



FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE – Secretariat

CONVENTION - CADRE SUR LES CHANGEMENTS CLIMATIQUES - Secrétariat

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PRESS ADVISORY

Climate talks resume on eve of Johannesburg Summit EU ratification of Kyoto Protocol raises hopes for entry into force

Bonn, 3 June 2002 – Ten years after the Climate Change Convention was opened for signature at the Rio Earth Summit, delegates from the treaty's 186 member countries will meet on 5 June for a round of talks on how to advance international cooperation on global warming.

The meetings, which conclude on 14 June, will prepare the agenda for the next session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (COP), to be held in New Delhi from 23 October to 1 November.

"During the Convention's first decade, the centrepiece of global negotiations was to agree on the rules for its implementation," says Joke Waller-Hunter, the Convention's Executive Secretary. "Our challenge now is to apply those rules and to move climate change to the centre of national policy-making and of action by business and civil society. Effective climate policies can contribute to progress on all the issues highlighted by the UN Secretary-General – water, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity – as requiring urgent action at the upcoming World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg."

Ms Waller Hunter started her term as Executive Secretary on 1 May. She served previously as a senior official with the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development and then with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

The contribution that action on climate change can make to sustainable development was emphasized by the Marrakesh Ministerial Declaration, adopted by the COP last November in Morocco as an input to the Summit. The Ministers called for capacity building, technology innovation and cooperation with the biodiversity and desertification conventions.

The Bonn talks will be energized by the European Union's announcement on 31 May that it had ratified the Kyoto Protocol. The Protocol will become legally binding after it has been ratified by at least 55 Parties to the Convention, including industrialized countries representing at least 55% of the total 1990 carbon dioxide emissions from this group. With Iceland that ratified on 23 May, Norway on 30 May and now the EU, 72 Parties have ratified the Protocol, including 19 industrialized countries accounting for 26.9% of the required CO₂ emissions.

This week's meeting of the Convention's Subsidiary Body on Implementation will consider national communications, a review of the financial mechanism, a report on the Least Developed Countries Expert Group, and preparations for the Johannesburg Summit. The SBI will also discuss the implementation of the Headquarters Agreement between the UN and the Government of Germany. The Government is currently developing detailed plans for a UN Campus in Bonn, including a conference center and other facilities.

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technological Advice will discuss the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Third Assessment Report, methodological issues, the development and transfer of technologies, good practices in policies and measures, and the need for coordinating work on HFCs and PFCs (chemicals that affect the climate as well as stratospheric ozone) with the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

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