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SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT

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**Aid agencies** have urged countries to take urgent action on **climate change**, as **United Nations climate talks** in Warsaw enter their second week. “Typhoon Haiyan is only a glimpse of the future for millions who will be at risk from **extreme weather.** And the meeting in Warsaw should agree to **rapidly cut carbon emissions** but such action is unlikely as a **global deal before 2015**”

The agencies argue that extreme weather events such as Typhoon Haiyan follow a **growing pattern of threat** that points strongly towards **climate change**. In 2012, the Philippines was the country that suffered the most fatalities from extreme weather events and now Haiyan has struck and affected around 12 million people.

"The images we have seen from the Philippines are a reminder that climate change is not about numbers and process, but a growing reality for poor people who desperately need support to protect themselves and build safer futures." **Prime Minister David Cameron**, seemed to support this view, saying the "**evidence appeared to be growing."**

However, **scientists are reluctant** to attribute any single weather event such as a typhoon to climate change, arguing that there is **not enough data to support such a conclusion.**

Last Monday at the opening of the talks in Warsaw, the Philippines' lead negotiator Yeb Sano issued an emotional appeal to "end this madness". His heartfelt appeal drew tears from some delegates and a three-minute silence in memory of those who lost their lives.

A growing number of people think that UN negotiators must rapidly deliver a mechanism by which compensation can be paid for loss and damage caused by climate change and they must drastically cut global emissions of carbon dioxide.

**By Matt McGrath**

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