

Statement of Climate Action Network to the Third Conference of the Parties

Mr. Chairman. My name is Jennifer Morgan. I am representing the Climate Action Network, the largest coalition ever formed on an environmental issue, reflective of the concerns of hundreds of millions of people.

The world is watching. As thousands of us sit here in Kyoto, millions of people are waiting to hear what you decide for their future. This is the most important environmental agreement we have ever undertaken. They are watching to see if you move beyond the unfulfilled promises you made in Rio in desperate hope that their children and grandchildren will be spared the devastating impacts of global warming.

This is why we are here. We have the scientific evidence that proves that we are changing the climate. We have the technology that provides the solution to this problem. What we need is leadership from you.

The problem is that these negotiations, for the past 5 years have been detached from that reality. For 5 years we have listened to interventions from countries explaining why they should do less and why others should do more. For five years we have watched the fossil fuel industry manipulate and damage these negotiations as carbon dioxide continues to be pumped into the atmosphere. We all have been held hostage by these special interests. Let us be clear - the lobbying of companies such as Exxon, Texaco and Mobil must not keep you from acting responsibly and moving forward.

Note that all of these companies are from the United States. The world's largest polluter has the world's most obstructive interests spending millions of dollars to keep you from doing what they, in their heart and soul know is right.

The United States has adopted the rhetoric of these fossil interests, pointing fingers at countries that emit 1/20th of its own emissions. Meanwhile, via multilateral and bilateral aid agencies the U.S. is funneling billions of taxpayer dollars toward fossil fuel projects in the developing countries - ensuring that their emissions skyrocket in the future.

Listening to the voice of these special interests has prevented you from acting on what the science demands, and what the public expects. The vast majority of the public of the world is demanding a commitment by their leaders to prevent dangerous climate change. Who are these people? They include scientists, doctors, business leaders, economists, religious leaders, mayors, and environmentalists in your countries. There is a clear mandate for you to adopt a protocol that includes:

- A significant legally binding reduction commitment to bring emissions below 1990 levels
- The year 2005 in that commitment
- Closure of all loopholes, namely
 - All six major greenhouse gases must be included now, not next year at COP 4
 - No superheated or hot air trading
 - No sinks
 - Air and marine fuels

In other words, the reductions must be real.

The protocol's structure must ensure that these commitments are credible and verifiable including:

A regularly scheduled review of the adequacy of commitments.

A compliance system that gives meaning to the words legally binding and ensures that the commitments are enforceable.

Ministers, we have all travelled to Kyoto to begin to address the problem of global warming. We cannot let the fossil fuel lobby continue to manipulate this process. This is especially true in my own country. As a woman from the United States of America, I cannot accept this. I cannot accept that the world's largest polluter propose a target that, in essence, allows for an increase of emissions. I cannot accept that they refuse to take responsibility for their actions which have immense impacts on others around the world. I cannot accept that the burden of acting is being shifted to my children and grandchildren.

There is a moral imperative to act. There is nothing to be afraid of. This is the moment for you to reject the tactics of the fossil fuel lobby and answer to the demands of the atmosphere. It will be the final arbiter. It is not a silent partner in this negotiation.

If you know something is right, respond. The world is watching.

STATEMENT TO COP3 MINISTERIAL SEGMENT

Mr. Chairman, my name is Gurmit Singh from MALAYSIA and CAN Southeast Asia. I speak to you for the CAN group of environmental NGOs, especially those from the South. We wish to thank you for this opportunity to address the Ministers gathered at such a critical stage of the finalisation of a legally binding GHG reduction Protocol for Annex I parties.

In the limited time available to us, we would like to stress the following points:

1. Climate protection must be the over-riding consideration in these final days of the fulfilment of the Berlin Mandate.

2. Political will must be demonstrated in a positive manner, not to undermine the fundamental objectives of the UNFCCC.

3. The majority of the developing countries will be the worst victims of climate change but the least able to cope because of their limited resources.

