

# below 2°C



A voice of Russian environmental groups-observers at the UNFCCC negotiations

No.37 (Saturday, December 11, 2009)

Copenhagen, UNFCCC CoP-15, CMP-5, SBSTA-31, SBI-31, AWG-KP-10, AWG-LCA-8

## declaration adopted

**On December 19, between 10 and 11 a.m. in Copenhagen, the political declaration emerged yesterday in results of joint efforts of the US, China, India, and South Africa was finally approved.**

At that, the Copenhagen Accord is not a formal resolution of the UNFCCC COP-15 as not all the nations agree to approve it. In the end, only 28 representatives of different countries and negotiating blocs were working on the document while for the formal resolution a consensus of 192 parties of the Convention is required. Therefore, the COP-15 resolution is to take the Copenhagen Accord into consideration. A number of developing countries have announced they agree with neither the document approved nor the procedure of its development they were excluded from.

So what the Copenhagen Accord is about. First of all, it is by no

means a mandatory document. In a sense, it's just a declaration of intentions with no mechanism to implement the intentions. After the two-week jitters in Copenhagen, the nations failed to take any commitments.

The non-obligatory-for-anyone Copenhagen Accord has no single word on when a new legally binding climate agreement will be signed (in the first draft it was mentioned that the legally binding mechanisms will be developed the next year but in a later version this line was deleted). What has left is a statement that the rich nations will provide \$30 billion in 2010-2012, and up to \$100 billion by 2020 to help the poor nations. However, if someone's plans are changed one can give no money; everything is entirely on one's free will.

The Copenhagen Accord has annexes in form of tables listing the emissions reduction commitments of the developed

countries, as well as another table listing the measures taken by the developing countries. It is a pity that this all is not binding. A sort of nice wrapping to distract attention from the major failure.

The Below 2°C believes that at the climate summit in Copenhagen the developed countries were directing their efforts not toward reaching the legally binding agreement but for their own economic profit. Under such conditions, the COP-15 was doomed to failure. The COP-16 will take place in Mexico in a year; there is plenty of time to correct errors of Copenhagen. That's just whether anyone wants to fix them?

Today the Russian media reproduce accusations against developing countries that it was through their actions that the Copenhagen summit failed. Venezuela, Bolivia, Saudi Arabia, Nicaragua, Cuba are referred to in this context. One can hardly imagine any stranger statement.

"Below 2°C" was started by Russian environmental group Ecodefense in 2008. Presently, produced by a group of Russian activists from various organizations, observing the UN climate talks. This issue was produced by: Vladimir Sliviyak, Olga Podosenova, Vladimir Chuprov, Galina Raguzina, Rashid Alimov.

Download it in Russian here: <http://below2c.wordpress.com>

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Produced with support from Heinrich Boell Foundation.

Does anyone seriously believe that in the presence of such heavyweights as the US, EU, Japan, Canada, Australia and so on, a handful of the abovementioned developing countries can somehow influence the negotiation process? The negotiations may only fail through the fault of those who can

influence them. These are the developed countries. Not all of them, of course, but the most important ones. And the main problem now is that there is no any reason seen for those to who caused the failure to change their behavior in a year, or two, or five years.

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## russian president came to copenhagen as a spectator

**The President of Russia Dmitry Medvedev made a presentation at the UN climate summit in Copenhagen on December 18.**

Unfortunately, his speech didn't contain anything fundamentally new. It remains unclear why Russian President came to Copenhagen for two days if his

entire speech was a repetition of previous statements which are already known to the summit delegates (there are still the media existing in the world). It must be admitted that some of Russian observers in Copenhagen was wrong to believe that Dmitry Medvedev

could make some bold and unexpected statement which would have ensured the progress of negotiations. President of Russia appeared in the capital of Denmark as a spectator only.

The full text of Dmitry Medvedev's speech can be found at [below2c.wordpress.com](http://below2c.wordpress.com)

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## a un secretariat confidential document made public

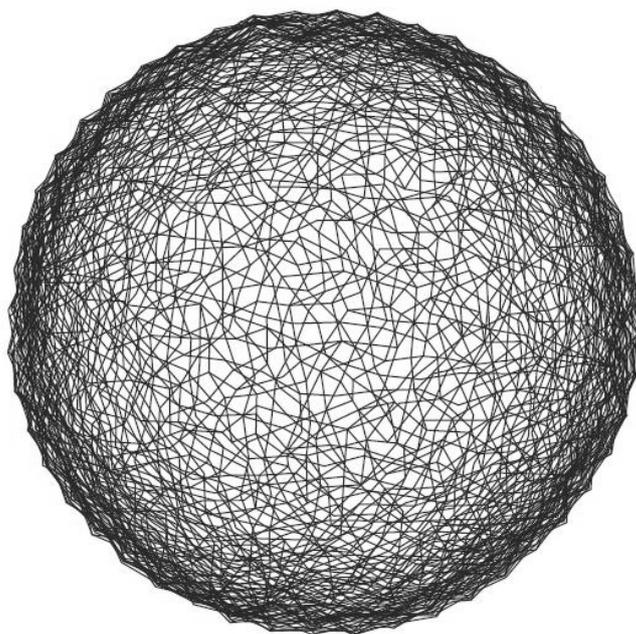
**On December 18, a UN Secretariat confidential document that captures all countries' promises on emission reduction for the post-Kyoto period (2012-2020) was made public.**

According to the document, if these emissions reduction targets currently announced by the countries are summed up it turns out that the concentration of carbon dioxide in the

atmosphere will reach 550 ppm or more.

This corresponds to a rise of the global temperature by 3 Celsius degrees.

In order to avoid the most negative irreversible impacts of climate change it is needed that the



temperature rise remains within 2 Celsius degrees.

Commitment to this goal was declared this year by the G8.

The Below 2°C believes that emission reduction commitments by the developed countries, primarily the United States, as well as the developing countries, particularly China, should be increased so as to reach 25-40 per cent reduction in global emissions by 2020.

Otherwise, we are awaiting the climate chaos.

The leaked document may be downloaded at: <http://below2c.files.wordpress.com/2009/12/leaked-secretariat-doc-degrees.pdf>

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**2<sup>o</sup>** According to scientists, a cap on global warming of 2°C is seen as the minimum to prevent irreversible global warming.

меньше