

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 the meeting of the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) on Climate Change, moderated 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. It is a political statement, not a legal one."

"The Accord refers to a limit of 2°C [temperature rise above preindustrial levels], and there are a significant number of countries that are not included in the Accord."

Ambassador Gonsalves expressed skepticism regarding the pledge by developed countries to provide \$100 billion annually to help developing countries meet their climate change commitments.

"These sums were proposed with regard to the comfort of developed countries' economies, not to the needs of developing countries," he said.

Further, the Ambassador noted that the Accord, which was prepared by a small group of countries in an informal setting, is not representative of the views of the majority of countries.

Ambassador Gonsalves went on to criticise negotiating processes that marginalise the majority of the world's population, particularly the poor and vulnerable.

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

"We think that the credibility of the United Nations itself is going to be tested between now and the coming years. We must ensure that the process is transparent, inclusive and based on science."

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