



**Green Climate Fund Meeting of the Board
Geneva, 23 August 2012**

**Opening statement by
Richard Kinley, Deputy Executive Secretary
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**

Distinguished members of the Board of the Green Climate Fund,
Dear colleagues,

This is an important moment in the global efforts to tackle climate change! With the launch of the work of this Board, the world is about to turn a new page in global cooperation on efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change. The Green Climate Fund can become the key pillar of the new global architecture to address climate change by enabling action worldwide. Developing countries are in great need to make their economies climate resilient and are very eager to shift their development onto low-emission pathways. The Green Climate Fund can help to make this a reality if your work as a Board is successful.

On behalf of the UNFCCC secretariat let me welcome Board members, alternate members and observers to this first meeting of the Board of the Green Climate Fund and express my sincere appreciation to the Swiss Confederation for its generous hospitality, and flexibility. Let me convey to you the greetings of Christiana Figueres, who cannot be here today due to long-standing commitments. But she attaches tremendous importance to the work that you will be doing and has been constantly engaged since Durban to ensure that the work advances. Your effort will be a significant foundation for much of the work to be done in the framework of the UNFCCC. That is why we were more than eager to follow the call for urgency by COP 17 “to take the necessary administrative steps to set up the interim secretariat of the Green Climate Fund [...] without undue delay after COP 17”¹.

While we see important links to the UNFCCC process, we respect the independence of the Fund and the autonomy of the interim secretariat. I would like to acknowledge the good cooperation with the previous CEO of the GEF in launching the work of the interim secretariat. And we are now very pleased to work closely with Naoko to take this effort forward. Jointly, we have done the necessary, conscientiously and in good faith, to convene this first Board meeting and to assist you in addressing the work ahead. But now it is time for the Board, facilitated by its very able Co-Chairs, to take over so that the interim secretariat can function under

¹ 3/CP.17, para. 18.

your guidance and authority. Let me assure you that all the arrangements put in place so far are provisional and can be changed in light of your direction.

The provisional agenda encompasses the most important organizational and substantive issues. This includes the arrangements for the interim secretariat and a decision on its budget. The work plan is also important so that substantive work can be taken forward to complete the design of the fund and make it operational as soon as possible. Let me also highlight the process for selecting the host country for the Fund. This requires rapid action so that you can take a decision, well considered and based on a sound and transparent evaluation process, before COP 18 in Doha. COP 18 is then expected to endorse this decision, and you can help to make this an easy task.

In closing, I wish you much success in your work over the coming three days and beyond. Expectations on the first report of the Board to the COP are high. A good report on the Green Climate Fund at COP 18 in Doha can do a lot to energize the UNFCCC negotiations. Needless to say that Christiana Figueres and her whole team stand ready to continue to support you.

Thank you.
