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India opposes efforts to put Kyoto Protocol aside

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India strongly opposed “the concerted efforts to put the Kyoto Protocol aside”, Shyam Saran, the prime minister’s Special Envoy on Climate Change, told Indian journalists in Bangkok on Wednesday.

“They can’t unilaterally do this by backdoor methods,” he said. “There has to be come comparability between the US and EU commitments. Now there is uncertainty regarding law, scope and nature of commitments.”

“Nothing is going on,” he complained regarding the US not setting emission targets and committing funds for developing countries to combat climate change before the UN climate treaty is renegotiated in Copenhagen in December.

He expressed India’s opposition to industrial countries’ demand that major developing countries should also accept emission cuts. “The US, as the world’s largest economy and emitter, has to take the lead.”

A EU representative indicated that it was prepared to go along with a US proposal to “widen the participation” of developing countries and have a single legal instrument to replace the Kyoto Protocol which included the US and “large developing country emitters”.

Senior G77 members protest change

Senior G77 members walked out of a meeting in Bangkok during climate talks saying they would not discuss a future without the Kyoto Protocol.

South Africa’s lead negotiator, China and OPEC countries left the session discussing the shape of new climate agreement, which would bind all nations in the fight against climate change.

(With inputs from Reuters)