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THE ASIAN AGE

Eco warriors rethink Copenhagen

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Feb. 5: Two leading environmentalists, former Chilean president Ricardo Lagos and Dr Gro Harlem Brundtland, former prime minister of Norway, came up with strong statement on the need of a political leadership to take the world along the post Copenhagen track.

Both leaders were speaking at the 10th Delhi Sustainable Development Summit.

Mr Lagos pointed out that the Copenhagen Accord was a 'political agreement and should therefore be a starting point for future discus-

sion' especially since the countries which have accepted the accord account for 80 per cent of total emissions in the world.

"A political document must be discussed by those in power and it is these politicians who have the power to take major political decisions," said Mr Lagos. Nevertheless, this leader insisted the world needed to rethink and re-strategise their approach to the post Copenhagen discussions.

"We need to rethink what kind of binding national approved mitigation action should be taken by both developed and developing nations and should this be a binding or a non-binding

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treaty," he said.

Mr Lagos maintained a unanimous vote would be difficult to arrive at, espe-

cially since countries were at different stages of development. "We need to rethink and have multi-lateral agreements in the future," he claimed.

Dr Brundtland, the first leader in the globe to take up the climate change challenge in the 70s and bring it into prominence, felt developed countries needed to first demonstrate how a low-carbon growth was possible.

"They need to demonstrate it is economically viable and only then will developing nations switch over to low-carbon economy," said the former Prime Minister, who is also a special envoy on climate change for the UN.

"To arrive at below 2° C,

deep cuts were required. The Copenhagen Accord was less than what was hoped for, but a significant step forward nonetheless," she said.

"Leaders must remain engaged with climate issues. There is no alternative to political leadership and sustainable development. Leaders of emerging countries need to be proactive and relentless in order to arrive at a new carbon deal."

Rich countries must bear a historic responsibility but developing countries were also increasing emissions. We need to combine both these two approaches to come up with a fair and just deal," she added.