

New Climate Change Roadmap

The foundations of a new global climate deal have been agreed to at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change conference in Bali. In an agreement to begin negotiations that could result in large emitting countries such as China, India and the US having to reduce emissions for the first time, 187 countries agreed that “deep reductions in global emissions” were necessary. The final text of the so-called Bali roadmap “recognises that deep cuts in global emissions will be required to address climate change”. “What I am especially pleased about is that the road forward is ambitious, transparent and flexible. It is ambitious because the roadmap very clearly refers to the ranges and underlying level of ambition that goes with those ranges that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change had been pointing to,” says UNFCCC executive secretary Yvo de Boer. “What you see in this document is much more similarity between how developed and developing countries intend to move forward into the future,” he says. While environmental groups say the move is a clear sign of reductions in greenhouse gas emissions to be imposed, Climate Change Minister Penny Wong says that the Australian Government has not made any commitment by voting with all nations except the US to support the global target agreed upon. “The global community must reach agreement by 2009 so countries have time to implement policies needed to meet their commitments for 2013 and beyond,” Wong adds. Prime Minister Kevin Rudd welcomed news of an agreement. “This is an important step forward because it opens up a roadmap to the future but that roadmap means two further years of hard, tough negotiations between developed and developing countries and among developed countries as well,” Rudd says. “I believe the world community has taken a positive step forward here,” he adds. “In the developing world we of course need to continue to work with our friends in China and India, on the significant task ahead for them as major emitting developing countries.”

[Source essa news]