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PRESS RELEASE

UN Climate Change Chief urges countries to push ahead with their work in 2011 as countries agree agenda for the year

(Bangkok, 8 April 2011) – On the final day of the UN Climate Change Conference in Bangkok (3-8 April), UNFCCC Executive Secretary Christiana Figueres urged countries to push ahead with their work to aim for another significant step in addressing global climate change in 2011.

Parties to the Climate Change Convention on Friday agreed an agenda to work towards a comprehensive and balanced outcome at the UN Climate Change Conference in Durban at the end of the year. Governments agreed that this outcome will both address the implementation of the Cancun Agreements and issues that were not resolved at Cancun but which are part of the comprehensive Bali Action Plan that governments agreed in 2007.

“I feel that we now have a solid basis to move forward collectively and that governments can deliver further good results this year, provided every effort is made to compromise and show the necessary flexibility to achieve that goal,” said Ms. Figueres.

During the week, positive discussions emerged under the Kyoto Protocol negotiating track, which addresses the emission reduction targets of developed countries.

“Discussions in Bangkok under the Kyoto Protocol importantly included not only a focus on what should happen with regard to the future of the protocol but also how it will happen,” Ms. Figueres said. “It is significant that there is a strong desire to build on the Kyoto rules and a desire to find a political solution in 2011.”

The rulebook of the Kyoto Protocol is the only current international set of accounting rules to protect environmental integrity while ensuring that a tonne of carbon removed from the atmosphere is a real tonne, no matter where it is removed or who removes it.

Ms. Figueres pointed out that while Cancun was a significant step, meeting the long-term challenge of climate change required increasingly strong international agreements, backed by national policies that incentivised all sides to take aggressive and collective action on a global scale.

“The UNFCCC is the place where governments have committed to act together on climate change,” she said. “At home, under their different political systems, they need to back up collective action with strong domestic policies,” she said.

The Bangkok meeting also included discussions to help bring clarity to countries’ intentions in the shape of three workshops. One workshop included presentations on



industrialised country emission reduction targets and the conditions for meeting them. Another workshop was held on developing country mitigation actions, looking at what these actions mean and what level of developed country support they might need to be implemented.*

An expert workshop on the Technology Mechanism, which was agreed in Cancun, also took place in Thailand, looking into practical issues, including what the network should look like, who should be included in it, and how to ensure the effective participation of relevant institutions.*

The UN Climate Change Conference in Bangkok has been attended by around two thousand participants from 175 countries, including government delegates, representatives from business and industry, environmental organisations and research institutions.

*An overview of government presentations given at mitigation and technology workshops can be found at: <<http://unfccc.int/meetings/awg/items/5928.php>>

See also: unfccc.int

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