# ACTING ON CLIMATE CHANGE: THE UN SYSTEM DELIVERING AS ONE



United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination This publication has been prepared by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), through its High-level Committee on Programmes (HLCP). It brings together information on activities undertaken throughout the United Nations system, including its agencies, funds and programmes, as contributed by the respective entities. The information was compiled by the CEB Secretariat, while the illustrations, photos and formatting have been provided by the UN Department of Public Information, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

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## THE CEB CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION FRAMEWORK

Under the leadership of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) has initiated a process of aligning its strengths to achieve a coordinated action-oriented approach to the global and multifaceted challenge of climate change. The objective is to intensify the implementation of existing intergovernmental mandates and build on the experience gained in doing so to support the process for a global agreement for the post-2012 period within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The UN system is determined to provide coordinated support to the efforts of Member States at national, regional and global levels in tackling climate change now, up to, and beyond 2012. To achieve this, the United Nations system is bringing to bear, in a way perhaps never achieved before, the collective strengths of all its entities as an integral part of the international community's response to this challenge.

The first stage of this wide ranging initiative was presented at the 2007 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bali, Indonesia – 13th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP 13) and 3rd Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 3) – in December 2007, which adopted the Bali Road Map. The further development of the CEB initiative aims at consolidating the delivery of results by the UN system entities. This publication provides an overview of progress made by the time of the 2008 United Nations Climate Change Conference – COP 14 and CMP 4 – in Poznan, Poland in December 2008. The UN system's efforts will be intensified on the way to the 2009 United Nations Climate Change Conference – COP 15 and CMP 5 – at the end of 2009 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

The United Nations system, with its established structures, coordination arrangements and collective expertise, remains at the disposal of the Parties in implementing existing, as well as future agreements.

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# Foreword



At the 13th session of the Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC in Bali, Indonesia, we met to initiate an ambitious new phase of international cooperation on climate change in the light of compelling scientific evidence. At that time, I spoke of climate change as the "defining challenge of our time". I also presented the beginning of an unprecedented coordination effort bringing together all the multilateral institutions that are part of the United Nations system to develop a strategic, coherent and operational framework to support the intergovernmentally agreed decisions within the UNFCCC. My intention has been to bring together all the diverse perspectives, expertise and strengths of the UN system so as to deliver as one in the critical area of climate change.

Since Bali we have seen even more compelling evidence why we must act now. Devastating recent climatic events like the tropical cyclones in Myanmar and the Caribbean, widespread flooding in India and China, and drought in Africa have highlighted the vulnerability that people all over the world face. It is clear that those who suffer the most from the increasing signs of climate change are the poor. Those that have contributed the least to this planetary problem continue to be disproportionately at risk.

As we meet in Poznan, we are witnessing the confluence of a series of events that threaten the very fabric of the international system and human and ecological security of individuals everywhere. The high and volatile food and energy prices have thrust at least 100 million people back into poverty. With the global financial crisis, and the recession that is following it, these numbers are likely to rise. We risk that all the efforts that have been made by countries to meet the Millennium Development Goals and to alleviate poverty, hunger and ill health will be rolled back.

At such a time, risks also present opportunities. In the face of mounting threats, the international community must demonstrate extraordinary will to come together and put in place the foundation for a better future. An ambitious climate agreement must be an essential part of this. Poznan must signal a clear message of commitment, coherence and momentum on climate change. As we look forward to Copenhagen, we must seize the opportunities presented by the multiple global crises to vision a low-carbon economy; one which not only ensures a secure climate but also spurs sustained economic growth. In other words, greatly enhanced investment in renewable energy and energy efficient technologies can not only put the Earth onto a sustainable track, it can generate employment and growth on an impressive scale. Massively increased investment in forest conservation and afforestation can have climate, biodiversity and economic benefits that are mutually supportive and strengthen our ability to reduce disaster risk. We must raise our collective level of ambition and commitment.

In delivering on agreements in the future, the world needs effective, efficient and well coordinated international institutions. This is particularly the case in the area of financing for climate change, both in terms of institutional arrangements and levels of funding. The entire UN system, through its Chief Executives Board, is committed to creating among its member institutions a strong and vibrant joint capacity to play its essential role in the transition to a sustainable and equitable world.

The attached document "Acting on Climate Change: The UN System Delivering as One" outlines the second phase of the CEB initiative, as we prepare to roll out a more strategic joint framework of activities that we will present as a contribution to COP 15 in Copenhagen. Executive Heads in the United Nations system have mobilized the wide range of expertise and knowledge available within our organizations to focus on priority areas and specific deliverables which follow the approach defined in the negotiation and in pursuance of broader mandates and capacities already existing in the system.

The initiative brings together expertise and ongoing work in diverse areas ranging from science and technology to agriculture, transport, forestry and disaster risk reduction, to address both mitigation and adaptation. It brings together the normative, standard setting and knowledge sharing capacities of the system with its operational reach in order to support the most vulnerable. The United Nations system is positioning itself as an effective conduit of international action on an unprecedented scale.

We must take a comprehensive approach to address the interconnected issues of economic growth and development, climate change, food and agriculture, and energy. The role of global markets and financial instruments to deliver a low carbon economy and green growth will be paramount. Stimulus packages currently being designed to kick-start economic activity should be invested in infrastructure projects that deliver dividends of economic growth, cuts in greenhouse gas emissions and new green jobs. We must give real meaning to the concept of sustainable development, one that has inclusiveness, equity and environmental sustainability at its heart. An ambitious and fair climate agreement together with the political will to implement it will be a central component of global sustainable development.

On the way to the next Conference of the Parties to UNFCCC, in Copenhagen, the UN system will continue to intensify its efforts for a more coordinated and effective delivery in all areas related to climate change. We hope that our determined efforts in bridging the current implementation gap will contribute to long-term cooperative action on climate change at all levels and thereby help to reach a successful outcome in the negotiations. The UN system stands ready to assist with the implementation of the new mandates that will result from such an agreement.

