

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Additional Estimates 8-11 February 2010

Question: PM36

Topic: Copenhagen - Attendance list level of detail

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Senator CAMERON-Dr Grimes, in relation to costings, is it true that Australia's list of attendees at the Copenhagen climate change conference was more comprehensive than that provided by other countries? For example, I understand that the United Kingdom did not list the Prime Minister, ministerial staff, subnational or regional agency staff; China did not include the presidential staff; and the US list did not include the President, any White House staff or state or regional representatives.

Dr Grimes-That may be right, but I am not aware of the department conducting analysis on that.

Senator CAMERON-Can someone take that on notice?

Dr Grimes-We can certainly take that on notice.

Answer:

The United Nations released a list of names of people that was the provisional (draft) list of people for whom the Australian Government (and other countries) had sought accreditation to the Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP15). This list, although released by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, does not represent the Australian Delegation to COP15.

The Australian Government Delegation comprised 68 people. In addition, a further 30 participants from state and territory governments and non-government organisations attended as observers as part of the broader Australian delegation.

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Based on the provisional UNFCCC lists, it appears that countries took various approaches to their delegation lists. Australia's list is more comprehensive than those provided by other countries. For example the United Kingdom list does not include the Prime Minister, ministerial staff, sub-national or regional agency staff. The China list does not include presidential staff and the United States list does not include the President, any staff from the White House or state/regional representatives.