

G77 is not willing to be forced on mitigation

(Bonn, Jurnal Nasional) Although China, India, Brazil and Mexico are loudly showing their willingness to mitigate and cut their carbon emissions, at the end, no G77+China countries are willing to be forced with target.

In working group climate change conference in Bonn, Germany from 27th March to 9th April 2009, developing countries who settled in G77+China opened their day questioning which one is more important, getting technology transfer or financing the adaptation. Other disagreement also mention on will the developing countries need to set their mitigation target or not, which might means compromising their developments. Philippines as G77 coordinator has declared their worries that the cracking will prevent the groups to bring their common interest against industrials.

While Indonesia, as the second largest forest country who once vocal on climate change, stubbornly against mitigation target, although China, India, Brazil and Mexico seems to show their commitments already.

“It is foolish for developings to agree on mitigation (target) among themselves, because it's part of the (industrials) trick to ease the pressure to set their own emission target,” Armi Susandi, Vice Chair of Working Group on Adaptation National Council of Indonesian delegates said. “I won't fell on that trap.”

Armi said that's the reasons why Indonesian delegates has been quiet after Bali Conference in 2007. In that year, Indonesian government as the host was very friendly to media, both national and international, to brought up climate change awareness to the public. Based on inter panel scientists of IPCC research on climate change, Indonesia was actively speaking to push the target of carbon cutting 25-40% of 1990 by 2020 on Bali Road Map, and specifically fighting for the industrials to value forests and preventing their lands degradation to save world's carbon emission septic tanks. Just to send the message: if you want Indonesia as the second largest tropical forest country to keep green, then you have to pay. But the next conferences in Poznan at the end of 2008, Brazil, China, India and Mexico seems to take lead more while Indonesia keep silence.

“If that seems to media that we are loosing lead on climate change, then it's ok. We'll keep on stand for adaptation,” said Armi. Indonesia later at the plenary meeting, rejected Mexico's proposal on adaptation fund mobilizing, when the Latin America nation suggests to calculate the target from Gross Domestic Product of all nations including the developings.

Agus Purnomo, the other Indonesian delegate, denied there is a cracking inside G77+China voice in the conference on mitigation. He said basically all the developing countries are willing to mitigate climate change, but to have no target on it. For his consideration, the willingness of Mexico, Brazil, China and India to mitigate, more to be a negotiation strategy to put pressure more on industrials, especially US, to set their own target as soon as possible.

In the plenary, Brazil who is echoed by Argentina, said that they won't set their mitigation target, before US and other industrial countries set them. So far European Union has set the target 20% for 2020, and Ursula Fuentès, speaking behalfs of Czech as the president of EU said the union will increase their target to 40% in next meeting in June. EU willing to do so, since Japan promised to declare their target in the same time.

While watching each countries waiting for each targets, Yvo de Boer, as the Secretary General of United Nations body for climate change (UNFCCC) took side and pushed developings to mitigate also.

“Beside getting the industrial countries to cut their emissions, the developing also need to do so, because with industrial only the climate change will be going on, and that's because the economy of so many developings are growing,” De Boer said. “But we don't want the mitigation to stop their economy growth. That's not what we want.”

He thinks the idea of mitigation will stop developments is old school, because mitigation it self will provide chances for developings to decrease their fossil fuel dependence, especially on dirty coals and free them self from energy crisis. De Boer then push forward NAMA's, a new idea for industrial to give their assistance for developings to mitigate their carbon emissions. For de Boer, Nama's might be a way to push technology transfer from industrial to help developings.

“And how Nama's will be formulated? Good question. I wish I had the answer,” de Boer said, keeping another new task for final climate change negotiation in Copenhagen this December.

For developing countries like Indonesia, such mitigation projects can be tricky. Indonesian delegate, Armi said most of the climate change projects from industrial came with lots of conditions. Armi and his national council on climate change had just rejected on British funding, because they suspected it came not for the good of Indonesians, but for providing new jobs for the British citizens abroad. But almost at the same time, Armi and his group said yes for 2,5 millions dollars climate change fund from Australia.

“We try to look what is behind the screen, is the funding came to help Indonesia to tackle climate change, or is it only for their own interest,” Armi said.

Though, Armi didn't recall whether or not the money came with transparency requirement, which will mess on Indonesian corruption issues among the bureaucrats. Indonesia is still the sixth most corrupted nation.

Print edition published in Jurnal Nasional newspaper, in Indonesian language