

South Africa criticised for unilateral commitment to set climate targets

Accra, Ghana (PANA) - African civil society organisations at the UN climate talks ending here Wednesday have slammed South Africa for its unilateral announcement during the negotiations to take up commitments in the post 2012 regime on climate change.

The organisations accused South Africa of causing disunity in the continent and within the G77 and China and urged South Africa to desist from this, saying it was a breach of the principle of collective responsibility by some African countries.

"We also wish to remind the enthusiastic Ugandan delegation to be patient and learn the nitty-gritty and sometimes dirty politics inherent in the negotiations,"

the organisations said in a statement issued Wednesday.

The organisations said while they were called upon to take action in accordance with common but differentiated capabilities and respective capacities, "it is a breach of the principle of collective responsibility by some African countries who have announced their willingness to take up commitments."

Meanwhile, the organisations said they were also dismayed and saddened by the evident lack of interest in the informal negotiations to discuss equity by the "principal polluters".

They demanded for an equitable post-Kyoto framework that would not be anchored on market forces alone, arguing that market, being man-made, had perennially discriminated against the African continent.

The civil society also called upon developed countries to honour their commitments in the Convention regarding the development, transfer and deployment of technology to developing countries.

The one-week United Nations climate talks ends Wednesday and the Accra meeting is the third round of talks since the two-year process was launched in Bali last year and the meeting is working on emission reduction rules and tools under the Kyoto Protocol.

Governments are expected to meet again in Poznan, Poland, in December to continue negotiations before reaching an agreement in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 2009.

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