



**Twenty-sixth session of the Subsidiary Bodies
Briefing on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
Fourth Assessment Report
Bonn, 12 May 2007**

**Statement by Yvo de Boer,
Executive Secretary, UNFCCC**

- It is a great pleasure for me to open this briefing on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Fourth Assessment Report, which presents a comprehensive and rigorous picture of the present state of knowledge on global climate change.
- I thank the IPCC and Mr. Pachauri for all their work to advance on the science of climate change, and for presenting this new assessment here during this session of the SBs.
- The findings of Working Group I confirmed that climate change is unequivocal, the findings of Working Group II that dramatic changes are already visible and that impacts will increase both in frequency and severity. The findings of WGIII provide us with response options to address the findings of the first two installments and to prevent some of the most catastrophic scenarios the IPCC has forecast.
- In the context of international climate change policy development and implications, the findings contained in the fourth assessment reports are very important since they:
 - Confirm and highlight major future climate change impacts and vulnerabilities in different regions and systems pointing to “hot spots” and priorities for adaptation,
 - Emphasize that humankind is actually able to address many of those impacts and vulnerabilities by effective and immediate action on mitigation and adaptation, and that action is affordable;
 - Confirm that mitigation efforts over the next two to three decades will determine to a large extent the long-term global mean temperature increase, and the corresponding climate change impacts can be reduced. It is cheaper to act than to react.
- It is politically significant that all the governments have agreed to the conclusions of the scientists, including those regarding the role of adaptation and mitigation. These assessments provide a solid foundation for sound decision-making.
- The findings of the Fourth Assessment report will be taken into account and integrated into ongoing work of the UNFCCC. Our process already provides many ‘entry points’

for such an integration, including through the review of the Nairobi Work Programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation on climate change in 2008, the SBSTA work on mitigation, the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol and the work on the Dialogue on long-term cooperative action to address climate change by enhancing implementation of the Convention.

- The final synthesis report for policymakers will further provide critical information to the discussions on an international post-2012 climate regime; that is possible in the context of a comprehensive agenda to be launched at COP 13 in December this year.
- The three reports from the IPCC working groups, with their dramatic content, have already fuelled a tremendous increase of interest in the issues related to climate change, and have contributed to bring climate change on top of the international high-level political agendas, from the G8+5 to the United Nations Security Council and the Commission on Sustainable Development.
- They have also received a considerable amount of public attention and raised expectations on actions to be taken respond to climate change.
- In Bali, it will be the turn of governments to provide political answers to the IPCC scientific findings, and the Subsidiary Bodies provide a first opportunity for Parties to prepare for the political reaction to what science is saying.
- It is my hope that a fruitful dialogue will start through this briefing, setting the stage for successful negotiations on the future climate change regime and strengthening actions under way.

Thank you.

- - - - -