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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Warsaw COP19/CMP9 UN Climate Change Conference a pivotal moment to step up and showcase climate action**

(Bonn, Germany, 7 November 2013) – Ahead of the Climate Change Conference in Warsaw (COP19/CMP9, 11-22 November), top UN climate change official Christiana Figueres said the meeting is a pivotal moment to advance international climate action and showcase a growing momentum to address climate change at all levels of society.

“We approach the meeting in Warsaw at a pivotal moment in the international process to address climate change. We still have time and the means to limit warming to the internationally agreed two degrees Celsius target. But to meet this international commitment, we must respond to what science is telling us. We need to urgently harness all existing momentum and use all the tools we have at our disposal to shift to low-carbon and build resilience to climate change,” said the Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

At the end of September, the UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change published its latest findings, reaffirming that human-generated climate change is real. This week, the World Meteorological Organization reported that the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere reached a new record high in 2012, continuing an upward and accelerating trend. Also this week, the UN Environment Programme issued its 2013 Emissions Gap Report, outlining that the gap between what has been pledged so far in the way of emission reduction pledges and what is required for the world to stay below the agreed maximum two degrees Celsius temperature rise has widened compared to last year.

Ms. Figueres said the latest findings constitute a clear call to action across all pillars of government, business and society, which need to take mutually reinforcing action to fight climate change.

“Global greenhouse gas emissions need to peak this decade, and get to zero net emissions by the second half of this century. We see a groundswell of concrete action at all levels, growing by the week. But we must see more. We have the money and technology, the knowledge and the new economic models to get the job done in time. These next two years are a critical period to act faster on climate,” she said.

“National governments need to act to minimize impacts to their populations and ensure sustainable development over generations. The private sector needs to act to minimize climate risk and capture opportunity. And the international process must push forward now to build the foundation for an ambitious universal climate change agreement in 2015,” she said.



Ms. Figueres said COP19/CMP9 is an opportunity for governments to progress in several core areas: further clarifying the provision of finance to developing countries so they can cut their own emissions and build resilience; creating a mechanism to allow the poor and vulnerable to cope with irreversible damage from climate change; the concrete design of the new, universal climate change agreement; and immediate ways to reverse the trend of rising emissions.

The meeting in Warsaw also needs to take decisions that will make fully operational the new institutional support under the UNFCCC for developing nations in finance, adaptation and technology. These are the Green Climate Fund, the Technology Mechanism and Adaptation Committee agreed in Cancun in 2010.

“There is growing confidence that the new infrastructure of the UNFCCC can deliver strong co-benefits to all sides by making a transformative impact in achieving a low-emission, climate-resilient world. The tools, rules and institutions under the Convention form a solid foundation on which the new agreement’s ultimate effectiveness will rest,” Ms. Figueres said.

COP19/CMP9 can also encourage ratification of the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol agreed in Doha last year.

As part of efforts to showcase the growing climate leadership and contributions to the climate challenge from all sides, a Business Forum organized by the UN and the Polish host government will take place alongside the meeting. Cities and regions will gather for the first ever “Cities Day” that highlights their actions. And a Gender Day will showcase women’s role in meeting the climate challenge.

The UNFCCC secretariat will showcase Momentum for Change lighthouse activities, climate action that demonstrates positive results for innovative finance, women and the urban poor. In addition, the initiative will launch a new area that focuses on contributions by the information and technology sector to curb emissions and increase adaptive capacity to respond.

The UN Climate Change Conference in Warsaw will be presided over by Marcin Korolec, Minister of the Environment of Poland, who is due to be elected President of the COP19/CMP9 conference on the first day of the meeting.

UNFCCC Executive Secretary Christiana Figueres is scheduled to give the opening UNFCCC press conference in Warsaw at 13:15 on 11 November. For a tentative overview of press briefings at the conference, which will all be webcast live and on demand, see:

[http://unfccc.int/meetings/warsaw\\_nov\\_2013/meeting/7649/php/view/press.php](http://unfccc.int/meetings/warsaw_nov_2013/meeting/7649/php/view/press.php)

Note on logistical media arrangements for COP19/CMP9:

[http://unfccc.int/files/press/press\\_releases\\_advisories/application/pdf/notetocorrespondents\\_20130711.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/press/press_releases_advisories/application/pdf/notetocorrespondents_20130711.pdf)

For more information on the conference, see also this week’s UNFCCC newsletter:

In English: <http://newsletter.unfccc.int/index.php?id=27>

In Spanish: <http://newsletter.unfccc.int/index.php?id=29>



### **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. For the first commitment period of the Kyoto 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. In Doha in 2012, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol adopted an amendment to the Kyoto Protocol, which establishes the second commitment period under the Protocol. 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: <<http://unfccc.int/press/items/2794.php>>

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