I wish you every success in your negotiations here in Poznan. The whole world is watching and waiting; we should not disappoint them.

#### BAN Ki-moon Secretary-General of the United Nations

## Introduction

The Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change confirmed that anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions are having significant and negative impacts on the climate. It emphasized the dangers of rising global mean temperatures and associated changes in precipitation patterns and extreme weather events, and provided an assessment of the means and costs of combating climate change. *The message is clear: Accelerated action is urgently needed on mitigation, in order to address the causes of climate change and avoid future catastrophic consequences. At the same time, efforts for adaptation to current and future impacts must be stepped up.* 

The potentially sudden and irreversible disruptions to life and livelihood-sustaining natural systems, and the resulting economic, social and environmental dislocations from climate change confront the international community with one of its most complex and serious challenges. The high-level event on climate change, convened by the United Nations Secretary-General on 24 September 2007 to galvanize political consensus, saw the unequivocal commitment of world leaders to concerted action. They concurred that the United Nations provides the appropriate multilateral framework for action and that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the only forum in which agreement can be crafted on the objectives and scope of international action.

The present document prepared by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), gives an overview of ongoing UN system actions in key climate change-related areas, in support of national endeavours and in furtherance of the implementation of mandates received through the UNFCCC and other intergovernmental bodies.

#### Rationale for action

Observable trends of ongoing climate change and current projections indicate increasingly severe negative impacts on the overwhelming majority of countries, with the most severe impacts disproportionately affecting the poorest with the weakest capacity for climate resilience. Equally, within countries, climate change is disproportionately affecting the poor and vulnerable in society. The projected impacts pose a serious threat to the achievement and sustainability of the Millennium Development Goals in developing countries and the effective enjoyment of human rights in both developed and developing countries.

Wide ranging implications are expected for communities in terms of increased water stress, food insecurity, abrupt changes in population dynamics, vulnerability of human settlements, livelihoods and society as a whole, as well as major negative repercussions on the health status of millions of people. A probable result of climate-induced disruption on a large-scale is an acceleration of human displacement resulting in increased competition for land, resources and housing with attendant unrest in both urban and rural settings, within and between countries. Africa, Small Island Developing States and Asian and African mega deltas are likely to be particularly affected. People living in poorly constructed settlements in high risk areas will increasingly be at the mercy of extreme weather events.

It is ultimately the human dimensions of climate change and the consequences for individuals, especially the most vulnerable around the world, that mobilize us all to action to find sustainable solutions. The international community is faced with an urgent need to develop and implement ambitious programmes to respond to what the UN Secretary-General has called "the defining challenge of our times."

Climate change presents an unprecedented challenge for the international community – but also an opportunity. An for opportunity to create a new development paradigm that links policy setting with investments, as well as an opportunity development practitioners, donors, and developing countries to 'do development differently', so that climate change considerations are built right into the foundations of plans to reach the MDGs and other developments goals. Addressing climate change presents possibilities for new investment, enterprise development, decent job creation and higher incomes. Ambitious climate policy that addresses the underlying causes of climate change can provide the basis for future sustainable growth.

#### The UN system delivering as one on climate change

As a unique international mechanism with universal membership that combines convening power, normative work, standard-setting, policy development and operational activities, the UN system in its entirety has embarked on an actionoriented and coordinated effort to support the international community to rise to the climate change challenge. The CEB initiative that commenced in early 2007 has already established a clear framework for action with focus areas for the achievement of early results. Agencies contribute within the framework of their respective areas of expertise, mandates issued by their governing bodies and resources made available to them. Work also continues in a number of cross-cutting areas that support this effort. The overall objective is to maximize existing synergies, eliminate duplication and overlap, and optimize the impact of the collective effort of the UN system.

The convening agencies have been asked to work in close collaboration with the UNFCCC Secretariat.

At its April 2008 session the CEB decided to concentrate at this stage on five focus areas, which were identified in response to the UNFCCC negotiation process and in pursuance of the broader mandates and capacities in the UN system. To ensure better coordination, convening responsibilities were assigned to UN system entities with a large volume of activities in the respective focus areas and some additional cross-cutting ones. These areas, which may evolve as some issues are concluded and others emerge, are outlined below, along with the respective convening entities:

#### Focus areas:

Adaptation	HLCP collectively
Technology transfer	UNIDO, UN-DESA
<ul> <li>Reduction of emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD)</li> </ul>	undp, Fao, unep
<ul> <li>Financing mitigation and adaptation action</li> </ul>	UNDP, World Bank Group
Capacity building	UNDP, UNEP

#### Cross-cutting areas include:

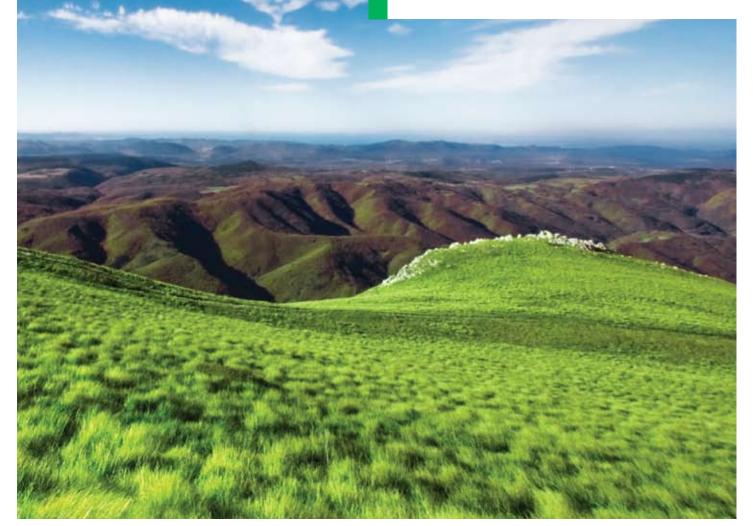
<ul> <li>Climate knowledge: science, assessment, monitoring and early warning</li> </ul>	WMO, UNESCO
<ul> <li>Supporting global, regional and national action</li> </ul>	UN-DESA, UN Regional Commissions, UNDP
Climate-neutral UN	UNEP
Public awareness	UNCG, UNEP

Mitigation, one of the pillars of the Bali Road Map along with Adaptation, Finance and Technology Transfer, is also addressed through actions carried out or supported by the UN system in different areas. This is particularly true of activities under REDD, with elements of mitigation action also embedded in work related to Financing, Technology Transfer and Capacity Building. The United Nations system will act further in this area following the Parties' decisions in this regard.

