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PRESS RELEASE

John Kilani appointed Director in support of Kyoto Protocol carbon market mechanisms

(Bonn, 24 June 2008) – Mr. John Kilani has accepted the post of Director of the Sustainable Development Mechanisms (SDM) programme at the United Nations climate change secretariat. The appointment was announced by UNFCCC Executive Secretary Yvo de Boer, who expressed his confidence in the new Director, set to take up duties later this summer.

“It was with great pleasure that I learned that Mr. John Kilani has accepted an offer to join the UNFCCC secretariat. Mr. Kilani brings a rich blend of experience from the private sector, academia, international negotiations and regulatory processes into the top management of the UNFCCC secretariat,” said Mr. de Boer.

The 54-year-old national of South Africa was born in Nigeria and for several years worked in Kenya. He has held senior positions in the private sector (mining, oil and gas) with a focus on environment protection, holds a PhD from the University of Birmingham, taught at the University of Durban, South Africa, and represented South Africa, and at times the African group, in the negotiations leading to the Marrakesh Accords on market-based mechanisms to address climate change. He recently represented Qatar in international climate change negotiations. Beginning in October 2001, he was part of the first Executive Board of the clean development mechanism, a body which he chaired in 2004. Mr. Kilani is currently Lead Engineer, Sustainable Development Projects, with Qatar Petroleum.

“I am excited and honoured to be joining the part of the UN that provides support to UNFCCC Parties negotiating an agreement to fight climate change, our greatest global threat,” Mr. Kilani said in accepting the appointment.

“Effective and efficient mechanisms that assist us in achieving sustainable global development, that help move the world towards a low-carbon economy, will be key building blocks of the international response to climate change,” said Mr. Kilani.

Among other things, the UNFCCC secretariat supports the UN sponsored climate change negotiations and meetings, reviews climate change information and data provided by Parties to the Convention and supports the carbon market mechanisms under the Kyoto Protocol: international emissions trading; joint implementation (JI), which involves emission reduction projects in developed countries; and the clean development mechanism (CDM), which awards saleable credits for emission reductions achieved in developing countries.



In 2007 the international carbon market doubled in value to USD 64 billion, and the CDM accounted for USD 13 billion of that (World Bank figures). A key challenge now being addressed under the CDM is how to increase the number of projects in lesser developed countries, especially in Africa.

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 182 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.

About the CDM and JI

Under the Clean Development Mechanism, greenhouse gas emission reduction projects in developing countries can earn emission offset credits, called certified emission reductions (CERs). There are now more than 1080 CDM projects in 49 countries. Under Joint Implementation, emission reduction projects in any country with a commitment under the Kyoto Protocol can earn emission reduction units (ERUs). Countries with an emission reduction or limitation commitment under the Kyoto Protocol can use CERs/ERUs, each equivalent to one tonne of carbon dioxide, to meet a part of their obligations under the Protocol.

Note to journalists:

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See also <http://cdm.unfccc.int> and <http://ji.unfccc.int>