

Intervention on 30th November 2005 by Yu Jie, Greenpeace China on behalf of CAN Int'l

Climate Change is happening now. Its impacts are already dangerous and being felt in Africa, Asia, the Arctic and other vulnerable regions around the world as we speak. It is clear that time is running out.

The Kyoto Protocol requires, under Article 3.9, that this COP/MOP, "... shall initiate the consideration of post-2012 commitments at least seven years before the end of the first commitment period." That means now, here in Montreal.

Shall is a strong word and demands a strong response.

There is an urgent need for rapid emissions reductions from industrialised countries to start us on the path to a low carbon future. Further, without these deep cuts within the Kyoto system, the other crucial elements of the Protocol, such as the CDM, and serious funding for adaptation, are extremely unlikely to materialise. Parties need to work together to map out a credible process for the Kyoto Protocol in the future, that starts with Article 3.9, but needs to go much further to achieve the ultimate objective of the Convention.

Article 3.9 must not just be some standing agenda item, but deserves its own process to move forward. This process must be robust, including creating a separate open ended working group on the subject.

The Secretariat should be requested to gather the needed scientific & technical information to assist in the "consideration of such commitments" called for in Article 3.9.

In order to understand more where various Parties are coming from, the decision on Article 3.9 should request submissions on key questions:

- What information is needed to assess the existing commitments?
- What sort of process should be created to consider the adequacy of Annex I commitments in Article 3.1?
- How should the process move forward after 2012?

Parties may also wish to make submissions on experience gained with the CDM to assess its current effectiveness in both reducing emissions and generating sustainable development benefits, and its potential role post-2012.

Article 3.9 is the heart of the discussions that must begin under the Kyoto Protocol to determine what the 'fair share' is for the Parties that take climate change seriously. This should be the core of a broader Montreal Mandate that is equitable and effective and that the vast majority of Parties can support.