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PRESS RELEASE

Ministers arrive for COP 18/CMP 8 as high-level segment begins

(Doha, 4 December 2012) – The high-level segment of the UN Climate Change Conference in Doha gets underway on Tuesday, with ministers starting to provide guidance on key issues.

“I welcome all ministers arriving for the final, high-level segment of the Doha climate change conference. The Qatar Presidency of COP 18/CMP 8 will continue to work with all countries in an open, transparent and inclusive process that must reach a timely and successful conclusion,” said COP President Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiyah.

Revised texts from all negotiating groups have now been issued and ministers are beginning to provide guidance to reduce the number of options on outstanding political issues.

At a stock-taking plenary meeting on 3 December, the President announced a series of ministerial outreach consultations to help find the political space that will allow countries to reach common ground on the remaining key issues.

The first two ministers to do this were named on Monday evening. Luiz Alberto Figueiredo Machado of Brazil and Bård Vegar Solhjell of Norway will together carry out ministerial outreach in support of the negotiations under the Kyoto Protocol, at the request of the Chair of the group, Madeleine Diouf of Senegal. Other designated ministerial support will be announced later.

In addition, the COP Presidency invited Ministers and heads of delegation to participate in an Informal Ministerial Round Table on 5 December on the issue of how mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation can be strengthened now and in the future.

The Presidency also announced a series of regular, informal, open plenaries so negotiators are able to assess comprehensive progress and it is providing regular updates on the negotiations on the unfccc.int website: <http://unfccc.int/meetings/doha_nov_2012/items/7304.php>



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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 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 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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