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THE GLOBAL CONCERN

India and UK agree to find effective and practical solutions for climate change and its implications

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AIMING TO bridge the gap in perceptions, approaches and needs with regard to the problem of climate change, CEOs of India and United Kingdom got together to find ways of working together.

During their meeting at the first Round Table on the theme of climate change and corporate responsibility differing stand points on the issue of sustainability versus the need for growth were expressed once again. There was, however, agreement on need to sort out the hurdles such as transfer of clean and low cost technology to developing countries, the issue of intellectual property rights, etc.

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Confederation of British Industry (CBI) signed a shared Statement of Intent for Collaborating on Tackling Climate Change.

Speaking at the Round Table, science and technology minister Kapil Sibal asserted that there could be no compromise on India's fight against poverty, though it was important to protect our future generations as well. Speaking about the impacts of climate change already being felt in terms of change of rainfall patterns and loss of million of hectares to drought every year, Sibal said that India need to adopt clean technology to mitigate this situation.

UK's minister of state for trade and investment, Lord Digby Jones, said that India should qualify its stand on eradicating poverty since if it is done at the cost of sustainability, people would not be able to enjoy the fruits of growth.

CBI director general, Richard Lambert, said that climate change was an inter-regional and inter-generational phenomenon and while the industrialised world has the resources to address it, it is the industrialising world that would be the worst affected. He stressed the need for coming together of governments and businesses to prepare a roadmap with milestones along the way to tackle the problem. He recommended a four-pronged strategy to move ahead: convergence, better technologies, overcoming barriers of intellectual property rights and making markets work better.

CII president, Sunil Bharti Mittal, said that

THE BOUND TABLE RESOLUTION

- The CM and CBI signed a shared Statement of Intent for Collaborating on Tackling Climate Change.
- An agreement was reached to sort out the hurdles such as transfer of clean and low cost technology to developing countries, the issue of intellectual property rights, etc.
- A four-pronged strategy was suggested to move ahead i.e. convergence, better technologies, overcoming barriers of intellectual property rights and making markets work better.

