



**United Nations Climate Change Conference  
Nairobi 2006 - *updated 6 November 2006***

**Press Kit**

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**An introduction to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol**

*Climate change science and effects*

The effects of global climate change are becoming ever more evident. Scientists believe that climate change is already causing more frequent occurrences of drought, flooding and rises in malaria. Other phenomena attributed to climate change are increased incidents of hurricanes and forest fires. Among the long-term impacts are rising sea levels and damage to crops which can lead to wide-spread famine. Some of the most serious effects of climate change are occurring in countries least prepared to counter them. Many African countries are among the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

Global warming is caused by an excess of heat-trapping gases, first and foremost carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxides. These gases mainly result from the burning of fossil fuels, from agriculture and from waste dumps. The gases prevent the sun's energy from



radiating back into space after it has reached the surface of the earth, much like the glass of a greenhouse.

### *The Convention and the Protocol*

In 1992, the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** was adopted as the basis for a global response to the problem. With 189 Parties, the Convention enjoys near-universal membership. The ultimate objective of the Convention is to stabilise greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that will prevent dangerous human interference with the climate system.

The Convention is complemented by the 1997 **Kyoto Protocol**, which has 165 Parties. Under this treaty, 35 industrialised countries and the European Community have committed to reducing their emissions by an average of 5 percent by 2012 against 1990 levels. Industrialized countries must first and foremost take domestic action against climate change. But the Protocol also allows them to meet their emission reduction commitments abroad through so-called "market-based mechanisms".

For example, one of the Protocol's market-based mechanisms, the **clean development mechanism (CDM)**, permits industrialised countries to generate emission credits through investments in sustainable development projects which reduce emissions in developing countries. The CDM is already estimated to generate more than a billion tonnes of emission reductions by the end of 2012, which corresponds to the present annual emissions of Canada and France combined.

The UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol are also designed to assist countries in adapting to the inevitable effects of climate change. They facilitate the development of techniques that can help increase resilience to climate change impacts – for example, the development of salt-resistant crops – and to exchange best practices with regard to adaptation.

## **An introduction to the United Nations Climate Change Conference, Nairobi 2006 - the issues**

This year, the United Nations Climate Change Conference will take place in Nairobi from 6 to 17 November. It will be the first conference of its kind in sub-Saharan Africa, drawing up to six thousand participants. The location of the conference on the continent, which is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, will help focus attention on such issues as adaptation to climate change, along with the funding and the capacity building required for developing countries to adapt and to participate in the CDM. Other key issues are technology transfer and the future of the international climate change regime.

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### *Acting on adaptation*

As the effects of the climate change become more evident, it is increasingly clear that developing countries need both technological and financial assistance in order to be able to cope with its effects. Under the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol, three special funds have been created to support adaptation and technology transfer in developing countries.

One of these funds, the **Adaptation Fund**, is financed by a share of the proceeds generated by the CDM and by voluntary contributions. At the Conference in Nairobi, ministers are expected to reach political agreement on how the Fund should be managed. This decision is of particular importance, since the CDM is already generating income, which could be channelled to finance adaptation projects.

Another important decision to be taken in Nairobi concerns identifying the activities that need to be carried-out till 2008 under a **five year work programme on adaptation**. This decision is expected to enhance action on adaptation on the ground and ultimately make a real difference for communities in the developing world.

### *Talks on the future*

Last year, at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Montreal, countries launched two important new tracks of talks on the future of the climate change process. One track was opened for negotiations of new commitments for industrialized countries under the Kyoto Protocol for the period after 2012. Another track concerns a global dialogue on long-term cooperation to enhance implementation of the Convention, in which all 189 countries which signed up to the UNFCCC are participating.

In Nairobi, the focus of the talks under the Convention will be on sustainable development and realizing the full potential of market-based opportunities. Countries will, for example, be discussing how they can benefit from clean technology on a large scale. Discussions under the Protocol will continue with an in-session workshop featuring scientific, technical and socio-economic information relevant for determining post-2012 commitments of the industrialized countries under the Kyoto Protocol.

### *Further strengthening the growing carbon market*

Whilst the Kyoto Protocol's clean development mechanism is enjoying considerable success, the bulk of the more than one thousand clean development mechanism projects presently in the pipeline, ranging from wind farms to hydroelectric power stations, is concentrated in a few countries, often mirroring the geography of foreign direct investment. The United Nations Climate Change Conference in Nairobi will look at how



a more even geographic spread of projects can be achieved and how more countries, including those in Africa, can better benefit from the CDM.

