**DAY THREE: HISTORIC STEPS OR A CLIMATE WHITEWASH?**

There’s a global climate deal in the pipeline. Or at least that’s what the UNFCCC - the body tasked with coordinating the Copenhagen summit - hinted at last night. At the close of the first week of negotiations, Executive Secretary Yvo de Boer said **“an important step change in the negotiating process” had been achieved.**

So what’s the hype? In short, government negotiators have come up with a series of texts which could form the framework for a new climate agreement. You could say the scaffolding is in place before world leaders arrive next week.

But the news has elicited mixed reaction from UK and international charities in Copenhagen. Oxfam said the proposed texts fall far short of what’s needed to make a real difference to the millions of people already suffering flash floods and withering droughts.

“There is a huge gaping hole in these proposals,” said Oxfam’s Senior Climate Advisor Antonio Hill, pointing out that long-term, large-scale payments to developing countries to help them adapt to the effects of climate change are nowhere to be seen. “Climate cash is critical for a real deal”, said Hill.

CAFOD has also stressed the need for significant sums of money to be included in any climate agreement – and insists new money must be found to assist the world’s most vulnerable nations. “The cash needed to pay for climate damage in poor countries caused by rich countries’ emissions has to be on top of promised aid”, CAFOD said in a statement.

Progressio’s Advocacy Manager, Tim Aldred said: “We’re pleased to see some progress on the detail of the text. However, on the big questions – the amount of money to be made available to poor countries and global commitments to cut emissions – there is still a big gap between what’s being offered and what’s actually required to stop runaway climate change and help the millions of people already being affected.”

Tens of thousands of protesters currently marching through the streets of Copenhagen would no doubt agree that more must be done if a strong deal is to be struck in just five days’ time. In a peaceful demo snaking through the centre of the Danish capital, children ride bikes alongside placard-wearing polar bears.

Inside the Bella centre, scores of delegates stare transfixed at TV screens beaming live images of the protest into the conference venue. One placard reads “blah, blah, blah. Act now” – as if the negotiators need reminding. Pressure is mounting. But time is short.