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## ENVIRONMENT

### Climate Change

Question by

**The Honourable Claudette Tardif**

**Thursday, May 13, 2010**

## THE SENATE

Thursday, May 13, 2010

[Translation]

### ENVIRONMENT

#### CLIMATE CHANGE

**Hon. Claudette Tardif (Deputy Leader of the Opposition):** Madam Leader, yesterday the United Nations Secretary-General was here in the Senate gallery. He honoured our country by his presence.

Ban Ki-moon drew the Canadian government's attention to its failure to act on climate change. He said:

I urge Canada to comply with the targets set out by the Kyoto Protocol. You can strengthen your mitigation targets for the future.

Such inaction is unworthy of the government of a country about to host the G8 and the G20.

Why is this government not showing more leadership on the climate change front?

[English]

**Hon. Marjory LeBreton (Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, of course we very much welcomed Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's visit to Canada. Obviously, in terms of the environment, the government's position is clear. We support the Copenhagen Accord. For the first time, a climate change agreement includes all of the major emitters. That reinforced something we have said all along. We cannot deal with the issue of climate change when the major emitters are not at the table.

With regard to the Secretary-General's suggestion that climate change be put on the agenda of the G8 and the G20, the Prime Minister already stated at a media conference in Europe that obviously climate change will be discussed. However, the primary focus of the G8 will be maternal and children's health. A primary

focus of both meetings will be — and must be — the restoration of the economy and the creation of jobs.

[Translation]

**Senator Tardif:** Madam Leader, Ban Ki-moon also said:

Climate change is also something we cannot neglect because of this financial crisis.

When will the government implement meaningful economic recovery measures to support green technologies and fight climate change?

[English]

**Senator LeBreton:** With regard to the comments of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, these comments are not new. They are consistent with comments he and his predecessor have made before.

Obviously these comments were made in Copenhagen and we all know what happened there. It was only due to the major emitters finally agreeing to come to the table that there was any kind of agreement at all. The Secretary-General is entitled to his views, and honourable senators opposite seem to think that is the way to go.

Our government has two tracks. We believe, as our Minister of the Environment has done in the Copenhagen agreement and in working with our partners to the south in terms of our environmental policy, we have already made a major announcement with regard to emissions of automobiles.

At the same time, as the host country and as a major player in dealing with the state of the economy resulting from the worldwide economic downturn — as we have stated strongly from the beginning — we will not take our eyes off the real priority for Canadians and that is the economy, jobs, and the livelihoods of people in this country.