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PRESS RELEASE

UN Climate Change Secretariat and Rockefeller Foundation launch initiative to support women in fighting climate change

(Doha, 6 December 2012) – Together with the Rockefeller Foundation, the UN Climate Change Secretariat has launched a new initiative to recognize the critical role of women in fighting climate change: “Momentum for Change: Women for Results.”

The initiative will showcase activities to inform governments, media and the public at large about the crucial role of women in confronting the challenges of both adapting to climate change and curbing emissions.

“Women have the power to make a major difference. They are at the nexus between food, water and energy. This nexus is both the challenge and the solution to climate change, and we need to ensure women’s leadership in bringing about the solutions,” said UNFCCC Executive Secretary Christiana Figueres.

Heather Grady, Vice President of the Rockefeller Foundation pointed out that in Africa women are responsible for 80% of food production on the continent, and therefore need to be more involved in decisions relating to food security: “While climate change affects us all, it does not affect us all equally. Women, though disproportionately affected, are crucial agents of change.”

Mary Robinson of the Mary Robinson Foundation for Climate Justice, the UN Development Programme’s Helen Clark, Laksmi Puri of UN Women and ministers Terezya Huvisa from Tanzania and Mariyam Shakeela of the Maldives attended the launch of the initiative in the context of the COP 18/CMP 8 in Doha.

“We need a more people-centered and positive narrative on climate change, and we need to build constituencies which demand that our leaders take faster and wider action,” Mary Robinson said.

The “Women for Results” initiative is part of the wider “Momentum for Change” initiative designed to highlight inspiring mitigation and adaptation actions implemented by a wide range of stakeholders at regional, national, or local level and which can encourage governments, businesses and civil society to do more to combat climate change.



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The first round of Momentum for Change: Women for Results “lighthouse activities” will be showcased by the UN Climate Change Secretariat at COP 19 in Poland next year. Applications will be accepted from 8 March 2013, which is International Women’s Day.

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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.

Momentum for Change

Momentum for Change aims to create a public platform that raises awareness about concrete mitigation and adaptation actions being implemented by a wide range of stakeholders at regional, national, or local level.

Momentum for Change seeks to demonstrate the multiple benefits of addressing climate change and to transform misperceptions surrounding taking action on climate change. Urban poor pillar, the first focus area of Momentum for Change, was launched in Durban at the COP 17/CMP 7 last year.

See also:

unfccc.int

rockefellerfoundation.org

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