



**Opening of the Barcelona Climate Change Talks 2009
Barcelona, 2 November 2009**

**Address by Yvo de Boer, Executive Secretary
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**

Excellencies, Ministers, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

I sincerely wish to thank the Government of Spain, the Government of Catalonia and the local authorities of Barcelona and Hospitalet for hosting the final round of Climate Change Talks ahead of the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen. These excellent facilities, as well as your generous support for these crucial talks, are deeply appreciated.

After almost two years of negotiations, I welcome you to the last five days of formal negotiating time before Copenhagen. The clock has almost ticked down to zero. And, as always, time will fly. These last five days are critical on the road to success in Copenhagen. They need to be used wisely to advance the goals of the Bali Road Map.

These climate change talks are a continuation from the Bangkok session, where valuable progress was made. This needs to be enhanced. The Bangkok books need to be reopened and the progress already made needs to be built upon.

Bangkok saw increasing convergence, streamlining of text and narrowing down of options. These options include comprehensive action on adaptation, tangible technology cooperation, action to reduce emissions from deforestation in developing countries and enhanced capacity-building. Workable middle ground options are emerging on these items that could be taken forward and concretised.

The good work begun in Bangkok needs to be continued here in Barcelona, especially with regard to preparing the ground for prompt implementation now and up to 2012. Developing countries need urgent assistance in climate change abatement. Clarity on prompt implementation will be an important advance towards an agreed outcome in Copenhagen that boosts concrete, immediate action.

A successful agreed outcome needs to capture a level of ambition that is commensurate with the scale of the problem. This means ambitious Annex I targets on an individual basis and urgent progress on the negotiations under the Kyoto Protocol. It also includes the need for clarity on nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing countries. It also means clarity on long-term finance and prompt start-up finance at Copenhagen to unleash urgent action in developing countries.

I sense a huge desire for these negotiations to succeed. World leaders from the North and the South are calling for an ambitious and comprehensive outcome at Copenhagen. And concerned citizens around the world are demanding strengthened action on climate change.

The art of progress lies in building up trust and strengthening cooperation. A successful agreed outcome that boosts action now, up to and beyond 2012, will be impossible without this.

The Barcelona talks need to make clear progress and put in place a solid foundation for success at Copenhagen. There are only five days to achieve this. There are only five days to set the tone for success. There are only five days to further narrow down options and come up with working texts for Copenhagen. But I am convinced that this can be done.

As always, the secretariat stands ready to support you.

Thank you.
