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PRESS RELEASE

Experts meeting in Cairo discuss how to report on climate change change-related issues

(Cairo, 20 September 2007) – More than sixty experts from developing countries are from today meeting in Cairo for a three-day workshop to exchange information on how their countries can communicate climate change-related information.

Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) , all member States must report on the steps they are taking or envisage undertaking to implement the Convention by both reducing their emissions of greenhouse gases and adapting to the inevitable effects of climate change.

According to Preety Bhandari, Coordinator of UNFCCC's Financial and Technical Support (FTS) Programme, Egypt is one country which will particularly be affected by the phenomenon. "Given its growing population, limited fertile land, and large area of desert, as well as the significant amount of human settlements in the coastal zones, the potential social and economic impact of climate change could significantly alter the country's future," she said.

To date 134 out of 149 developing countries have submitted their initial national communications and more than 100 have started the process of preparation for their second national communication, the focus of the Cairo workshop.

"Egypt expressed its commitment to fight climate change by being one of the first developing countries to submit its initial national communication in 1999," said Preety Bhandari. Now that more than one hundred developing countries have initiated work on their second national communications, it is time for them to draw the lessons of the preparation of their first national communication to further improve this process and quality of their reports," she added.

The meeting, organized by the Consultative Group of Experts (CGE) with the assistance of UNFCCC, will seek to identify good practices in areas such as establishing a system for managing the preparation of national communications, integrating issues covered in national communications into national development planning, building capacity to ensure continuity of work on national communications and promoting South-South cooperation.

The workshop is the last one in a series of regional hands-on training workshops organized under the current (2003-2007) work programme of the CGE. These workshops have trained 325



experts from 125 developing countries on various tools and methodologies needed to conduct national greenhouse gas inventories, mitigation and vulnerability and adaptation assessments.

For complete conference information, including a schedule of events, please visit the UNFCCC website: <http://unfccc.int/national_reports/non-annex_i_natcom/meetings/items/655.php>.

About the UNFCCC

With 191 Parties, the United Nations Climate Change Framework Convention (UNFCCC) has near universal membership and is the parent treaty of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol. The Kyoto Protocol has to date 175 member Parties. At the intergovernmental level, the Convention recognizes the important role of national communications which constitute the primary commitment of non-Annex I Parties, and has programmes dedicated to supporting countries in their efforts.

Note to journalists

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