



## **Intervention of Climate Action Network International in KP Plenary**

Wednesday, April 8, 2009

Thank you Mr Chair, Distinguished delegates,

All of us in this room are all aware that the science cannot be changed. Therefore, CAN believes it is the politics that must change. Little progress has been made in this session; for the sake of the planet and all its people, we call on you to redouble your efforts during the rest of 2009.

The science conference in Copenhagen last month highlighted the urgency of the situation we face together. In light of new scientific evidence and our current assessment of the risks associated with different global emissions pathways, CAN now calls upon all Annex I Countries as a group to reduce their emissions by more than 40% from 1990 level by 2020.

We are disappointed that you could not reach an agreement on an aggregate target at this session as you agreed in Poznan. Clearly, this was due in part to the on-going reticence of some countries including my own and other Annex I countries.

Such a reduction target is needed to limit warming to well below 2° Celsius, which may well warrant a return of greenhouse gas concentrations to 350 ppm CO<sub>2</sub>e. The 450 ppm scenario, which forms the basis of a number of countries' positions, is too high, dangerously too high.

Distinguished delegates, time is ticking away.

Global emissions must peak within the next 5 year commitment period and decline sharply thereafter. Delaying any significant actions by 5-10 years undermines our ability to stay well below 2°C. The precautionary approach, which you agreed to in Rio, demands a decisive, strong response.

Again and again you have heard how this urgency of action is needed to help ensure the survival of the most vulnerable people, ecosystems, and even countries. But too often we forget how our situation is unprecedented in the long sweep of human history.

Two roads diverge in Copenhagen, the choice we all make will mark the difference. One leads to the devastating collapse and decline of human societies, the other to a more just and sustainable future for us humans and our fragile planet. Communicating this choice we face in Copenhagen to citizens and political decision-makers in all of our countries is perhaps the most urgent task we all face. Let's hope they make the right choice.

In addition, in the weeks between now and the next Bonn meeting, you need to address following issues:

- Remove the existing and proposed loopholes in LULUCF.
- Improve the flexible mechanisms to ensure sustainable development and environmental integrity to achieve real emissions reductions without undermining ambitious domestic reductions in all industrialised nations.
- Include bunker fuels in the Copenhagen agreement as these sectors account for as many emissions per year as my own country's, and are growing rapidly.
- Minimize the adverse effects of mitigation actions on the most vulnerable poor countries and communities.

- Build upon the existing compliance system and extend it to cover finance and technology support obligations for Annex II countries under the LCA.

For CAN, all of these elements must be legally enshrined in the Copenhagen agreement.

There's still much to do.

Distinguished delegates, time is ticking away.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.