

“Don’t Kill Kyoto” say African Nations

16.12.09

50 African nations, backed by the G77 group of developing nations, including India and China held a temporary “walkout” from the climate change talks in Copenhagen on Monday, 14th December 2009. The Africa Group led by Algeria and including South Africa held the protest claiming that rich nations were trying to end the Kyoto Protocol. The 1997 Kyoto Protocol imposed penalties on rich nations if they did not comply with its strict emissions limits but made no such binding demands on developing nations. The primary issue is that developing nations want to extend the 1997 Kyoto Protocol and work out a separate new deal for the poor. However, most rich nations want to merge the Kyoto Protocol into a single new accord. Some industrialised nations are attempting to replace the Kyoto Protocol and bring the domestic actions of developing countries under far stricter international scrutiny, forcing disproportionate carbon limits on them. Developing countries argue that the main responsibility for reducing carbon emissions should be the responsibility of industrialised nations who are to blame for the increase in emissions. *“We are seeing the death of the Kyoto Protocol,”* said Djemouai Kamel of Algeria, head of the 50-nation Africa group. The Africa group has conveyed that killing of the Kyoto Protocol would mean the killing of Africa.

The talks have now resumed, however with a great deal of work to be done, many climate change groups urge for action as time is running out. The UN Climate change conference in Copenhagen is due to end on Friday, 18th December.