



EU concerned at 'slow pace' of Climate Change negotiations

Copenhagen, Denmark (PANA) - The European Union on Saturday expressed concern at the slow pace of negotiations at the UN Climate Change talks in Copenhagen, Denmark, warning that negotiators would not conclude their work if negotiations continued at current pace.

The EU also said the emission targets currently on the table were too low to reach the 2 degrees Celsius target and called for a broader agreement that would deliver the target.

Swedish Minister for Environment, Andreas Carlgren, who is leading the ministers of environment from the EU member states, said the conference needed to ensure that all the basic elements of the Kyoto protocol were brought into a new agreement which would also cover United States and China.

"Half of the world's emissions are represented by U.S which is not part of the Kyoto Protocol and also China which has no commitment under the Kyoto Protocol.

"This shows very well that without creating an instrument that could create the sufficient tools we will never reach the 2 degrees Celsius target," Carlgren said at a press conference.

"We must aim at an instrument that would build on the Kyoto Protocol and create sufficient conditions to reach the 2 degrees Celsius target, and making sure the U.S will have the same kind of binding targets we have and also making sure that emerging economies would commit to actions."

He said the EU was in full agreement that it should put further pressure on others to make sure they delivered more, and that the conference needed more ambitious targets both from the U.S and China.

Meanwhile, Ministers who will start meeting next week for the UN Climate Change Conference that is negotiating a global climate deal have been urged to fill in the numbers against both the cuts in emissions and the money to make the deal possible.

World Wildlife Federation (WWF) leader of global climate initiative Kim Carstensen said "putting in the numbers is where we can bridge the divide between the ambitions governments have shown so far and what we really need to do to stay out of the climate catastrophe zone".

He warned that texts presented by the chairmen of the negotiating group did not answer questions on the legal format of the future agreement.

"Adding ambitious numbers to the framework texts and purging the remaining loopholes that could undermine the integrity of the deal is important," said Carstensen, adding "but to make it reliable and watertight, we also need to have it legally binding."

Carstensen said ministers and later heads of state would be able to address issues that negotiators had little freedom to move on.

"If we can bridge the divide between what the developed nations are prepared to do and what the emerging and developing world want to see happen, we will have a Copenhagen climate deal," Carstensen did.

"Clearly there has to be action on all sides for the greater global outcome. For the wealthy world, the science and the equity arguments all point to increased cuts in emissions and more money on the table for those who have contributed little to the problem of climate change but will suffer the most of the consequences," he added.

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