

WORLD LEADERS SHOW RENEWED HOPE FOR COPENHAGEN

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World leaders on September 22, rekindled hope for the upcoming Copenhagen UN Climate Summit with a clarion call for a “comprehensive climate change agreement in Copenhagen”.

The around 100 leaders called for a climate deal in December that ensures enhanced action to assist the most vulnerable and the poorest to adapt to the impacts of climate change, adding that ambitious emissions reduction are required for industrialized countries as well as the need for nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing countries with the necessary support.

The call was made in New York at a special UN climate change summit convened by UN Secretary General, Ban Ki – moon, according to a release issued by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), after the meeting.

The world leaders also reiterated that significantly scaled up financial and technical resources and an equitable governance structure are required.

Thai Prime Minister, Abhisit Vejjajiva is quoted by the release as saying “The summit was able to renew our collective engagement on the issue of climate change at the very high levels. So I hope that the political will and vision expressed by all leaders will now guide you, as negotiators and concerned national officials, on the road to Copenhagen”

Prime Minister Vejjajiva was addressing government delegates in Bangkok on September 28 at the beginning of another round of climate change talks, preceding the New York summit.

“There is no plan B’, he added. “If we do not realize plan A, we go straight to plan F, which stands for failure”.

The Bangkok meeting from September 28 to October 9 is being attended by more than 4000 participants, including government delegates from 177 countries, representatives from business, industry and, environmental organizations, and research institutions.

While negotiations are expected to focus on the five elements, world leaders subscribed to in New York, areas in which progress can be extended include – adaptation action, Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD) for developing countries, technology, capacity building, and institutional arrangements for finance.

A key focus will be on obtaining clarity on further emissions reduction commitments for industrialized countries, important technical work under the Kyoto Protocol will be taken forward on issues such as land use, land - use change and forestry, identifying new greenhouse gas to be included in the Copenhagen agreed outcome and defining base years for emissions cuts.

Furthermore, countries will continue to discuss which mechanisms can be deployed to raise the level of ambition of industrialized countries.

They will also assess the impacts emissions cut will have on developed and developing countries.

The Bangkok meeting will be followed by a final five days of pre – Copenhagen negotiations in Barcelona in November.