

India attends G-8 Summit and meeting of O-5 in Germany

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Under the Heiligendamm Process, proposed by Chancellor Merkel, the outreach partners will continue to discuss and review progress in four key areas till the 2009 summit in Italy — cross-border investment, research, development and energy efficiency.

In a joint statement issued after the G-8 Outreach Summit, the two sides said: "We commit to embark on a high-level dialogue on specific challenges as proposed by the G-8 as a follow-up to continue discussions in a more structured manner for a period of two years until the G-8 Summit in 2009."

The engagement between G-8 and the outreach partners has been more informal in nature which some of the members now want to institutionalise.

In energy, the two sides said they would not only promote cost-effective use of fossil fuels and clean coal technology, but also increase the use of renewable energy sources.

They also committed themselves to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and said they would also follow the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities.

Coming to global governance, the five outreach countries reiterated the need to make the structures of global governance more democratic, representative and legitimate by increasing the participation of developing countries in the decision-making bodies of multilateral institutions. ■



Prime Minister Manmohan Singh addressing a meeting with the leaders of Outreach Countries (O-5) during the G-8 Summit at Berlin in Germany on June 7.

'G-5' leaders propose a separate summit

Brazilian President Luis Inacio Lula da Silva has proposed that the group of outreach allies (G-5) — India, Brazil, China, Mexico and South Africa — get together again at a forum other than that of the G-8 so that its own meetings are no longer incidental to the meetings and agenda of the eight most industrialised countries. Welcoming the proposal, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, quoting Jawaharlal Nehru, said that developing countries were partners and not petitioners before the chanceries of the world. The five agreed to instruct their foreign ministers to meet this autumn on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly to "coordinate their positions" on issues of common interest. The idea is not to stop engaging with the G8 but to explore the full range of issues that the G5 can work on itself. ■

PM's Intervention on Climate Change at Heiligendamm Meeting of G8 plus 5, June 8, 2007

Madam Chancellor, Dear Colleagues,

I must thank you for raising this issue, of such significance for us and our future generations. We all have a vested interest in making our planet secure for our children and grandchildren. India's GHG emissions are among the lowest in per-capita terms. Moreover, being only around 4% of the world's emissions, action by us will have a marginal effect on overall emissions. Nonetheless we recognize wholeheartedly our responsibilities as a developing country. We wish to engage constructively and productively with the international community and to add our weight to global efforts to preserve and protect the environment.

We are determined that India's per capita GHG emissions are not going to exceed those of developed countries even while pursuing policies of development and economic growth.

We must work together to find pragmatic, practical solutions, which are for the benefit of entire humankind. These should include mitigation and adaptation strategies with fair burden sharing and measures to realize sustainable patterns of consumption and production.

The process of burden sharing must be fair. It should take into account where the primary responsibility for the present levels of GHG concentration rests and not perpetuate poverty among the developing countries. No strategy should foreclose for them the possibilities of accelerated social and economic development.

The principle of common but differentiated responsibility and respective capability is very important.

The time is not ripe for developing countries to take quantitative targets as these would be counter-productive on their devel-

opment processes.

Adaptation is the key for developing countries. It needs to be adequately resourced without detracting funds meant for development, which, in any case, is the best form of adaptation.

The determination of any particular stabilization goal and the time-frame in which it should be achieved needs to be made at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

This should be preceded by a scientific consensus on impacts at different levels of GHG going beyond the current IPCC findings, which still document many uncertainties.

It is important that critical and promising clean technologies are made affordable for developing countries, where there is large reliance on fossil fuels.

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