Programmatic work at the headquarters level through the CEB's High-level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) is connected to UN system activities at the country level through the UN Development Group, now also a pillar of the CEB, and the individual UN Country Teams. The UNFCCC Secretariat serves as the link to the global climate change negotiation process.

In addition to the indicative examples of UN system activities provided under each area below, a system-wide inventory of UN activities on climate change is being developed on-line both as an information resource and a planning tool (accessible through www.un.org/climatechange).







CHRISTIAN MOREL/WMO

Climate knowledge is the foundation for the development of an effective response to the climate change challenge. The UN system plays a central role in this area, bringing together global resources for observation and analysis of climate change trends. It is committed to reinforcing its efforts to provide sound and unbiased scientific information and climate services to enable evidence-based policy and decision making at all levels.

Building up the individual and collective capacity of countries to monitor climate variability and change, enhance climate science and services and utilize climate predictions is crucial for effective adaptation and mitigation strategies. Such capacity also enables timely planning to reduce the impact of increasing natural disasters, enhance food security and manage climate risks in all socioeconomic sectors.

The joint winners of the Nobel Peace Prize Award in 2007 — the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and AI Gore, former Vice President of the USA and environmental campaigner—were chosen for "their efforts to build up and disseminate greater knowledge about man-made climate change and to lay the foundations for the measures that are needed to counteract such change". IPCC, co-sponsored by WMO and UNEP and supported by other UN system agencies, has during its two decades of existence provided the authoritative scientific evidence that underpins all action in response to climate change.

Key UN system activities on climate knowledge generation and sharing include:  $\rightarrow$ 



EDOUARD WINDER/UNEP/STILL PICTURES

#### Observations and monitoring of the climate system

The Global Climate Observing System consolidates and makes available to countries information on essential climate variables collected through global atmospheric, oceanic and terrestrial observation systems that use in-situ, satellite and other remote sensing technologies.

#### FAO, ICSU, ITU, UNEP, UNESCO/IOC, WMO

#### Scientific research and assessments

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change assesses the available scientific, technical and socioeconomic information relevant to understanding the scientific basis of risk of human-induced climate change, its potential impacts and options for adaptation and mitigation. Its assessments are underpinned by research, modelling, climate simulations and projections of future change, including work conducted by the World Climate Research Programme. Research programmes around the UN system support action on social, human and natural sciences on a number of climate-related issues, such as water management, biodiversity conservation, coastal zone management, migration, human rights and environmental ethics. Publications like the annual UNEP Year Book survey significant environmental science, global events, and issues of ecosystem management, disasters and conflicts, toxics, and resource efficiency, while the World Bank World Development Report 2009 will also focus on climate change.

FAO, IAEA, ICSU, IPCC, UNEP, UNESCO/IOC, World Bank Group, WHO, WMO

#### Monitoring of climate impacts and vulnerability

Monitoring reports, analysis and assessments provide valuable information on various climate-sensitive parameters and resources, such as: crop and food supply; marine and forest biomass resources; water resources; human settlements and related infrastructure; demographic, socio-economic and environmental trends; human development; human rights; disaster risk trends and progress in risk reduction; transboundary air pollution and watercourses and international lakes; hydroacoustic, seismic, infrasound and radionuclide data and reference standards used for atmospheric isotope measurements. Standards and recommended practices for GHG emissions by aircraft and ships are set by the respective specialized agencies.

CTBTO, FAO, IAEA, ICAO, IMO, ITU, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-HABITAT, UNISDR, OHCHR, UN Regional Commissions, WFP

#### Climate predictions, warnings and services

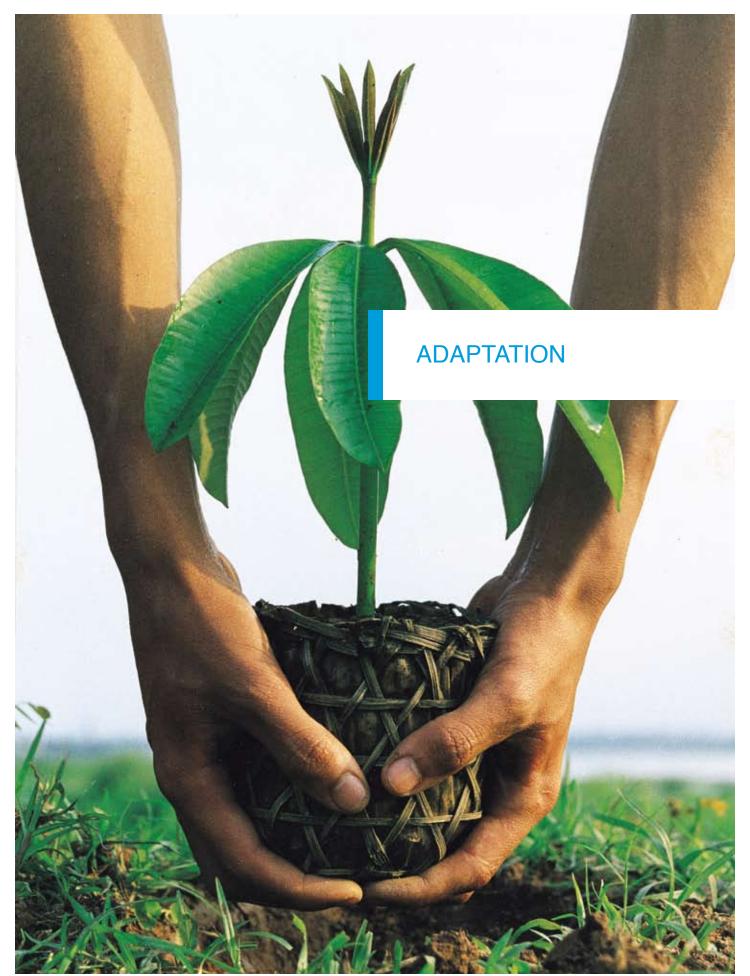
Coordination of worldwide seasonal-to-inter-annual climate predictions, outlooks, services, and weather and hydrological forecasts and early warnings on natural hazards, provided routinely by National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, Regional Climate Centres, Drought Monitoring Centres and Climate Outlook Forums, which are vital for people and communities, especially the most vulnerable to climate-induced risks. Enhanced education and public awareness on disaster preparedness in support of building the resilience of communities.

