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INFORMATION NOTE

This message is being sent to Parties to the Convention, observer States and accredited observer organizations. It is addressed to their National Focal Points for Climate Change and designated contact points for climate change. It is also being copied to diplomatic missions accredited to the Federal Republic of Germany, permanent missions in New York and Geneva.

The secretariat is pleased to announce the relaunch of its official website:
<<http://unfccc.int/>>, which will take place on **11 October 2004**.

This relaunch will conclude a major project designed to make information more accessible, introduce a revised navigation structure and automate information management. Details concerning the new features are attached.

The relaunch has been made possible through a generous contribution from the United States of America and has benefited from feedback provided by 450 Party representatives, IGOs and NGOs.

The secretariat hopes that the new website will enhance communications and access to information about the climate change process.

The new unfccc.int

Enhanced navigation: navigation has been simplified to help users find information and services. Key resources, such as the the CDM web site, Green House Gas database and TT:CLEAR site, will be found using new “quick access” tabs along the top.

Information Boxes: appearing on the right-hand side of the screen, these boxes highlight any documentation or linked web information that is related to the page concerned.

Issues Quickfinder: offers quick access to thematic information

Essential Background: provides a full set of information resources designed for those actively involved in the climate change process, newcomers and the general public. It features a layperson’s overview of global warming, the texts of the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol, a glossary and a set of downloadable guides.

Documentation: provides an easy-to-use/easy-to-find entry point for accessing all official documents, decisions of COPs, national communications, workshop documentation and video webcast files. The search feature has been simplified and a series of lists provide complete information regarding documents prepared for each meeting.

Meetings: brings together all the information related to sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies, as well as all other meetings organized by the secretariat. It includes a reformatted calendar of events and links to the Rio Conventions Calendar of the CBD, UNCCD and UNFCCC.

Cooperation and Support: consolidates information on current activities underway to advance cooperation and support, especially as they relate to the participation of developing countries in the climate change process. Also here is information on the role of the Global Environment Facility, the status of education, training and public awareness, support to least developed countries, capacity building and technology.

Adaptation and Technology: the adaptation section focuses on how countries can cope with the adverse effects of climate change; the technology section examines how countries may benefit from technology transfer.

National reports: comprehensive access to information about Annex I and non-Annex I commitments, national communications, greenhouse gas inventory data, and information on-going work related to these critical areas.

Methods and Science: information on current work dealing with land use, land-use change and forestry, mitigation, “bunker” fuels, systematic observation and other related topics.

Kyoto Mechanisms: consolidated information about the flexible mechanisms agreed under the Kyoto Protocol: Joint Implementation, the Clean Development Mechanism and Emissions Trading.

Parties and Observers: comprehensive set of lists, links and other information related to the governments that are Party to the UNFCCC. Other information here: status of ratification of the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol, information on the United Nations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations participating in the climate change process.

Press: for journalists and those interested in what the media is reporting. Ready access to information on press accreditation as well as all press releases - past and present. Journalists and others interested in what is being reported can explore the selection of daily “clippings” from the world’s media along with relevant background material.

Secretariat: basic information on the structure and functions of the Convention’s secretariat. Two popular areas under this heading include secretariat job vacancy announcements and upcoming procurement activities that may be of interest to private sector companies.

Language portals: Following the relaunch of the website, look for updated versions of the “portail francophone” and the “portal español”. More information on the availability of these language entry points will be available later in the year.