



MEDIA ALERT

Executive Secretary reaction to US-China agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

(Bonn, 11 July 2013) – Reacting to the agreement Wednesday by China and the US to work together to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the largest sources, including heavy duty vehicles, manufacturing and coal-fired plants, UNFCCC Executive Secretary Christiana Figueres, the UN's top climate change official, said:

“Concrete policies and actions now to prevent further greenhouse gas emissions and create clean, sustainable economies are the single biggest contribution countries can make to firm up the foundations for a new international climate agreement. For that reason, this new, wide-ranging US-China cooperation to cut emissions from major polluting sources and to boost energy efficiency and renewable energy is both welcome and important.”

The agreement was reached at the U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue in Washington, D.C., July 10-11, 2013. Five specific action initiatives were developed by the U.S.-China Working Group on Climate Change and presented in a Report agreed to by Leaders' Special Representatives at the Strategic and Economic Dialogue (See fact sheet: <http://m.state.gov/md211768.htm>).

A new universal climate agreement is due to be agreed in 2015 and to enter into force from 2020. The next major UN climate change conference will be held in Warsaw, Poland from 11 to 22 November. A first concrete draft of the climate agreement is to be discussed by governments at the UN Climate Change Conference in Lima, Peru at the end of 2014.

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. 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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