



Confederation of Indian Industry



**On the occasion of the visit of H.E. Mr Laurent Fabius
French Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development**

**Panel discussion organized by the Embassy of France, TERI and CII on
“Sustainable Growth in Response to Climate Change: Indo-French Perspectives”**

**Tuesday, 1st July 2014
India Habitat Centre – Stein Auditorium**

New Delhi, 1st July 2014

On the occasion of the visit to India of H.E. Mr Laurent Fabius, Hon’ble Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development of France (30th June – 1st July 2014), the Embassy of France in India, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), organized a panel discussion on “Sustainable Growth in Response to Climate Change: Indo-French Perspectives” at India Habitat Centre today.

Mr Laurent Fabius opened the Indo-French dialogue, which aims at bringing together French and Indian academics, scientists and companies to address climate change issues from various angles: energy, water, sustainable urban development, adaptation and mitigation, finance, macroeconomics and related technologies. **Recalling that France will host the “Paris Climate Conference” in December 2015, Minister Fabius stressed that, as impartial facilitator, France is reaching out to all countries.** In this respect, his current visit aims at understanding India’s challenges, gleaning its ideas and learning of its initiatives.

Minister Fabius outlined **five areas of concrete cooperation between France and India:** cooperation on carbon-free energy (off-shore wind energy, ocean thermal energy); developing our partnership on civilian nuclear energy; water-management in the context of the ambitious Indian projects on the Ganga and other rivers; urban development; and space and earth observation. Private companies have a central role to play and Minister Fabius hailed the substantial cooperation that already exists between French and Indian companies in key sectors such as energy, water and transport.

In order to boost cooperation between France and India, Minister Fabius announced that France is proposing a credit line of up to 1 billion Euros (Rs 8,200 crores) over the next three years for sustainable infrastructure and urban development in India through the French Development Agency (AFD).

Minister Fabius emphasized **six principles: ambition** to bring the planet back on track with the 2°C limit; **fair participation; equity; trust and transparency** as the basis of the viability of an agreement; **cooperation; flexibility to reach a universal framework** which will provide incentives for all countries to join the global “race to the top” for low-carbon development.

In his message, **Dr R K Pachauri, Director General, TERI**, said: “We need to take concrete action at the global level, which I hope people will understand. India for its own sake can go a great deal since we are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. As a country of 1.2 billion plus people, whatever we do is of enormous value to the world. We should raise our level of ambition and lead by an example for the world to follow.”

Mr Banerjee, Director General, CII, welcomed the participants and stressed the importance of this dialogue.

After Minister’s Fabius speech, a discussion took place among the eminent panellists, which was moderated by **Dr Prodipto Ghosh**, Distinguished Fellow, TERI. The included:

-**Mr Ajay Goel**, Member, CII National Committee on Renewable Energy & CEO, Tata Power Solar

-**Mr Talleen Kumar**, Joint Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Government of India.

-**Dr Laurence Tubiana**, Founder, Institute of the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations.

-**Dr Surjit Bhalla**, Chairman, Oxus Investments

-**Mr Anil Chaudhary**, CEO, Schneider Electric India

For further information, please contact:

Carine Brunet, French Embassy: [press.embassy@gmail](mailto:press.embassy@gmail.com)

Zainab Naeem, TERI: zainab.naeem@teri.res.in