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

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# word spoken is past recalling

Yesterday Russian and international media continued discussing the "Danish project", an unofficial negotiation document that leaked out to the media. The text became available for the British journalists suggests the developed countries would be allowed as much as twice more emissions per person than the developing countries (2.67 and 1.44 tons of CO2 correspondingly).

Moreover, it proposes to cancel the principle of "differential accountability" set by the Kyoto protocol, according to which the rich countries have to reduce their emissions and the poor ones does not. Also, the document mentions the transfer of control over the financing of the climate programs to the World Bank. Furthermore, a new category of developing countries is introduced, the "most vulnerable" for the climate change.

Yesterday, the Below 2°C staff was trying to interview a number of delegates on their opinion toward the published document. The developing countries' delegates were naturally very negative. CIS countries' delegates either didn't know about this yet or they did but refused to comment. Russian delegate Oleg Shamanov stated the following opinion: "It's a not good-looking situation. This is the work of the forces that are living in the past and try to freeze the nego-

## "the forgotten corner"

How to make information on the Russian delegation activity in Copenhagen more accessible? Surely, there should be a space for communication between the delegation and the observers, and majority of the official delegations has arranged that. But unfortunately the Russian one hasn't.

tiating process".

The Russian delegation has its office provided by the summit organizers. Ironically, "the forgotten corner" of the Russian delegation is situated literally in a stone's throw away from the other delegations' offices and 30 meters away from some big

environmental organizations' offices working in full swing. But it was impossible to find someone in the Russian office until Wednesday. Yesterday it happened to succeed but it turned out that some delegates had just got in to talk to each other behind the closed doors.

It has also yet been worked

"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 Slivyak, Olga Podosenova, Vladimir Chuprov, Rashid Alimov, Galina Raguzina.

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

Issues printed on paper are usually distributed at the conference building. If you couldn't find one - call +45 51400527 or e-mail <a href="mailto:ecodefense@gmail.com">ecodefense@gmail.com</a>

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out to make an appointment with the Russian delegation representative – the activities in Copenhagen are really quite intensive. This can easily be understood. But it seems to be time to ask: "Why anyone of a few dozens of the delegation members couldn't be appointed to deal with providing information and explaining, then necessary, the Russia's position to observers, journalists and others concerned? Why instead of having such a person we have to bother extremely busy negotiators who obviously cannot break into parts?"

By the way, where are those dozens of Russian representatives? So far, we have seen perhaps a dozen of (and actually less) people at plenary rooms. The role of nongovernmental organizations in the negotiation process is hard to overestimate. The mere presence of NGO observers in many ways affects the position of official delegations. Not to mention the possibilities NGOs have in the process of discussion and formulation of specific positions.

We hope that situation will change in Copenhagen and the delegation will become as open and accessible as other civilized countries' delegations.

### russia wins third place fossil on wednesday

Russia wins third place Fossil today for proposing, during the Kyoto Protocol plenary discussion, that President Medvedev's announced 20-25% reductions were "an important political statement" - not an actual submission for the Kyoto Protocol. "We will not be ready to submit those most recent figures announced by the president," said Russia's negotiator, "because they were not intended for the KP." Well, large majority of environmental groups thinks Kyoto protocol must not be killed.

### the media overiew (continued)

Russian media continue quite actively discussing the climate negotiations in Copenhagen.

While commenting the Russian position, a number of the media refer to the recent meeting of Vladimir Putin with the Danish Prime Minister Lars Rasmussen. Thus, according to Rossiyskaya Gazeta, "in the course of negotioations... it was mentioned that the Russian Federation will act in accord with industrialized countries on certain conditions. First condition is that Russia insists on accounting the Russia's forests potential to absorb carbon dioxide as, according to Putin, this aspect hasn't been sufficiently reflected in the Kyoto Protocol". Yesterday's issue of the Below 2°C published an article on the forest issue and Russian proposals in Copenhagen.

Tuesday's headlines of Russian media were filled with announcements of the scandalous so-called 'Danish text'. Describing the situation that at **the Times** suggestion was dubbed as a climategate, **RIA Novosti** are quoting a Sudanese delegate Lumumba Stanislas Dia Pin:

"The text is seriously threatening the successful outcome of the climate negotiation". The Rossiyskaya Gazeta even suspects a collusion of the insiders (the UK, the USA, and Denmark) and believes the negotiations are under jeopardy.

RIA Novosti approached the topic of possible options to prolong the Kyoto Protocol in its material "Linear" continuation of the Kyoto Protocol is not to suit Russia". Reffering to the Russian delegate Oleg Shamanov, the agency reports that "a simple continuation with the Kyoto protocol is an unvital option". It will suit neither Russia, nor developed countries, nor the environment. The only viable option seems to be a legally binding agreement signed by the major emitters such as India, China, Brasil, and the USA.

Unlike some other positions where the official vision meet opposition between the environmentalists, pursuing to sign the legally binding agreement is also supported by the Russian NGOs representative attending the Copenhagen summit.

(to be continued)



O According to scientists, a cap on global warming of 2°C is seen as the minimum to prevent irreversible global warming.