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## PRESS RELEASE

### **UNFCCC Executive Secretary: worst effects of climate change can be staved off if appropriate international action to mitigate is speedily taken**

Berlin, 4 May 2007 – According to the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Yvo de Boer, some of the worst effects of climate change can be staved off if the appropriate international action is immediately taken.

Speaking on the occasion of the launch of the Working Group III contribution to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which focuses on how to combat climate change, Mr. de Boer said:

“The third installment of the report presents us with an impressive array of response options to address the results of the IPCC’s first two installments published this year. With these options, we have a chance of preventing some of the most catastrophic scenarios the IPCC has forecast.”

The first installments of the IPCC report, presented in February and April this year, point to the facts that climate change is unequivocal, that dramatic changes are already visible and that impacts such as incidences of extreme drought and flooding will increase both in frequency and severity in the course of this century depending on the levels of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere.

“One of the key sectors in terms of mitigation is the energy supply sector. More than two thirds of global greenhouse gas emissions come from this sector,” the UN’s top climate change official said. “The way in which the future energy needs are met will determine whether the efforts to address climate change will remain manageable.”

According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), global energy demand is forecast to grow by 60% by 2030. In the period up to 2030, the energy supply infrastructure worldwide will require a total investment of \$20 trillion, with about half of that in developing countries.

Alluding to the need for energy to develop, Mr. de Boer said: “A sound, far-reaching solution is urgently needed. The UNFCCC has a unique opportunity to deliver an effective mechanism under a future regime that contributes to combating climate change, safeguarding socio-economic growth and poverty eradication by providing fair incentives.”



Parties to the UNFCCC will meet at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bali in December of this year. "I hope to see the launch of negotiations on a post-2012 climate change regime in Indonesia," Mr. de Boer said.

According to the UNFCCC Executive Secretary, market-based flexible mechanisms such as the clean development mechanism (CDM) will need to be at the heart of a new agreement taken by the international community to address climate change.

In just two years, the Kyoto Protocol's CDM has resulted in 645 registered projects in more than 40 countries in the developing world, stimulating North-South investment and considerable emission reductions in the process. The mechanism is expected to result in emission reductions equivalent to 1,9 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> to the end of 2012, amounting to the combined annual emission reductions of Canada and Greece.

"The international carbon market which has emerged as a result of the Kyoto Protocol allows for cost-effective emission reductions for industrialized countries, thereby lowering the cost of compliance, while greening economic growth and generating funding for adaptation for developing countries. Further concerted global action can drive down the costs," Mr. de Boer concluded.

Talks under the Kyoto Protocol and the UNFCCC will already resume at the UNFCCC's annual meeting in Bonn, 7-18 May.

### **Note to journalists**

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