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PRESS RELEASE

UN Climate Chief hails progress at first meeting of the Technology Executive Committee

(Bonn, 3 September 2011) – The first meeting of the Technology Executive Committee (TEC), the policy arm of the Technology Mechanism, closed in Bonn today with important progress achieved. The meeting saw three days of key deliberations on how the TEC will provide overviews of technology needs, assess policy and technical issues related to technology development and transfer, share information on new and innovative technologies, facilitate and catalyse action on technology, and find ways to engage stakeholders to build the momentum on the Technology Mechanism.

“This is very good progress,” said UN Climate Change Chief Christiana Figueres. “The goal of the Technology Mechanism can only be achieved through a wider and deeper collaboration among all countries with the active engagement of relevant stakeholders, including the research community, academia and, importantly, the private sector,” she added.

The TEC elaborated ways for the engagement of a wide range of stakeholders at international, regional and national level including public institutions, the business community, academia and NGOs in conducting its work. The Committee identified options for the engagement of stakeholders, including through participation in the TEC meetings as observers or expert advisers, where applicable. “This means that there are opportunities for stakeholder engagement in the work of the Committee and stakeholders will be informed how to engage in time for the next steps on the road to a functional Technology Mechanism in 2012,” said Figueres.

The TEC members unanimously elected Mr. Gabriel Blanco from Argentina as Chair and Mr. Antonio Pflueger from Germany as Vice-Chair of the TEC for 2012, giving them the mandate to collaborate closely in chairing the meetings and in executing the work throughout the year to ensure coherence between the meetings.

Additionally, the meeting set up its housekeeping system, which details the procedures the TEC will adhere to in its work.

As the policy arm of the Technology Mechanism, the TEC has a key responsibility in laying the groundwork towards fully operationalising the mechanism in 2012.

The Technology Mechanism was established at the UN Climate Change Conference in Cancun in December 2010, which was part of a set of institutions launched in Cancun to protect the vulnerable from climate change and to deploy the money and technology that developing countries need to plan and build their own sustainable futures. It will consist and operate through



the Technology Executive Committee – the policy arm – and the Climate Technology Centre and Network, the mechanism’s implementation component. Its overarching goal is to sharpen the focus, step up the pace, and expand the scope of environmentally-sound technology development and transfer to developing countries in a highly qualitative way.

On occasion of the successful conclusion of the TEC’s inaugural meeting, UN Climate Chief Christiana Figueres will offer in-depth interviews to interested media. To schedule an interview contact Ms. Carrie Assheuer, Public Information and Media Assistant: press@unfccc.int

For further information on the Technology Executive Committee, see:
<<http://unfccc.int/ttclear/jsp/TEC.jsp>>

About the UNFCCC

With 195 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 been ratified by 192 of the UNFCCC 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.

See also: unfccc.int

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