

Summary report of Video Conference Consultation with the Indian Government

September 4, 2008, New Delhi, India

R R Rashmi (on asymmetrical impacts and additional concessional funding)

We appreciate the realization that climate change will raise the costs of development for all of us and the importance of accelerating sustainable development has understood in the Strategic Framework.

Glad that Bank acknowledges the huge financing gap in addressing climate change concerns.

Two important concerns that were not referenced in presentations:

1. There is no reference in the document or in the presentation regarding the asymmetry of impacts referred to in the presentation. The developed countries are recognized as being largely responsible for climate change [emissions] causing highest impacts in developing countries. The Strategic Framework offers no solutions for the financial rectification of the situation. This responsibility should be addressed and there needs to be a specific way to measure it. In the Strategic Framework it has to be addressed how the responsibility of the developed countries can be addressed. This is the only way to rectify this asymmetry in terms of development.

2. Regarding the new, additional financing to be provided as part of the framework, it is unclear how the objective of providing new finance will be achieved unless incremental costs can be identified and addressed separately from the development project. The costs of financing climate change should not be mainstreamed into the basic costs of development – otherwise we will be defeating our very first development objective.

Rajiv Garg (on clean technology)

I agree with Rashmi in this context. We have our doubts. For example, what exactly is meant by ‘clean technology’? How it is defined? Is it the latest in the market or the most extreme technology? This needs to be clearly defined before implementing projects.

Dasgupta (on use of concessional funds)

You spoke of win-win measures, but what is the extent to which you envisage concessional financing going beyond these measures?

Also, the overall target of raising 5-6 billion dollars was mentioned by Ms. de Nevers – how much will be offered under concessional terms and how much will be available for mitigation work in India?

Rashmi (on governance of funds)

Another issue is governance. There is a reference to trust fund committees. Do you foresee a situation where this will be integrated into the general governance structure that emerges after the Convention? And will these funds be consistent with the principles that result from the Convention?

Mr. Dasgupta (on hydropower)

On the issue of hydropower, the presentation talked about screening for climate risks. Did you mean the risks resulting from hydropower projects? Since hydropower could be considered a clean energy and will have to play a crucial role, what is the Bank's position on this point?