

CSM Statement - Opening of UN Climate talks in Copenhagen

7 December 2009

In 2007, the Centre for Social Markets launched a major national campaign - 'Climate Challenge India' - to change the way we think and act on climate change in India.

The first of its kind, the campaign promoted a fiercely pro-active, leadership agenda on climate change for India. We were determined to move the debate from fear and victimhood, to hope and responsibility. Not as a result of foreign pressure, but out of enlightened self-interest as Indian citizens impatient for change.

We found affirmation from across the country - most emphatically from our young people who comprise the majority of our population and will be the world's future. They want India to lead.

Today we have a Government that agrees and a Government that will go to Copenhagen as a Deal-maker not a Deal-breaker. A Government that will show that India can lead, not just expect others to do so.

Much has happened in India in the last few months and the significant leadership provided by the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, and the Minister of Environment & Forests, Jairam Ramesh, must be given full credit.

Today we stand on the opening day of fourteen days that must re-shape a new world. A world capable of confronting the climate challenge and securing our collective future.

The negotiations ahead at the Copenhagen Climate Conference will be detailed and difficult. But we stand united with millions around the world who call on our leaders to be bold and decisive on the most pressing question facing our world: Will we be able to prevent runaway climate change and secure a just and sustainable future for generations to come?

We are hopeful that a fair, ambitious and binding global treaty will be set in train in the two weeks to come. We are heartened by the fact that 110 Heads of State - including our own Prime Minister - have decided to attend the final day of the conference and make the 18th December 2009 a day future generations will remember with pride.

At Copenhagen, CSM will work with all like-minded governments and organisations, from members of the global TckTckTck campaign (of which CSM is a founder-member), to business and industry, for an equitable and high-ambition outcome capable of keeping global emissions under 2 degrees Celsius and securing a future for the world's most vulnerable people and our endangered natural world.

CSM's delegation at Copenhagen will be reporting daily from the Summit through Twitter and our Portal on climate change - www.climatechallengeindia.org

To sign-up for our [Twitter](#) feeds and view our daily INDIA CLIMATE WATCH reports from Copenhagen, please go to: www.climatechallengeindia.org

Note to Editors:

The Centre for Social Markets (CSM) is an Indian NGO working to promote sustainability and climate leadership. Full details can be found on the CSM website: www.csmworld.org

CSM has led India's first and largest national mobilization effort on climate change called

'Climate Challenge India' since 2007. The organization is at the forefront of climate advocacy and leadership development, and hosts the country's first climate change portal:
www.climatechallengeindia.org

CSM also held a national consultation on climate change as part of the **World Wide Views on Global Warming** initiative - the first global citizen consultation about climate change involving more than 4,000 ordinary citizens in 38 countries. The Indian results concurred with the global recommendations to political decision-makers at COP15: A climate deal **MUST** be sealed at COP15 to secure that the rises in temperature are kept under 2 degrees Celsius.

CSM is at the heart of global civil society campaigning on climate change as a founder-member of the Global Campaign for Climate Action and TckTckTck, an unprecedented global alliance of non-government organizations, trade unions, faith groups calling for a fair, ambitious and binding climate change agreement in December 2009 in Copenhagen.

A Fair, Ambitious and Binding Deal is:

- A real deal will be **FAIR**-- with the developed countries who caused this crisis providing at least \$150 billion a year of financial support to help developing countries adapt to the impacts of climate change and develop in a sustainable way
- A real deal will be **AMBITIOUS**-- and do what science says is necessary: global emissions must peak by 2017 and CO2 concentrations reduced to 350ppm. Developed countries must cut their emissions at least 40% by 2020
- A real deal must be legally **BINDING**-- an international treaty that can be verified and enforced, not just a mere political statement.

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