



## UN climate change talks end with progress on expected Copenhagen deal

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Poznan, Poland (PANA) – The two- week long United Nations Climate Change Conference in Poznan, Poland, ended on Saturday with a clear commitment from governments to shift into full negotiating mode next year in order to shape an ambitious and effective international response to climate change to be agreed in Copenhagen, Denmark, at the end of 2009.

Progress was made in the area of technology with the endorsement of the Global Environment Facility's "Poznan Strategic Programme on Technology Transfer".

"The aim of this programme is to scale up the level of investment by leveraging private investments that developing countries require, both for mitigation and adaptation technologies," said the President of the conference, Polish Minister of the Environment Maciej Nowicki.

"We will now move to the next level of negotiations, which involves crafting a concrete negotiating text for the agreed outcome."

Parties agreed that a first draft of the text would be available at a United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) gathering in Bonn, Germany, in June 2009.

"In addition to having agreed the work programme for next year, we have cleared the decks of many technical issues," President Nowicki said.

"Poznan is the place where the partnership between the developing and developed world to fight climate change has shifted beyond rhetoric and turned into real action," he said.

In that spirit, at Poznan, the finishing touches were put to the Kyoto Protocol's adaptation fund, thereby enabling the fund to receive projects in the course of 2009.

Parties agreed that the fund (CDM), fed by a share of proceeds from the Kyoto Protocol's clean development mechanism and voluntary contributions, would have a legal capacity granting developing countries direct access.

However, the parties were unable to reach consensus on scaling up funding for adaptation by agreeing to put a levy on the other two Kyoto mechanisms, Joint Implementation and Emissions Trading.

Together with decisions aimed at streamlining and speeding up the CDM, the parties asked the CDM Executive Board to explore procedures and methodologies that would enhance regional and sub-regional distribution of projects.

Parties also asked the Board to assess the implications of including carbon capture and storage projects and extending the eligibility criteria for afforestation and reforestation projects.

A key event at the conference was a ministerial round table on a shared vision for long-term cooperative action on climate change.

"Governments have sent a strong political signal that despite the financial and economic crisis, significant funds can be mobilized for both mitigation and adaptation in developing countries with the help of a clever financial architecture and the institutions to deliver the financial support," said Yvo de Boer, Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC.

"We now have a much clearer sense of where we need to go in designing an outcome which will spell out the commitments of developed countries, the financial support required and the institutions that will deliver that support as part of the Copenhagen outcome," he added.

Countries meeting in Poznan made progress on a number of issues that are important in the short run - up to 2012 -

particularly for developing countries, including adaptation, finance, technology and reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

Poznan - 13/12/2008



### Japan invests US\$92m to help Africa weather climate change

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Poznan, Poland (PANA) - Twenty-one African countries are set to benefit from a US\$92.1 million programme backed by the Japanese Government, which is designed to support their efforts to adapt to climate change.

The details of where the money would be invested were finalized this week between Japan and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), coinciding with the International Climate Change Conference in Poznan, Poland.

Through the new programme, UNDP will work with the African countries to help them develop their capacity to plan, implement and monitor flexible, long-term development policies designed to weather the uncertainties of climate change, with the primary focus of ensuring that the most vulnerable people do not fall victim to rising temperatures and climate-induced shocks.

The programme will also help participating governments to better tap the additional finance they will need to meet the cost of adapting to climate change, the UNDP said.

"This adaptation programme addresses the urgent need to look at development differently," said Olav Kjørven, UN Assistant Secretary General and Director of UNDP's Bureau for Development Policy, stressing the importance of an integrated approach to tackling what he called the "triple crisis" of climate change, finance and poverty.

"If the financial and food crises this year have taught us anything it has to be: 'heed the warning signs'. We know that Africa is likely to warm by 3-4 degrees Celsius this Century; we know that the resulting water scarcity, crop failures and health risks will hit the poorest the hardest.

"Together, we have an opportunity here to change how development is done to respond to that reality and we warmly welcome this partnership with Japan and the participating countries as an investment in our collective future," he said.

The 21 recipient countries were determined based on a number of criteria, including their vulnerability to climate change risks, their interests and needs and the priorities of the Japanese Government.

Among 21 recipient countries, the countries which are in the process of preparation for the actual implementation, in coordination with the recipient governments, are: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Niger, Republic of Congo and Senegal, the countries which established Japan's \$10 billion "Cool Earth Partnership". The establishment of the "Cool Earth Partnership" with other six countries is also under consultation.

