



NGOs slam draft Copenhagen climate change agreement

Copenhagen, Denmark (PANA) - Non-governmental organisations attending the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark, on Tuesday slammed the leaked draft Copenhagen Climate Change agreement proposed by the Danish Prime Minister Lars Rasmussen.

Kim Carstensen, leader of WWF Global Climate Initiative, said: "The behind the scenes negotiations tactics under the Danish Presidency, have been focusing on pleasing the rich and powerful countries rather than serving the majority of states who are demanding a fair and ambitious solution.

"The Danish Prime Minister's proposed text is weak and reflects a too elitist, selective and non-transparent approach by the Danish presidency.

"We understand and share the frustration of the poor and vulnerable countries. We urge the Danish presidency to change its style and move to a cooperative and listening mode."

Carstensen stated that focus on the Danish text right now is a distraction from the negotiations that have just come under way in Copenhagen and that talks must focus on the text that has so far been negotiated and not on new texts that are being negotiated in small groups.

Commenting on the same draft text by the Danish Government which has been leaked, Andy Atkins, Executive Director of Friends of the Earth, said: "The draft Copenhagen Agreement is profoundly destructive - it violates the principles of the UN negotiations."

Atkins, who accused the Danes of holding secret back-room meetings with a few select countries, said the world expected the host country be neutral.

"Instead, we have Denmark colluding with other rich nations to stitch up the talks before they've even begun - and excluding representatives of developing countries, those which are the least responsible for having caused climate change, but who will suffer most if we fail to tackle it.

"The only way to achieve a strong and fair agreement is in an even-handed and open way - with the inclusion of all countries, sticking to the principles of the UN Climate Convention. It's time to ditch this 'Rich-country Agreement' before it even gets off the starting blocks."

Greenpeace International climate political adviser said: "The Rasmussen text is a distraction. His lack of leadership is breeding mistrust at the climate summit.

"Rasmussen needs to get serious and focus on solving the roadblocks that have been caused by the industrialised countries refusing to agree on deep cuts in emissions, long term finance for the developing world and a legally binding outcome in Copenhagen.

The leaked draft agreement says among other things that parties to the agreement have committed to mitigate climate change based on their own, but differentiated responsibilities and repeated responsibilities.

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