



G77 + China urge US to join the Kyoto Protocol

Copenhagen, Denmark (PANA) - As the climate change negotiations become intense here, the G77 nations and China on Wednesday urged the United States to join the Kyoto Protocol, warning that a global climate deal without the participation of the US will not be a fair deal.

Ambassador Lumumba Stanislaus Di-Aping, who spoke on behalf of the G77 + China, said the world cannot achieve an "equitable and just deal" that would save the world without the inclusion of the United States.

"US should join the Kyoto Protocol. Global peace and security is not saved by isolationism. The US should commit to an ambitious goal, because the US is the world's largest historical per capita emitter of greenhouse gases," Ambassador Di-Aping told reporters Wednesday at the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark.

The Copenhagen conference is aiming to clinch an ambitious and effective climate change deal to follow on the first phase of the UN's Kyoto Protocol, which the United States is not party to and which expires in 2012.

While the Kyoto Protocol places a heavier burden on developed nations than on developing countries, the deal being negotiated here requires that the mid-term emission reduction targets that developed countries agree to must be in line with what the scientific community has set out as a beacon - in the range of minus 25 and minus 40 percent over 1990 levels by 2020.

The US recently announced, for the first time, that it is prepared to put on the table an emission reduction target in the range of 17 percent below 2005 levels in 2020, and ultimately in line with the U.S energy and climate legislation.

More than 15,000 participants, including government delegates from 193 nations and representatives from business and industry, environmental organisations, research institutions are attending the two-week conference that began Monday.

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