UNCCD, UNESCO, UNISDR, WHO, WMO

#### Emergency information on climate-sensitive socio-economic parameters

UN system organizations are supporting a number of specific emergency information and response systems on climate-sensitive socio-economic parameters related to agriculture, food insecurity and vulnerability, animal and plant pests and diseases, and natural disasters. *FAO, IFAD, ITU, UNEP, WFP* 







UN PHOTO

The United Nations system is working to help people and communities in countries, especially those most vulnerable, to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change while continuing to grow and achieve their development goals and aspirations.

he UN system's work in this area is governed by the stipulations of the Buenos Aires Programme of Work on Adaptation and Response Measures (COP decision 1/CP.10) and the Nairobi Work Programme on Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change. Moreover, a large number of activities mandated by the system's governing bodies in areas such as agriculture and food security, disaster risk reduction, health, water, tourism etc. are central to the challenge of adaptation work. Adaptation strategies are being developed including in these areas, as climate change considerations get further streamlined in UN system activities. The Least Developed Countries, Small Island Developing States and countries in Africa are the main focus of such activities, as

they face the most difficult challenges and urgently need the assistance of the international community in order to successfully safeguard the lives and livelihoods of their peoples, while attaining their development goals.

In addition to full-fledged activities in the aforementioned areas, ongoing work, which will be strengthened as intergovernmental mandates evolve, includes addressing the economic and social implications on developing countries of adaptation; climate change-induced human displacement; urbanization; addressing interconnected issues of climate change, sustainable development, peace and security; special considerations for gender mainstreaming and attention to the needs of vulnerable groups like children and the elderly.



UN system action in the adaptation area includes: -

#### Support for national planning for adaptation

Assistance to Least Developed Countries with National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs); assistance to African countries in launching integrated and comprehensive approaches to adaptation; studies on the socio-economic and demographic impact of climate change on countries and cities; orienting infrastructure investment to cope with climate change, generate jobs and improve access to basic goods and services for the poor; strengthening health systems; support for demographic data collection; development of guidance and effective procedures for disaster risk reduction and response. *FAO, GEF, IAEA, IFAD, ILO, ITU, UN-DESA, UNDP, UNEP, UNFCCC Secretariat, UNFPA, UN-HABITAT, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNISDR, UN-OCHA, UN Regional Commissions, World Bank Group, WFP, WHO* 

#### Enhancing knowledge sharing

Improving the linkage of climate data to global early warning and early action networks that build capacities in developing countries, provide consequential policy options, and strengthen humanitarian preparedness and response systems.

IFAD, IPCC, ITU, FAO, GEF, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO/IOC, UNFCCC Secretariat, UNITAR, UN-OCHA, UN Regional Commissions, World Bank Group, WMO

#### Streamlining and scaling up financial and technological support

Integrating climate change risks into development planning and programming and UN system country operations; exploring disaster risk insurance; special emphasis on support for the rural poor in Africa and on reducing vulnerability in Sub-Saharan Africa.

IFAD, FAO, GEF, UNDP, UNEP, UNU-EHS, UN Regional Commissions (UN-ECA), World Bank Group

#### Institutional frameworks

Development of a Global Climate Change Adaptation Network consisting of a series of selected ground facilities, national and regional centres and an international support group of technical institutions; comprehensive approach to disaster risk reduction that includes preparedness and response strategies, guided by the Hyogo Framework for Action that includes resilient development and preparedness and response strategies; establishment of regional centres, like the Inter-Agency Climate Change Centre for coordinated UN support to Pacific Island countries and regional organizations.

