CLIMATE NEGOTIATIONS NEW DELHI OCTOBER '02 NGO NEWSLETTER



Delhi Flop? CAN response to new Delhi Declaration draft

The draft emerging late this afternoon falls short of expectations of many governments and NGOs. Urgent leadership is required in order to salvage COP-8 from failure. It is completely unacceptable to just recycle text from previous agreements. Main points are:

- The wording on Kyoto is merely cosmetic. The declaration fails to demand the immediate and unconditional ratification of the Kyoto Protocol by all countries, especially the world's biggest polluter, the US.
- The draft declaration fails to start any process towards a just, equitable and adequate global climate agreement that will achieve the ultimate aims of the Convention. In so doing, it condemns the world, and in particular developing countries, to more dangerous climate impacts in the future.
- This failure to kick-start a long-term process for deeper cuts **ignores the robust findings of the IPCC TAR**, that current emission reduction commitments **will fail to achieve the ultimate objective of the Convention** (Article 2) of avoiding "dangerous anthropogenic interference" with the climate.
- Despite the stated objective of, especially, the Indian presidency to make adaptation the core issue for COP-8, this declaration reflects the lack of progress in ensuring adequate and predictable funding for adaptation requirements. Moreover, it fails to recognise that, without far deeper emissions' reductions, no amount of adaptation can stave off catastrophic impacts.
- We agree with the need for sustainable development, poverty eradication and economic growth, but the draft text uses them to distract attention from climate change. The current text simply reflects the short-term fossil-fuel interest of a few countries, notably OPEC and the US, to the detriment of vulnerable communities and countries. Sustainable development, poverty eradication and economic growth will be impossible in the context of increasingly dangerous climate change.
- The declaration must commit to substantial new measures to promote rapid deployment of and increased access to new renewable energy and energy efficiency technology, to achieve the Convention's objective and sustainable development.

The North/South polarisation that has characterised COP-8 must be overcome.

Ministers, there is still time to act!