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MEDIA ADVISORY

First in Series of Major UN Climate Change Negotiating Sessions in 2009 Set to Kick off in Bonn

(Bonn, 16 March 2009) – The first in a series of major UN negotiating sessions this year, designed to culminate in an ambitious and effective international climate change deal in Copenhagen in December, is set to get underway on 29 March 2009 in Bonn, Germany.

The Bonn talks, which will run to 8 April 2009, will be attended by more than 2,000 participants, including government delegates, representatives from business and industry, environmental organisations and research institutions.

“The road to Copenhagen is under intensive construction and all its builders are seriously committed to successful completion,” said Yvo de Boer, Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). “Real negotiating mode is just beginning and with only around six weeks of actual face-to-face talking time, the Copenhagen clock keeps steadily ticking down. So minds need to be very focused,” he added.

The first round of UN Climate Change Talks Bonn, 2009 comprise the 5th session of the Ad hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA 5) and the 7th session of the Ad hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP).

Parties meeting under the Convention in Bonn will discuss a key document that describes areas of convergence in the ideas and proposals from Parties, explores options for dealing with areas of divergence, and identifies any gaps that need to be filled in reaching an effective and ambitious climate change deal in Copenhagen in December.

Discussions under the Kyoto Protocol during the March/April Bonn session on emissions reductions to be achieved by industrialised countries after 2012 will be a further key issue at the first Bonn session in 2009, along with improvements to emissions trading and the Kyoto Protocol’s so-called “project-based mechanisms”.

“Following the first round of discussions in Bonn, we will have a much better sense of both where we already have a solid foundation for agreement, but also where input is still lacking for a workable agreed outcome in Copenhagen,” said Yvo de Boer.

The sessions will take place from Sunday, 29 March to Wednesday, 8 April 2009 at the Hotel Maritim in Bonn.

The UNFCCC will give an opening press conference on Sunday, 29 March (13:15) and a closing press conference at the conclusion of the meeting on Wednesday, 8 April (13:15). Parties



and non-governmental organizations will also give press briefings throughout the meeting, the times and locations of which will be posted on the UNFCCC website <unfccc.int>.

A provisional overview of the press briefings is available at:
http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/intersessional/bonn_09/press_bonn/application/pdf/press_conferences_bonn.pdf

Media must have prior accreditation in order to attend UNFCCC and other briefings.

Information about the meetings:
http://unfccc.int/meetings/intersessional/bonn_09/items/4753.php

Overview of side-events:
http://regserver.unfccc.int/seors/reports/events_list.html

Further information for the press is available at:
http://unfccc.int/meetings/intersessional/bonn_09/press_bonn/items/4744.php

Please note that European Summer Time begins in the night to Sunday, 29 March, and that time schedules need to be adjusted accordingly.

Further upcoming major UNFCCC meetings

30th sessions of the UNFCCC Convention subsidiary bodies - SBSTA and SBI, 8th session of the AWG-KP and sixth session of the AWG-LCA – Monday, 1 June to Friday, 12 June 2009, Bonn, Germany

9th session of the AWG-KP and 7th session of the AWG-LCA – Monday, 28 September to Friday, 9 October 2009 United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC) of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Bangkok, Thailand

COP 15 and CMP 5 – Monday, 7 December to Friday, 18 December 2009, Bella Center, Copenhagen, Denmark.

About the UNFCCC

With 192 Parties, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has near universal membership and is the parent treaty of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol. The Kyoto Protocol has to date 184 member Parties. Under the Protocol, 37 States, consisting of highly industrialized countries and countries undergoing the process of transition to a market economy, have legally binding emission limitation and reduction commitments. The ultimate objective of both treaties is to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that will prevent dangerous human interference with the climate system.

Note to journalists

For further information, please contact:

Mr. Eric Hall, Spokesperson/Manager of Communications and Media
Tel.: (+49-228) 815-1398; mobile: (+49-172) 259-0443; e-mail: ehall@unfccc.int

Mr. John Hay, Media Information Officer
Tel.: (+49-228) 815-1404; mobile: (+49-172) 258-6944; e-mail: jhay@unfccc.int

Mr. Alexander Saier, Information Officer (Radio and TV)
Tel.: (+49-228) 815-1509; mobile: (+49-172) 179-8835; e-mail: asaier@unfccc.int



Ms. Carrie Aßheuer, Public Information and Media Assistant (to arrange interviews with the Executive Secretary)

Tel.: (+49-228) 815-1005; mobile: (+49-172) 179-8836; e-mail: [cassheuer\(at\)unfccc.int](mailto:cassheuer@unfccc.int)

See also <<http://unfccc.int>>