

GRF in Copenhagen: Last Update from the COP15

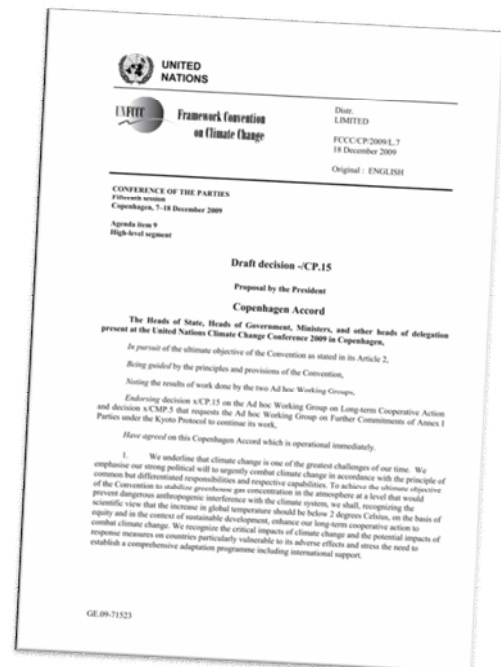
20 December 2009

The outcomes of the UN Conference on Climate Change: The Copenhagen Accord

(en.cop15.dk / <http://sppiblog.org>) - On Friday, the 18 December, world leaders from USA, China, Brazil, India and South Africa came together to Draft the Copenhagen Accord, which on Saturday became the outcome of the UN Conference.

The main points of the Copenhagen Accord:

- The Accord is operational immediately,
- The parties underline that “climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time”;
- Emphasize their “strong political will to urgently combat climate change”;
- Recognize “the scientific view that the increase in global temperature should be below 2 C^o and perhaps below 1.5 C^o;
- Aspire to “cooperate in achieving the peaking of global and national emissions as soon as possible”;
- Acknowledge that eradicating poverty is the “overriding priority of developing countries”; &
- Accept the need to help vulnerable countries – especially the least developed nations, small-island states, and Africa – to adapt to climate change.



All parties will set for themselves, and comply with, emissions targets for 2020, to be submitted to the secretariat by 31 January 2010. Where developing countries are paid to cut their emissions, their compliance will be monitored. Developed countries will financially support less-developed countries to prevent deforestation. Carbon trading may be used. Under the supervision of a “High-Level Panel”, developed countries will give up to \$30 billion for 2010-12, aiming for \$100 billion by 2020, in “scaled up, new and additional, predictable and adequate funding” to developing countries via a “Copenhagen Green Fund”. A “Technology Mechanism” will “accelerate technology development and transfer” to developing countries.

What is next?

In a UNFCCC press release, the Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC Yvo de Boer stated: "We must be honest about what we have got. The world walks away from Copenhagen with a deal. But clearly ambitions to reduce emissions must be raised significantly if we are to hold the world to 2 degrees."

Because the pledges listed by developed and developing countries may, according to science, be found insufficient to keep the global temperature rise below 2 degrees or less, leaders called for a review of the accord, to be completed by 2015.

The review would include a consideration of the long-term goal to limit the global average temperature rise to 1.5 degrees.

119 world leaders attended the UN summit in Copenhagen, the largest gathering of heads of state and government in the history of the UN. "Climate change is the permanent leadership challenge of our time," said Ban Ki-moon. "I therefore urge world leaders to remain engaged," he said.

"We now have a package to work with and begin immediate action," said Yvo de Boer. "However, we need to be clear that it is a letter of intent and is not precise about what needs to be done in legal terms. So the challenge is now to turn what we have agreed politically in Copenhagen into something real, measurable and verifiable,"

The next annual UN Climate Change Conference will take place towards the end of 2010 in Mexico City, preceded by a major two week negotiating session in Bonn, Germany, scheduled 31 May to 11 June.