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NEW ZEALAND

Abstract

New Zealand treats climate change seriously and is taking action to implement its commitments under the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol, including: a carbon tax, Negotiated Greenhouse Agreements, Projects to Reduce Emissions, a Permanent Forest Sinks Initiative, and a Pastoral Greenhouse Gas Research Consortium.

The most serious impacts of climate change fall on some of the world's most vulnerable citizens. New Zealand is focused on helping to meet the concerns and needs of Pacific Island Countries. In 2001 New Zealand pledged a voluntary commitment of NZ\$5M per year, from 2005, to support climate change activities in developing countries. New Zealand provided NZ\$12M in the previous Global Environment Facility replenishment round.

It will be important to take into account national circumstance in considering what more is needed to tackle climate change. New Zealand's emissions profile is more akin to an advanced developing country than it is to other Annex 1 countries: agriculture accounts for almost 50% of greenhouse gas emissions; a significant plantation forestry industry, and large indigenous forest areas, are important sinks and reservoirs.

The Kyoto Protocol is an important first step: to build on it we urgently need a constructive dialogue on future action. New Zealand has no predetermined view on the best future global framework. Difficult questions need answering:

- *How can we start now a constructive dialogue on what the international community should do next to tackle climate change?* We do not have the luxury of time. There are real costs to all of us in doing nothing.
- *How can we make climate change measures compatible with future economic growth and development aspirations?* The private sector needs confidence to make long-term climate friendly investments: certainty and competitiveness issues are important. We need to make the best use of existing technologies, now. Market mechanisms will be important.
- *How do we recognise that some economic sectors, such as agriculture and transport, currently have limited technology solutions?* For natural resource-based economies, like New Zealand and many developing countries, achieving a substantial reduction in greenhouse gases over the short to medium term, while allowing for economic growth, is not easy.
- *How do we get all of the major emitters involved?* We need broad and balanced participation and action, in particular by all of the world's major emitters, including both developed and developing countries.