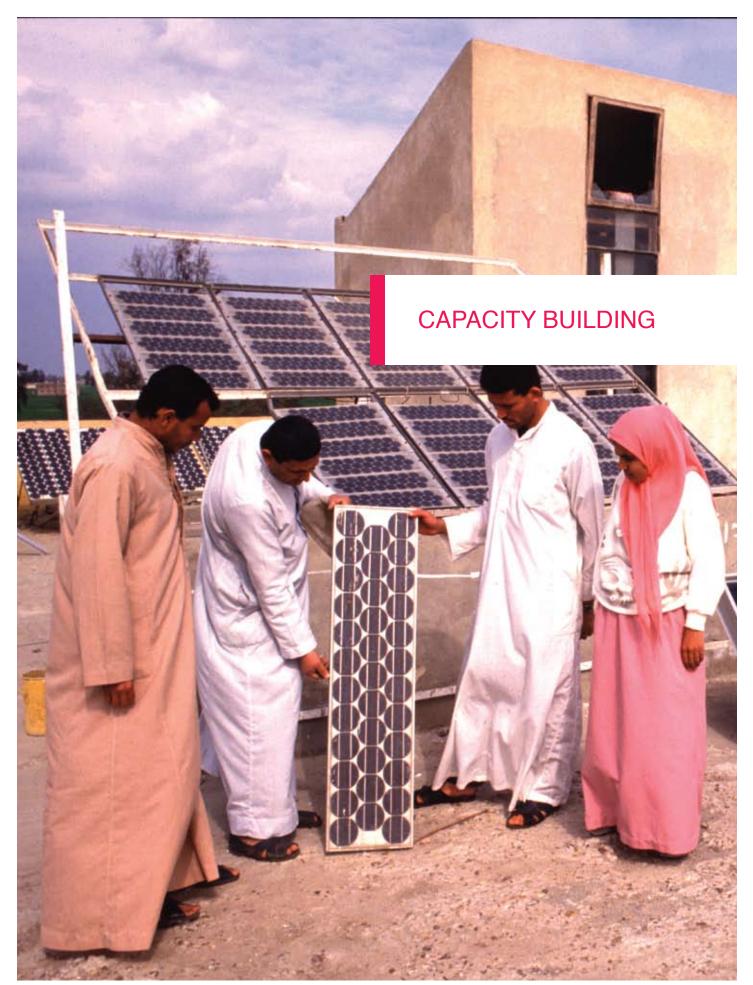
FAO, ITU, UNDP, UNEP, UNFCCC Secretariat, UNISDR, UNITAR, UN-OCHA, World Bank Group, WHO, WMO, NGO partners

#### Operational activities in key sectors and support for adaptation at the local level

Scaling up sustainable land management in Sub-Saharan Africa within the TerrAfrica framework; Pan-African Land Policy Framework; MENARID umbrella programme for sustainable management of the drylands of the Middle East and North Africa region; decreasing vulnerability to climate variability in African river basins; sustainable natural resources management and building of climate resilient infrastructure through cash and food-based employment programmes to increase the resilience and adaptive capacity of food insecure households and communities; support for adaptation projects that focus on communitybased natural resource management; assistance to rural poor by improving agricultural techniques and technologies; climate-friendly tourism; strengthening disaster risk reduction, disaster preparedness and humanitarian response; leveraging local purchases of food assistance in developing countries; Global e-Sustainability Initiative to further sustainable development in the ICT sector.

FAO, GEF, IFAD, ITU, UNCCD Secretariat, UNDP, UNEP, UN-HABITAT, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNISDR, UN-OCHA, UN Regional Commissions (UN-ECA), UNWTO, World Bank Group, WFP, WHO, regional and sub-regional organizations and civil society







**IINGA LIE/UNEP/STILL PICTURES** 

The United Nations system works to strengthen national institutions and human capacity to better analyze the impacts of climate change, develop courses of action for greater resilience and implement relevant adaptation and mitigation activities.

he need for capacity building to assist national authorities, especially in developing countries, to respond to climate change has long been recognized in the UNFCCC work. Capacity building cuts across many of the issues under consideration in the climate change process and has featured in several decisions of the COP and of UN system governing bodies, which serve as a broad framework for relevant UN system activities.

These activities prioritize support for all stages of national planning — from assessing climate change impacts and available responses, to setting policy and implementing institutional changes, to making informed investment decisions, accessing additional sources of finance

and implementing critical activities for adaptation and mitigation. Emphasis is placed on ensuring that capacity building is issue-based and country-driven, tailoring strategies to reflect regional, national and local needs. Customization of global knowledge for local conditions and building on local knowledge to guide global responses and action is another guiding principle for UN system activities related to capacity building.

The UN is currently taking action in a number of critical areas to support capacity building to address climate change, including:



#### Overall capacity building

Capacity development for national policy makers in addressing climate change-related challenges; regional and sub-regional preparatory workshops for climate change negotiators from developing countries, including SIDS and LDCs, on the UNFCCC Bali Road Map; technical and policy support to developing country Parties to the UNFCCC for preparing their national communications; supporting developing countries in their efforts to implement UNFCCC decisions through country-driven approaches ; awareness-raising, tool development, training and planning workshops at the local, national, regional and global levels; capacity building and support for the modernization and development of National Meteorological Services; mobilizing and enhancing capacity of governments, employers and workers organizations to contribute to coherent policies and effective programmes leading to greening economies with green jobs and decent work for all; capacity building in the use of geo-referenced demographic and socio-economic data; setting up a GHG reduction policy and tools for the postal sector at the national level.

GEF, IAEA, IFAD, ILO, UN Regional Commissions, UN-DESA, UNDP, UNEP, UNFCCC Secretariat, UNFPA, UN-HABITAT, UNITAR/CCP, UNWTO, UPU, World Bank Group, WHO, WMO

#### Capacity Building in Adaptation

Providing advisory services on how to mainstream climate change considerations into development decision-making, including for the achievement of the MDGs in the LDCs and other countries of Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America; strengthening vulnerability analysis and food security monitoring capacity in the Sahel and Southern Africa; helping countries to plan capacity development initiatives to reduce risk, prepare and recover from disasters; support to city and other local governments in developing countries.

