

Developing nations push for funding at UN climate talks

Accra, Ghana (PANA) - The United Nations climate talks ending Wednesday in Accra, Ghana, have seen a united force from developing countries who are pushing for specific proposals to be included in the Copenhagen agreement as negotiations focusing on "Reducing Emissions from Deforestation in Developing Countries," draw to

a close here.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) executive secretary, Yvo de Boer, said developing countries that have participated actively in the negotiations came with two specific proposals: one - on how the funding of what ever to be agreed in Copenhagen next year should be managed, structured and organized and secondly how to improve technology transfer and technology cooperation with developing countries.

"We cannot come to a meaningful solution on climate change without coming to grips to get to the question of deforestation. Countries have made it very clear here that they want that issue to be part of the Copenhagen agreement," De Boer told reporters Wednesday.

He was also encouraged that during the one-week negotiations in Accra, there has been important debate on the all issue of deforestation and forest conversation, noting that this is important because deforestation accounts of about 20 per cent of the green house gas emission that human-being are responsible for.

"There has been a bone of contention in the past were many of the developing countries expressed concern that sectoral approaches were a back door attempt by industrialized countries to impose targets on developing countries, but the debate during the past week has made it clear that sectoral approaches are not about imposing targets, but that they are something governments may or may not choose to do

at national level."

De Boer, however, warned that Africa risked becoming a forgotten continent, unless parties also designed a regime going into the future which takes into account

in a much more comprehensive way what Africa's specifically needs are, noting that there is a number of things that needs to be done to improve the Clean Development Mechanism as agreed in the climate change convention both now and going into

the future in the context of the Copenhagen agreement.

He noted that one of the short-coming in regards to the Clean Development Mechanism, is that it is not leading to enough investment in Africa.

"We are still on track the process has speeded up and governments are becoming very serious about negotiating a result in Copenhagen," De Boer said.

He said the Accra talks had provided the basis for real negotiations to begin in Poland later in December this year where ministers will be gathering to talk about how to design a Copenhagen agreement that delivers not only on the scientific

challenges but also delivers on what will be needed to craft comprehensive regime that measures to what science says needs to be done.

De Boer attributed the positive change in negotiations to the fact that there was a growing sense of urgency and nations were aware that time was running out and there was little over a year that an agreement had to be reached in Copenhagen .

Over a thousand participants that gathered in Accra since 21 August have been engaged in negotiations on global climate change that will culminate in the UN climate change conference in Poznan, Poland, in December before the negotiations conclude in Copenhagen at the end of 2009.

Work is expected to be concluded on analyzing the means available to developed countries to reach their emission reduction target.

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