Delegates meeting in Nairobi will also be looking at further operationalizing and strengthening another Kyoto Protocol market based mechanism, **Joint implementation (JI)**. Joint Implementation allows industrialized countries that have emission reduction commitments under the Protocol to earn emission credits by jointly implementing projects which reduce emissions. This mechanism is particularly interesting for the countries with economies in transition in central and eastern Europe, where emission reductions can often be achieved at lower cost. However, in order to be fully functional, JI will need additional financial support.

### **The United Nations Climate Change Conference, Nairobi 2006 - key meetings and UNFCCC terminology**

In UN language, the United Nations Climate Change Conference hosted by Kenya is described as the second meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP 2), held in conjunction with the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Climate Change Convention (COP 12), in Nairobi from 6 to 17 November 2006.

The conference will also include, from 6 to 14 November, the twenty-fifth session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 25), the twenty-fifth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI 25), and the second session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG 2).

**The second workshop** under the dialogue on long-term cooperative action to address climate change by enhancing implementation of the Convention (the Dialogue) will be held from 15 to 16 November.

**The Conference of the Parties (COP):** the "supreme body" of the Convention, that is, its highest decision-making authority. It is an association of all the countries that are Parties to the Convention.

**The meeting of the Parties (COP/MOP):** the Conference of the Parties serves as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP). The COP/MOP meets during the same period as the COP. Parties to the Convention that are not Parties to the Protocol are able to participate in the COP/MOP as observers, but without the right to take decisions. The functions of the COP/MOP relating to the Protocol are similar to those carried out by the COP for the Convention.

The Convention established two permanent subsidiary bodies: the **Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA)** and the **Subsidiary Body for**

**Implementation (SBI).** These bodies give advice to the COP and each has a specific mandate.

As its name suggests, the **SBSTA**'s task is to provide the COP with advice on scientific, technological and methodological matters. The **SBI** gives advice to the COP on all matters concerning the implementation of the Convention.

**Ad-hoc Working Group (AWG):** At the United Nations Climate Change Conference in 2005, Parties to the Kyoto Protocol initiated a process to consider further commitments by Annex I Parties for the period beyond 2012. The resulting decision established an open-ended ad hoc working group of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol to conduct that process and report to each session of the COP/MOP on the status of this process.

**Dialogue on long-term cooperative action to address climate change by enhancing implementation of the Convention:** During the same meetings, the Conference of the Parties resolved to engage in a dialogue to exchange experiences and analyse strategic approaches for long-term cooperative action to address climate change.

## **Interesting side events at Nairobi**

The United Nations Climate Change Conference, Nairobi 2006 is generating much interest from the traditional climate change community which includes not only governments and the UN family, but also a broad range of civil society - from multi national corporations to grass root and indigenous peoples, including community leaders, state representatives, academics, trade unionists and faith leaders. Over 130 side events and 70 exhibits have been registered for the sessions which will take place at GIGIRI, the compound housing the UN headquarters in Nairobi and at the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF).

Noteworthy is the prominent focus on Africa and developing countries. Not only is this in keeping with the location but also reinforcing some of the major issues on the official agenda - adaptation, technology transfer and CDM. Important events will be held by organizations including IETA, the Pew Centre, WBCSD, IPIECA, ICC and WRI, many of which focus on new financial approaches to development and issues related to the market mechanisms.

These are supported by reports and analyses from the OECD and IEA and other think tanks which provide inputs which may potentially form part of the mosaic to the post 2012 regime. Environmentalist groups including the FoE, WWF, Greenpeace and CAN will also hold events, highlighting the impacts of climate change on the vulnerable regions of the world. A growing youth consciousness on the implications of climate change and the way ahead will also be present.



The event schedule includes a presentation of the Stern report commissioned by the UK government, which provides a comprehensive review of the economic cost of climate change and its potential solutions, contributions to mitigation in the problematic transport sector and ways to better communicate the challenges of climate change.

The exhibits will also provide a valuable source of materials and information on climate change from all sectors.

In short there will be something for everyone. Please see the UNFCCC website for a **schedule and list of exhibits**.



## **A few questions and answers**

### **Why is the conference in Nairobi?**

At COP 11 in Montreal, Kenya extended an invitation for COP 12 to be held in Nairobi. Following the procedural rules of the Conference, the office of President normally rotates among five regional groups. Based on the tradition of the UN, Parties to the Convention are organized into five regional groups established by the UN General Assembly according to their geographic location. These groups are: Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC) and the Western Europe and Others Group (WEOG). The last time a COP was held in Africa was in 2001, in the exotic city of Marrakech, Morocco.