The programme, which falls under "Cool Earth Partnership", is part of the "Japan-UNDP Joint Framework for Building Partnership to Address Climate Change in Africa", which was established at the Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development in May 2008.

It represents the joint effort of the United Nations family on

climate change.

UNDP will manage the \$92.1 million programme, part of which - \$11 million - will be channeled to adaptation activities supported by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO). Participating countries will start setting out their adaptation activities from January 2009.

Poznan - 13/12/2008



### UNFCCC chief applauds EU deal on climate change

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Poznan, Poland (PANA) - The Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Yvo de Boer, has welcomed the news that the European Union (EU) has reached an agreement on climate change.

"The European Union's climate deal sends a clear message to the negotiations in Poznan and onwards to Copenhagen that difficult roadblocks can be overcome and resolved," de Boer said here at the United Nations Climate Change Conference due to end later Friday in Poznan, Poland.

"This is a sign of developed countries' resolve and courage that the world has been waiting for in Poznan. It shows the world that ambitious emission reduction goals by 2020 are in line with moving economic recovery in a green direction. This will contribute to propelling the world towards a strong, ambitious and ratifiable outcome in Copenhagen in 2009," he said.

EU leaders in Brussels, Belgium, Friday agreed to a plan to cut down on carbon emissions by 20 per cent by 2020.

But Greenpeace, an international environmental group, accused the EU governments of putting business before people and the environment.

“Just at the time that the US is finally re-engaging with the international community on climate, it looks like the EU’s leadership is dropping away,” Joris Blankefort of Greenpeace EU said at the Poznan conference.

He said before the final negotiations in Copenhagen, Denmark, Europe must commit to strong support for developing countries and deeper domestic reductions cuts.

“Instead of acting to stop climate change, EU leaders are subsidising it,” Blankefort added.

Poznan - 12/12/2008

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### Global crisis shouldn't deter climate change action, UN chief warns

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Poznan, Poland (PANA) – The global financial crisis must not be used as an excuse to deter action on climate change, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has warned here.

Ban said, however, it was significant that all Parties to the negotiations going on in Poznan had recognized that agreement on a climate deal should not await resolution on the economic crisis.

“All challenges and concerns have to be considered in the course of these negotiations,” Ban said at a press conference Thursday.

The UN Secretary-General is in Poznan, attending the UN climate change conference negotiating for a new global climate change deal to be agreed in Copenhagen, Denmark, at the end of 2009.

Ban stressed the importance for industrialized countries to define their emission targets by 2020 and also provide necessary financial resources to developing countries for adaptation and mitigation.

“The agreement that we need to adopt by the end of December 2009, has to be comprehensive, effective and balanced and rectifiable by all the countries.

"This is a global challenge, requiring a global response. We need to go hand in hand together," Ban said.

He commended US for re-engaging in the process, saying that this was encouraging while disclosing that the US President-elect Barack Obama had personally assured him of his commitment on climate change.

“It is important that ministers meeting here deliver the strong political guidance and direction needed in the run-up to Copenhagen. The clock is ticking, emissions are rising.”

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Executive Secretary Yvo de Boer said the Poznan meeting ending Friday had so far made progress on

reducing emissions from deforestation and on moving to a more practical action on adaptation.

De Boer, who spoke at the same press conference, however, said a number of issues still remained outstanding, including the issue on the adaptation fund which he said ministers were still considering.

Other issues still being considered include the question of whether the share of proceeds, or levy, on the Clean Development Mechanism should be extended to joint implementation.

“The main purpose of the conference is to agree the negotiating agenda for the coming year, to agree on the intensification of negotiations and advance the process,” de Boer stated.

Over 11,000 delegates, including ministers from the 189 countries, are attending the Poznan conference.

Poznan - 12/12/2008

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## Over 160 citizen groups endorse UN global climate fund

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Poznan, Poland (PANA) - Over 160 citizen groups from dozens of countries attending the UN climate change talks in Poznan, Poland, have called for the establishment of a major new Global Climate Fund under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The groups argue that such a fund would be a vital component of any new global climate agreement that involves the large-scale transfer of financial resources from rich to poorer countries in order to help these nations reduce the emissions that cause global climate change.

Their call builds upon a proposal made earlier this year by the Group of 77 developing nations and China that such a new fund be created, and that World Bank climate finance funds are not to be counted towards industrialized country governments' obligations in any existing or new global climate agreement.

