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**ActionAid's verdict on Bonn climate change meeting:
Political earthquake needed to secure
just global deal in Copenhagen**

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Introduction

The world is not on track to reach a just global deal in December that tackles climate change fairly and effectively. Rich countries have so far presented woefully inadequate mitigation targets. These fall a long way short of the 40%+ cut by 2020 (against 1990 levels) that the science demands if global warming is to be limited to 1.5 degrees C above pre-industrial levels.

But rich countries are also failing to address the most urgent needs of those on the front-line of climate impacts. Stalling on the provision of new money to enable vulnerable people to adapt and the creation of a new institution to disburse it fairly serves only to block progress.

A just global deal in Copenhagen is still possible. But it is clear that there needs to be a political earthquake to realise this goal.

Mitigation

What's happening?

- The targets rich countries have presented so far are woefully inadequate.
- No financial or technological support for developing country mitigation has been forthcoming

What ActionAid thinks needs to happen

- Rich countries need to adopt 2020 targets of 40%+ emissions reductions against 1990 levels.
- Rich countries need to provide finance and technology to enable developing countries to limit their emissions growth.

Targets announced so far

Country/group	2020 target required by science ¹ (reductions against 1990 levels)	2020 target announced (reductions against 1990 levels)	2020 target announced (reductions against 1990 levels) if others do more
EU	40%+	20%	30%
Japan		8%	
Australia		4%	24%

¹ The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)'s Fourth Assessment Report (<http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar4/wg3/ar4-wg3-chapter13.pdf> page 776) released in 2007 recommended that rich countries adopt 2020 greenhouse gas emission reduction targets of 25-40% against 1990 levels. Many scientists have since argued for tougher targets and the Alliance of Small Island States calls for a rich country 2020 target of a 45% cut (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/awg7/eng/misc07.pdf> page 21).

Notes: Japan announced a 15% cut against 2005 levels (this translates as an 8% cut against 1990 levels). Australia has announced a unilateral 5% cut against 2000 levels (this translates as a 4% cut against 1990 levels) and a 25% cut against 2000 levels (this translates as a 24% cut against 1990 levels) if other countries, including developing countries, take certain mitigation actions. The US has yet to announce a target because they are hiding behind the US Congress which hasn't yet been able to pass a Climate Bill.

Adaptation

Action vs planning

What's happening?

- Rich countries are putting an excessive focus on detailing how exactly developing countries should spend the money and demanding that plans be approved by them before money is disbursed.

What ActionAid thinks needs to happen

- Rich countries need to focus on implementation and financing existing adaptation plans and programmes.

Sustainable agriculture

What's happening?

- The challenge of achieving food security in a changing climate is not mentioned adequately in the draft negotiating text.
- Smallholder farmers are not mentioned in the text despite producing 80% of the world's food. Agricultural production is severely threatened by climate change.

What ActionAid thinks needs to happen

- One objective of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change is "to ensure that food production is not threatened" and this needs to be better reflected in the negotiating text.
- Smallholder farmers need to be recognised as a key group of vulnerable people and the sustainable agriculture model needs to be seen as crucial for adaptation (and mitigation).²

² See ActionAid (2009) *Sustainable agriculture and climate change*:
<http://www.actionaid.org/assets/pdf/Agriculture%20and%20climate%20change%20in%20template%20May%202009%20FINAL.pdf>

Country-driven approach

What's happening?

- Rich countries are proposing excessive restrictions on how developing countries spend adaptation money.
- There is an excessive focus on insurance as the 'silver bullet' solution.
- There is little emphasis on preventing disasters.

What ActionAid thinks needs to happen

- Rich countries need to support national processes and institutions, recognising and respecting developing countries' policy space.
- Insurance should be recognised as one of several necessary activities as part of a comprehensive strategy but not the most important one.
- There needs to be support for building resilience and risk reduction and building the resilience of poor communities and their institutions.

Targeting

What's happening?

- Vulnerable countries and vulnerable communities are recognised.

What ActionAid thinks needs to happen

- Adaptation funds need to involve vulnerable communities and groups in the decision-making process.

Helping oil exporters

What's happening?

- Oil exporters want to be seen as climate-vulnerable and deserving of adaptation funds.

What ActionAid thinks needs to happen

- Their demands need to be given short shrift.

Finance

Scale

What's happening?

- Rich countries have not put a number on the table.

What ActionAid thinks needs to happen

- They need to commit to finding at US\$180 billion a year to tackle climate change in developing countries, with US\$86 billion going to adaptation.³

Sources

What's happening?

- None of the proposed revenue-generating schemes are receiving solid support from the big rich countries.

What ActionAid thinks needs to happen

- A combination of automatic revenue-generating mechanisms is required including the auctioning of pollution permits, international taxes on aviation and shipping and a currency transaction tax.⁴

Institutions

What's happening?

- Rich countries want to exercise their control by supporting existing institutions, including the World Bank, to deliver climate finance.

What ActionAid thinks needs to happen

- Business as usual will not do: the World Bank has a poor track record on development.⁵ We need new institutions that are governed by, and accountable to the UNFCCC, to spend climate finance.

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³ See ActionAid (2009) *Who should pay to tackle climate change in developing countries?*

<http://www.actionaid.org/assets/pdf/Climate%20finance%20briefing%20in%20template%20May%202009%20FINAL.pdf>

⁴ See Stamp Out Poverty (2009) *Assessing the alternatives: financing climate change mitigation and adaptation in developing countries*: <http://www.stampoutpoverty.org/?lid=10939>

⁵ See ActionAid (2009) *The case against the World Bank's role in tackling climate change*:

<http://www.actionaid.org/assets/pdf/World%20Bank%20briefing%20in%20template%20May%202009%20FINAL.pdf>