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MEDIA ADVISORY (updated)

Next Round of Crucial UN Climate Change Negotiations Set to Kick Off in Bonn

(Bonn, 26 May 2008) – The next round of UN-sponsored global climate change negotiations is set to begin in Bonn, Germany, on 2 June 2008. A major focus of the UN Climate Change Talks - Bonn, 2008 will be on a strengthened and effective international climate change deal, to be clinched in Copenhagen next year.

Around 2,000 people, including government representatives, participants from business and industry, environmental organizations and research institutions are expected to attend the two-week meeting. This constitutes a record number of participants for the annual Bonn sessions of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

On the one hand, the Bonn Climate Change Talks will take forward the new negotiation process on strengthened international action against climate change, as agreed at Bali in 2007. Workshops in this context will take place on the issues of adaptation, finance and technology transfer. On the other hand, talks on further commitments for Parties to the Kyoto Protocol will include considering the possible tools available to industrialised countries to reach future emission reductions. Furthermore, the Bonn climate change will advance ongoing work on technology, adaptation, reducing emissions from deforestation and capacity building in developing countries.

"Time is incredibly short 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, UNFCCC Executive Secretary. "We urgently need to make progress in Bonn, seeing that there is only slightly more than a year to come up with a set of drafts for a ratifiable deal at Copenhagen."

In addition to the two working groups explicitly designed to negotiate the Copenhagen deal: the second session of the "Ad hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention" and the second part of the fifth session of the "Ad hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol", the twenty-eighth sessions of the "Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice" and the "Subsidiary Body for Implementation" of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) will take place from 4 to 13 June 2008.



All the meetings will take place at the Hotel Maritim, Bonn, Germany. The UNFCCC will give an opening press conference on Monday, 2 June (13:45) and a closing press conference at the conclusion of the meeting on Friday, 13 June (13:15). Parties and non-governmental organisations will also give press briefings throughout the meeting, the times and locations of which will be posted on the UNFCCC website <unfccc.int> closer to the date. Media must have prior accreditation in order to attend UNFCCC and other briefings.

Provisional agendas for the meetings:

<http://unfccc.int/meetings/sb28/items/4328.php>

Overview of side-events:

http://regserver.unfccc.int/seors/reports/events_list.html

Further information for the press is available at:

<http://unfccc.int/meetings/sb28/press/items/4348.php>

Further upcoming major UNFCCC meetings

A third major UNFCCC gathering in 2008, to be held from 21 to 27 August in Accra, Ghana will examine more closely a number of crucial issues related to enhanced action on mitigation. These include reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries, which account for around 20% of global emissions, along with the issue of cooperative sectoral approaches and sector-specific actions.

The process of global climate change negotiations will culminate in 2008 in the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Poznan, Poland. This meeting will particularly address research and development of technology, risk management and risk reduction strategies, and the key elements of a shared long-term vision for joint action on climate change, including a long-term target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Poznan meeting will also be an important opportunity for taking stock of progress made during the course of the year.

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 182 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.

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See also <unfccc.int>