"Social movements and poorer nations have responded to the climate crisis with a global blueprint for a just solution. The challenge now is to build enormous momentum over this next year to make history happen at the UNFCCC meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark, in December 2009," said Victor Menotti, deputy director of the International Forum on Globalization.

The groups advocating for the establishment of a Global Climate Fund include a number of leading environmental, indigenous, climate justice, debt justice, development and other organizations, including Oxfam International, ActionAid, friends

of the Earth and the International Forum on Globalization.



Poznan - 11/12/2008

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## Govts urged to give political guidance to climate change process

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Poznan, Poland (PANA) - A UN top climate change official has implored ministers, meeting here for a UN climate change conference, to give the process clear political guidance taking into consideration that they had agreed to the 2009 deadline to clinch a deal on climate change in Copenhagen, Denmark.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) executive secretary Yvo de Boer in his address Thursday to the ministers at the beginning of the high-level segment of the UN climate change conference in Poznan, Poland, said "time is running out.

"You must give these negotiations a positive start. You can do that, because you are not starting from scratch.

"Here in Poznan, one year from Copenhagen, we need to hear, feel and see your resolve to complete the task you set us all in Bali," de Boer said.

He asked the meeting to send a clear signal from Poznan that countries are ready to put in place financial structures to shift the global economy on to a low-emissions pathway and that it is ready to govern those structures as equal partners

and also a clear signal that countries are pushing towards Copenhagen in close cooperation.

He warned that there were already clear signs of urgency on climate change, citing Mauritania which is already in the grip of a triple stranglehold, a growing desert, encroaching ocean and worsening floods.

“Mexico, South Africa, Indonesia have climate change strategies. India, China, Egypt have climate change plans and programmes. Nigeria, Angola, Pakistan are developing theirs. All these Parties and more have identified additional mitigation actions that can be implemented with measurable, reportable and verifiable support.”

About 11,000 delegates are attending the two-week UN climate change conference which ends Friday.

The conference in Poznan is an important half-way mark in the negotiating process leading up to Copenhagen in 2009.

Parties have agreed that in Copenhagen, an ambitious climate change deal will be clinched to follow on the first phase of the UN's Kyoto Protocol, which expires

in 2012.

In Poznan, parties are taking stock of progress made in 2008 and map out in detail what needs to happen in 2009 to get that agreement.

Poznan - 11/12/2008



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UN Secretary General calls for a 'Green New Deal'

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Poznan, Poland (PANA) - United Nations Secretary General

Ban Ki-moon has stressed the need for a 'Green New Deal' that works for all nations, rich as well as poor.

Addressed a high-level segment of the United Nations Climate Change Conference taking place in Poznan, Poland, Thursday, Ban warned against any backsliding on commitments to a future of low-carbon emissions.

He said there was an urgent need for a deal on climate change to provide the political, legal and economic framework to unleash a sustained wave of investment.

"In short, our response to the economic crisis must advance climate goals, and our response to the climate crisis will advance economic and social goals," the UN Secretary General stated.

The two-day, high-level segment of the conference that began Thursday is being attended by more than 100 ministers and other 50 heads of delegation.

A ministerial roundtable on a "shared vision for long-term cooperative action", to be convened by President Maciej Nowicki, will be held later Thursday for ministers and heads of delegation to exchange views on how they intend to work in a collaborative manner to combat climate change.

The discussion will focus on three key topics on long-term cooperative action on climate change, towards achieving the ultimate objectives of the convention; preparing for unavoidable climate change, building resilience and implementing adaptation plans; and the architecture that will deliver on finance, technology and capacity building and on the reporting of actions and support for actions.

"Together, we face two crises; climate change and the global economy. But these present us with a great opportunity – an opportunity to address both challenges simultaneously," Ban said Thursday.

"What we need today is leadership. We look for leadership from the European Union. The decisions currently being made by European leaders in Brussels are at great

consequence for the whole world. We look for leadership from the United States," the UN chief noted

He said that the Poznan conference is faced with three challenges - to agree on a work-plan for the next year's negotiations; draft the critical elements of a long-term vision or basic framework for cooperative action and for countries to re-commit themselves to the urgency of their cause.

"The world's poorest should not suffer first and worst from a problem they did least to create," he added.

The two-week long Poznan conference that began 1 December is discussing a path forward toward a new global climate change deal to be agreed in Copenhagen, Denmark, at the end of 2009.

Poznan - 11/12/2008



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## African countries launch African Climate Solution

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Poznan, Poland (PANA) - A grouping of 26 African countries in East, Central and Southern Africa Wednesday launched "The African Climate Solution" at the UN climate change talks in Poznan, Poland, to address issues relating to climate change.