FAO, GEF, IFAD, ITU, UNDP, UNEP, UNFCCC Secretariat, UNFPA, UN-HABITAT,

UNICEF, UNISDR, UN-OCHA, UN Regional Commissions, World Bank Group, WFP, WHO, WMO

#### Capacity Building in Finance/Mitigation

Assisting developing countries to improve their level of participation in the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM);

supporting the identification of policy options enabling poor rural people to engage in climate change mitigation by building the foundation for pro-poor ecosystem service markets in Africa. *IAEA, IFAD, GEF, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNFCCC Secretariat, World Bank Group* 

Capacity Building in Technology Transfer

Supporting education, training, information exchange, best practices and national strategy initiatives related to the development and applications of renewable energy adapted to local needs and facilitating access to state-of-the-art technologies; creation of regional networks of climate change focal points in governments to promote exchange of experience and knowledge on technology transformation; training programmes and capacity building in the use of the patent information systems and practical mechanisms for technology transfer; capacity building seminars/workshops in different regions to assist countries in implementing new standards aiming at the reduction of GHG emissions by radio and ICT devices. *FAO, GEF, IPCC Secretariat, ITU, UN-DESA, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFCCC Secretariat, World Bank Group* 

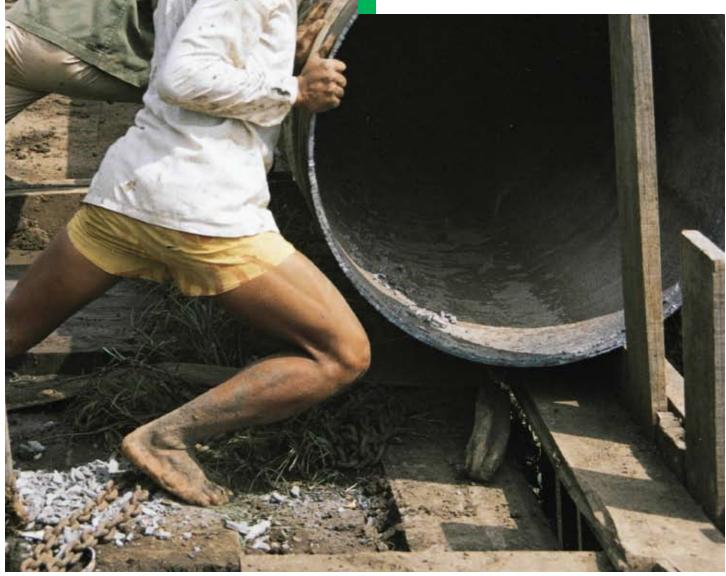
#### Capacity Building in Reducing Emissions from Deforestation in Developing Countries

UN-REDD Programme and Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (see relevant section for details) *FAO, UNDP, UNEP, World Bank Group* 





# FINANCING MITIGATION & ADAPTATION ACTION





SIRIMA PENGJA/UNEP/STILL PICTURES

The UN system, including the Bretton Woods Institutions, is assisting developing countries in better leveraging finance from a variety of sources to help them adapt to climate change impacts and undertake nationally appropriate mitigation actions in the context of sustainable development.

Developing countries require substantial financial assistance for adaptation, technology cooperation and mitigation. Arrangements under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol need to be fully implemented and additional funds made available to support climate change actions in the context of each country's sustainable development process, especially in connection with adaptation to climate change.

The emerging and yet incomplete cost estimates of additional investments needed in developing countries — by public and private sources — are in the order of hundreds of billions of dollars a year for several decades. Addressing climate change will require significant changes in patterns of investment and financial flows including by redirecting such investments and flows from all sources to more sustainable climate-friendly alternatives; scaling-



SYLVIA ZELLOT/UNEP/STILL PICTURES

up of international private and public finance dedicated to investment in mitigation or adaptation activities or technologies; optimizing the allocation of the funds available by spreading the risk across private and public investors.

It is crucial to simplify access to the diversity of international funding sources, vertical funds, and investment opportunities, which pose a heavy burden on developing countries that are seeking to enhance national development through international financing. The UN system, including the Bretton Woods Institutions, is already assisting developing countries in better leveraging finance from a variety of sources and making their regulatory and investment environment more conducive to climate-friendly investment. Moreover, the UN system has an important role to play in supporting and enabling developing countries to participate in the carbon market and benefit from its enormous potential as well as prepare for future funding opportunities to catalyze climate action.

The UN is currently taking action in a number of critical areas to support finance to address climate change, including:

#### Support for access to financing by developing countries

Strengthening national capacity in developing countries to assess investment and financial flows to address climate change; creating an online interface to assist developers of adaptation programmes in screening, identifying and accessing adaptation funding; case studies to help emerging economies assess the costs and benefits of less carbon-intensive options, examine financing sources and mechanisms and identify candidate projects and programmes; case studies to help developing countries particularly vulnerable to climate change assess the risks posed by climate change, design better strategies to adapt and understand the cost involved; development of technical methodologies/tools and data collection for specific sectors that facilitate developing country access to financial resources by helping them to meet eligibility/verification criteria of financial mechanisms (e.g. agriculture and forestry, energy options); assistance to countries in combining/sequencing GEF resources for policy change and leveraging new sources of finance.

IFAD, FAO, GEF, IAEA, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNFCCC Secretariat, UNISDR, World Bank Group

#### Support for development and access to carbon markets

Developing the capacity of low-income countries to access the CDM through the Nairobi Framework; assisting developing countries in leveraging carbon finance for clean energy development and sustainable land use practices; exploring a number of avenues to deepen the reach of carbon finance to support long-term, climate-friendly investments (Carbon Partnership Facility) and harness new carbon finance potentials (Forest Carbon Partnership Facility); linking large-scale ongoing tree planting and afforestation programmes in developing countries to carbon credit schemes.

UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNFCCC Secretariat, World Bank Group, WFP

#### Support to leverage private sector investment in activities addressing climate change

Facilitating finance sector engagement in climate mitigation by building financier capacity and awareness, lowering the costs and barriers of initial transactions, and supporting the development of new financial products that accelerate adoption of climate technologies and markets; equipping financiers with the tools, support, and global network; working with municipalities, small and medium enterprises and other local stakeholders to broaden public-private partnerships and engage new actors.

GEF, UNDP, UNEP, UNFCCC Secretariat, World Bank Group

#### Support to leverage finance for energy efficiency and renewable energy

Mobilizing funds for greater energy access and security, energy efficiency and clean energy development projects in over 100 countries; improving effectiveness of public financing in catalysing sustainable energy sector growth; facilitating regional cooperation on energy efficiency for climate change mitigation *GEF, UNDP, UN-DESA, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFCCC Secretariat, UNIDO, UN Regional Commissions, World Bank Group* 

#### Support to pilot innovative sources of finance and market mechanismis

Development of a voluntary global financial mechanism/portfolio approach/forest financing framework for all types of forests to support the implementation of the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests and the achievement of the Global Objectives on Forests; support of efforts to customize new insurance and re-insurance products for catastrophic and climate-related risks and expand their reach; promotion of Payment for Environmental Services as an incentive for carbon sequestration/mitigation at the community level.

