



For use of the media only

PRESS RELEASE

First meeting of Green Climate Fund Board postponed

(Bonn, 17 May 2012) – The first meeting of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Board has been postponed, pending finalisation of the process for nominations from countries to the membership of the Board. The Board had been expected to meet on May 31, shortly after this year's first meeting of governments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which is taking place now in Bonn, Germany.

“The next window to meet will be the last week in June or first week in July, in Geneva,” said Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC. “There is great enthusiasm from countries to be represented on the Board. While I would have liked to see the Board get down to work immediately, a short postponement to reach full agreement on its membership means it can launch smoothly and push ahead with the tasks before it,” she said. “To ensure that happens, I ask governments to submit their pending nominations without further delay so the pressing work of the Board can begin,” she added.

The GCF was launched at the UN Climate Change Conference in Durban last year, through the approval of its governing instrument and it has its own interim secretariat. The GCF is being designed as a major global channel for long-term financial support to help developing countries in the urgent task of building their own sustainable and climate-resilient futures.

One of the immediate tasks of the Board is to consider the six offers from countries to host the Fund, including Germany, Mexico, Namibia, Poland, the Republic of Korea and Switzerland.

The GCF has been designated an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention and will function under the guidance of, and be accountable to the Conference of the Parties (COP), meaning all countries under the UNFCCC. The Fund will have a Board of 24 members. Additionally, two private sector representatives, one each from developing and developed countries, and similarly two civil society representatives will participate in Board meetings as active observers.

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



Page 2

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: <<http://unfccc.int/press/items/2794.php>>

Follow UNFCCC on Twitter: @UN_ClimateTalks

UNFCCC Executive Secretary Christiana Figueres on Twitter: @CFigueres

UNFCCC on Facebook: [facebook.com/UNclimatechange](https://www.facebook.com/UNclimatechange)