



WWF *for a living planet*

WWF-UK
Panda House, Weyside Park
Godalming, Surrey, GU7 1XR
tel: +44 (0)1483 426444
fax: +44 (0)1483 426409
info@wwf.org.uk
wwf.org.uk

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING

Debate on the Outcome of the Copenhagen Conference on Climate Change - Thursday 14 January 2010

SUMMARY AND KEY ASKS

- The Copenhagen Accord reached at the end of the 2 week summit contains some good elements, such as the commitment to actions by both developed and developing countries, and the monitoring of those actions. Overall, however, it is insufficient to keep global warming below 2°C and fails to specify the sources of the funding urgently needed by developing countries, or to provide a legally binding agreement for action.
- At present we are on track for a least a 3°C rise in global temperatures which will have disastrous outcomes.
- The delay in reaching the global deal will come with increasing human, environmental and economic costs. It is therefore essential that governments take action urgently and negotiate the real deal that will ensure survival of nations, communities, species and habitats.
- Priority action is needed from the UK Government on both stronger targets and new and additional funding for developing countries.
- The UK Government is now committed to working for urgent progress during 2010 leading to the summit in Mexico in November 2010. Pressure must be maintained to achieve a fair, ambitious and binding deal in 2010.

BACKGROUND

1. The UN climate negotiations in Copenhagen had three main outcomes:

- **draft detailed negotiating texts under the two ad-hoc working groups - the Kyoto Protocol (AWG- KP) and the Long Term Co-operative Action (AWG- LCA);**
- **a mandate to continue negotiations in these groups for one year; and**
- **a political statement - 'The Copenhagen Accord'.**

The Accord does not deliver the fair, ambitious and binding deal needed to avoid dangerous climate change. However, if governments build on the good aspects of the Accord and commence further meaningful negotiations, it can be a stepping stone to the Global Deal.

No one can be satisfied with the Copenhagen Accord as it stands. Its usefulness comes if it helps to define a pathway that closes the gap between the current state of affairs and an agreement and set of actions that are robust enough to prevent dangerous anthropogenic global warming. Despite the grueling and disappointing process that culminated at Copenhagen, there is no time to rest. Every year of delay means real and permanent damage



WWF *for a living planet*

WWF-UK
Panda House, Weyside Park
Godalming, Surrey, GU7 1XR
tel: +44 (0)1483 426444
fax: +44 (0)1483 426409
info@wwf.org.uk
wwf.org.uk

to the environment, societies and economies. Failure to achieve an adequate response is unacceptable.

THE GLOBAL DEAL

2. The essential elements of such a deal are that it

- **leads to a global emissions peak before 2017;**
- **holds warming to below 2°C above pre-industrial levels with an eventual decline below 1.5°C; and**
- **supports adaptation to the warming that does occur.**

As a first step in establishing trust in the negotiations, WWF recommends that by 31 January 2010 every country, except the least developed and small island developing states, should submit to the Accord their most ambitious mitigation targets and actions, as appropriate to their situations. This is as mandated by the Copenhagen Accord.

However, given the likely level of pledges, governments should go further than the letter of the Accord and empower the UNFCCC secretariat to review the targets and report on their compatibility with a 2°C limit in time for the resumed negotiations so that the targets can be further refined to meet the necessary limit as identified by science.

THE COPENHAGEN ACCORD

3. The Accord mandates several new actions and instruments, including

- **a new fund for adaptation and mitigation in developing countries - the Copenhagen Green Fund,**
- **a High Level Panel, under the auspices of the UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP) to look at how this funding can be raised,**
- **efforts combating deforestation, and**
- **enhancing technology cooperation.**

Turning these ambitions into real action should be a priority, and will also help rebuild trust that will be of benefit to further negotiations under the UNFCCC.

PROCESS

4. Several politicians and commentators have chosen to focus blame for Copenhagen's weak outcome on the UNFCCC process itself, citing the complexity of resolving such politically charged yet technical issues through that inclusive forum. Whether or not this is the case the past two years saw an unprecedented number of meetings at ministerial and head of state level which failed to resolve the issue of climate change, including the G8, G20, the Greenland Dialogue and the UN General Assembly.

