



G77, China accuse rich nations of discarding Kyoto Protocol

Bangkok, Thailand (PANA) - As the two-week long United Nations climate talks in Bangkok, Thailand, draws to a conclusion, the Group of 77 developing nations and China Thursday accused developed countries of discarding the Kyoto Protocol and playing the game of "divide and rule."

Ambassador Lumumba Di-Aping, who spoke on behalf of the G77 and China, blamed developed countries for the lack of commitment at the negotiations in Bangkok.

"An attempt to replace the Kyoto Protocol with a new framework will be counter-productive. Developed countries need to rise to the challenge," Di-Aping said at a press conference here.

He expressed disappointment that the emission reduction figures of developed countries are still far below what is required, saying that indications on the ground were that industrialised countries do not want to commit to required targets.

On proposals to have developing countries commit to emission targets, Lumumba said developed countries needed to accept that economic and sustainable development were important and needed to accept the right of developing countries to pursue rapid development.

"We don't believe a carbon-free economy should be built at the cost of billions people in developing countries, the problem (of green house gases) can be solved by providing financial and technological support," the G77 spokesman said.

Also speaking, Alfred Wills, from South Africa, said the G77 and China were concerned by what is emerging from the Bangkok negotiations that developed countries have avoided setting deep and ambitious targets beyond 2012, when the first phase of the commitment agreed in the Kyoto Protocol ends.

He said there was a huge gap to what the developed countries had put on the table and targets set by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to avoid global warming.

In its comments, Oxfam International said the G77 and China were justifiably outraged about the moves in Bangkok by rich countries to re-write the Bali Action Plan UN Climate Convention.

"In Bangkok, not only have rich countries tried to change the rules of the game, but they have tried to change the game itself," Oxfam's senior climate adviser Antonio Hill said Thursday.

"Developing countries are right to cry foul. It's hard to see these moves as anything other than an attempt to weaken commitments that rich countries have made in the past agreements," Hill said.

A deal expected to be sealed in December in Copenhagen, Denmark, is seen to be essential to the global transition into green economic growth and to prevent global warming.

Norway on Thursday set a target of 40 percent below 1990 levels, while Mexico has already committed to halving its emissions by 2050.

The talks ending Friday, one of the five negotiating sessions leading to Copenhagen session, are being attended by over 4,000 delegates.

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