



BINDING DECLARATION

of the Parties of the environmental section

of the **Conference of the Forum for the 21st Century**

held on 29 November 2010

Forum for the 21st Century represented by

European Union,

International Union for Conservation of Nature,

Republic of India,

United Nations Environment Programme

and

United States of America

based on mutual consensus, on the global environmental issues have adopted the following binding declaration:

Noting that, according to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, it is very likely that the human activity has influenced and changed natural processes of our planet,

Noting that climate change, preserving the biodiversity and scarce water resources are issues global in scope and should be discussed on a global and the highest political level as well as on local levels,

Declaring willingness to act upon the environmental challenges with all the required means that may have positive impact,

Being conscious that solving and acting upon the environmental issues brings positive effects on reduction of poverty or job creation in the developed as well as developing world.

The Forum is stating on emissions reduction the following:

Responding to the IPCC, the overall costs and risks of climate change will be equivalent to losing up to 20% of global GDP each year, while the costs of taking action now can be limited to around 1% of global GDP each year,



Recognising that, in reality, the cost is likely to be even smaller, and probably even negative, since these estimates do not take into account the benefits of avoiding the damage that would be caused by climate change,

Noting that developed countries are responsible for 75% of the greenhouse gases in the atmosphere today, excluding those from tropical deforestation and, at the same time, these nations have the most financial resources and the greatest technological capacity to cut their emissions,

Noting that the interest for developing countries lays in diminishing the impacts of floods, storms, droughts and the other effects of climate change, since they are more often stricken by these phenomena,

1. Decides:

- a. Nations would limit temperature rises to 1,5°C;
- b. For the goal to be fulfilled, Parties stated in the Annex B of the Kyoto Protocol commit themselves to cut their collective greenhouse gas emissions:
 - i. to 30% by 2025 compared to 1990 level;
 - ii. to 95% by 2050 compared to 1990 level;
2. India as the only representative of the developing country in the environmental section of the conference commits itself to the 25% emission reduction by 2020 below 2005 level;
3. To add to the effectiveness to the process of tackling the climate change, Forum for the 21st Century invites other countries to follow these commitments.

 **The Forum is stating on technology transfer mechanism the following:**

Recognising that the emissions trading scheme showed an effective way of motivating countries, industry and business sectors to invest in new technologies,

Recalling that the global situation of rising temperatures demands further commitments in the area of implementation of new technologies to reduce the levels of greenhouse gases,

1. Proposes a mandatory 6% offset for the 2025 emissions reduction target through the Clean Development Mechanism defined in the Kyoto Protocol, Art. 12;
2. The developed countries shall support the transfer of technologies to the developing countries by investing in building of infrastructure, providing capacity building programmes, assisting in negotiating with the licensing companies that the licensing terms be more flexible for the developing countries;
3. The developing countries commit themselves to enhance the intellectual property rights, for example by making lectures or providing materials about protection of intellectual property rights.

 **The Forum is stating on reforestation the following:**



Noting that deforestation and forest degradation play undoubtedly relevant role in the process of climate change,

Recognising that developed countries have taken steps to stop the degradation of its forests and the developing nations are still in the process of developing sustainable forest management plans,

Recalling that deforestation in developing countries generates 20% of global greenhouse gas emissions, more than all forms of transport combined,

Recalling that forests are homes to diverse fauna and flora, therefore their conserving is crucial for conserving biodiversity and sustainable development,

Stating that Parties support increased financial participation of the developed countries in projects in developing countries,

1. Parties commit themselves to halve the tropical deforestation by 2020 and to halt the global forest cover loss by 2030;
2. Finances will be directed to the REDD+ programme financed by the Copenhagen Green Climate Fund which will receive support from the relevant parties of this conference:
 - a. To enhance the effectiveness of the REDD+ programme the developing countries will be divided into two groups according to the REDD+ readiness:
 - i. Group of the REDD+ ready countries will get the financial support to initiate and implement projects;
 - ii. Group of the REDD+ non-ready countries will be supported and assisted in the capacity building to make them prepared to become part of the first group;
3. The Conference participants invite other developed countries to join the financing system of the programme.

 **The Forum is stating on biodiversity the following:**

Recognising that each year biodiversity is becoming a more pressing matter,

Noting that direct effects include an increased risk of sudden environmental changes such as fisheries collapses, floods, droughts, wildfires, desertification and extinction of species,

Being conscious that better theories and models are needed to understand the links between ecosystem change and impacts on human well-being and to assess the economic consequences of ecosystem change,

Recognising that, according to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, unprecedented additional efforts need to be exercised to achieve significant reduction in the rate of biodiversity loss,

1. Agrees on stronger cooperation in the field of:
 - a. Calculating the value of sustaining the biodiversity that would be then used on a worldwide basis;



- b. Creating globally acknowledged inventories of areas in need of biodiversity protection;
2. The stated topics should be promoted in intergovernmental expert panels such as the Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services functioning in the EU;
3. The parties commit themselves:
 - a. To include the conservation programmes to stop the degradation of biodiversity such as protected areas and national parks and stricter policy towards illegal hunting into national biodiversity strategies by 2015 and to evaluate the implementation of these strategies by 2020 with the expert assistance;
 - b. To promote measures to conserve the marine and mountainous biodiversity and create marine and mountainous protected areas;
 - c. For stronger control of the implementation of already existing and future national strategies by groups of experts representing governmental, corporate and NGO sectors active in the field of sustaining and restoration of biodiversity;
 - d. To protect ecosystems by taking measures to prevent the widespread release of the genetically modified organisms taking into full account the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;
4. Recommends adopting a system of certification and reward for private companies that are active in sustaining biodiversity through biodiversity certificate which would grant the private sector financial support for their further biodiversity projects.

 **The Forum is stating on water resources the following:**

Emphasising that water will soon become source of exceptional political and economic power; and water resources are crucial for the sole existence of life on our planet,

Noting that series of trends comprising climate change, pollution, deforestation, urban growth and others put water resources under serious threats,

1. Parties commit themselves:
 - a. To finance the meetings of experts from UNESCO IHE Institute for Water Education and Integrated Water Resources Management Organization with the individuals responsible for water management in their governing bodies;
 - b. To establish system for discharges of urban wastewater;
 - c. To establish system for discharges of industrial wastewater into urban sewage collecting system to ensure safe disposal of sludge;
 - d. To ensure that national authorities take measures to limit pollution of receiving waters form storm water overflows via collecting systems under unusual situations, such as heavy rain;
 - e. To ensure that the sources of clean water are protected;



2. Technical assistance will be provided by developed countries for the developing countries to ensure the quality and realization of the points mentioned above under the condition of respecting the intellectual property rights by the developing countries.

 **The Forum is stating on energy efficiency the following:**

Recognising that volatile markets and prices of energy force countries to decide and act on their own energy security policies,

1. Parties agree:
 - a. To implement higher usage of clean and renewable energy sources;
To strengthen the existing or introduce energy efficiency/performance standards for appliances and buildings;
 - b. To address energy efficiency as one of their environmental priorities and appeal to the rest of the actors of the international community to do so as well;
 - c. To promote the sustainable energy usage in campaigns for general public;
 - d. To include energy efficiency topic into their education and schooling schemes;
 - e. To follow the guidelines of energy saving by all the institutions falling under the governance of the participants.

The respective parties have agreed on fair fulfilment of the stated principles and confirm that with their signature.

In Bratislava, 29th of November 2010

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International Union for Conservation of Nature

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United States of America

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Forum for the 21st Century