



UN climate draft proposal receives mixed react

Copenhagen, Denmark (PANA) - The Copenhagen agreement draft proposal for one of the final outcomes of the UN Climate summit, tabled here Friday, has been received with mixed reactions with calls from some non-governmental organizations to strengthen the proposed draft text.

Reacting to the draft proposal, Oxfam said the proposal did not include long-term climate finance package to help developing countries tackle climate change and did not guarantee climate action.

Oxfam said, unless negotiators can improve on it within the two working days remaining available, this will be what Ministers and Heads of State will be looking at when they arrive in Copenhagen next week.

"There is a huge gaping hole in these proposals where the long-term finance package needs to be. Large-scale, regular payments to developing countries is the glue that will hold together a successful deal â" not an optional extra. Climate cash is critical for real deal, it will enable real action in poor countries, and it requires real action from rich countries now," Antonio Hill, Oxfam Internationals Senior Climate Advisor, said.

"The centre piece of the deal being proposed today (Friday) gives no guarantee that the deal in Copenhagen will deliver action. With millions of people already suffering from flash floods and withering droughts, we need a new legal deal, not more deliberation and delay," he said.

Greenpeace said the draft provided an opportunity for Heads of State to deliver a fair, ambitious and legally binding deal next week with strong targets and long -term finance.

"Ministers arriving in the coming days must agree that they use this as the basis for a strong deal for the climate that Heads of State must sign by the end o f next week," said Martin Kaiser, Greenpeace International's climate policy advisor.

"However, it is imperative that they strengthen it considerably and fill in the gaps, so that it produces the legally-binding deal that averts climate chaos."

Kaiser said the text left the door open for a legal outcome, but this, along wit h the numbers was what negotiators must now focus on.

On Friday, the conference also saw a proposal from the world's most vulnerable countries, the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), which demonstrates how a strong, legally binding outcome with two Protocols, deep cuts in emissions and long term finance can be reached.

"Countries need to fill these gaps as soon as possible, select the most ambitious options proposed in the text and give them a binding nature," Kim Carstensen, leader of WWF Global Climate Initiative, said.

He said Copenhagen could only come to an agreement if negotiations would be fair, open and transparent.

Copenhagen - 11/12/2009