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MEDIA ADVISORY

UNFCCC Executive Secretary Says “World Not Standing Still on Climate Change” as Central Negotiating Text Is Published Ahead of Bonn Meeting

(Bonn, 20 May 2009) – Central text to be negotiated under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which will form the basis of an ambitious and effective international response to climate change, to be agreed in Copenhagen in December, has been posted on the UNFCCC web site (<unfccc.int>).

"Negotiating text for consideration at the sixth session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA)" can be found at:
<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/awglca6/eng/08.pdf>.

"This document marks an important point on our road," said UNFCCC Executive Secretary Yvo de Boer. "It's the first time real negotiating text will be on the table which can serve as a basis for governments to start drafting a Copenhagen agreed outcome," he added.

The 53-page text covers the issues of a shared vision for long-term cooperative action, along with enhanced action on adaptation, mitigation and finance, technology and capacity-building.

The UN's top climate change official pointed to "encouraging developments" in the area of climate change negotiations over the past 100 days.

"Within the talks, we have an almost complete list of industrialised nations' pledges to cut emissions after 2012, so governments can see now more clearly where they are in comparison to each other, and can build a higher ambition on that basis," Yvo de Boer said.

"Meanwhile, the US has committed to a Copenhagen agreement and a clean energy future. Industrialised countries are giving developing nations due credit for the climate change strategies they already have in place," he added. "The Major Economies Forum began with a firm commitment to contribute positively to a Copenhagen agreement and, in response to the financial crisis, many national stimulus packages have been launched that include green economic objectives. With only 200 days before Copenhagen, time gets tighter but the world is not standing still on climate change."



Last Friday, draft negotiating text that will be discussed under the "Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP)" was published on the UNFCCC web site.

All texts will be discussed at the UN Climate Change Talks this year in Bonn (1-12 June). The gathering is expected to be attended by around 3,000 participants, including government delegates, representatives from business and industry, environmental organisations and research institutions.

The venue will be the Maritim Hotel in Bonn where negotiations will take place. In addition to the negotiations, more than one hundred side events will be held.

The UNFCCC will give an opening press conference on Monday, 1 June (12:00) and a closing press conference at the conclusion of the meeting on Friday, 12 June (13:15). Parties and non-governmental organizations will also give press briefings throughout the meeting, the times and locations of which will be posted on the UNFCCC website <unfccc.int>.

A provisional overview of the press briefings is available at:
http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/sb30/application/pdf/press_conference_schedule.pdf

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 184 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.

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