### **How much will the conference cost?**

When a Government offers to host a UNFCCC conference, the secretariat provides a list of requirements, including an appropriate conference centre, equipment, security, logistics and utilities. Some governments have ready-made facilities, and can deliver at relatively low costs. Others need to either rent the facilities or construct temporary structure, at significantly higher costs. The direct cost for the UNFCCC secretariat will be approximately US\$ 2 million. Much of the additional cost to the secretariat is indirect, relating to staff time and other efforts in preparing substantive input, planning for and servicing the conference. Given that the conference will take place at the United Nations premises in Nairobi, the secretariat will receive many facilities free of charge. The fact that there is a strong UN presence already in place also provides most of the infrastructure to support the sessions.

### **What will be the benefits for Africa?**

As the COP and COP/MOP host country, Kenya can use the occasion to showcase its own environmental commitments and focus international attention on the plight of African nations, many of which are especially vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. The conference will bring the process home for Kenya and further stimulate African participation. Due to the proximity to its neighbors, Kenya may see larger delegations taking advantage of the shorter distance and lower cost of travel. African States will have an even better chance to participate in negotiations which aim to reduce and prevent further human-induced damage on the environment.

### **Where can I find graphics on climate change in general and in Africa in particular?**

UNEP/GRID-Arendal library of graphics resources:



<http://maps.grida.no/go/searchFree/q/climate>

UNEP/GRID-Arendal vital Climate Graphics Africa

<http://www.grida.no/climate/vitalafrica/english/index.htm>

### **Which other players will be represented at the conference (NGOs, BINGOs etc)?**

The conference will be attended by government representatives from the Parties to the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol and delegates from observer States. In addition, participants from accredited intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations including business and industry, environmental organizations, local government and municipal authorities, indigenous peoples organizations and research and independent institutions are expected to attend. United Nations organizations and specialized agencies such as WMO, UNEP, Global Environment Facility, World Bank and the IPCC will be represented, as will local and international press.

### **How do I get myself accredited?**

There is a four-step process to apply for press/media accreditation. Applicants must submit:

1. a completed **online accreditation form** (available on the UNFCCC website)
2. a letter of assignment on official letterhead of a media organization signed by the Publisher/Assignment Editor, Editor-in-chief or Bureau Chief, specifying the name and functional title of the journalist.
3. a photocopy of a valid press card/work pass
4. a photocopy of passport/national ID card

All credentials may be sent by fax to (+49-228) 815-1999 or by e-mail to [press@unfccc.int](mailto:press@unfccc.int).

Journalists with a valid accreditation for UNON issued by the **UN Information Centre (UNIC)** in Nairobi will be "fast-tracked" for COP accreditation. S/he would only be required to complete and submit the basic UNFCCC accreditation form.





## **Biography of UNFCCC Executive Secretary, Yvo de Boer**

Yvo de Boer was appointed by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan as the new Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC on 10 August 2006. The appointment had been endorsed by the Bureau of the Convention.

Before joining the UNFCCC, Mr. de Boer was Director for International Affairs of the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and Environment of the Netherlands, responsible for international policy, both in the context of the European Union, as well as broader international cooperation.

He has also served as Deputy Director-General for Environmental Protection in the same Ministry, as Head of the Climate Change Department and has worked in the fields of housing and public information. Early in his career, Mr. de Boer worked for the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UN-HABITAT).

Mr. de Boer has been involved in climate change policies since 1994. He has helped to prepare the position of the European Union in the lead-up to the negotiations on the Kyoto Protocol, assisted in the design of the internal burden sharing of the European Union and has since led delegations to the UNFCCC negotiations.

He has actively sought broad stakeholder involvement on the issue of climate change. To that end, he launched an international dialogue on the clean development mechanism and has partnered international discussions with the World Business Council on Sustainable Development, aimed at increasing private sector involvement.

Mr. de Boer has served as Vice-President of the Conference of Parties to UNFCCC and as Vice-Chair of the Commission on Sustainable Development. At the time of appointment, he was a member of the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development, the Bureau of the Environment Policy Committee of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Advisory Group of the Community Development Carbon Fund of the World Bank and the Board of Directors of the Centre for Clean Air Policy.

Born in Vienna, Yvo de Boer is married and has 3 children. As the son of a Dutch diplomat, he has travelled the world extensively before entering boarding school in the United Kingdom and obtaining a technical degree in social work in the Netherlands.



