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Hu: Tackle climate issue

China's leader calls for urgency in dealing with environs changes

BEIJING: Chinese President Hu Jintao has said the country must urgently confront climate change and make it a central part of the government's development strategy, state media said.

Britain and other countries have accused China of vetoing attempts to give legal force to an agreement at UN climate change talks in Copenhagen in December and blocking an agreement on reductions in global emissions.

China, the world's biggest carbon polluter, has said it was never planning to accept outside reviews of its efforts to slow greenhouse gas emissions at the talks in Denmark.

Hu, addressing a Communist Party politburo "study meeting" on Tuesday, said China was committed to fighting climate change, and should boost environmental awareness among the population at large, the *China Daily* reported.

"We must fully recognise the importance, urgency and difficulty of dealing with climate change.

"We must make it an important strategy for our socio-economic development," Hu said.

Premier Wen Jiabao, who attended Tuesday's meeting, said China would continue to play "an active



Carbon pollution: A blanket of dust covers the buildings in Beijing yesterday as haze in the capital city worsens. Hu said that China was committed to fighting climate change, both at home and in cooperation with the rest of the world. — Reuters

and constructive role" in working with the international community to reach a comprehensive and binding climate deal.

China has submitted its plans to

fight climate change to the United Nations but described them as voluntary and has not formally endorsed the Copenhagen deal.

Beijing has repeatedly said rich

countries should take the lead in committing to substantial emission reduction targets and provide financing to developing countries battling climate change. — AFP