FAO, GEF, IFAD, UNFCCC Secretariat, UNFF, World Bank Group, WFP

#### Mobilize new and innovative concessional finance

A new Climate Investment Funds (CIF) portfolio with an expected capitalization of some US\$ 6 billion, to build on progress made by many of the developing countries, with the objectives of scaling up investments in low-carbon technologies, and supporting various programs to test innovative approaches to climate action, including for adaptation, forestry and renewable energy. *World Bank Group and the MDBs* 



REDUCTION OF EMISSIONS FROM DEFORESTATION AND DEGRADATION (REDD)





SINGH KALRA/UNEP/STILL PICTURES

REDD-related activities of the UN system aspire to contribute to global reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, while at the same time advancing sustainable management of forests that enables their economic, environmental and social goods and services to benefit countries, communities and forest users.

Support for efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation has been expressed at the highest political levels and has been included in the Bali Action Plan adopted by UNFCCC at the thirteenth session of its Conference of the Parties (COP 13) held in Bali, Indonesia in December 2007. COP 13 also adopted a decision on 'Reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries: approaches to stimulate action'. This decision guides UN system work and encourages countries to explore a range of actions, identifying options and undertaking efforts to address the drivers of deforestation.

Ongoing work, which would benefit from further intergovernmental guidance, includes: formulation/ implementation of national REDD policies and practices through capacity building and policy/ technical assistance; creating incentive/payment schemes that encourage national level action on mitigation measures in the forest sector combined with international support mechanisms; identification, development and promotion of REDD activities that are compatible with other international objectives, for example, the MDGs.



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#### UN Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD)

The UN-REDD Programme includes the following key activities: at international level, promoting coherence across REDD initiatives, facilitating the exchange of national experiences and feeding into efforts in developing REDD arrangements linked with the UNFCCC process; at national level, assisting developing countries to prepare and implement national REDD strategies focusing on nationally-identified needs and priorities, including co-benefits.

FAO, UNDP, UNEP

#### Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)

The FCPF provides a global partnership forum for developing and industrialized countries to build capacity for REDD while piloting and testing performance-based incentives in 30 countries (25 of which already selected). The FCPF provides a balanced representation of 20 developing and industrialized countries along with observers from UN-REDD, UNFCCC, forest-dependent indigenous populations (UNPFII) and NGOs, other IGOs as well as the private sector. The Partnership is expected to be strongly complemented by investment funding being developed under the Forest Investment Programme included in the Climate Investment Funds.

World Bank Group

#### Data collection, information sharing and capacity building

Development of the Forest Resources Assessment (FRA), a comprehensive data collection on the state of the world's forests scheduled for release in 2010; undertaking global remote sensing survey of forests and establishing an information gateway providing easy access to remote sensing imagery; examining the role of biosphere reserves in demonstrating and assisting in the development of REDD strategies and practices; generating baseline information at the global and regional level on trends in the rate of deforestation, afforestation and natural expansion of forests over the past 30 years; developing a global framework and methodology for monitoring forest change; development of a web page to facilitate information sharing about REDD activities.

FAO, UN-DESA, UNESCO, UNFCCC Secretariat, UNU

#### Assistance with national planning and capacity building

Development of a strategic framework for action on forests and climate change through the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) to assist countries in using forests to both mitigate the effect of greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to changing climatic conditions that may prove harmful to forests and forest dependent communities; capacity building in all countries for monitoring, assessing and reporting on forests and land use changes: establishment of a collaborative research network in four countries of Southeast Asia to create new knowledge and alternative options for community-based sustainable forest management.

CBD Secretariat, FAO, GEF, UN-DESA, UNEP, UNFCCC Secretariat, World Bank Group, non-UN partners

#### Funding and operational activities

Assisting developing countries in their effort to reduce emissions from REDD through the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility by building capacities for REDD activities and testing a programme of performance based incentive payments in pilot countries; planting of millions of trees each year, using cash- or foodbased employment programmes targeted at food-insecure communities, rehabilitating and transforming marginal and eroded lands into a sustainable, livelihood-enhancing resource base, addressing desertification and soil erosion, and contributing to the sequestration of carbon; reducing deforestation and land degradation in the Congo basin through the Congo Basin Initiative; support for reforestation by planting over 10 million trees annually in refugee and IDP hosting countries.

FAO, UNDP, UNEP, UNHCR, WFP, World Bank Group



## **TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER**



BRAM VAN DE BIEZEN/UNEP/STILL PICTURES

Technology transfer and development activities by the UN system promote the diffusion and uptake of environmentallyfriendly and climate-friendly technologies and practices towards achieving objectives of mitigation and adaptation at the country level.

he transfer of technologies to developing countries is central to pursuing meaningful adaptation and mitigation actions, as well as more broadly advancing sustainable development goals and objectives. This issue has been highlighted in discussions on the post-2012 framework for international climate policy, with the Bali Action Plan highlighting the importance of technology transfer. The framework under the UNFCCC has five main themes: technology needs and needs assessments; technology information; enabling environments; capacity building; and mechanisms for technology transfer (decision 4/ CP.7). The UN system is supporting enhanced implementation of the Convention through increased collaborative and mutually reinforcing actions within these five themes.

