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Climate change: UN panel plans meet in April

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NEW DELHI, 4 FEB: Keeping in mind the financial requirement of developing countries for addressing concerns about climate change, the United Nations high level committee on climate change is expected to meet in April to work out ways to garner resources.

The executive secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Mr Yvo de Boer, told a press briefing here today that in recognition of the need for finances for moving ahead with talks on climate

change, the UN secretary general, Mr Ban ki-Moon, had planned to set up a panel "to look at particularly innovative ways of mobilising financial resources to assist developing countries" to deal with climate change.

The decision to form the high level UN panel was taken after the Copenhagen meet on climate change in December last year. A sum of 30 billion dollars was committed at the climate summit for developing countries for the purpose. Mr de Boer, however, said decision to call a meeting of UNFCCC was Mr Ban's decision and not taken by the panel. "We talked

about possible timings and venues. But I don't expect anything in March, but maybe around Easter (April) is the only time that could be done," Mr de Boer said.

The Energy Research Institute (TERI) will play host to a three-day Delhi Sustainable Development Summit (SDS) from Friday on "Beyond Copenhagen: new pathways to sustainable development", the first major global event after the Copenhagen summit. The Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, will inaugurate the summit. Some of the major themes to be debated include accelerating socio-economic

development as a key to adaptation, role of technology, building institutions for effective climate governance, and financing opportunities post-Copenhagen. Mr Jens Stoltenberg, Prime Minister of Norway, Jigme Yoser Thinley, Prime Minister of Bhutan, Matti Vanhanen, Prime Minister of Finland, George Papandreou, Prime Minister of Greece as well as Jean Charost, premier of Quebec, and Danilo president of Slovenia are likely to attend the summit, a TERI press note said here.

In another development, the environment minister, Mr Jairam Ramesh, today said the

country would soon have its own panel on climate change, as it could not rely solely on UNIPCC (UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) to do its own assessment. "I respect the IPCC. At the same time India is a large country, we can't depend only on IPCC. So we have launched the Indian Network on Comprehensive Climate Change Assessment - It's got 125 research institutions from across the country. We will have international collaborations. It's a kind of an Indian IPCC and not a rival to the IPCC. We will do our own assessment," the minister said.