

GREENPEACE

Analysis of the “Draft outline of APEC leaders’ declaration on climate change, energy security and clean development”

The leaked draft APEC declaration on climate change and energy confirms that John Howard and George Bush want to use the upcoming APEC meeting to derail international negotiations on continuing and strengthening the Kyoto Protocol on climate change. They are doing this to protect the Australian export coal industry, and American fossil fuel interests.

Greenpeace analysis of the key issues and problems in this declaration:

<p>The declaration states: “agree that a long-term <u>aspirational</u> global emissions reduction goal will be a key component of the post-2012 framework”</p>	<p>Aspirational targets have been shown to be ineffective in reducing pollution, be it greenhouse gases or otherwise.</p> <p>The first talk of an “aspirational” target for the post-2012 period came from President Bush in the lead-up to the G8 when he wanted to avoid the German proposal of accepting a 50% cut in emissions by 2050.</p> <p>Bush has also proposed that discussions on his proposed “aspirational” target for the biggest emitting countries would be completed by the end of 2008 – ie after the US elections. Bush is merely creating the appearance of action on climate change to help Republican candidates. Howard’s motives are essentially similar. Going into an election after 11 years of inaction on climate change, APEC is his last chance to position himself on the issue.</p>
<p>The declaration lacks any binding commitments or timetables for action</p>	<p>Consistent with the Howard/Bush agenda, none of the issues raised in the declaration include binding action targets - nor timetables. There is talk of renewable energy, cleaner fossil fuels, deforestation, aviation and energy efficiency, yet there are no binding action plans, no new financial instruments are established, nor new money made available. The section on the efficiency target notes: “<i>The goal would not be legally binding or enforceable, and could be amended as necessary if circumstances change</i>”.</p>
<p>The declaration pledges to “support the UNFCCC process” and the need for a “post 2012 framework”</p>	<p>This sounds like support for the UN process but it is not. What it means is abandoning the Kyoto Protocol with its binding targets and going back to the UNFCCC. The 1992 UNFCCC was the predecessor to Kyoto and included an aspirational target. In 1995 Governments recognised it was</p>

	<p>not going to achieve the cuts in greenhouse gas emissions required by the scientific evidence on climate change and negotiated the Kyoto Protocol.</p> <p>2012 is when Kyoto's first phase ends. Governments are currently beginning negotiations on tightening Kyoto in its second phase – called the “second commitment period.” If APEC nations were to succeed in replacing Kyoto's mandatory commitments with merely aspirational ones, this would set back international action on climate change by 12 years.</p>
<p>The declaration proposes an “energy intensity target” of 25% by 2030, with a baseline year of 2005.</p>	<p>Improvements in energy intensity can occur while overall energy consumption, and therefore greenhouse gas emissions, increase.</p> <p>For example, in 2002 US President Bush set a voluntary target of reducing US energy intensity 18% by 2012. However, overall greenhouse gas emissions are still projected to <i>increase</i> by 12% over that period¹.</p> <p>Most economies naturally become less energy intense as they become more efficient and as they shift towards less energy intensive sectors like services.</p> <p>Kyoto's baseline year is 1990 – APEC's suggestion is 15 years later.</p>
<p>The declaration proposes APNet, with a vague overarching goal of “to strengthen and formalise energy research coordination and collaboration”.</p>	<p>APNet appears to be a replacement for AP6, given that AP6 was floundering. The proposed meeting in India, for example, was cancelled. Yet APNet shares AP6's faults. There are not targets, no timetables, and no new money.</p>
<p>The declaration proposes an aspirational goal of expanding forest cover in the APEC region by 20 million hectares by 2020, and the establishment of the Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Rehabilitation and Management, a Chinese proposal</p>	<p>The forestry section of the declaration repeats the mistakes of the energy section: there are no hard targets, and no new money attached.</p> <p>It also ignores the need for developed countries like Australia to introduce legislation banning imports or illegally logged timber. Howard has announced \$40 m a year over five years (\$200m) for the Global Forest Carbon Initiative. Yet Australia imports \$400m worth of illegally logged timber every year² and consistently refuses to introduce legislation banning it.</p>
<p>The declaration voices support for a range of forest initiatives, like</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Australian Global Initiative on Forests & Climate • Support World Bank Forest Carbon Initiative • Asia Pacific network for Sustainable Forest Rehabilitation and Management 	<p>The best place to count carbon from forests is in the Kyoto Protocol. Need to set up a mechanism in Kyoto.</p>

¹ http://www.pewclimate.org/policy_center/analyses/response_bushpolicy.cfm.

² Jaakko Poyry Consulting, September 2005, Overview of Illegal Logging, for Dept of AFF

What would be an acceptable APEC climate statement?

APEC is not the meeting to make any decisions or great statements on climate change. The only thing APEC could usefully do on climate change would be to:

- Support the Kyoto process
- support strong negotiations for a post 2012 agreement which would reduce industrialised country emissions by at least 30% below 1990 levels by 2020 ...and 80% below 1990 levels by 2050.

The worst thing APEC could do would be to agree the declaration as it stands, which is a clear challenge to Kyoto and a distraction from the proper process.

CONTACTS

Ben Pearson	0407 008 917
Catherine Fitzpatrick	0408 487 155
Cindy Baxter	0407 284 916

GREENPEACE AT APEC: MEDIA CENTRE

Greenpeace is organising, with other NGO's, an International NGO media centre for the APEC meeting. We will have daily briefings, and stories from environment and development NGO's.

Where? Within a five minute walk of the Darling Harbour APEC media centre, 377 Sussex St

When? September 2-9

What? Media centre with wireless, coffee, pastries, press conference facilities