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PRESS RELEASE

UN-sponsored efforts to combat climate change move to next level

(Bonn, 16 May 2006) The first stage of new talks on future action under the UN-sponsored climate change process concluded today in Bonn, Germany.

Delegates from 165 countries discussed how to further strengthen international cooperation to reduce emissions of heat-trapping gases and to respond to climate change impacts.

"There is now a strong consensus on the need to reduce emissions to protect the global climate. Much emphasis has been put on the promotion of economic incentives to promote action to reduce emissions - for both industrialized and developing countries", said Richard Kinley, acting head of the United Nations Climate Change Secretariat.

The wide-ranging presentations of possible approaches included incentives for developing countries to mitigate climate change, ensuring cooperation on research and development and the transfer of cleaner technologies. Delegates also expressed strong support for the role of the carbon market and the need to find new ways to involve the private sector in climate protection.

Rona Ambrose, President of the 11th session of the Conference of the Parties and Canadian Minister for the Environment, said that there was strong consensus among governments on the fact that humanity had a serious problem.

"In Canada's Arctic region, the changes noted by the Inuit community - such as melting permafrost, changes in sea ice and the arrival of new migratory animal species - has raised the need to address adaptation measures", she said.

The round of discussions in the form of a "Dialogue on long-term cooperative action to address climate change by enhancing implementation of the Convention" was facilitated by Howard Bamsey of Australia and Sandea de Wet of South Africa.

The dialogue workshop was the first of a series of four meetings involving all 189 contracting Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The series will conclude at the end of 2007. The next such meeting will be held in November 2006 in Nairobi, Kenya.

Another important round of talks involving the 163 Parties to the Kyoto Protocol begins 17 May in Bonn and ends 25 May.



The focus of this "Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol" will be on further measures to be taken by industrialized countries for the period after 2012, when the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol ends.

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