The African Climate Solution entails the reduction of green house gas emissions by forest resources (REDD) and carbon sequestration through agriculture, forestry and land use (AFOLU) in Africa and throughout the developing world.

Sindiso Ngwenya, Secretary General of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), who spoke at the launch of the Africa Climate Solution, said "this initiative is African in origin but is intended to include all developing nations."

“We all face the same problem of dealing with climate change and sustainable development. We are seeking the support of countries in Asia, Latin America and Small Island States to ensure that not only Africa’s voice but that of the world’s poor and excluded will be heard loud and clear in articulating solutions for mitigation and adaptation measures on climate change.”

The COMESA top official warned that any delays in recognizing Africa’s potential contribution to adaptation and mitigation measures on climate change would reverse gains in sustainable development.

"It is no longer a question of if, or of when, Africa should be and will be part and parcel of a post-Kyoto Protocol regime," Ngwenya said.

The African Climate Solution calls for the expansion of eligibility of resources beyond REDD to include the full range of bio-carbon in the climate change negotiations.

Africa is leading a high-level delegation to the UN climate change conference in Poznan comprising representatives from organizations representing farmers, the private sector, the research community, civil society development, partners and banks.

The two-week Poznan conference that began 1 December, is negotiating a new global climate change deal to be clinched in Copenhagen, Denmark, at the end of 2009.

Poznan - 10/12/2008



### EDF hails negotiators for progress at climate change talks

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Poznan, Poland (PANA) – The Environmental Defence Fund (EDF) has praised climate negotiators meeting here for a UN Climate Change Conference for reaching a compromise Wednesday that will advance talks on reducing deforestation.

In a closed-door meeting, negotiators reached a preliminary agreement that nations must give indigenous people a voice in discussions on how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and degradation and must recognise international rights' treaties.

“This is a crucial step forward. Is it everything indigenous people want and deserve? No, but it guarantees talks will advance and indigenous groups will be heard,” Steve Schwartzman, EDF’s director for tropical forest policy, said.

Negotiations over the inclusion of deforestation at the on-going UN climate change talks in Poznan, hit a snag this week with one of the main points of contention being how to recognise indigenous rights in proposals to reduce deforestation.

The Poznan conference, which has drawn about 11,000 delegates, constitutes the halfway mark in the negotiations on an ambitious and effective international response to climate change, to be agreed in Copenhagen, Denmark, at the end of 2009.

Poznan - 10/12/2008



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## Ministers meet for high-level segment of UN Climate Change Conference

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Poznan, Poland (PANA) - Ministers from the 189 countries attending the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Poznan, Poland, will converge for the first time since the landmark UN climate meeting in Bali, to discuss a path forward toward a new global climate change deal.

The high-level segment of the gathering of the United Nations Framework Convention on

Climate Change (UNFCCC) kicks off Thursday with speeches by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, four heads of state and government, as well as 145 environment ministers and senior government representatives.

The two-week long Poznan conference, which has drawn 11,600 participants, constitutes the half-way mark in the negotiations on an ambitious and effective international response to climate change, to be agreed in Copenhagen, Denmark, at the end of 2009 and to take effect in 2013.

"The agreed outcome must spell out commitments on the part of industrialised countries, including mid-term emission reduction targets and agree ways to raise large-scale funds and deliver them effectively and transparently to support the efforts of the developing world in mitigation and adaptation. So we need a policy framework that provides clarity on targets, clarity on financial support and clarity on institutions," said UNFCCC Executive Secretary Yvo de Boer.

"We must have a politically certifiable outcome that can enter into force in 2013," de Boer pointed out.

The discussion in Poznan has, meanwhile, moved on from elements of the agreed outcome to concrete components, describing areas of convergence in the ideas and proposals of parties, exploring options for dealing with areas of divergence and identifying the gaps that might need to be filled in reaching the agreed Copenhagen outcome.

Parties have agreed that a negotiating text on the agreed outcome will be put forward for consideration at a UNFCCC gathering in June next year.

A key event during the high-level segment will be a ministerial round-table on a shared vision on long-term cooperative action on climate change.

"Negotiators have been discussing a number of issues that are important in the short run-up to 2012 - particularly for developing countries, including adaptation, finance, technology and reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation," said de Boer.

