

Major difference looms over mitigation action

By Anup Khastahir from Bangkok

Bangkok, October 5 (BSS)- As the United States, Australia and Canada have submitted proposals for a common carbon emission plan for all states, developing countries strongly opposed it saying it as an attempt to impose new commitments and obligations on them.

Led by the United States, developed countries, made the proposal for common mitigation actions in the ongoing climate change negotiation meeting, reflecting deep differences on the major issue to be settled for implementing the Bali road map and seal a climate deal in Copenhagen in December.

US's lead negotiator, Jonathan Pershing, said that the US wants a Copenhagen Agreement which will differ from the Kyoto Protocol, and where all Parties will enhance their collective action.

Australia advocated for a Kyoto-plus approach with national schedules for all countries to reflect the mitigation efforts.

But, developing countries see the proposal as efforts to blur or even obliterate the distinction between the "mitigation commitments" of developed countries.

They said the developed countries are legally obliged for emission reduction targets and the mitigation actions of developing countries dependent on finance and technology support.

Negotiators of the developing countries said the new proposal of the developed countries will impose new obligations on developing countries which is contrary to the Convention and the Bali Action Plan.

In the backdrop the situation, Saleem UI Huq, a senior fellow of International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) said about least possibility of reaching any decision on the mitigation action issue in Bangkok meeting.

Talking to BSS correspondent he said, "I think it is a very big and complicated issue at this moment and it will not be settled before Copenhagen".

Australia said that it has put forward the idea as a possible solution for an architecture to work for all Parties towards a goal of keeping GHG emissions to 450 ppm or less by 2050.

"While developed countries take on quantified and economy-wide emission reduction commitments, there is need to enable developing countries to also take action, consistent with the principle of common but differentiated responsibility", it said.

India opposed the Annex-1 countries' proposal saying there are clear distinction for developed countries both in terms of the magnitude of the mitigation efforts and its legal nature.

Other developing countries, in particular Brazil for G77 and China strongly opposed that they viewed it as attempts to impose new commitments and obligations on them that are contrary to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

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