**Biography of COP and COP/MOP President-designate, H.E. Mr.  
Kivutha Kibwana, Minister for Environment and Natural Resources**

<<http://www.environment.go.ke/kibwana.htm>> (click on link to read biography)



## **The UNFCCC media and communications team at COP 12/CMP 2**

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Overview schedule (**click on text to see schedule**)

**Changes in GHG emissions from 1990 to 2004 for Annex I Parties**

Party	Total GHG emissions without LULUCF (Tg / million tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> equivalent)			Changes in emissions (%)		Emission reduction target under the Kyoto Protocol <sup>a, b</sup> (%)
	1990	2000	2004	1990–2004	2000–2004	
Australia	423.1	504.2	529.2	25.1	5.0	– <sup>c</sup>
Austria	78.9	81.3	91.3	15.7	12.4	–8 (–13)
Belarus	127.4	69.8	74.4	–41.6	6.6	no target yet
Belgium	145.8	147.4	147.9	1.4	0.3	–8 (–7.5)
Bulgaria	132.3	64.3	67.5	–49.0	5.1	–8
Canada	598.9	725.0	758.1	26.6	4.6	–6
Croatia	31.1	25.3	29.4	–5.4	16.5	– <sup>c</sup>
Czech Republic	196.2	149.2	147.1	–25.0	–1.4	–8
Denmark	70.4	69.6	69.6	–1.1	0.1	–8 (–21)
Estonia	43.5	19.7	21.3	–51.0	8.4	–8
European Community	4252.5	4129.3	4228.0	–0.6	2.4	–8
Finland	71.1	70.0	81.4	14.5	16.4	–8 (0)
France	567.1	561.4	562.6	–0.8	0.2	–8 (0)
Germany	1226.3	1022.8	1015.3	–17.2	–0.7	–8 (–21)
Greece	108.7	131.8	137.6	26.6	4.5	–8 (+25)
Hungary	123.1	81.9	83.9	–31.8	2.5	–6
Iceland	3.28	3.54	3.11	–5.0	–12.2	+10
Ireland	55.6	68.7	68.5	23.1	–0.4	–8 (+13)
Italy	519.6	554.6	582.5	12.1	5.0	–8 (–6.5)
Japan	1272.1	1345.5	1355.2	6.5	0.7	–6
Latvia	25.9	9.9	10.7	–58.5	8.2	–8
Liechtenstein	0.229	0.256	0.271	18.5	6.0	–8
Lithuania	50.9	20.8	20.2	–60.4	–3.1	–8
Luxembourg	12.7	9.7	12.7	0.3	31.3	–8 (–28)
Monaco	0.108	0.117	0.104	–3.1	–11.0	–8
Netherlands	213.0	214.4	218.1	2.4	1.7	–8 (–6)
New Zealand	61.9	70.3	75.1	21.3	6.8	0
Norway	49.8	53.5	54.9	10.3	2.7	+1
Poland	564.4	386.2	388.1	–31.2	0.5	–6
Portugal	60.0	82.2	84.5	41.0	2.9	–8 (+27)
Romania	262.3	131.8	154.6	–41.0	17.3	–8
Russian Federation	2974.9	1944.8	2024.2	–32.0	4.1	0
Slovakia	73.4	49.4	51.0	–30.4	3.3	–8
Slovenia	20.2	18.8	20.1	–0.8	6.6	–8
Spain	287.2	384.2	427.9	49.0	11.4	–8 (+15)
Sweden	72.4	68.4	69.9	–3.5	2.1	–8 (+4)
Switzerland	52.8	51.7	53.0	0.4	2.6	–8
Turkey	170.2	278.9	293.8	72.6	5.3	– <sup>c</sup>
Ukraine	925.4	395.1	413.4	–55.3	4.6	0
United Kingdom	776.1	672.2	665.3	–14.3	–1.0	–8 (–12.5)
United States	6103.3	6975.9	7067.6	15.8	1.3	– <sup>c</sup>
Annex I EIT Parties	5551.0	3366.9	3506.0	–36.8	4.1	–
Annex I non-EIT Parties	13000.5	14147.7	14425.6	11.0	2.0	–
All Annex I Parties to the Convention	18551.5	17514.6	17931.6	–3.3	2.4	–
Annex I Kyoto Protocol Parties	11823.8	9730.3	10011.5	–15.3	2.9	–5

<sup>a</sup> The national reduction targets as per the “burden-sharing” agreement of the European Community are shown in parentheses.

<sup>b</sup> The national reduction targets relate to the first commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol, which is from 2008 to 2012.

<sup>c</sup> A Party to the Climate Change Convention but not a Party to the Kyoto Protocol.

Note: base year data (under the Climate Change Convention) are used here instead of 1990 data (as per COP decisions 9/CP.2 and 11/CP.4) for Bulgaria (1988), Hungary (average of 1985–1987), Poland (1988), Romania (1989) and Slovenia (1986).