"The round table event will be an important opportunity for both for ministers and heads of delegations to look at what kind of mechanisms needed to be put in place to deliver on finance, technology and capacity building to curb emissions, spur green growth and cope with the inevitable impacts of climate change," he added.

No fewer than three major UNFCCC gatherings will take place next year before the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, the first two in Bonn, Germany.



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## Indigenous peoples, NGOs protest at UN climate change talks

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Poznan, Poland (PANA) - Representatives of indigenous peoples, local communities and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) monitoring the progress of the UN climate change negotiations being held here Tuesday held a peaceful demonstration.

PANA reports that the protesters were outraged at the removal of “rights” from the decision on Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) .

The groups were outraged that the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand opposed the inclusion of recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities in a decision on REDD, drafted Tuesday by government delegates at the UN Climate Change conference.

They claimed the four countries wanted to include REDD in the future climate agreement but opposed protecting the rights of the indigenous and forest peoples who will be directly affected by REDD measures.

During the Tuesday discussions, these countries insisted that the word “rights” and references to UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples be struck from the text.

“This is totally unacceptable for indigenous peoples, local communities and supporting NGOs, as the forests which are being targeted for REDD are those which indigenous



peoples have sustained and protected for thousands of years.

“Any REDD mechanism that does not respect and protect the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities will fail,” the group charged.

They demanded that an unequivocal reference to rights and to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples be inserted into the draft decision text on REDD.

The group is part of the delegates attending the two-week UN climate change gathering in Poznan which is the half-way mark in the negotiating process leading up

to Copenhagen, Denmark in 2009 where an ambitious climate change deal will be clinched to follow on the first phase of the UN’s Kyoto Protocol, which expires in 2012.

Poznan - 09/12/2008



UN climate change meeting agrees to fund developing countries

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Poznan, Poland (PANA) – The United Nations Climate Change Conference taking place in Poznan, Poland, has agreed that developing countries should access the Adaptation Fund, intended to finance concrete adaptation projects, through implementing agencies such as the World Bank and UN Environment Programme, the UN’s top climate change official disclosed here Tuesday.

Yvo de Boer, executive secretary of the United Nations

Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), said an agreement had also been reached at the meeting that developing countries should be able to get direct access to funding from the Adaptation Fund through institutions in their countries that have been credited to

work under the adaptation fund.

De Boer, who spoke at a press conference, however, said issues that were still under discussion include whether there were other ways that developing countries could be provided with access to direct funding, the debate he said is still going on.

The Adaptation Fund was established to finance concrete adaptation projects and programmes in developing countries that are Parties to the Kyoto Protocol.

The two-week long UN climate change conference that began December 1 and being attended by about 11,000 delegates, is the half-way mark in the negotiations on an ambitious and effective international response to climate change.

Delegates, including government officials from 186 Parties, representatives from business and industry, environmental organizations and research institutions attending the meeting are negotiating for a deal to be clinched in Copenhagen, Denmark at the end of 2009.

De Boer on Tuesday warned that “we should be careful not to reach too far and achieve nothing (in Copenhagen).”

“What we need to achieve in Copenhagen is clarity on the key political issues, so that everything in Copenhagen is about settling the details, rather than negotiating the fundamentals.

“For me the essential for Copenhagen is clarity on commitment, clarity on finance and clarity on institution. It is clearly imperative that we deliver on the commitments that were made in Bali and reach agreement in Copenhagen,” de Boer said

a press conference Tuesday.

The meeting in Poznan will also conduct a review of the Kyoto Protocol and assess to what extent the Protocol's clean development mechanism can be improved and its geographical reach extended.

Poznan - 09/12/2008



## UN meeting in Poznan urged to focus on climate adaptation

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Poznan, Poland (PANA) – ClimateWise, the financial services climate change initiative representing 42 leading members of the global insurance industry, Monday called on government delegates meeting at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Poznan, Poland, to focus on national adaptation measures and to ensure that the concerns of the insurance industry are reflected in the negotiations on a new international climate change deal currently being negotiated in Poland.

The conference is being attended by more than 11,000 participants, including those from the business community.

The international deal being negotiated here will be clinched in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 2009, and will become effective in 2013.

Andrew Torrance, chairman of ClimateWise, Monday urged the executive secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Yvo de Boer, to strengthen climate change adaptation frameworks, so that

insurers could play as full a role as possible in reducing the climate risks faced by people around

the world.

Torrance warned that climate-related threats were increasing both in scale and unpredictability.

