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PRESS RELEASE

Bonn UN meeting moves world closer to comprehensive negotiations on post-2012 climate change regime

(Bonn, 18 May 2007) – Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol concluded two weeks of negotiations and talks in Bonn, Germany today.

The conference, attended by around 1,800 participants, involved an analysis of climate change mitigation potentials of policies and technologies by the 173 Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and a focus on realizing the full potential of technology and addressing action on adaptation on the part of the 191 Parties to the Convention.

Alluding to the upcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference in Indonesia in December 2007, UNFCCC Executive Secretary Yvo de Boer said: "This meeting has served to resolve a number of issues ahead of the Bali conference. We have come closer to broadening negotiations on a post-2012 regime by resolving some of the outstanding issues and clarifying which building blocks of a future agreement need to be put in place."

Issues dealt with by the 26th session of the UNFCCC's Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) were for example how to enhance the transfer of clean technologies, how to adapt to the inevitable effects of climate change and how to avoid deforestation, estimated to account for more than 20% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions.

"The fact that European, American and Australian business groups here in Bonn have been calling on governments to adopt long-term, legally binding emission reduction targets is a strong signal that they feel the carbon market will be an important part of any 2012 agreement," said Mr. Boer.

The conference was also the first opportunity for delegates to react to the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) Fourth Assessment Report. According to the third installment of the report, released in Bangkok on the fourth of May, climate change can be mitigated at relatively low cost provided the appropriate policies and incentives are put in place.

Parties to Kyoto Protocol took note of IPCC conclusions that greenhouse gas emission reduction commitments between 25 and 40% below 1990 were needed on the part of



industrialized countries for the period beyond 2012 to limit a mean global temperature increase, with greenhouse gas emissions peaking within the next 10 to 15 years before going down.

"Developing countries meeting in Bonn have been making it very clear that the problem - the current high level of greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere - was caused by the North and should not be pushed onto the South," Mr. de Boer said. "They are insisting on their right to economic growth and poverty alleviation. This is why the issue of economic incentives to green investments in developing countries is so important," he added.

At its next session in Vienna (27 to 31 August), the "Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol" will continue its analysis of mitigation potential of policies, measures and technologies, and initiate the identification of possible ranges of emission reductions by industrialized countries after 2012.

"This meeting will be an opportunity for industrialized countries to show real leadership by looking at the type of emission reductions which science is telling us is needed to stabilize greenhouse gas emission in the atmosphere, reductions on the order of 50% by the 2050 against the baseline of 2000," the UN's top climate change official said.

At the same time, the "Dialogue on long-term cooperative action" under the UNFCCC will conclude its analysis of strategic approaches to address climate change in Vienna. The conference in Bali will then determine what action needs to be taken to react to the proposals presented in the Dialogue.

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