

ACTSA's Response to Copenhagen Climate Change Summit 21/12/2009

Copenhagen Climate Change Summit – outcome is a disappointment; the challenge remains, a fair, effective binding agreement which tackles the causes of climate change and enables poverty to be reduced.

The Copenhagen Climate Change Summit outcome is a disappointment. There is no legally binding agreement on greenhouse gas emission. The fund to support developing countries including those in southern Africa tackle the causes and meet the consequences of man made rapid global warming is an aspiration not a commitment and it also not clear if it will be additional to current international development support.

We said what happens at Copenhagen would be important. We also said what happens post Copenhagen would be as important. Given the disappointment of Copenhagen then what happens in 2010 is now even more crucial. Copenhagen was perhaps the best opportunity to get an international agreement. It is also a missed opportunity. But there is still a chance of getting binding international agreement with international monitoring and verification and a fund of at least \$100 billion, preferably \$150 billion to support developing countries mitigate and adapt. We need to keep the pressure on world leaders to ensure the response to the challenges posed by climate change is a really effective and equitable agreement which will be fully implemented.

South Africa has provided leadership. It has stated that provided it receives the necessary and appropriate financial and technological support it is willing to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 34% by 2020. This is more than the UK and the EU has said they will do. It is important we ensure that South Africa get the international support to enable it to achieve this.

We recognise that climate change is a global issue. No country whatever it does can deal with it on it own. We will continue to press for a legally binding international agreement which effectively tackles climate change, in which those that have caused the problem have the responsibility to do most to reduce it and that any agreement must tackle climate change and enable developing countries reduce poverty.

Notes;

The Copenhagen Climate Change Summit noted an accord between a number of countries.

There was consensus on the need to curb global warming to a 2 degree centigrade rise.

There was support for a fund of \$100 billion by 2020 to support developing countries meet the challenges of Climate Change but this is an aspiration not an agreement.