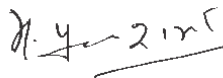


## UN Summit on Climate Change

The failure of the United Nations Summit of September 23, 2014 on climate change to secure any fresh binding promises, especially from the rich countries, on reduction in green house gas emissions or any significant amount of climate finance for the developing countries for adopting greener technologies has been a very fateful event, as this extraordinary meeting, convened and hosted by the United Nations Secretary General, Ban Ki Moon was the largest ever high-level meeting on the issue, since 2009. This 120 member summit was addressed by persons no less than President Barack Obama of the United States and Prime Minister David Cameron of the United Kingdom. Yet, it failed to pave way for the laying down of a foundation for a comprehensive new global climate treaty at the talks scheduled in Paris in December next year. The world cannot sustain for long with more than 2 to 2.5 tonnes of Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emission per capita, which has already breached even the five tonnes per capita mark this year. The total global emissions have already shot up over the 36 billion tonnes mark in 2013 itself, and might cross the 40 billion tonne mark in 2014, almost 65% above the 1990 levels. China alone is the biggest culprit for this unabated-growth in emissions contributing almost 30 percent of the world's total emission and by having a per capita emission of 7.2 tonnes, much above the European mark of 6.8 tonnes. Scientists have been raising serious alarm at the way global totals are increasing and warned against the worst and most dangerous consequences of climate change, expected to affect us within 30 years from now. India has also been moving towards the threshold of crossing the European CO<sub>2</sub> output by 2019, as it already occupies the fourth place worldwide with 7.1% of global total, after China (29%), United States (15%) and the European Union (10%), and thereby would face much pressure to contain its emission levels. But, should the Indians forego their due right of development by disengaging with coal and fossil fuel, while the rest of the world especially the rich and industrialised countries including China, have taken that route to reach the present stage of development, and have cumulatively emitted higher quantum of the green house gases which they continue to emit till date and even more than our per capita emissions in pursuance of meeting their growth targets and on the assurance of gradual reduction .

The very first UN convention of 1992 on climate change had been on this very principle that the industrialised countries have created this present day problem of climate change for their development so they should reduce emissions first and compensate the developing world by offering climate finance for developing and/or adopting greener technologies in the course of their development. India has unduly taken a back seat in the present New York Summit of September 23, 2014, when it should have asserted its right of development and growth by using its indigenous coal and fossil fuel resources, unless, offered compensatory assistance through a meaningful climate finance fund for adopting greener technologies. Though unlike the US, UK and China which were represented by their President, Prime Minister and Vice Premier respectively, India was represented only by its Environment Minister, but he being of the rank of a cabinet Minister, could assert it, to pave way for gaining support for this doctrine of right to use our indigenous resources, till we may develop and grow to adopt greener technologies, as well as for mobilization of requisite contributions from the industrialized countries for climate fund. India could easily garner support from 60-70 other similarly circumstanced countries, worse sufferers from climate change for acquiring better bargaining strength in the ensuing Paris- Summit slated for December next year, by explicitly taking this line.

Due to lack of requisite pressure for climate finance fund, only \$ 2.3 billion could be garnered against the minimum needed seed fund of \$ 15 billion. Only France has committed \$ 1 billion. Otherwise, Switzerland and South Korea each had pledged only \$ 100 million, Denmark just \$ 70 million, Norway just \$ 33 million and Mexico a paltry sum of \$ 10 million. While the climate finances have to come from the rich and industrialised countries including China, which have cumulatively polluted the environment to this level and such finances can only enable poor and other developing countries to cope with climate change by gradually and persistently shifting to cleaner energy sources.



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