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PRESS RELEASE

Latest Round of Crucial UN Climate Change Negotiations Kick Off in Bonn

(Bonn, 2 June 2008) – The latest round of UN-sponsored global climate change negotiations got underway Monday in Bonn, Germany.

More than 2,400 participants, including government delegates from 172 countries and representatives from business and industry, environmental organizations and research institutions are attending the two-week meeting of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The “UN Climate Change Talks - Bonn, 2008” constitute the second major UNFCCC negotiating session this year, following UN talks in Bangkok in March and April which set out a work programme for negotiations in 2008 on a strengthened and effective international climate change deal. The deal is to be clinched in December 2009 in Copenhagen.

“Countries gathering in Bangkok showed a strong political commitment to negotiate and agree the work programme for negotiations up to 2009,” said UNFCCC Executive Secretary Yvo de Boer. “The challenge is now to move ahead and start identifying what could be written into the 2009 outcome,” he added.

Three workshops on adaptation, finance and technology will take place that are designed to deepen the understanding of the issues related to the building blocks of the Copenhagen agreement. “The objective is to get all the proposals on the table, with governments providing concrete inputs for the negotiations,” said Luiz Figueiredo Machado, Chair of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention.

In Bonn, talks on further commitments for Parties to the Kyoto Protocol will also continue. The objective of these negotiations is to clarify tools and identify options regarding the rules available to industrialised countries under the Kyoto Protocol to reach their emission reduction targets beyond the first phase of the Protocol in 2012.

“This is essential because these rules have to be defined before concrete targets are agreed and the final deal is struck. Much of the technical work has to be done before hand,” said Harald Dovland, Chair of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol.

In addition to the two working groups explicitly designed to negotiate the Copenhagen deal, the Bonn meeting constitutes the twenty-eighth sessions of the “Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice” and the “Subsidiary Body for Implementation”. These groups



will advance ongoing work on technology, adaptation, reducing emissions from deforestation and capacity building in developing countries under the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol.

“These are all key areas in the international response to climate change, both for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, as well as for adapting to the inevitable impacts of climate change,” said the UN’s top climate change official Yvo de Boer. “There is a huge global consciousness that urgent international action needs to be taken this year and the next. So we can expect good progress at this meeting,” he added.

Two further rounds of UN-sponsored global climate change negotiations will take place this year: the first in Accra, Ghana (21-27 August) and the second at UN Climate Change Conference in Poznan, Poland (1-12 December). A further series of major UNFCCC negotiating sessions are planned for 2009, culminating at the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December.

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 182 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.

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