservation, waste minimisations etc. to achieve emissions reduction and improve the overall sustainability of their operations.

Companies are also demonstrating their carbon and climate responsibility by going beyond these conventional emission reduction opportunities within their facilities and adopting a range of measures like improved agro- forestry techniques, off-grid energy access, improved cooking solution in rural areas, rain water harvesting and management etc. while creating more sustainable ecosystem and livelihood opportunities in communities. Government and international community have a huge opportunity to further help industry to scale up the range of initiatives across various sectors. Understanding the contribution these industry or sector specific initiatives can make is important for understanding their overall impact on national climate change efforts.

FICCI believes that while India's INDCs must be realistic, achievable, clear, ambitious and aligned with national developmental priorities, it is also important to look beyond the INDC process to a larger process of creating an enabling environment for climate mitigation and adaptation in the country. INDC will help to streamline and align towards certain goals defined by the country. However, the objective of addressing climate change on a larger and wider scale should not be limited to INDC alone. It should be the priority and prerogative of the country to set its own path towards creating the policy, regulatory and institutional framework to support a low carbon trajectory, and to ensure that climate change priorities are mainstreamed into every aspect of policy-making.
