

Ambassador Camillo M. Gonsalves (File Photo)

NEW YORK, NY, December 21, 2009 - Ambassador Camillo M. Gonsalves, Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations, expressed his disappointment over the Copenhagen Accord.

In unscripted remarks made during a press conference held by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and UN President Dr. Ali Abdullahi, Ambassador Gonsalves stated:

"The Accord is not legally binding, which, I assume, was an aim of most countries heading into Copenhagen. This is a disappointment for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and for other small island developing states (SIDS) who are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change."

"The Accord refers to a limit of 2°C [temperature rise above preindustrial levels], and there are a significant number of countries that have not agreed to this limit. This is a disappointment for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and for other SIDS who are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change."

Ambassador Gonsalves expressed skepticism regarding the pledge by developed countries to provide \$100 billion in climate finance by 2012. He stated:

"These sums were proposed with regard to the comfort of developed countries' economies, not to the needs of the most vulnerable countries. This is a disappointment for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and for other SIDS who are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change."

Further, the Ambassador criticised the Accord, which was prepared by a small group of countries in an opaque manner. He stated:

Ambassador Gonsalves went on to criticise negotiating processes that marginalise the majority of the world's population. He stated:

Indicating that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines "feel[s] no less threatened today than we did when Copenhagen was held, he stated:

"We think that the credibility of the United Nations itself is going to be tested between now and the coming year. We are particularly concerned about the impact of climate change on the most vulnerable countries, and we are particularly concerned about the impact of climate change on the most vulnerable countries."

To view the text of Ambassador Gonsalves' remarks on the Copenhagen Accord, click [HERE](#)