

**03 June 2009**

**China to act on climate, warns of "unfair" demands**

**China promised on Tuesday to step up actions to fight climate change and cautioned that "unfair" new demands by rich nations could sabotage a new U.N. treaty due to be agreed in December.**

We will continue to focus on the improvement of energy efficiency, expansion of the use of renewable energy, more use of nuclear power and on reforestation, China's climate ambassador **Yu Qingtai** told Reuters of long-term plans beyond 2010.

"China was already doing a lot. We are pretty certain that our track record would not pale against anybody else in the world," he said on the sidelines of June 1-12 U.N. climate talks among 181 nations in Bonn.

He said China, for instance, was seeking to raise efficiency by cutting the amount of energy burnt per unit of economic output by 4 percent a year.

Washington says that China, which by most estimates has overtaken the United States as the top emitter of greenhouse gases, must do more to fight climate change under a U.N. pact due to be agreed in December in Copenhagen.

But Yu accused rich nations of introducing proposals that go beyond a roadmap for U.N. negotiations agreed in Bali in 2007.

"Copenhagen is only six months away -- instead of introducing new concepts, controversial concepts, unfair concepts, the world would be better served if we could focus on what is already agreed upon in the Bali roadmap," he said.

"If you start questioning agreed principles, that can only mean that countries are not serious about future international cooperation. They are trying to create problems to sabotage the whole process."

Yu said rich nations should focus on keeping pledges to curb greenhouse gases rather than place new demands on the poor.

China wants the rich to cut emissions by at least 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2020 -- far deeper than cuts on offer. A study by the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research on Monday showed that promises by the rich so far amount to cuts of between 8 and 14 percent by 2020.

Asked if 40 percent was realistic when many nations say it would cripple their recession-racked economies, Yu said, "If there is political will...they can certainly do better than 8 or 14 percent. It is basically a question of political will."

Source and more information:

**Reuters full article**