



## **Oxfam charges private sector to support global climate deal**

**Copenhagen, Denmark (PANA)** - Oxfam International Thursday cautioned progressive businesses to speak out in support of a strong climate deal or risk competitors derail the climate talks being held in Copenhagen, Denmark.

The warning came ahead of a series of high-level debates at the ongoing Climate Change Conference on the private sector's role in tackling climate change.

Conflicting voices are emerging from the business community - one calling for ambitious and urgent action and the other for obfuscation and delay, and Oxfam is urging progressive business leaders to push wavering governments to show leadership in the climate talks.

"Corporations can open space for negotiators in Copenhagen or they can close it down," said Jeremy Hobbs, Oxfam International's Executive Director.

"A critical mass of major companies has recognised that averting climate catastrophe and moving towards a low-carbon global economy is a business imperative. We are at a critical juncture and now is the time for business to call loudly with one voice for a fair, ambitious and binding global deal," said Hobbs.

Some in the private sector have lobbied against policies which threaten business as usual.

Oxfam said the private sector played a central role in the fight against climate change, noting that an increasing number of companies have taken significant steps to cut their own emissions.

"While many recognise the importance of securing their own markets and supply chains by helping communities adapt to a changing climate, business is also helping to create and disseminate technologies to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions around the world," Oxfam said.

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