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PRESS RELEASE

UN Urges Governments to Accelerate Ratification of Second Commitment Period of Kyoto Protocol

(Bonn, 21 August 2014) – The United Nations has launched a drive to encourage governments to speed up their ratification of the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, the international emissions reduction treaty.

Ratification is necessary to provide valuable momentum for global climate action for the years leading up to 2020, when a new universal climate change agreement is to enter into effect.

On Thursday, the secretariat of the UN Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC) wrote to governments asking for an update on their ongoing preparations for ratifying the so-called Doha Amendment.

The amendment, which extended the Kyoto Protocol in advance of the new 2015 agreement, was agreed in the Qatari capital in 2012.

To date, 11 Parties have accepted the extension. 144 are required to bring it into force.

Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC, said:

“Governments that committed themselves to honour legally binding limits on their emissions have already taken measures to ensure that they will meet these obligations. For this international legal framework to enter into force, governments need to complete their ratification process as soon as possible. This will provide an important positive political signal of the ambition of nations to step up crucial climate action.”

More information on the status of ratification of the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol and on the Doha Amendment can be found here:

<http://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol/doha_amendment/items/7362.php>

See the notification to Parties and observer States:

<http://unfccc.int/files/parties_and_observers/notifications/application/pdf/note_verbale_to_kp_parties_doha_amendments.pdf>

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About the UNFCCC

With 196 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.

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See also: <http://unfccc.int/press/items/2794.php>

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