



Press Release

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NGO reactions as UN climate talks in Bonn come to a close

[Bonn – Germany] At a press conference on the last day of UN climate talks in Bonn, Germany, international experts from NGOs organized in the Climate Action Network (CAN) assessed the Bonn outcome, discussed the role of different countries in the talks, and gave an outlook for COP18 in Doha at the end of the year.

An archived video footage from the press conference can be found at: http://unfccc4.metafusion.com/kongresse/sb36/templ/ovw_onDemand.php?id_kongressmain=217

Niranjali Amerasinghe, Staff Attorney at the Center for International Environmental Law, said:

"The window for avoiding catastrophic climate change is closing fast. UNEP's Emissions Gap Report shows that there is a significant gap between current mitigation pledges and what is needed. What's more disturbing is that countries are not acting fast enough to implement even the lower range of those pledges. The overall lack of desire to take ambitious action was a real problem during this Bonn session.

However, there is one glimmer of hope. After intense negotiations, countries agreed on the need for a work stream to raise mitigation pledges in the short-term before 2020. This is a crucial opportunity to close the gap in ambition, and we will be watching for governments to cement this work with strong decisions in Doha."

Celine Charveriat, Director of Advocacy and Campaigns at Oxfam International, said:

"At a time when ambitious emission reductions are more urgent than ever, developed countries came to the climate negotiations in Bonn empty handed. The EU wants to frame itself as a leader, but is still holding on to its inadequate 20% target for emission cuts by 2020. Other countries are back tracking on their commitments under the Kyoto Protocol. Canada has formally withdrawn, while Russia and Japan are not participating in a second commitment period, and Australia and New Zealand are yet to submit an emissions target. The US is demanding a lot while offering very little.



While the impacts of climate change continue to worsen for the world's poorest and most vulnerable people, there is no concrete plan to deliver on the promise of raising substantial new and additional funding to support adaptation."

Wael Hmaidan, Director at CAN International, said:

"The conference in Doha will be a very tough one, and Qatar needs as fast as possible to start using all its political weight to pull countries together in order to achieve a successful outcome at COP18. Unfortunately, we are half way through the year, and we still don't see serious leadership from Qatar. We need them to play the same leadership role they played in supporting the Arab revolutions in Syria and Libya.

Actually, all Arab countries need to support Qatar and prove that the region is serious about tackling climate change and ensuring the survival of future generations by committing to emission reduction goals. Again, the ambition gap on emission reductions will not be closed if not all countries, developed and developing, commit to serious action."

Contacts

Climate Action Network (CAN) is a global network of over 600 NGOs working to promote government and individual action to limit human-induced climate change to ecologically sustainable levels.

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