



## Copenhagen climate change deal must offer key issues – UNFCCC

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**Lusaka, Zambia (PANA)** - The United Nations Climate Change Conference expected to clinch a deal in Copenhagen, Denmark, in December needs to provide clarity on four key issues, a UN climate change top official says.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) executive secretary Yvo de Boer said there was the need to provide clarity on the emission reduction targets that industrialised countries will commit to and also clarity on the nationally appropriate mitigation actions that developing countries could undertake.

“We are talking here about the countries that are historically responsible for the current levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and have the highest per

capita emissions,” de Boer said in an interview to be published by the UN Information Center, made available to PANA.

The other key issue he cited, needing clarity, is on finance, saying there is need to define stable and predictable financing to help the developing world reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the inevitable effects of climate.

De Boer also said agreement must be reached on identifying institutions that will allow technology and finance to be deployed in a way that treats the developing countries as equal partners in the decision-making process.

According to him, while industrialised countries are aware of the need for greater emission reductions and are currently in the process of setting their targets, developing countries are however concerned that industrialised countries have not met their emission reduction commitments and are urging rich nations to show leadership and ambition in this respect.

“Those countries at the forefront of climate change, such as small island developing states, are already feeling the impacts,” de Boer added.

He disclosed that while developing countries are clearly willing to make a contribution to mitigation efforts, one of their main concerns is that they will be forced into a deal which will harm their ability to grow economically and their aims to combat poverty.

“The Copenhagen agreed outcome must also address the concerns of industrialized countries which fear that they may have to subsidize competition in the developing world by being obliged to reduce their own emissions whilst developing countries are not legally bound to do so. So a key challenge of Copenhagen will be to ensure that the deal is equitable for all,” the UN climate change top official stated.

On the global financial crisis, de Boer, who noted that while there is less capital available on the market, for instance, for large scale renewable energy projects due to the recession, there are countries such as China and the United States, who are using the financial and economic crisis as an opportunity to change direction and to shift towards the greening of their economies.

“For the US, this includes unleashing US\$ 150 billion over 10 years to create five million new “green” jobs. China recently announced a US\$ 584 billion economic

stimulus package, up to 40 per cent of which is to help bolster conservation, environmental protection and renewable energy efforts.

The ad hoc committee group on further commitments for Annex 1 Parties under the Kyoto Protocol and ad hoc working group on long-term cooperative action under the convention will meet for negotiations ahead of the Copenhagen conference to advance work towards meeting their respective mandates.

The next major round of negotiations will be held in Bonn, Germany at the end of March and it will be preceded by pre-sessional events directly related to the work of the sessions.

In 2007, parties agreed to shape an ambitious and effective international response to climate change and it is expected that a deal will be agreed at the Copenhagen conference in December.

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