

UNFCCC – COP16  
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INBAR – International Network for Bamboo and Rattan  
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Director General

*Madame President, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

The challenge of climate change has been described particularly appropriate by Professor John Schellnhuber as a MAD challenge; because it requires simultaneous action on Mitigation, Adaptation *and* Development.

We cannot underestimate the *difficulty* of combining these objectives. But we cannot separate them. And that is why the word, the acronym 'MAD' is so appropriate.

The International Network for Bamboo and Rattan is an organization that is dedicated to reducing poverty, protecting the environment and creating pro-poor trade. We work in and with our 36 member countries – all present at this COP - and with many partner organizations, to address the MAD challenge of climate change.

I will give you a brief example. We are working in Ecuador and Peru to build elevated bamboo housing. Bamboo grows fast, it is flexible, affordable and lightweight. It is also part of the livelihoods of about 1.5 billion people.

These bamboo houses *Mitigate* climate change by durably storing carbon in the bamboo panels and beams and by reducing the use of energy intensive building materials like concrete; they provide *Adaption* by protecting against flooding and storms; and they provide *Development* through employment in the construction sector.

Simple solutions like building bamboo houses can often make a difference at the local level, where the impacts of climate change are already real now.

We urge the UNFCCC to provide us with more practical mechanisms for combining climate and development objectives, such as CDM, the Adaptation Fund and REDD+. Climate change is a MAD challenge, a *maddening* challenge. But failure is not an option. We look forward to a positive outcome from COP16.

Thank you