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Dear Reader,

Two months of intensive work spreads out before us ahead of the UN Climate Change Conference in Durban, with the next session in Panama just around the corner.

In view of the work already done this year, I believe the negotiations can make comprehensive advances in Panama, thus laying the groundwork for a successful COP 17 and CMP 7.



Christiana Figueres, *Executive Secretary*
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

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GUEST COLUMN

RIISING TO OUR RESPONSIBILITIES IN DURBAN

By **Maite Nkoana-Mashabane**, *Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa, and President-Designate of COP 17/CMP 7*

In this video message, South Africa's Foreign Minister looks ahead to the Climate Change Conference in Durban. She calls for Parties to build on the trust and commitment to the multilateral process that was rekindled at COP 16/CMP 6 in Cancun, and says that “working together we can all rise to our responsibilities.” [More...](#)



IN FOCUS

FIRST MEETING OF THE TECHNOLOGY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REGISTERS PROGRESS

Important progress was made at the first meeting of the Technology Executive Committee (TEC), the policy component of the Technology Mechanism. The meeting in Bonn saw three days of key deliberations on how the TEC will assess policy and technical issues related to technology development and transfer, share information on new and innovative technologies, provide overviews of developing countries' technology needs, facilitate and catalyze action on technology, and find ways to engage stakeholders to build the momentum on the Technology Mechanism. [More...](#)



MITIGATION

FOREST MANAGEMENT REFERENCE LEVELS REVIEWS ALMOST COMPLETED

The technical assessments of Forest Management Reference Levels submitted by Annex I Parties earlier this year are almost completed. A synthesis report of the results will be considered by the CMP in Durban in December. [More...](#)

SAFEGUARDS RELATING TO REDD+ ACTIVITIES

Panama will host an expert meeting in early October on safeguards relating to REDD+ activities. It is the first of a number of proposed meetings that will bring together technical experts to facilitate consideration of methodological issues relating to REDD+. [More...](#)

EXPERTS CONSIDER ISSUES AROUND CCS AS EMISSION OFFSET PROJECTS

Technical and legal issues associated with allowing carbon capture and storage (CCS) projects to earn credits under the Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism were the focus of experts at a two-day workshop in Abu Dhabi in September. Based on outputs from the event, the secretariat will prepare a first draft of modalities and procedures for consideration by Parties in Durban. [More...](#)

SEPTEMBER ANNUAL REVIEWS IN FULL SWING; FURTHER COURSES FOR REVIEW EXPERTS CONTINUE

The annual reviews of industrialized countries' greenhouse gas inventories are underway, together with the second course held this year to train experts for inventory review activities. [More...](#)

ADAPTATION



CANCUN ADAPTATION FRAMEWORK – MOMENTUM BUILDING AHEAD OF PANAMA AND DURBAN

Activities in preparation for the Panama and Durban meetings are on track, with submissions received recently from Parties, IGOs and NGOs on the loss and damage work programme and national adaptation plans. [More...](#)

REVIEW OF LONG-TERM GOAL TO LIMIT GLOBAL WARMING ON THE TABLE IN PANAMA

In Cancun last December, Parties to UNFCCC set the long-term global goal to limit average global temperature warming below 2 degrees in comparison to pre-industrial levels, and periodically review the adequacy of this goal. This issue will be taken up at the upcoming session in Panama. [More...](#)



FINANCE

FINANCE PORTAL: NEW FAST-START FINANCE MODULE LAUNCHED

The first version of the Finance Portal for Climate Change has now launched a new module on Fast-start Finance (FSF). This module presents information as submitted by developed countries on the resources provided in relation to their respective FSF commitments, including ways in which developing countries can access these resources. [More...](#)

DESIGN PROCESS OF GREEN CLIMATE FUND FULLY ON TRACK

The third meeting of the Transitional Committee tasked with designing the new Green Climate Fund, held mid-September, made solid progress on the design of the Fund. Next to advances on the nuts and bolts of how the Fund will function, this includes a broad agreement on the importance of private sector engagement. [More...](#)

FOSTERING DIRECT ACCESS TO ADAPTATION FUNDING IN AFRICA

A workshop was held early September in Senegal to familiarize participants with the process and requirements for accrediting National Implementing Entities (NIE's) in order to gain 'direct access' to resources of the Adaptation Fund. [More...](#)

