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PRESS RELEASE

Progress Made in Negotiations for Ambitious and Effective Copenhagen Deal at Bonn UNFCCC Meeting

(Bonn, 12 June 2009) The June UN Climate Change Talks in Bonn concluded Friday with progress on draft negotiating texts, reflecting governments' proposals on how to step up international climate change action.

Delegates from 183 countries meeting in Bonn discussed key negotiating texts which will serve as the basis for an international climate change deal, to be clinched in Copenhagen in December. The Copenhagen agreed outcome is to follow on the first phase of the Kyoto Protocol, which expires at the end of 2012.

"A big achievement of this meeting is that governments have made it clearer what they want to see in the Copenhagen agreed outcome," said Yvo de Boer, Executive Secretary of the United Framework Convention on Climate Change. "In my view, an ambitious and effective agreed outcome in Copenhagen is in sight - an outcome that provides a strong and definitive answer to the alarm raised by the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change."

Michael Zammit Cutajar, Chair of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA), also pointed to the accelerated pace of negotiations at the Bonn meeting, during which many important elements were added to the Convention text. "The next step will be for Parties to refine and streamline the Convention text and to begin drafting at the next session in August, whilst engaging on the specifics of the text," he said.

The negotiating text for consideration by the AWG-LCA, which comprises all 192 Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, covers issues of a shared vision for long-term cooperative action, enhanced action on adaptation, mitigation and finance, technology and capacity-building.

A group focusing on further commitments for industrialised countries under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP) focused on a proposal for amendments to the Kyoto Protocol, including the future emission reduction commitments of 37 industrialized countries for the second phase of the protocol (post-2012).

Good progress was made on options for the treatment of land-use, land-use change and forestry to reduce emissions. But John Ashe, the Chair of the AWG-KP pointed out that this group still needs to decide on the aggregate emission reduction target industrialised countries, along



with individual targets. "We need to get the list of commitments of developed countries finalized so that we can fully gauge where we are in terms of emission reductions," he said.

The UN's top climate change official Yvo de Boer warned that AWG-KP negotiating group was still far away from the emission reduction range that has been set out by science as a beacon by science to avoid the worst ravages of climate change: a minus 25% to minus 40% reduction below 1990 levels by 2020. "Between now and Copenhagen, the level of ambition needs to be increased. This is still possible if the opportunities for international cooperative action are fully seized" he said.

In addition to the two working groups specifically designed to negotiate the Copenhagen agreed outcome, the "Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice. (SBSTA) and the "Subsidiary Body for Implementation"(SBI) met in Bonn.

Work was taken forward on SBSTA on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in Bonn. Solid progress was above all made on methodologies that make it possible to monitor and report emissions from deforestation, which accounts for around 20% of all greenhouse gas pollution.

A key focus of SBI's work in Bonn was the development and transfer of technologies. The Expert Group on Technology Transfer produced three reports (on future financing options, on a long-term strategy and on performance indicators). The reports provide important input for what can be written into the Copenhagen deal on technology cooperation.

The gathering from 1 to 12 June was attended by more than 4,600 participants, including government delegates, representatives from business and industry, environmental organisations and research institutions.

The UNFCCC gathering in Germany constituted the second in a series of five major UN negotiating sessions this year leading up to the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December (7 to 18 December). The next meeting, informal consultations comprising the LCA and KP groups, will take place 10 to 14 August in Bonn, followed by a gathering in Bangkok from 28 September to 9 October and a further gathering from 2 to 6 November in Barcelona.

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 185 member Parties. Under the Protocol, 37 States, consisting of highly industrialized 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.

Note to journalists

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