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MEDIA ADVISORY

Bangkok UN Climate Change Talks Set to Lay Out Work Plan for Negotiations Leading up to Copenhagen Agreement

(Bonn, 26 March 2008) – A next round of UN-sponsored global climate change negotiations - the Bangkok Climate Change Talks 2008 - is set to begin in Bangkok, Thailand on 31 March 2008. These talks will move forward a set of decisions called the "Bali Roadmap", adopted at the UN Climate Change Conference held in Bali in December 2007.

On the one hand, the Bangkok Climate Change Talks are expected to establish a clear work programme for a negotiation process on strengthened international action against climate change, established under the Bali Roadmap. On the other hand, talks on further commitments for Kyoto Protocol Parties will include considering the possible tools available to industrialised countries to reach future emission reductions.

The two processes are set to culminate in a strengthened and effective international climate change deal, to be clinched at the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in 2009.

"The challenge is to design a future agreement that will significantly step up action on adaptation, successfully halt the increase in global emissions within the next 10-15 years, dramatically cut back emissions by 2050, and do so in a way that is economically viable and politically equitable worldwide," said Yvo de Boer, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The UN Climate Change Talks, Bangkok 2008 will take place at the United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC) of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and will conclude on 4 April 2008.

Around 1,000 people, including government representatives, participants from business and industry, environmental organizations and research institutions are expected to attend. The opening ceremony 31 March will be attended by the Environment Ministers of Thailand and of Indonesia.



Two working groups meeting in Bangkok

The Bangkok UN meeting will convene two working groups: the first session of the "Ad hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention" (AWG-LCA) and the first part of the fifth session of the "Ad hoc Working Group on further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol" (AWG-KP).

The working group under the Convention was agreed in Bali and is designed to negotiate the Copenhagen agreement. It comprises all 192 Parties to the UNFCCC. This group will establish its work programme, identify work that needs to be supported by additional work shops and establish what input is needed from the UN System, the business sector, NGOs and others, and how this will be integrated into the overall work plan.

The working group under the Kyoto Protocol comprises 178 Parties and was mandated in 2005 to consider future commitments for industrialised Parties to the treaty. In Bangkok, this group will initiate the second step of its work programme; in particular, the analysis of possible means available to developed countries to reach their emission reduction targets.

The Kyoto Protocol AWG will provide an informal setting for input from experts and for Parties to present their views on the issues related to the different means, as well as on how to enhance their effectiveness and contribution to sustainable development. Issues under consideration include emissions trading and the project based mechanisms, land use, land-use change and forestry, greenhouse gases, sectors and source categories to be covered, and possible approaches targeting sectoral emissions.

A list of UNFCCC media contacts, along with technical information on how to cover the Bangkok conference and an overview of UNFCCC press briefings, is available at:
<http://unfccc.int/meetings/intersessional/awg-lca_1_and_awg-kp_5/press/items/4292.php>

A first curtain-raiser briefing with Executive Secretary Yvo de Boer will be held Sunday, 30 March 2008 at 18:30 at ESCAP Bangkok. Media must have prior accreditation in order to attend this briefing.

About the UNFCCC

With 192 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 to date 178 member Parties. Under the Protocol, 37 States, consisting of highly industrialised countries and countries undergoing the process of transition to a market economy, have legally binding emission limitation and reduction commitments. 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.