According to Torrance, annual insurance losses from wind storms could increase by two thirds later this century and the chances of very hot summers in Europe, such as in 2003 when at least 22,000 people died prematurely, had doubled over the

past decades.

“The role of insurance is fundamental in coping with climate risks, because insurance enables business and individuals to manage risk,” he said.

“ClimateWise members are committed to exploring how best to use their expertise to assist those affected by climate risk, both in developed and developing countries,” the chairman of the 42-member insurance initiative said.

“In order for insurers to play their fullest role in helping customers around the world to manage these growing risks, governments must make adequate investments in adaptation measures to ensure those risks remain manageable,” he added.

Torrance who also spoke at a joint press conference with the UN’s top climate change official, said “The insurance sector is one that most directly experiences the impacts of climate change. ClimateWise members are ready to explore how best to extend the benefits of their expertise to those affected by climate risk, and governments must create the international policy framework in which this can take

place.”

He said insurance cannot be an alternative to adaptation, rather robust adaptation is a necessary condition for insurers to play a full role.

“We are looking forward to insurance being a central component of the Copenhagen climate change deal.”

UNFCCC executive secretary Yvo de Boer, who spoke at the same press conference noted that the insurance industry has a particularly important role to play.

“Its ability to offer insurance based on better risk management can encourage adaptation projects, and guide governments to more effective policy decisions - both at the national and the international level.”

In addition to binding medium emissions-reduction targets on the part of developed countries, there are three key areas that ClimateWise members want to see addressed in a new global framework.

These include seeing all countries committing to implement national adaptation plans; a long-term international arrangement for collecting and sharing climate risk data; and a review of synergies between adaptation and mitigation measures.

The two-week long UN climate change conference that began 1 December in Poznan, is the 14th conference of the 192 parties to the UNFCCC and fourth meeting of the 183 Parties to the Kyoto Protocol.

It is the half-way mark in the negotiations on an ambitious and effective international response to climate change.

The deal is to be clinched in Copenhagen at the end of 2009 and will take effect in 2013, the year after the first phase of the Kyoto Protocol expires.

Poznan - 08/12/2008

## UN climate change conference begins Monday in Poznan

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Lusaka, Zambia (PANA) - The United Nations Climate Change Conference starts Monday in Poznan, Poland, where delegates, including ministers, will discuss their vision for long-term cooperative action on climate change.

The two-week meeting, the 14th Conference of the 192 Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the fourth meeting of the

183 Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, is the half-way mark in the negotiations on a ambitious and effective international climate change deal.

The deal is to be clinched in Copenhagen, Denmark, at the end of 2009 and will come into force in 2013, the year after the first phase of the Kyoto Protocol expires.

About 9,000 participants, including government delegates from 185 Parties to the UNFCCC and representatives from business and industry, environmental organisations and research institutions will attend the two-week gathering.

At Poznan, Parties to the UNFCCC will take stock of progress made in 2008 and map out in detail, what needs to happen in 2009 to get to a strengthened agreement, UNFCCC said in a statement.

At the conference, a text will be tabled which could serve as the basis for a first draft of the negotiating text for an agreed outcome at Copenhagen.

This text will be fine-tuned in the course of the gathering.

According to UNFCCC, one of the key questions will be what kind of mechanisms need to be put in place to deliver on finance, technology and capacity building to

curb emissions, spur green growth and to cope with the inevitable impacts of climate change.

The issue of technology will also be high on the agenda and the meeting will deal in depth with the issue of risk management and risk reduction strategies.

Poznan is also expected to produce concrete progress on several issues which are important in the short run - up to 2012 - particularly for developing countries, including adaptation, finance, technology and reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

In the context of adapting to the effects of climate change, parties are expected to put finishing touches to the Kyoto Protocol's Adaptation Fund so that it

is ready to roll out concrete projects in 2009.

The UN Climate Change Conference in Poznan will also conduct a review of the Kyoto Protocol and assess to what extent the Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism

(CDM) can be streamlined and its geographical reach extended.

"The need for real progress on tackling climate change has never been more urgent," said Yvo de Boer, UNFCCC Executive Secretary, who added "the effects of climate change that science has identified are already weighing upon those most vulnerable and who await the financial and technological resources they need to deal with these impacts".

Alluding to the fact that the Poznan conference is taking place in the broader context of the current global financial crisis and economic recession, the UN's top climate change official warned against the danger of the world being detracted

from the fight against climate change.

"We must now focus on the opportunities for green growth that can put the global economy onto a stable and sustainable path," he said.

Lusaka - 28/11/2008