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PRESS RELEASE

UNFCCC workshop on adaptation planning and practices concludes in Rome

(Rome, 12 September 2007) – The secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) today concluded a three-day workshop in Rome on planning and practices to help communities, national governments, and organizations to adapt to the impacts of climate change. The workshop was held in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

The meeting enabled around 150 experts representing developed and developing countries, along with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to share their experience in adaptation planning and practices in the areas of agriculture and food security, water resources, coastal zones and health and on how to integrate and coordinate adaptation across different sectors and at different levels to contribute to the overall efforts to achieve sustainable development.

“The impacts of climate change - such as changes in temperature and rainfall, increasing sea level and more frequent extreme weather events, such as droughts and floods - already have the potential to affect most of the world’s countries and can lead to tremendous losses in human lives and economic productivity,” said Roberto Acosta, Coordinator of UNFCCC’s Adaptation, Technology and Science Programme.

The recently released fourth assessment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concluded that adverse climate change impacts will increase in the future, making it necessary for countries to plan for those expected impacts and to undertake appropriate measures to adapt to them.

Participants identified gaps and needs which currently inhibit adaptation planning and implementation, and shared good practices for practitioners and decision-makers which can be replicated in a wide range sectors to enable countries and communities to better plan for and design adaptation to climate change.

Participants discussed how to take forward recommendations aimed at enhancing adaptation planning and practices. Many organizations outlined how they will pick up some of the recommendations - be it relating to tailoring data, methods and information for users, developing guidebooks on “how to” plan and implement adaptation, or supporting the development of legal and institutional frameworks to promote collaboration and integration across sectors and at different levels.



The workshop was the second such event organized under the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change as mandated by the annual Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC. The Nairobi work programme aims to assist all countries, in particular developing countries, to improve their understanding and assessment of impacts and vulnerability to climate change and to make informed decisions on practical adaptation actions.

The first workshop was held in Cairo in June to allow countries to exchange their experiences on assessing and dealing with current and future climate related risks and extreme events. Subsequent workshops will be held in 2008 focussing on methods and tools, data and observations, and climate modelling and socio-economic information.

More information available at: <<http://unfccc.int/4036.php>>

About the UNFCCC

With 191 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 175 member Parties. Under the Protocol, 36 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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See also <<http://unfccc.int>>.