Intervention of Climate Action Network International in LCA Contact Group on Mitigation

Wednesday, April 8, 2009

Thank you Mr Chair,

Distinguished delegates,

You have just spent another 11 days negotiating the most important international treaty ever. Where has that lead us to?

Rich countries are still failing to make concrete progress on emission reduction targets and commitments to support clean technology, forest protection and adaptation in developing countries. You all are still failing to agree a science-based shared vision to keep us below catastrophic levels of warming.

In the meantime, the Wilkins ice shelf has started to break away from the Antarctic Peninsula reminding us that we might be less than one degrees warming away from irreversible melting, condemning the world to several meters of sea-level rise. This means two degrees above pre-industrial levels can no longer be considered safe level of warming anymore.

CAN calls upon developed countries, as a group, to reduce their emissions by more than 40% from 1990 levels by 2020. Developing countries, too, need to reduce their emissions through nationally appropriate mitigation actions with MRV support from developed countries leading to a substantial deviation from business as usual. Global emissions must peak within the next five-year commitment period and be reduced on the order of 80% below 1990 levels by 2050.

To build trust, we need a clear signal in Bonn 2 that developed countries will deliver on their financial and technology obligations to developing countries on the scale needed. Predictable public funding from developed countries must be well in excess of $US100bn a year.

Delegates, let me remind you that you are negotiating the survival of our planet and its people. We cannot change the science, but we can change the politics. The world is watching.

Thank you.