



Climate Conference seeks clarity on Kyoto Protocol

Copenhagen, Denmark (PANA) - The general consensus that has emerged at the on-going UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark, is for the conference to be crystal clear on the continuity of the Kyoto Protocol which expires in 2012, UN climate change top official disclosed here.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) executive secretary Yvo de Boer told reporters Thursday that the consensus is that whatever comes out of this conference has to be 'crystal clear' on the continuation of the Kyoto Protocol beyond 2012.

"I think the Kyoto Protocol will survive and the Kyoto Protocol must survive. It generally takes a little time for a new legal instrument to be ratified and to enter into force. In the case of the Kyoto Protocol itself, it took eight years between the signing of the Kyoto protocol in 1997 and its entry into force," de Boer explained.

There are several proposals on the table concerning the legal form of a Copenhagen agreed outcome, including an amended Kyoto Protocol, a new protocol and a set of individual decisions on how to tackle climate change immediately and post 2012 .

"We have received in time five proposals for new legal instruments under the convention and nobody knows what the exact outcome is going to be," De Boer said.

He noted that the Kyoto Protocol was the only legally-binding instrument currently available to act on climate change and said there was no good reason now to abandon it.

The UN official however said there was a good reason to come to a new process under the convention that engages the United States and allows for broader participation of developing countries and stimulates action now and up to 2012 and beyond .

Giving an overview on the current status of negotiations, the UN climate change chief said there was emerging agreement that countries want to see a new technology mechanism emerge from this process, which includes an executive body responsible to accelerate action on technology development and transfer.

He also explained that the president of the conference of parties would be taking stock of progress on Saturday and discussing with delegates on how to take the work forward before ministers start meeting next week.

The two-week long conference that began Monday is being attended by more than 15 ,000 participants.

Copenhagen - 10/12/2009