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A modest accord that is fully implemented may be better than an ambitious one that falls seriously short of its targets — **MANMOHAN SINGH**

'Don't impose ambitious treaties on BASIC nations'

Manan Kumar | ENS
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LENDING full support to both the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Friday warned the global north against imposing ambitious agreements on BASIC countries.

"An ambitious agreement that is observed only in the breach will discredit the whole process (of climate mitigation)," asserted Singh while inaugurating the 10th Delhi Sustainable Development Summit organised by TERI.

Singh stressed that "a successful international agreement will require consensus in two crucial areas of 'science of climate change' and 'ethical framework for giving expression to the central UNFCCC principle of common, but differentiated responsibility'.

Taking a snipe at countries that are trying to set an agenda for developing countries beyond Kyoto Protocol and

Copenhagen Accord, Dr Singh said, "Presumably the countries that have made the commitments willingly have assured themselves that they can be and will be fulfilled. A modest accord that is fully implemented may be better than an ambitious one that falls seriously short of its targets."

He supported the Copenhagen Accord as a crucial "instrument that can bring consensus on the two-track negotiating process" and, to make it happen, called for recommencing the process itself in right earnest from March this year.

"The UNFCCC has to be the centre-piece of global co-operation on climate issues. The purpose of the Copenhagen Accord is to contribute to the negotiations on the Kyoto Protocol and on Long Term Co-operation. It is not a substitute but a complement to these core international agreements," said Singh.

Singh assured the global community of not only fulfilling the endeavour to reduce emissions intensity of GDP by 20-25 percent by 2020 on 2005 basic levels but also exceeding the target.