

PRESS RELEASE

COP18 OUTCOMES WOEFULLY INADEQUATE FOR DEALING WITH CLIMATE CHANGE

International-Lawyers.Org regrets that the State Parties meeting at COP18 to the UNFCCC did not act with the ambition and responsibility that the law and the science requires of them.

The outcomes of COP18 are significantly below the international action that is needed to achieve stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.

International-Lawyers.Org notes that when State Parties fail to act in accordance with the UNFCCC and, for those to whom applicable, the Kyoto Protocol, they incur State responsibility towards other States suffering injury from the adverse effects of climate change.

“Climate change hits the most vulnerable hardest. It already affects millions of people in developing countries where resources for adequate adaptation are still lacking. Future consequences will be catastrophic if States with the historical responsibility for climate change do not comply with their international obligations to take the lead in addressing climate change while at the same time enabling developing countries to mitigate and adapt,” said Margreet Wewerinke, an officer in International-Lawyers.Org. She added that “These actions are not a matter of charity; they are required under international law.”

Such State responsibility also extends to the consequences of climate change that interfere with, among other legal protections, individuals' human rights, peoples' rights to self-determination, and States' right to development.