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Warsaw Conference: Climate Action Network calls for reduction in carbon pollution levels

Warsaw, Poland (PANA) - As negotiations continue for laying the foundation for an ambitious and effective 2015 global climate agreement, Greenpeace says carbon pollution levels had to be reduced now to ensure safe climate and boost political impetus towards the comprehensive global climate action plan that will be signed in Paris in 2015.

"Here in Warsaw, countries can commit right away to boost deployment of renewable energy and energy saving measures as put forward by the Alliance of Small Island States," Greenpeace's head of delegation Martin Kaiser said Wednesday at a press conference held at the UN Climate Change Conference being held in Warsaw, Poland.

"Failure to aggregate climate, renewable energy and energy saving targets here in Warsaw sends a cynical message that government leaders aren't serious about climate action, but are handcuffed by the dirty fossil fuel lobby," Kaiser said.

Sven Harmeling, from the leading humanitarian organisation CARE, said more than 130 developing countries put forward a proposal Wednesday for an international institutional mechanism that could, for example, channel fast financial support - beyond initial emergency relief - to countries devastated by climate impacts such as tropical storms.

The mechanism could assess the risk countries face and provide new knowledge to help countries cope with ever more extreme climate impacts and to rehabilitate environments and communities after losses are experienced.

"Now that developing countries have taken the lead, it is up to developed countries to seriously engage with this comprehensive proposal," Harmeling said at the joint press conference.

The increased momentum behind loss and damage comes as the most vulnerable nations called for 2014 to be the year of delivering increased ambition on climate action.

Policy experts from Climate Action Network at the Warsaw negotiations say momentum is building for a mechanism to deal with the loss and damage caused by climate change to be established within the UN system.

An annual Global Climate Risk Index report released here by the Germanwatch shows that the most severe weather-related catastrophes in 2012 occurred in Haiti, Philippines and Pakistan.

The Philippines come second in the 2014 Climate Risk Index.

"The unfolding human tragedy caused by super-typhoon Haiyan will only be captured in future reports. The Index 2014 tells the story of a country constantly battered by climate-related catastrophes," explains Sonke Kreft, co-author of the Index.

Pakistan, the third ranked country, has been among the three most affected countries worldwide for three consecutive years.

"The landfall of Hurricane Sandy in the US dominated international news in October 2012. Yet, it was Haiti - the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere - that suffered the greatest losses from the same event," Kreft said.

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