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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **UNFCCC Executive Secretary: Doha's COP18/CMP8 climate change conference must deliver objectives to speed up inadequate climate action**

(Bonn, 21 November 2012) Top UN climate change official Christiana Figueres said on Wednesday that the UN Climate Change Conference in Doha, Qatar, beginning November 26, must deliver its objectives to speed up global action towards a low-emission future where everyone has the chance of a sustainable life.

“Doha is as important as any COP before it. Governments have agreed it is imperative to stay at least below a two degree average global temperature rise to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. But they know this cannot be achieved without further dramatic transformation in energy production and use, and without effective support to developing nations so they can build their own sustainable futures,” said Ms Figueres.

“A faster response to climate change is necessary and possible, both in terms of the international policy response and increasing action at national and sub-national policy level and from global business. Doha must make sure the response is accelerated,” the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Executive Secretary said.

In Doha, governments are expected to usher in a renewed commitment under the Kyoto Protocol, move the broad infrastructure of support they have been building for action in the developing world into firm implementation, and decide how to resolve policy issues that remain outstanding under the UN Climate Change Convention (see below for further details).

Governments will also decide how to stick to the task and timetable they set themselves to reach an effective, fair and ambitious universal climate agreement that is to be adopted in 2015 and to enter into force from 2020, and to raise the current inadequate global ambition to address climate change and its impacts before 2020.

In addition, countries meeting in Doha need to reach a better understanding on how to mobilize long-term finance to support action in developing nations, which they have agreed must reach a level of USD 100 billion a year by 2020.



Ms. Figueres said that whilst in many cases climate change solutions are already being integrated and implemented into national policies and business plans, efforts to implement the global clean technology and sustainability revolution must urgently speed up so that the world has a chance of staying below a two degree temperature rise.

“We need to clearly acknowledge the gap between what countries have pledged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and what is required to stay below this temperature rise, beyond which more severe climate impacts occur,” she said.

“The necessary technology and policy tools are available to governments and societies, but time is very short - only 36 months to reach a universal agreement before 2015. What we now need is to urgently implement the decisions that have been taken at the inter-governmental level and to further strengthen actions already under way,” she said.

As examples of momentum for change which is already building at all levels of society, and to highlight the scope for action, the UNFCCC secretariat will be showcasing so-called “lighthouse activities” in Doha. These are prime examples of public-private climate initiatives in developing countries which have already improved the lives of the urban poor, and which can inspire governments and businesses to do more. Two further pillars of the secretariat’s Momentum for Change Initiative will be launched during the conference – one highlighting the role of women in providing solutions to climate change, and the other drawing attention to innovative approaches to climate finance.

The UN Climate Change Conference in Doha is to be presided over by H.E. Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiyah, Chairman of Qatar’s Administrative Control and Transparency Authority, who is expected to be elected COP President on the first day of the meeting.

More than 100 Ministers are scheduled to attend the high-level segment of the meeting, which begins on 4 December and ends with a decision-making plenary on 7 December.

The opening of the high-level segment will also be attended by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

The conference will be attended by government delegates, representatives from business and industry, environmental organizations, research institutions and the media. UNFCCC COPs are both inter-governmental negotiating forums, and a key opportunity for all stakeholders to exchange information and ideas in order to help build momentum for action on climate change. To this end, a plethora of side events and exhibits will be organized on the margins of the meeting.

UNFCCC Executive Secretary Christiana Figueres is scheduled to give the opening UNFCCC press conference in Doha at 13:15 on 26 November. For a tentative overview of press briefings at the conference, which will all be webcast live and on demand, see:  
[http://unfccc.int/meetings/doha\\_nov\\_2012/meeting/6815/php/view/press.php](http://unfccc.int/meetings/doha_nov_2012/meeting/6815/php/view/press.php)



**In more detail: The key objectives that governments have set themselves for COP 18 in Doha**

***1) To ensure the seamless continuation of the Kyoto Protocol as of 1 January 2013***

The Kyoto Protocol is the only existing and binding agreement under which developed countries commit to cutting greenhouse gases. The treaty underwrites international political trust that developed nations remain responsible to lead emission cuts, and it preserves the important accounting and legal systems inside the Protocol as working models which may inform future agreements.

