

# We Need an Agreement at Copenhagen !

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## Summary

- Climate change is advancing faster than the IPCC prediction, and the countdown to catastrophe has begun.
- If temperature rise since pre-industrial times is not held below 2°C, the sound survival of humanity will be threatened.
- The Copenhagen meeting should build on the Kyoto Protocol and arrive at a legally binding agreement.
- Copenhagen should agree to peak world emissions in 2015 and reduce total world greenhouse gas emissions of at least 80% of 1990 emissions by 2050.
- Developed countries should agree to reductions of at least 40% of their 1990 emissions by 2020.
- Developing countries should pledge actions for reductions from BaU emissions according to their circumstances.
- Agreement on financial assistance to developing countries that is new public funding additional to official development assistance (ODA), with an easy-to-access system for developing countries.
- In addition to considering higher targets, the Japanese government should announce the amount of funding contribution to help developing countries reduce emissions and implement adaption actions.
- World leaders must exercise leadership toward arriving at an agreement for future generation.

## **Accelerating Climate Change**

On November 23, 2009 the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) announced that in 2008 the atmospheric concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub> and methane had attained 385.2 ppm and 1797.0 ppb, respectively, which were new records. This summer (June through August) a world sea water surface temperature of 16.98°C was observed, which was the highest ever observed since record keeping started about 130 years ago. Experts say that at this rate the glacier near the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest peak, could completely disappear between 2022 and 2033, while researchers from the UK, the US, Australia, and other countries have released reports saying that if no action is taken, by the end of the century the average global temperature might rise a maximum of 7°C, and sea level might rise a maximum of 2 m owing to causes including the melting of the Antarctic ice sheet.

Climate change is proceeding much faster than forecast by the 2007 IPCC Fourth Assessment Report, and the countdown to catastrophe has started. Climate change is a challenge to all humanity, and we must waste no time in tackling it.

## **Stay far below 2°C**

If we do not keep the average temperature increase down to less than 2°C from the pre-industrial level, the sound survival of humanity could be threatened by global environmental damage from which the Earth could not recover. Concerning "below 2°C," the Leaders Declaration from the G8 Summit this July

stated, "We recognize the broad scientific view that the increase in global average temperature above pre-industrial levels ought not to exceed 2°C," and this recognition is therefore shared by the whole world. The L'Aquila G8 Summit also affirmed that "...we reiterate our willingness to share with all countries the goal of achieving at least a 50% reduction of global emissions by 2050, recognizing that this implies that global emissions need to peak as soon as possible and decline thereafter. As part of this, we also support a goal of developed countries reducing emissions of greenhouse gases in aggregate by 80% or more by 2050 compared to 1990 or more recent years."

The IPCC Fourth Assessment Report says that holding the rise in global average temperature down to 2.0–2.4°C above the pre-industrial level necessitates CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations of 350–400 ppm, greenhouse gas concentrations of 445–490 ppm, having CO<sub>2</sub> emissions peak by 2015, and reducing emissions to 50–80% below the 2000 level by 2050. This assumes that developed countries must reduce emissions to 25–40% below their 1990 levels by 2020, and that developing countries must reduce their emissions to 15–30% below BaU.

## **Build on the Kyoto Protocol and Agree on a Legally Binding Outcome!**

With the 1992 Framework Convention on Climate Change, countries of the world made a major shift from doing nothing about emissions to restricting them, and in 1997 developed countries agreed to legally binding reduction targets. At Copenhagen as well, developed

countries must agree to reductions that are based on the basic structure of the Kyoto Protocol having including legally binding force, differentiated total emission targets, and a strong compliance regime. The improvement to be made over the Kyoto Protocol is to determine reduction targets based on scientific knowledge, not on political considerations.

COP13/CMP3, held in Bali, Indonesia in 2007, resolved to agree on reduction targets for 2013 and thereafter here in Copenhagen. An agreement must be produced here in Copenhagen in order to prevent a gap between the Kyoto Protocol's first and second commitment periods.

#### **What Must the Agreement Cover?**

Following are the main points that CASA thinks the Copenhagen agreement should cover.

1. Hold average temperature increase over the pre-industrial level down to less than 2°C, and for that purpose reduce total world greenhouse gas emissions from a peak in 2015 to achieve a reduction of at least 80% of 1990 emissions by 2050.
2. Developed country reduction targets should carry over the basic Kyoto Protocol structure mentioned above, reduce emissions to least 40% of their 1990 levels by 2020. Most of these reduction targets will be achieved with domestic measures.
3. Developing countries should take actions to reduce their emissions from BaU scenario emissions according to their circumstances. For

that purpose developed countries must provide financial and technological assistance to developing countries for their reduction actions.

4. For adaptation to the harmful impacts of climate change that have already emerged and will henceforth become increasingly serious, give priority to assistance for vulnerable people as well as to small island developing states (SIDS) and least developed countries (LDCs), implement community-based measures that emphasize the environment and ecosystems, and agree on a system for an adaptation action framework that is participatory and assures transparency.

Even if the reduction targets announced by developed countries thus far are added up, they come to only a reduction of 12–18% off 1990 levels. In view of the principle of “common but differentiated responsibilities” as well, developed countries must take concrete action aimed at more ambitious targets instead of waiting to see what developing countries will do.

Further, the key to having developing countries take reduction actions is agreement on a system that is predictable, reliable, continuing, and can secure sufficient funding. This financing mechanism must include new public funding additional to official development assistance (ODA), and offer ready access to developing countries.

### **Expectations for the Japanese Government**

After the Hatoyama government took over at the end of August, Japan announced a mid-term reduction target of 25% from 1990 emission levels and said it would mobilize all policies to achieve this reduction, which brought worldwide applause. But this 25% reduction presumes a target agreement in which all major countries participate. Japan's government should show the will to resolutely go through with a 25% reduction without such a prerequisite. Additionally, the government must set forth specific policies and measures for achieving the 25% reduction with domestic actions.

There were big expectations for the "Hatoyama initiative," which supposedly will provide developing countries with financial assistance using an innovative mechanism. But that initiative, which was proposed at an ad hoc working group (AWG) in Barcelona, did not respond to the expectations or concerns of developing countries with respect to any of three issues: (1) scale of funds, (2) sources of funds, and (3) governance.

Calculations show that it will cost nearly \$500 billion yearly for reduction actions and adaptation by developing countries. In addition to public money from developed countries for these funds, we must consider other innovative ways of raising money, including not only private funds and the clean development mechanism (CDM) levy, but also levies on the international transfer of emission credits, credit auctions, Tobin taxes (international solidarity levies), and others.

We hope the Japanese government will consider a further reduction target for Japan, and announce definite amount of Japan's monetary contribution in the financial mechanisms established under the authority of convention parties.

### **World Leaders Must Exercise Leadership Toward Arriving at an Agreement**

It is reported that about 100 world leaders will participate at Copenhagen, including President Obama of the US, Prime Minister Hatoyama of Japan, and Premier Wen Jiabao of China.

The Nobel peace prize awarded to President Obama was given in expectation of the contributions he will make to abolishing nuclear weapons and to the climate change issue, and President Obama himself said that "I will accept this award as a call to action" on behalf of the hopes of people of all nations. It is clear that what "people of all nations" now want is both the abolition of nuclear weapons and prevention of climate change, which threatens the sound survival of humanity.

Certainly now is the time for President Obama and other world leaders to demonstrate their leadership for the children of the world, who will lead the next generation.

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