



Thousands protest at Climate Change Conference

Copenhagen, Denmark (PANA) - About 100,000 demonstrators took to the streets of Copenhagen in Denmark Saturday to call on world leaders to deliver a fair, ambitious and binding global deal on climate change where the meeting for negotiating a global deal is halfway.

Thousands of protesters peacefully marched from Christiansborg Slotsplads at the Danish Parliament to the Bella Centre where the UN climate summit is taking place to urge world leaders to show far greater political courage and commitment to tackling climate change.

The peaceful demonstration is part of a global day of action that brings together millions of people in over 130 countries, including 2,600 candlelight vigils in places as diverse as Kabul in Afghanistan, a beach in Madagascar, the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem, and the Hudson River in the US.

Mary Robinson, Honorary President of Oxfam International and former President of Ireland, said the global day of action was reminding governments that climate change was hurting people.

"This is a human rights issue - climate change is undermining people's livelihoods and their access to health and education. It is affecting poor countries' efforts to reach the Millennium Development Goals. Copenhagen must deliver deep emission reductions," Robinson said.

Constance Okollet, a peasant farmer from Uganda, said: "our lives have changed because of climate change. We need help. Put some money (aside) for us and help us adapt to the devastating impacts of global warming. Where is the next generation going to be if the children are dying now?"

"Millions of people are already losing their homes to the rising sea, their crops to worsening droughts and their sources of drinking water as glaciers melt. We cannot squander this opportunity to avert runaway climate change. Our message to the over 120 heads of state who arrive next week in Copenhagen is united, it is global, it is loud and it is clear: The time to unite and change the future is now," said Kumi Naidoo, Greenpeace International Executive Director, who participated in demonstration said.

The first week of the talks has been dominated by a determined push for a legally binding agreement by developing countries and calls for the United States and China to put sufficient emission reduction targets on the table.

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