



## U.N. official notes growing interest in holding climate change summit in 2007

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473 words

7 February 2007

08:05

[Associated Press Newswires](#)

English

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NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) - There is growing interest in holding a global summit to discuss how to fight climate change, with China, India and the EU supporting the idea of holding a meeting before the end of the year, a senior U.N. official said Wednesday.

**Yvo de Boer**, head of the Germany-based U.N. climate treaty secretariat, said U.S. lawmakers also voiced support for the summit when he met with them two weeks ago. He also held meetings with staff members at the U.S. White House who said they would think about the proposal, but have yet to respond, he said.

"I sense a worldwide sense of urgency that we need to move forward on the international climate change negotiations and come to a long-term response," de Boer said.

A U.N. report issued last week said that human activity was very likely causing global temperatures to rise, and warned the trend would last for centuries.

De Boer said the report's conclusions meant there was "no reason to argue with the science, but we need to get on with the action."

The Kyoto Protocol, a 1997 U.N. pact, calls on industrial nations to cut greenhouse gases by an average 5 percent below 1990 levels by 2012, when the accord expires. Many countries have failed to meet the targets, and the United States -- the world's heavyweight polluter -- has refused to sign the pact because it does not include developing countries such as China and India.

On Monday, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said he was committed to addressing climate change. U.N. environment officials have asked Ban to convene a global summit, and Kenya has offered to host it. Ban said he wanted to discuss this proposal with U.N. member states.

"I have been getting a number of positive signals" from many governments and lawmakers, de Boer said in Nairobi, the headquarters of the U.N. Environment Program. "But it is too early to say whether an idea like this would be viable."

De Boer said that the final decision on whether to hold such a summit rests with the U.N. secretary-general.

Friday's report was the first of four to be released this year by the expert panel, created by the United Nations in 1988.

It warned that if nothing is done to change current emissions patterns of greenhouse gases, global temperatures could increase as much as 6 degrees Celsius (11 degrees Fahrenheit) by 2100. But if the world does get greenhouse gas emissions under control -- something scientists say they hope can be done -- the best estimate is about 1 to 2 degrees Celsius (1.8 to 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit).