

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 on December 20, 2009, 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 change adaptation and mitigation funds by 2012.

"These sums were proposed with regard to the comfort of developed countries' economies, not to the needs of the most vulnerable countries, such as SIDS, who are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change."

Further, the Ambassador noted that the Copenhagen Accord, which was prepared by a small group of countries in an informal setting, is not legally binding and does not represent the consensus of all countries.

Ambassador Gonsalves went on to criticise negotiating processes that marginalise the majority of the world's population, particularly the most vulnerable countries, such as SIDS.

Indicating that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines "feel[s] no less threatened today than we did when Copenhagen was held," Ambassador Gonsalves 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 credibility of the United Nations in the area of climate change negotiations."

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