

Speech by Lo Sze Ping, Campaign Director, Greenpeace China – on behalf of Climate Action Network International

To: UN Thematic Plenary III – Technology “Innovating a climate-friendly world – the role of technology and its dissemination”

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Dear Chairman,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak and address you, leaders from around the world. I speak here as part of civil society, the Climate Action Network, and I come from Greenpeace China. China is at center-stage to the climate change debate. According to one recent study, China is the biggest emitter of carbon dioxide in the world. This fact has led some to say: “China must act first”.

But, to be clear, China **is acting**. At the beginning of June, China's National Climate Change Programme outlined measures China will take to combat climate change. The programme commits China to real action, such as binding renewable energy and energy efficiency targets – stronger and more ambitious than in certain industrialized nations.

China, a developing country with low per capita emissions, is beginning to realize the consequences of burning fossil fuels, not least because it is already suffering serious impacts from climate change including worsening droughts, floods and typhoons. Glaciers in the Himalayas, Tibetan Plateau and mountains of central Asia are receding at an ever faster rate and their loss threatens the water resources of hundreds of millions of people in Asia.

To prevent this apocalyptic future, there must be an energy revolution. Coal accounts for 70 percent of the energy in China - 42 percent higher than the world's average. This must end. There must be a massive uptake in renewable energy technologies in China and worldwide.

We need a revolution – not in technologies, but in technology uptake. **The world has all the technology we need to start the job of preventing dangerous climate change – now.** We cannot afford talk of more research replacing real action. We cannot afford to be distracted by technology initiatives. The barriers to clean and efficient technologies are not

technological, they are above all, political, and financial. Only by strengthening the Kyoto Protocol and domestic laws for renewable energies and energy efficiency, can we create the investment climate to deliver a clean energy revolution. An energy revolution, incidentally, that does without dangerous and expensive nuclear power.

China, for example, should have much bigger ambitions for the development of wind and solar energies. China could develop 118GW of wind power and 25GW of solar PV power by 2020, which would amount to 9 percent of total electricity generation by 2020. Worldwide, we *can* reduce emissions from the power sector by 50 percent by 2050, if we ensure *both* a **massive uptake of sustainable renewable energy options** and a **doubling of the efficiency** with which we use energy. In fact, renewable energy sources can provide 50 percent of the world's energy needs by 2050.

What is needed for clean technologies to thrive, however, are strong emissions reductions in the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. At the climate negotiations in December, you must therefore agree to nothing short of a **Bali Mandate**. Not a road map to nowhere, not a wish list. You must agree on a clear, legal mandate for negotiations that will deliver an agreement - by 2009 at the latest. This agreement must keep global mean temperature rise as far below 2 degrees compared to pre-industrial levels as possible.

And I cannot emphasize how ambitious we need to be in negotiating the Bali Mandate. If we are to stand a chance of preventing dangerous climate change, the Bali Mandate negotiations must include at least seven crucial outcomes:

First, they must lead to actions that will, within a decade, put the world on a track of declining emissions that can lead to **more than a halving of global emissions by 2050 compared to 1990 levels**.

Next, **developed countries**, which have historically caused most of the problem, must take the lead. As a group, they must cut emissions by at least 30 percent by 2020 (from 1990 levels).

- **More countries** must join in the Kyoto regime of binding emission limits. Newly industrialized countries with high per capita incomes such as South Korea, Singapore and Saudi Arabia should join the Kyoto system and adopt binding emission limitation targets for the next commitment period.
- The architecture for the second commitment period should be open and enable any developing country that wishes to join the international trading system with national level quantitative emissions limitation commitments to do so.
- Middle income countries such as China, Brazil, India and South Africa need to participate in the Kyoto emissions trading system (through sectoral or other quantified action agreements for greenhouse gas emission limitations and/or reductions, e.g. for the electricity sector). These will need to be tailored, to the different circumstances of middle-income countries but must all involve additional

action. Incentives must make joining the Kyoto system even more attractive.

- A massive new **Clean Technology Deployment Mechanism** system aimed at switching to clean, efficient, renewable technology in developing countries. Investment in renewable energies and energy efficiency of around USD 300 billion a year – roughly equivalent to current fossil fuel subsidies – can deliver the emission reductions science tells us we need to achieve. Institutions such as the World Bank must now channel all their energy funding into this energy revolution. And the Kyoto Protocol after 2012 needs to generate further funds to transform the global energy system.

And the last point I will mention is that we need a Deforestation Reduction Mechanism that provides the necessary scale and financing to first drastically reduce and then halt deforestation.

It is not too late, but it is indeed getting very late. Ominously, the climate is changing faster than we imagined and impacts are manifesting earlier than were predicted.

The cost of adaptation to the inevitable changes in the next decade or so are already staggering. Sober scientists and economists are raising alarm bells that can be ignored only at great peril to us all.

The first steps are already being taken – as the development of renewable energies in my home country, China, shows. Both last year and this year, the growth rate of wind installed capacity has exceeded 100 percent. Since 2005, over 90 percent of the new wind farms in China have applied for Clean Development Mechanism under the Kyoto Protocol. Every wind farm built brings us closer to a clean and low-carbon future, while every new coal-fired plant locks us into a carbon-intensive path.

Now we need you, dear leaders, to take the next decisive steps. We need you to back an energy revolution and to ensure that public money funds the expansion of renewable energies and energy efficiency. We need you to agree a Bali Mandate that will lead to a strengthened global climate regime under the United Nations.

Kyoto, just do it!

Thank you very much for your attention.

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