

## Opening Statement of the German Host Government

German Delegation  
40th Session of the Subsidiary Bodies to the  
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

4 - 15 June 2013

SBI Item 18 (c) Implementation of the Headquarters Agreement

Executive Secretary,  
Chair,  
Delegates,

It is my pleasure to report on the implementation of the Headquarters Agreement on behalf of the German host government:

We are meeting here in Bonn for the second time this year. Bonn has become a second home to the climate family. At the spring session of the ADP we all gained a positive impression of the premises at the World Conference Center Bonn, the WCCB. It was a good taste of things to come for future conferences.

Now, in June, we have returned to the Maritim Hotel because the existing WCCB premises are unfortunately too small for the large SB sessions. We will fully transfer UNFCCC negotiations to the WCCB once the new plenary hall is finished. The responsible parties are working flat out to make this happen.

The good news is that construction work on the plenary hall has now reached the final stage. Your patience will be rewarded, because following close consultation with the UN and at the request of the UNFCCC, it will be possible to divide up the hall, which can hold up to 5000 delegates. This means we will also be able to hold many meetings in Bonn during the year at the WCCB in formats precisely adapted to your needs. The city of Bonn has informed us that the expected completion date of the new building is by the end of 2014 with a thorough testing of the building from January 2015 onwards.

To provide additional meeting space at the Maritim hotel, the German government, as in previous years, has built a temporary conference facility for an additional plenary hall. This is a model proven in many meetings.

The WCCB site is in the immediate vicinity of the UN Campus that we are expanding further. Our vision is that in a matter of years we will have a compact set of modern and multifunctional buildings on the campus, are for exclusive use of the UN. The

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campus already comprises the Langer Eugen building and the Altes Hochhaus. Eighteen UN organisations are currently accommodated in Langer Eugen, which contains several modern conference rooms.

The Altes Hochhaus has been modernised to meet latest ecological standards. By living up to these standards, the premises send an important signal. In summer last year, some 300 UNFCCC employees moved into this splendid building. The Altes Hochhaus offers not only office space but also large conference rooms that can host a total of 750 people. They can be used for future UN conferences in Bonn.

At our spring session you all had the opportunity to see the large conference rooms in the direct vicinity of the present UN Campus: the plenary hall at the former Bundestag plus the two historic buildings, a former water supply station and its former pump station.

A third building will be erected on the campus itself that will accommodate the remaining UNFCCC staff. It will also be built to highest ecological standards. The UN was closely involved in the architectural competition for the building as a member of the selection jury which selected a stunning structure with built-in gardens. In constant dialogue with the UN we are currently finalising the detailed planning for every of the 18 floors.

As you can see we are working full speed ahead on expanding premises and facilities in the UN city of Bonn. We want Bonn to become the venue for UN meetings in Europe and to provide state of the art working conditions.

To advance this process, over the past year the UN and *all* those involved on the German side have been cooperating in a working group jointly headed by the UNFCCC and the German Foreign Office. This working group discusses and takes decisions on issues to make life and work easier for both delegates and UN staff: from questions about the premises and transport infrastructure to visa issues. We address any concerns that arise in this group and offer solutions.

All these activities contribute to making Bonn an even better location for the UN. In recent years we had to overcome some stumbling blocks, especially regarding the

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meeting premises. But we are optimistic that we have now resolved most of the teething problems. Once the new WCCB plenary hall has been completed, Bonn will be able to offer both: an excellent infrastructure for meetings and a home for the UN and delegates. We are very optimistic about the future of the UNFCCC process.

To conclude, I would like to thank the UNFCCC secretariat and the city of Bonn for the continued excellent cooperation.