

Playing Tricks from Bonn?

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AN EXCLUSIVE - by Stephen Leahy for Climate Change Economics LLC

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Negotiators from nearly 200 countries participating in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) here in Bonn spent the first week *working* the agenda.

"Taxpayers in developed countries must be outraged that their bureaucrats are coming here and playing tricks," said Meena Raman, negotiations analyst from Friends of the Earth Malaysia.

The Bonn negotiations are intended to work out the details for an agreement that will be presented to government ministers at the 17th Conference of the Parties under the UNFCCC in Durban, South Africa in late November. Earlier talks in Bangkok in April made little progress except to make clear that current emission reduction pledges from developed and developing nations were far too low to achieve the 2 degree C target.

The Canadian government informed the negotiating session here last week that it would not sign on to a new Kyoto agreement to reduce carbon emissions. Canada signed the original Kyoto treaty in 1997 committing it to reduce the country's emissions six per cent below its emission levels in 1990. In 2008 Canadian emissions were at least 24 cent per over 1990. The latest reporting year is 2009 but that data is in dispute as the Canadian government has admitted omitting a 20 per cent rise in emissions from the tar sands.

Civil society attending the Bonn negotiations gave Canada a "fossil of the day" award on Friday for doing "its best to block negotiations" to create an international binding agreement to reduce climate-damaging emissions last week. "Canada's track record of climate inaction shows that they need a binding target more than anyone," the Climate Action Network (CAN) a worldwide network of roughly 700 Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) said in a release.