4. The insinuation that developing nations are out to free-load on the commitments of Annex I nations must be forcefully put aside as a smear campaign waged by powerful lobbies in the North.

5. There is ample evidence that Southern nations have taken action to start curbing their GHG emissions but it is against the basic principles of the Convention to ask them to assume legal limitations even before the Annex I nations have taken on such commitments and demonstrated their serious compliance. On the other hand, it is the very Annex I nations who have failed to even stabilise emissions that are putting pressures on the South.

6. The Kyoto Protocol for Annex I countries must have reduction targets in the order of 10% or more over the 1990 GHG emission levels to be achieved by the year 2005. These must be free of all loopholes like "hot or superheated air", sinks, etc.

7. The Berlin Mandate must be fulfilled here and now in Kyoto, not transformed into another Mandate that postpones further into the future concrete action on GHG reductions, a course of action that the IPCC considers irresponsible.

8. The speeches from PM Hashimoto and Vice President Gore at the launching of this segment have failed to provide the much-sought leadership. We are forced to look elsewhere.

The war of words that has raged for so long in the negotiations and recently in the mass media must end. But peace can only come through the signing of a strong Kyoto Protocol, that finally puts some teeth in the Convention.

We would be extremely disappointed if you, the Ministers gathered in Kyoto, fail in this long overdue mission. We will not let the World and your constituents forget this global failure. Let the world judge you and hold you accountable!

Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman/Ms. Chairwoman.

We are a group of 36 scientists, environmental activists, politicians, and students from 14 countries who have come to this conference by train and boat. We have travelled more than 14,000 kilometres, with stops in Berlin, Warsaw, Moscow, Novosibirsk and Beijing.

Our journey gave us a unique opportunity to interact with people from many regions and countries to discuss common concerns and problems. We learnt from NGOs and scientists about the regional effects of climate change. We found communities who are already suffering from climate change, fearful for their future. In Siberia, people are anticipating the destruction of their forests fires in only a few decades. In China there is much concern about the increased frequency of catastrophic flooding of low-land coastal areas, and the massive disruption of their agricultural systems. The fact that we witnessed these regional problems has enabled us to understand with much greater depth the reality of climate change.

Travelling by train and boat, rather than by plane, reduced the environmental impact of our journey since travelling overland produces ^{one eighth} ~~one third~~ of the greenhouse gas emissions of the same journey by air. Of all modes of transport, air travel is the most dangerous to the climate because emissions from aircraft directly affect the most sensitive parts of the atmosphere, and these effects are long-lasting. The recent dramatic increase in air travel is totally unsustainable, and we ask the COP to tackle the problem of reducing emissions from aircraft in future protocols.

Arriving at COP3 we found a very limited and discouraging process. The confrontational tone of the present negotiations cannot resolve what is a common, global problem. None of the greenhouse gas reductions the COP are considering adequately reflect the gravity of the problems that changes in our climate will bring. We need to look at what the planet can bear, then work out what levels of CO2 and other greenhouse gases can be emitted rather than relying on weak commitments put forward by those too heavily influenced by the economic/industrial lobby.

During our journey we learnt about many new and innovative ways of tackling the problems, such as renewable energies, energy efficiency, new types of housing, development of good public transport systems (etc). Many of these practical answers are not brought into the discussion and we ask that in future these ideas are discussed.

But more than this, we all need to be prepared to fundamentally change our lifestyles in order that we can meet the responsibility of caring for our planet. It is quite possible that in doing this we would not even use our 'full quota' of emissions anyway.

Whatever decision the COP takes, the result will affect the future of billions of people and the earth itself. We need a new approach of co-operation that can deliver a collaborative and long term solution, based on equity.

One very positive solution that we could all implement now is to investigate ways of making the conference itself more sustainable ie reducing the need to travel by using video conferencing, increased use of the Internet, and regional conferences

As a final point, we would like to invite participants to join our Climate Ship to COP4 in Buenos Aires next year.

Thank you Mr. Chairman/Ms. Chairwoman for the opportunity to make our statement.

Speaker: Michelle Valentine