



Statement by Christiana Figueres
Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Welcomes Australia's Determination to Meet its Internationally-Agreed Emission Reduction Target

(Bonn, 23 October 2013) – The United Nations' top climate change official today welcomed the new Government of Australia's commitment to meet its emission reduction targets after holding talks with Environment Minister Greg Hunt.

Following a telephone call with the Minister, Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC, said: "Mr. Hunt and I discussed his government's plans to achieve a five per cent cut in emissions by 2020 via a suite of measures including an Emissions Reduction Fund. The Government of Australia informed me that they will be on track to achieve that aim, which I wholeheartedly welcome".

On Monday, she gave an interview to CNN, linked with the current wildfires affecting parts of Australia, in which Ms. Figueres underlined the need for a global price on carbon.

The UNFCCC Executive Secretary contends this is needed to spur investment in technologies such as wind and solar power, energy efficiency and adaptation support for developing countries.

"There are several ways in which a meaningful global price on carbon can be achieved ranging from taxes to market mechanisms, and each country must decide what makes most sense given its national circumstances. The new Australian administration has chosen a new pathway towards this goal under its Direct Action Plan. I was pleased to hear from Minister Hunt that the Emission Reduction Fund allied to forestry measures and targets on renewable energy and energy efficiency will deliver their internationally-agreed targets in a cost-effective manner," she said.

Ms. Figueres said she also welcomed recent statements by the Government of Australia once again backing the science of climate change including the recently released Working Group I summary report by the UN-hosted Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

The IPCC's conclusions are that unless deep and decisive action is taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions the world will experience more extreme and more frequent weather events over the coming decades.



In its earlier fourth Assessment Report released in 2007 the IPCC stated that: “Climate change is known to alter the likelihood of increased wildfire sizes and frequencies....while also inducing stress on trees that indirectly exacerbate disturbances. This suggests an increasing likelihood of more prevalent fire disturbances, as has recently been observed”.

As part of its fifth Assessment Report the IPCC will release two further summaries in 2014, one of which will cover vulnerability to climate change in which the latest science on wildfires is likely to be spotlighted.

Ms. Figueres’ statement today comes in advance of the 19th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 19) to the UNFCCC to be held in Warsaw, Poland from 11 to 22 November.

Governments across the globe have agreed to a new universal agreement on combating climate change by 2015 aimed at keeping a global temperature rise this century under 2 degree Celsius.

For More Information

COP 19 Host Country website: <<http://www.cop19.gov.pl/>>

IPCC: < <http://www.ipcc.ch>>

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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