



ATTN: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Government of India
FROM: Malini Mehra, Centre for Social Markets
CC: Shri Shyam Saran, PM's Special Envoy; Shri Jairam Ramesh,
Minister, MoEF; Prof MS Swaminathan, MSS Research Foundation

RE: Women & Climate Change: Leadership & Action by Govt of India

6 July 2009

Dear Prime Minister,

The **Centre for Social Markets** is an Indian non-profit organization that has taken a leadership position on climate change for many years. Way back in 2001, we organized India's first ever carbon neutral event in Kolkata. We have continued that tradition of leadership by launching CLIMATE CHALLENGE INDIA, the country's first national mobilization campaign on climate change in 2007; and more recently our film IN GOOD COMPANY, profiling corporate leadership on climate change. Most recently, we have launched India's first ever PORTAL dedicated to climate change: www.climatechallengeindia.org

Prime Minister, I am writing to you now to support women's leadership on climate change, and ensure that the Government of India mainstreams gender into all of its climate change analysis, representation and the very delegation itself for COP15.

This follows from a recent Panel that **Professor MS Swaminathan** and I spoke on in Geneva at the Global Humanitarian Forum initiated by Kofi Annan.

At our Panel – **Climate Change and Poor Women** – (report attached) the call came through loud and clear for women's leadership, voices and interests to be reflected in an unequivocal way at all levels of decision-making – including preparations for the COP15 negotiations and domestic policy making and implementation.

I would like to bring the following specific recommendations that emerged from our Panel to your attention:

1. **Women's Leadership:** Ensure that women play a strong and visible role in the leadership of COP 15. Their engagement could not only help change the dynamics and bring a sharper focus on securing an effective and equitable outcome in December

2009, but also reframe COP15 as the first significant step towards a greener more equitable world for us all.

2. Women's Representation: The need to ensure that diverse women's voices from around the world were represented in the negotiations fully and effectively. This could only be realised if women made up at least half of all negotiating teams. If governments are unable to deliver on this, they should ask themselves why – and work to correct it.

3. Gender Mainstreaming of National Climate Action Plans: The need to ensure that national action plans took full account of gender differentials and delivered for the poorest in society – in other words the 70% of women who make up the majority of the poor worldwide. This needs to be a feature now of domestic dialogue to democratise policy-making and position-taking on climate change.

I would be most grateful if you could kindly support these recommendations and endorse their implementation by the Govt of India, its constituent ministries and agencies.

For our part, CSM will be disseminating this call widely and will also bring attention to your response to the recommendations.

Thank you for your attention to this matter – I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



(Ms) Malini Mehra FRSA
Founder & CEO

Centre for Social Markets

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www.csmworld.org

www.climatechallengeindia.

www.ingoodcompany.csmworld.org