

below 2°C



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

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

even political agreement is tentative

As it became known to the Below 2°C, three possible options of the Copenhagen climate conference outcome have been discussed at the closed consultations of the G-77 and China.

The first one initially seemed non-advantageous option of the adoption of a political agreement only, no longer seems the worst. It will be a good fortune if at least any decision is adopted by the

Conference of the Parties. It may be, for example, the decision to develop in 2010 a legally binding agreement or the two agreements, if the extension of the Kyoto Protocol is anticipated.

Another option being discussed is to adopt the proposal to extend the negotiations, but without specifying the dates and a legal status of the new agreement.

The third and the weakest for the climate process option is no

decision in Copenhagen.

According to rumors, this is the option influential representatives of the G-77 and China insist on. If this option works out, the Conference of the Parties will be considered incomplete and will take place again in June in Bonn.

The Below 2°C believes that the only option making any sense is the first one. It's time to stop wasting resources and emit CO2 for the idle talk.

the observers addressed the president adviser

Yesterday Russian observers at the UN Climate Summit in Copenhagen addressed to the Russian President Climate Adviser A.I. Bedritsky with an open letter. The text is below.

«Russian nongovernmental organizations attending the UNFCCC Conference in Copenhagen support the statement made by President of Russia Dmitry Medvedev on the 14th of December, 2009, on the need for simultaneous commitments to reduce emissions by all major emitters of greenhouse gases.

We believe the legally binding agreement is an optimal outcome of the negotiations. Taking

into account the complexity of the negotiating process, we consider very important to continue the work of the KP working group to prolong the validity of the Protocol until the comprehensive legally binding agreement which would meet the current situation and include the major positive elements of the KP is achieved.

In June 2009, President of Russia stated that Russia's cumulative contribution to reduction of global GHG emissions counts for 30 billion tons of CO2-equivalent in the period from 1990 to 2020. This means that the majority of unused quota that Russia receives

"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 Podosyonova, Alexey Kokorin, Galina Raguzina, Rashid Alimov.

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 ecodefense@gmail.com

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in the period of 2008-2012 will be a part of Russia's contribution to the international efforts on global GHG emission cut. In this regard, we urge Russia's delegation to announce officially that transfer of the unused emission quota of the Kyoto Protocol to the future periods is unreasonable, and that way to allow enhancing Russia's emission cut targets.

In our opinion, the surplus of Russia's quota within the period of the Kyoto Protocol can only be used exclusively for purposeful environmental investment in a strictly limited amount - not more than 5 per cent of its total value.

At the same time, we fully support the Joint Implementation projects, as they do not require spending quotas but create additional emission reduction units and, whenever all the requirements of the Kyoto Protocol are fulfilled,

contribute to the real modernization of Russia's economy.

Russian nongovernmental organizations are once again stating that nuclear energy cannot be considered as a renewable energy source and a technology that could contribute to tackling climate change. Please make every effort to ensure that Russian delegation has abstained from the inclusion of nuclear energy as a technology for addressing climate change, as this could adversely affect the negotiations, and also damage the image of Russia in the international community.

Please also make an effort to expedite the signing of the Climate Doctrine of Russia with the subsequent development and adoption of the Action Plan, ensuring the emissions peak is passed over and the stabilization gets under way in 2015, meaning the subsequent reduction of emissions».

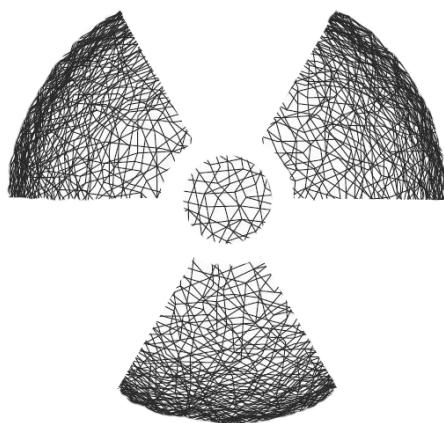
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Yesterday the statement on climate change appeared at the site of Russian President Dmitry Medvedev. This is most likely a draft for his speech at the climate summit in Copenhagen where the head of Russia is arriving on December 17. In general, the statement can be called positive, if it was not nuclear energy mentioned as a renewable energy source which must be developed.

Firstly, nuclear energy is not renewable because uranium supply is exhaustible.

Secondly, nuclear energy is not an effective tool to tackle climate change and, as all traditional energy sources, is a source of various emissions, including those of GHG. Nuclear cycle related emissions approximately count for the modern gas cycle emissions.

Thirdly, in terms of GHG emissions cut nuclear energy is more expensive than renewable energy sources (solar, wind,



geothermal) and energy efficiency. The funds for emission reducing efforts are not unlimited and therefore we need to choose stimulating the most effective technologies, and

nuclear energy is not among them.

Moreover, the problem of nuclear waste that will remain dangerous for humans and the environment for many thousands years is not solved anywhere in the world. Large accidents still can happen even at the currently designed reactor types, not to mention the first generation of nuclear plants that are still operating in Russia.

There is one more risk. Many countries participating in the climate negotiations are against nuclear energy as a climate change tackling instrument. Declaring support to nuclear technologies means to complicate the negotiating process.



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

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