TECHNOLOGY

MAKING THE TECHNOLOGY MECHANISM OPERATIONAL

At the upcoming Panama session, Parties are expected to continue deliberations on the outstanding issues to make the Technology Mechanism fully operational in 2012. [More...](#)



COMPREHENSIVE TRAINING PACKAGE ON PROJECT PREPARATION

A training package on project preparation, launched at the Bonn session in June, aims to assist developing countries in converting project ideas identified from Technology Needs Assessments into project proposals for financing. [More...](#)



AWG-LCA UPDATE

AWG-LCA RESUMES FOR ITS LAST MEETING BEFORE DURBAN

The AWG-LCA resumes for the third part of its fourteenth session in Panama City in the first week of October – the last meeting before the Climate Change Conference in Durban. The aim will be to advance as much as possible in the development of draft texts on the elements of the outcome that the AWG-LCA is to present to the COP in Durban. [More...](#)



AWG-KP UPDATE

AWG-KP RESUMES FOR THE THIRD PART OF ITS SIXTEENTH SESSION IN PANAMA

The AWG-KP will resume for the third part of its sixteenth session in Panama from 1 – 7 October, 2011. As this is the last session of the Group before Durban, Parties will be encouraged to use the limited time available to streamline and revise the Chair's proposal for consideration in Durban. [More...](#)

KEY UNFCCC STATEMENTS

“THE WORLD, AND AFRICA, CANNOT AFFORD A FAILURE IN DURBAN.”

AFRICAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

BAMAHO, MALI, 15 SEPTEMBER 2011

Addressing the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, Deputy Executive Secretary Richard Kinley stressed the importance of compromise by all to make this year's Climate Change Conference in Durban a success, and encouraged Africa to use its negotiating weight to try to raise the bar and achieve a big step forward in Durban. [More...](#)



OTHER UN CLIMATE NEWS

NEW GUIDE TO HELP DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SPEED UP ACCESS TO CLIMATE FINANCE

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has launched a guidebook aimed at helping decision makers in developing countries to better take advantage of the billions pledged to address climate change. [More...](#)



DURBAN SUMMIT MUST CLARIFY OUR ROLE IN REDD+, SAY FINANCIERS

The United Nations and a large coalition of financiers have urged policy makers to clarify the role of private investment in helping to fight deforestation, in a new report published ahead of COP 17/CMP 7 to be held in Durban. [More...](#)



ENERGY EFFICIENT LIGHTING FOR LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

The first ever regional meeting of the UNEP enlighten initiative conducted for Latin American and Caribbean countries, held in the Dominican Republic in August, explored opportunities for governments to participate in a global effort to transition to efficient lighting as a key climate mitigation measure. The emphasis was on the phase-out of general purpose incandescent light bulbs, the most common type for consumers. [More...](#)



COOPERATION BETWEEN THE RIO CONVENTIONS TO BE STEPPED UP

The Joint Liaison Group of the three Rio Conventions has agreed to further enhance coordination and intensify cooperation between the Conventions. [More...](#)





DID YOU KNOW?

WORLD'S LARGEST FIRMS 'ACTING ON CLIMATE CHANGE', ANALYSIS SHOWS

Climate is central to the business strategy of 68% of the world's 500 largest companies, compared with 48% last year, analysis shows. [More...](#)

FILM ON CLIMATE REFUGEES STRIKES A CHORD

During the shooting of his 2010 documentary "Climate Refugees", the Irish-American filmmaker Michael Nash visited nearly 50 countries in about 18 months, interviewing politicians, scientists, health workers and victims of floods, cyclones, hurricanes and drought. [More...](#)

TOP WRITERS TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE IN SHORT STORIES

Novelists from Margaret Atwood to David Mitchell are hoping to bring the dangers posed by climate change to life through a new collection of short stories tackling the climate crisis. [More...](#)

WHO IS THE WORLD'S "GREENEST" CELEBRITY?

Voting is now open for the 'Best Green International Celebrity' Award, which seeks to recognize an international media figure who has consistently promoted the sustainability agenda globally, thus influencing mass audiences to make their own efforts to halt climate change. [More...](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

01 – 07 OCT

PANAMA CITY, PANAMA

AWG-KP 16 & AWG-LCA 14

The 3rd part of the 16th session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP 16) and the 3rd part of the 14th session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA 14). [More...](#)

28 NOV – 09 DEC

DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA

COP 17 & CMP 7

17th Conference of the Parties (COP 17) / 7th Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 7). [More...](#)

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