

PRESS RELEASE

ST GEORGE'S, Grenada, April 13, 2011 - A last minute agreement by negotiators from 176 nations last has saved the recent United Nations' Climate Change meeting in Bangkok with an agreed on an agenda to shape talks for the rest of the year but the future of the Kyoto Protocol remains in abyss.

This first session of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations since the December Cancun Agreements remained deadlocked for three days, as countries exchanged views over the fate of the Kyoto Protocol and on the decisions reached in Cancun last December.

Under the Kyoto Protocol close to 40 industrialised countries made a legally binding commitment to cut emissions of greenhouse gases, which is blamed for global warming. The first commitment period of the treaty expires in 2012. No extension has yet been agreed.

While the agreed agenda in Bangkok reflects largely what was settled in Cancun, divisions remain among countries on the Kyoto Protocol. While the developing countries are pushing for the continuation of the Protocol, some key developed countries such as Japan and Russia have rejected the proposal. The United States, the world's second largest greenhouse gas emitter after China, has never signed the treaty.

Developed countries, meanwhile, is rejecting any plans to continue the Kyoto Protocol on the grounds that it does not require emissions reductions by emerging countries such as China which are large greenhouse gas producers; and because some technical issues – including a surplus of emission reduction credits issued under the first commitment period , make achieving actual emissions reductions difficult.

During the Bangkok negotiations, activists and civil society groups urged the European Union, which says it is open to a second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol if conditions are right, to go alone and break the impasse.

The Grenada delegation to the meeting included Ambassador Dessima Williams, Dr Spencer Thomas, Mr Leon Charles, and Mrs Aria St Louis; members of the Negotiating Team. Grenada is the current Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Environment,
Foreign Trade and Export Development