



SBSTA: Cancun Opening Plenary

CAN intervention, 30 November 2010

Mr Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

My name is Samuel Dotse from Ghana. I am speaking on behalf of the Climate Action Network, a global network of over 500 NGOs.

CAN encourages SBSTA to survey the scientific, technical and socio-economic literature that exists on mitigation and adaptation needs relating to a temperature increase of 1.5°C and how they compare with higher increases in temperature. This report will result in better, more informed decision-making and is fully consistent with SBSTA's mandate and purpose.

Observed impacts and future risks posed by global warming are more serious than believed even a few years ago. Further knowledge on the costs and benefits associated with lower temperature scenarios, the timing of peak emissions, the gap between science and ambition, and how to close this gap, are critical to taking needed action in a cost-effective and responsible manner that does justice to future generations and vulnerable populations.

The window of time to act to limit warming to 1.5°C is closing. In the absence of swift and meaningful action, we will soon pass the point where we foreclose the possibility of stabilizing temperature increase to 1.5 or even 2°C.

Failure to prepare a report on the 1.5°C target and how it compares with higher temperature increases would be a sad commentary on our efforts to address climate change. Rather than spin our wheels as the earth increasingly spins out of control, we ask that you act now to grant this straightforward and modest request for SBSTA to prepare a technical paper on 1.5°C.