Key issues under the Protocol that need to be decided in Doha include:

- (a) the length of the second commitment period and how to convert targets into so-called “quantified emission limitation and reduction objectives” (QELROs), the unit of binding reduction commitments.
- (b) the legal formulation of the amendment to the Protocol, including how to carry over unused emission credits of economies in transition into the second phase of the Protocol.

***2) To plan the work under the Durban Platform***

Given that much more effort will be needed to cut emissions than is captured under the many existing national pledges to cut and limit emissions, governments decided last year in Durban to reach a universal climate change agreement covering all countries from 2020, to be adopted by 2015, and to find concrete ways before 2020 to increase efforts beyond the existing pledges. In Doha, their objective is to plan the work so that:

- a) this task is delivered and the timetable is met.
- b) different national circumstances are addressed in an effective, fair, ambitious agreement.

***3) To complete the Bali Action Plan***

Governments decided in Durban at the end of last year to complete the 2007 Bali Action Plan, covering the areas of mitigation (curbing greenhouse gas emissions), adaptation to climate change, and the finance, technology and capacity-building which developing countries require to build their low-emission, climate-resilient futures.

In Doha, governments need to decide which elements of the Bali Action Plan have been achieved and/or implemented, what additional decisions can be taken in Doha and which elements may need to continue to be further addressed.

***4) To complete new infrastructure and chart the way forward on long-term climate finance***

Governments are presently completing the new infrastructure to channel technology and finance to developing nations and have agreed to move toward the full implementation of this infrastructure and support in Doha. This includes:

- a) endorsing the decision on the location of the Green Climate Fund and the work plan of the newly established Standing Committee on Finance.
- b) formally deciding on the location and mode of operation of the Technology Mechanism’s Climate Technology Center and Network.



## **Other key issues and expected results at Doha**

### **Adaptation**

- Governments will look at ways to further strengthen the adaptive capacities of the most vulnerable, also through better planning. A particular focus will be on better protection against loss and damage caused by slow onset events such as rising sea levels.
- The Adaptation Committee, composed of 16 members, will report to the COP on its efforts to improve the coordination of adaptation actions at a global scale.

### **Support of developing country action**

- Governments are to complete a registry to record developing country mitigation actions that seek recognition or financial support. The registry will be a flexible, dynamic, web-based platform.

### **Actions on forests**

- In Doha, governments will take work forward to measure deforestation, and to ensure that efforts to fight deforestation are supported.

### **Carbon Capture and Storage**

- Ways to ensure the effectiveness and environmental integrity of projects under the Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism that capture and store carbon emissions will be considered in Doha.

### **Agriculture**

- Governments will further consider the crucial role of agriculture in the global effort to adapt to climate change and curb greenhouse gas emissions.

### **Development and transfer of technology**

- Countries meeting in Doha are to take forward work on enabling the development and transfer of technologies that can help developing countries adapt and curb their emissions.

### **Avoiding negative consequences of climate action**

- In some cases, the implementation of actions that reduce emissions could result in negative economic or social consequences for other countries. In Doha, governments will discuss measures to address such consequences in a special forum.



### **The seven negotiating bodies and groups meeting in Doha**

**COP** - Conference of the Parties. This body is the decision-making body of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. It meets annually.

**CMP** - Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol. As the Protocol's top body; it meets annually at the same time as the COP and takes decisions on the Protocol.

**AWG-KP** - The Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol. This group focuses on negotiating the further legally-binding commitments for industrialized countries beyond 2012.

**AWG-LCA** - The Ad hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action. This group was established in Bali in 2007 to conduct negotiations on a strengthened international deal on climate change, which was to be concluded at COP 15 in Copenhagen in 2009. The work of the AWG-LCA has been extended three times by a year since COP 15 and is now set to conclude in Doha.

**AWG-ADP** - The Ad hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action. This group is to agree a binding international climate change agreement in 2015, to enter into force from 2020. It is also to agree ways to raise the global level of ambition to curb greenhouse gases before 2020 so that the world has a chance of staying below the agreed 2 degrees Celsius maximum temperature rise.

**SBSTA** - Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice. This body serves as a link between information and assessments provided by expert sources (such as the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, responsible for compiling the world's government-approved science) and the COP, which focuses on setting policy.

**SBI** - Subsidiary Body for Implementation. The SBI makes recommendations on policy and implementation issues to the COP and, if requested, to other bodies.

About the UNFCCC

With 195 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 been ratified by 193 of the UNFCCC 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.

See also: [unfccc.int](http://unfccc.int)

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