

## Shyam Saran Press Conference Part 5

It is not very difficult to identify the technologies, which may be required to making that impact. The challenge here lies, as I said, are we in a position to agree here at Copenhagen, a global mechanism through which we can spread these technologies. Because, if we are facing as we say, an extraordinary challenge let us have an extraordinary response. So create a mechanism through which these technologies can be spread as widely as possible and as rapidly as possible. The other thing is that you also need to have capacity building. Without capacity building the kind of absorption that you are looking for in developing countries of these technologies will not take place. So is there some way in which we can create a global mechanism for that kind of capacity building. And even though technology may be based on certain principles, its adaptation to different regions may require some innovation, which is the reason we came up with the idea of regional innovation centers which would make these techs adapted to local conditions. And then in turn, further innovations take place based on the requirements of those particular regions. For us that is the real challenge apart from the challenge of coming up with transformational technologies for the future. And this is not something new. I've frequently given the example of the ITER (?) Project where a group of countries have come together to work on fusion technology for the future. There are ways in which we can create a global platform through which pooling together the best scientific and technical resources in the world- both in developed and developing countries, which will give you the kind of technological punch that you are looking for for the future. This is the challenge. This is where we are not able to get a consensus especially from our developed country partners.

Q. There is a feeling that G-77 is not speaking in as much a single voice as it did perhaps at Rio and the very fact that Mexico has a proposal that only partly meets our aspirations...

A. Mexico is not a part of G-77. However, having said that I think let us not exaggerate the differences that are there between in G-77 and China. After all it is a grouping of more than a 100 countries and to expect that each and every one of them will be exactly having the same identical position is simply not realistic. What is more important for me is that as far as the broad issues are concerned and some of the critical strategic issues are concerned, G77 and China are completely on board. The key issues as I have already mentioned are that we are not renegotiating a climate treaty here. We insist upon the reaffirmation and the validity of the UNFCCC. We want our discussions here to be within the parameters of the BAP. As soon as you start going outside these parameters, difficulties will arise. We do not want the KP to be dumped. We believe that KP is valid and that parties to the KP should fulfill the obligations that they have undertaken under KP. No one in G77 and China has any problem with this. G77 and China do not have any difference of opinion among themselves that the lead in emission reductions is to be taken by developed countries. There may be some difference in terms of the scale required- we say that at least 40%, some of the countries belong to the ASIDS say 45%. They are even more demanding than other developing countries. None of the developing countries disagree with the proposition that adaptation is as big a challenge as mitigation

especially for developing nations. So unless we have a package at Copenhagen that addresses the urgent issue of adaptation, such a deal would have very little relevance for developing countries. No one in G77 and China has any difference of opinion with respect to the fact that unless there is large scale mobilization of financial resources, in order to permit developing countries to meet their adaptation and mitigation challenges, we are not going to get very far. And lastly, as I mentioned- technology transfer. So if you look at it- isn't it a rather strong consensus? There may be some difference of opinion on specific issues. But lets not exaggerate those differences. There is a very strong consensus on the major issues as I have mentioned and it is very important that this consensus between G77 and China be maintained.

Q. on adaptation- can we wait for all those funds from the developed countries to come before we...

A. where is the question of waiting? We have to do what we have to do.

Q. what are we doing?

A. What is the National Action Plan on Climate Change all about? Take one example. Agriculture. We have a national mission on agriculture. Some of the key components of that mission are how will we deal with a situation where because of a rise in sea levels, increased salinity takes place in a large part of your coastal plains. Already in certain areas because of the erosion of the coast and sea water coming in, you already have a major problem of salinity. Considerable amount of work is going on – both within the government as well as outside the government to see whether or not it is possible for us to develop crop strains which can grow on saline soils. In Orissa actually there have been pilot projects which have been very successful. In other areas we have found that unless you have crop strains, which have a higher degree of thermal resistance, i.e they are able to survive in wide variations of temperature especially high temperatures we will have a problem. So a lot of the research today is focused on developing crop strains that are more thermal resistant. That is essential. How do I adapt myself to changes, which are already taking place and those that are going to be taking place. One is prospective one is what are you going to do now? These are expenditures, which cannot wait. If there is flooding which takes place you can not say that I have to work on mitigation and I have to wait for money to come from outside, I can not do anything just now. You have to do it. Look at the floods, which are taking place. Whether it is due to climate change or not the consequences are the same. You have to be prepared to be able to deal with it, so unless you develop the infrastructure- whether it is the National Disaster Management infrastructure or the capabilities of district administration all around the country, empowering local governments so that they can take care of these kind of situations. How will you deal with the damage? This is a very wide ranging in character but what I'm trying to convey is the government is very focused on this and through the national missions on climate change is trying to build up your capability to deal with adaptation issues. Take for example the national mission on the Himalyas. Obviously if there is melting of ice going to be taking place, it will have an impact on the 500 million people who live in the Indo Gangetic plain. Obviously you have to be concerned. The first order

of business in this mission is to try and understand what exactly is happening because the evidence is anecdotal but you need to have this backed up scientifically. So a lot of studies are now being initiated in the Himalayas using satellite technology, using ground surveys to have a better idea of exactly what is happening. And then, if there is change that is taking place then how do we empower communities who are living in these areas as well as downstream to adapt to these changes. It is a huge challenge. And it is a challenge, to answer your question which can not be wholly dependent upon what can come from outside. What comes from outside of course improves our capabilities but it doesn't mean that until that funding comes we can sit back and do nothing.