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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Negotiations Towards New Universal Climate Agreement in 2015 Get Underway International Organizations Ready to Support Higher Climate Ambition of Nations**

(Bonn, 14 March 2014) – Countries got down to the business of fleshing out how a new universal agreement on climate change might look by the deadline of Paris 2015 as part of worldwide efforts to keep a global temperature rise under 2 degrees Celsius this century.

This week's meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP) marked the start of an intense year with a calendar of meetings.

In late 2014 countries will meet in Lima, Peru with the aim of having a draft universal agreement on the table to be finalized in 2015. The new agreement is to enter into force in 2020.

In advance of that, the UN Secretary-General will host a September Climate Summit involving heads of State to leaders of the private sector, again with the aim of catalyzing climate action and raising ambition worldwide.

Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), said: "We are now entering a serious and significant phase in the evolution of international, cooperative climate policy as we look towards both Lima and Paris."

"The next 9 months will require all nations to raise their eyes beyond business-as-usual in order to counter the threats and deliver the multiple opportunities from moving rapidly towards a cleaner, healthier, low carbon world," she said.

At the last UN Climate Change conference held in Warsaw late last year, countries agreed to initiate or intensify domestic preparations for the intended, nationally-determined contributions to be included in the 2015 agreement.

The Warsaw conference also called for support from developed countries, organizations like the UN and bodies providing funding for that domestic process.

The UN and other organizations this week briefed countries on the support they can provide, which will be further coordinated by the UNFCCC, including via an online portal.



As week-long negotiations ended today in Bonn, Germany, several nations and groups of nations known as Parties also outlined ideas, proposals and pathways towards raising domestic ambition and transitioning towards more low carbon economies.

“Bonn this week underlines how these outcomes and mandates from Warsaw are being taken forward by Parties with support from the UN system and others. It is a positive sign that nations have got down to business – and got down to business with focus and with enthusiasm – to start really shaping how that crucial agreement may look and operate,” added Ms. Figueres.

The ADP also saw the launch of technical expert meetings, a process in which countries outlined projects, policies and initiatives that are supporting their efforts to cut greenhouse gas emissions in the period up to 2020.

This week’s technical meetings focused on renewable energy and energy efficiency as two areas where the technical process can assist countries in achieving their sustainable development objectives faster.

The process will continue at meetings in June with a focus on the potential of cities and the urban environment alongside land-use change, including forests and agriculture, to further assist in reducing emissions.

Kishan Kumarsingh and Artur Runge-Metzger, the co-chairs of the ADP, this week framed the challenge: “By the end of the year we should be able to see tangible results: new and strong national and international initiatives; Parties – especially developed countries – adopting new policies and taking on further actions; greater participation in innovative partnerships; and mobilization of the resources needed to make action happen.”

Close to 20 organizations ranging from UN agencies like UNDP and UNEP and the World Bank to the International Renewable Energy Agency were also present to outline how they can support pre-2020 emission reductions with, for example, finance and technical expertise.

Youba Sokona of the Geneva-based South Centre who, along with Jun Arima of the Government of Japan, facilitated these expert presentations, said: “This meeting went a long way to demonstrate the potential of renewable energy and energy efficiency to close the pre-2020 ambition gap.”

“There are barriers and challenges to the deployment of renewable energy and energy efficiency. However, there are policy and technology solutions that exist to address them, bearing in mind there is no ‘one size fits all’ and that different policies apply to different countries as per their national circumstances,” he added.

During this week’s meeting, a further positive signal came from the Republic of Austria which offered €1 million of support for the preparation of Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) under its registry.

The registry matches NAMAs in need of support with funders willing to provide that support. The funds from Austria represent an active call to developing countries to bring forward requests for funding and represents an early example of how developed and developing countries will cooperate under this innovative system.



### Note to Editors

- Presentations by governments on domestic preparations for their intended nationally determined contributions to the Paris 2015 agreement can be found [here](#).
- Presentations given at the briefing by relevant organizations and UN agencies on support for domestic preparations for intended nationally determined contributions to the 2015 global agreement can be found [here](#).
- Presentations given at the technical expert meeting on renewable energy can be found [here](#).
- Presentations given at the technical expert meetings on energy efficiency can be found [here](#).
- The full set of on demand webcasts of the presentations and related discussions can be found [here](#).

Further inspiring examples of renewable energy, energy efficiency and international cooperative projects and policies can be found on the [UNFCCC website](#).

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#### 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 192 of the UNFCCC Parties. For the first commitment period of the Kyoto 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. In Doha in 2012, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol adopted an amendment to the Kyoto Protocol, which establishes the second commitment period under the Protocol. 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>

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