

Summary of CAN discussions at Montreal meeting 23rd September

All around the world, human communities and ecosystems are already suffering from the impacts of climate change. Recent events emphasise that action is urgently required. The scientific consensus indicates that these impacts are bound to get increasingly worse in the future.

The international community agreed in 1992 with the adoption of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to join forces to take on the challenge of climate change. The Kyoto Protocol, agreed in 1997 as an expansion of the UNFCCC is a small step in the right direction. The Kyoto Protocol entered into force on the 16th February of 2005 and has been ratified by over 150 countries around the world. Its first commitment period targets the time-frame 2008-12,.

In order to prevent dangerous global climate change, the increase in warming needs to be limited as far under 2 degrees Centigrade as possible over pre-industrial levels. This long-term objective will require that global greenhouse gas emissions peak within the next 10-15 years and go down quickly from there.

A viable international system for achieving this objective must reflect the moral responsibility of those who have benefited the most from the use of the global commons to reduce their emissions first and to compensate the victims of climate change.

Countries meeting in Montreal need to decide to start a process ending in a follow-up future agreement that continues the international treaty framework from 2013.

Must start a process for negotiating a future agreement

This process should be rooted in both the Kyoto Protocol and the UNFCCC and invoke in particular Articles 3.9 and 9 of the Protocol.

Starting in 2005, this process should finish by 2008, to allow for timely ratification.

The talks and the final agreement should contain the following elements:

- Ambitious mandatory emission caps and absolute emissions reduction for developed (Annex-I) countries
- Environmentally sound rules for credit based mechanisms
- (Trading of emissions credits to form a global carbon market to supplement domestic emission reduction)

No consensus on next 2 bullets:

- Options to enable developing countries to follow a low carbon path to sustainable development the Kyoto Protocol.

And/or

- Renewable energy and efficiency must form the cornerstone of options to enable developing countries to follow a low carbon path to sustainable development, with special attention to the needs of low-income people and indigenous nations.
- Technology transfer

- LULUCF (actions to stop deforestation)
- Adaptation
- Capacity building
- Funding

The level and the character of the mitigation actions within this framework should be determined by reference to agreed level of per capita emissions, ability or capacity to act (including criterion such as per capita income) and historical responsibility. In this context industrialized countries have the obligation to act first to reduce their emissions in absolute terms.

Other options, not agreed upon:

It is imperative that Annex I Countries achieve their current Kyoto commitments. Developing renewable energy and energy efficiency to their full potential is a key step to achieve these targets and deeper emission reductions.

Any future regime must include deeper mandatory absolute caps for industrialised countries, new kinds of commitments from some larger developing countries which ensure they meet development goals while limiting the growth of greenhouse gas emissions, and support for necessary adaptation measures for the least developing countries in particular.