Sri Lanka proposes amendments to Kyoto Protocol

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Environment and Natural Resources Minister Patali Champika Ranawaka addressing the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change South Asian Sub Regional Meeting in Colombo yesterday said Sri Lanka would propose three amendments to the Kyoto Protocol because the present Carbon Emission cut included in it was not enough to save humanity in future. He proposed that the developed countries’ emissions cut be based on the per capital carbon emission. Sri Lanka proposes to use the IPCC Carbon budget. According to the IPCC Carbon budget the average environmental permissable Carbon per capita level is 2170 kg. Developed countries should cut their emission level by different proportions to achieve this level. Ranawaka said developed countries owed an environmental (Carbon) debt to the other countries and should compensate them. Sri Lanka proposes to trade off the amount of financial loans taken by developing countries from the developed countries by giving a financial value to the historical carbon space used by the developed countries. Ranawaka added that climate change is the direct impact of emission of the developed countries. Therefore, they have to pay for the adaptation of the developing countries. Developed countries should contribute to the adaptation fund according to their emission. In Sri Lanka each person emits 660 kg carbon annually. In some developed countries per capita emission is more than ten times the permissible level of 2170 kg. The world average per capita carbon emission is 4700 kg which is twice the permissable level. That means low emitting countries like Sri Lanka could not emit more because our space has already been exploited by developed or global polluting countries without our consent. And more importantly they have exploited future generations’ carbon space as well. Ranawaka said in the global context our generation is living in an era where deteriorating environmental trends have far reaching economic, social and health implications. A global change by making a paradigm shift away from the present unsustainable production and consumption practices is the only way forward to ensure the continued existence not only of humankind but also of other living beings of the planet earth. In this context it was essential to ensure that Asia-Pacific Network focus research activities aiming at promoting the establishment of a new global environmental governance system based on the polluter pays principle in order to achieve the expected outcome of the desired global change, Ranawaka said. Courtesy: dailynews.lk