MOVING FORWARD

5. The Copenhagen Accord needs to kick start a process of transparency about ambitions and real implementation that will break through some political deadlocks. Countries should focus



WWF *for a living planet*

WWF-UK
Panda House, Weyside Park
Godalming, Surrey, GU7 1XR
tel: +44 (0)1483 426444
fax: +44 (0)1483 426409
info@wwf.org.uk
wwf.org.uk

now on meaningful results from each of the negotiating forums, while investing a renewed authority to the UNFCCC to complete a real deal.

Both the AWG-LCA and AWG-KP bodies produced draft texts that will be carried forward as the basis for resumed negotiations in 2010. The current draft texts contain, in most areas, the options needed to establish an effective agreement. Political leaders must assume full responsibility for the success of continued negotiations. They must give their negotiators robust and innovative mandates to overcome the difficult issues. They must complete the task in Mexico.

KEY ASKS

6. In conclusion, the process leading to a real deal involves the following three steps:
- **Countries should put ambitious targets and actions into the Accord appendices, and in doing so describe how these are compatible with a high probability of staying well below 2°C warming above pre-industrial temperatures.**
 - **Parties should take immediate action to demonstrate seriousness about the Accord’s agreed outcome by quickly putting into operation the funds, mechanisms, and international monitoring, reporting, and verification guidelines.**
 - **Mexico as the CoP16 host country, the UNFCCC secretariat, and all Parties must move urgently to establish a work plan, timelines and schedule of negotiating sessions for 2010 under the UNFCCC. This will include establishing interim deadlines for reaching agreement on key issues such as the legal form of the outcome. Other forums and meetings should be used to make progress that feeds into the UNFCCC.**

Download parliamentary briefings at www.wwf.org.uk/parliamentary

Contact:	Penny Evans, Senior Public Affairs Officer, WWF-UK
Tel:	01483 412376 / 0777 1818705
Date:	January 2010





WWF *for a living planet*

WWF-UK
Panda House, Weyside Park
Godalming, Surrey, GU7 1XR
tel: +44 (0)1483 426444
fax: +44 (0)1483 426409
info@wwf.org.uk
wwf.org.uk

Annex I: WWF overview of the Copenhagen Accord

The Copenhagen Accord is a flawed political agreement, which is, in itself, too weak to address climate change appropriately. The Accord does little to commit the countries of the world to address and limit the impacts of climate change to ensure the survival of people, communities and nations, species, habitats and ecosystems.

The Accord has a very uncertain status and political and legal legitimacy in the context of the UNFCCC negotiations. It has been widely criticized as inadequate and indeed many of those countries that have endorsed it have also expressed disappointment, reservations and regrets about it.

Nevertheless the Copenhagen Accord did make some progress towards an agreement in some difficult and crucial areas. These areas are:

1. Transparency of developing country mitigation actions due to their domestic measurement, reporting and verification every two years under clearly defined guidelines;
2. Transparency of international financial support for developing countries to tackle climate change; and
3. Reference to keeping global temperature increase to below two degrees (though lacking a basis of comparison, e.g. below pre-industrial levels).

The Accord does mention a range of new actions and instruments that will be established or will be provided:

- A mechanism including REDD-plus, to enable the mobilization of financial resources from developed countries;
- New and additional resources from developed countries parties, including forestry and investments through international institutions approaching USD 30 billion for the period 2010-12 and USD 100 billion by 2020;
- A High Level Panel under the guidance of and accountable to the CoP to study the contribution of the potential sources of revenue, including alternative sources of finance, towards meeting the goal;
- A Technology mechanism to accelerate technology development and transfer in support of action on adaptation and mitigation;
- A Copenhagen Green Climate Fund.
- Guidelines for international MRV adopted by the COP

In those areas where it represents progress, the Accord can inform and provide political guidance to the ongoing negotiations under the Convention and Kyoto Protocol leading to a legally binding agreement. Standing alone the Accord is far from what is needed, which is why it is so crucial that Parties use it as an instrument to unlock a fuller and more ambitious agreement later in 2010.