The UN system activities are sensitive to the reality that the support for the development and transfer of technology requires not only "hard" technology, but also support for national capacity and systems to facilitate the transfer, development and deployment of technologies. Future work will need to build on, and then move beyond, national technology needs assessments to in-depth analyses of the actual market and trade barriers that prevent technology transfer and uptake from taking place. Many existing technologies can be deployed more widely in developing countries with local and global benefits, with a prominent example being energy efficiency, particularly in the building sector. At the same time, new global partnerships will be necessary to develop and deploy the next generation of technologies to meet climate and sustainable development goals.



KARL SOMMERER/UNEP/STILL PICTURES

#### Technology needs and needs assessments

Support to countries in preparation of their Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) reports; development of energy indicators for a sustainable development methodology that facilitates identifying options and potential for technology transfer in the energy sector; support to national and local governments to integrate climate change concerns in land use planning, infrastructure standards, building codes and building materials and to address energy use in buildings; development, in cooperation both with governments and the private sector, of an internationally agreed standard methodology to measure the impact of ICTs on climate change.

FAO, GEF, IAEA, ITU, UN-DESA, UNDP, UNEP, UNFCCC Secretariat, UN-HABITAT

#### Technology information

Databases on climate-related technologies/IPRs in public domain and technology transfer projects and environmentally sound technologies; development of comprehensive national technology plans that provide the basis for the systematic removal of barriers needed to develop markets for prioritised technologies; dissemination of technical knowledge related to climate-friendly tourism through a web-portal and interactive workshops; dissemination of knowledge and transfer of environment-friendly agricultural technologies that address both climate change adaptation and mitigation at the community level. *FAO, IFAD, UNEP, UNIDO, UNFCCC Secretariat, UNWTO, WIPO* 

#### Enabling environments

Transforming markets through testing, development and establishment of new technologies; promoting the development of markets for energy efficient technologies and development of International Standards on Energy Management; Green Jobs Initiative to promote opportunity, equity and the transition to a green economy; standardized licensing agreements to facilitate technology transfer and reduce transaction costs; regional programmes on trade and environment capacity building to foster an enabling environment for technology transfer; supporting policy change and institutional development to promote greater private sector investment in technology transfer and development (such as smart wind tariffs, power purchase agreements, and capitalization of pilot financial instruments); transforming markets through testing, development and establishment of new technologies, financial products/structures and business models, and scaling up of those successful initiatives with the highest potential impact; policy analysis on the ingredients for enabling environments for technology transfer, and policy options for promoting private sector inputs into public policy outcomes.

GEF, ILO, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, UN Regional Commissions, World Bank Group

#### Capacity building

Handbooks and training on conducting Technology Needs Assessment for climate change, preparing technology transfer projects for financing, and conducting technology transfer negotiations; training in and transfer of decision support tools for countries to select policy options that "climate proof" coastal communities with a focus on Africa; tools, policy support and technical assistance for climate-friendly urban infrastructure investment, at the public and private levels, in the context of rapid urbanization; developing national and local capacity to adapt and widely disseminate clean energy technologies to expand access to modern energy services and expand clean and affordable energy services for rural people; developing capacity of Member States to better leverage Earth observation and remote sensing technologies, both for monitoring climate change itself and for building and deploying early warning systems; high-level dialogue meetings on technology development and transfer; e-Environment scoping study, to provide guidelines for developing countries on how to use ICTs for better management and protection of the environment as a key part of their development process, with particular focus on climate change and building capcity of member states in geospatially-enabled ICT for climate change and disaster mitigation.

FAO, GEF, ITU, UN-DESA, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO/IOC, UNFCCC Secretariat, UN-HABITAT, UNIDO, UN Regional Coommissions (UN-ECA)

#### Mechanisms for technology transfer

Scaling up financing to contribute to demonstration, deployment, and transfer of low-carbon technologies with a significant potential for long-term greenhouse gas emission savings; networking, joint research and development and the promotion of approaches for cleaner, more efficient industrial production through Technology Centres/Investment and Technology Promotion Centres/Cleaner Production Centres; fostering of agricultural technology innovation through the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research; public-private partnerships for technology transfer. *FAO, GEF, IFAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, World Bank Group* 

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## SUPPORTING GLOBAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL ACTION

An effective response to climate changerelated challenges requires actions at the global, regional and national levels. The UN system is using its expertise and resources to ensure planning and delivery of coherent support to countries in their efforts at all three levels.

#### Global level

UNFCCC provides the central global forum for normative work on climate change. The mandates it issues, together with relevant mandates issued by other intergovernmental bodies across the UN system, set the goals and standards towards which multilateral action on climate change aims. Climate knowledge developed or disseminated by UN system entities provides the scientific basis for decision making. Public information activities increase awareness of governments and the broader public and contribute to strengthening the international consensus for decisive action.

#### **Regional level**

Guided by regional and subregional priorities and challenges, and within the framework of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) convened by the UN Regional Commissions, consultations are being held to decide on selected focus areas for collaborative and coherent UN support to climate-related actions at the regional and subregional levels. Such areas include: strengthening observation networks and monitoring and assessment systems; promoting policies and investment for energy efficiency, increased use of renewable energy sources, new technologies and standards for reducing CO2 emissions from vehicles; fiscal policies for promoting "green growth"; and risk management system in climatesensitive countries and sectors. Some of the activities relating to those areas have been illustrated under the various sections of this document.

#### National level

The UN system, collectively through the UN Development Group (UNDG), is developing means to improve support and collaboration on climate change activities at the country level. A task team on climate change and environmental sustainability has been created under UNDG to gather information on needs and best practices, as well as to develop in 2009 detailed recommendations and guidance to enhance UN agencies collaboration at national level through the UN Country Teams.

## PUBLIC AWARENESS RAISING

The Secretary-General has made it a top priority of his tenure to raise awareness at the highest level of the potential impacts of climate change and the necessity for taking urgent action. He is pursuing that personally, in cooperation with other UN system Executive Heads, as well as through his Special Envoys on Climate Change and other senior UN officials.

#### Gateway to the UN System's Work on Climate Change

#### www.un.org/climatechange



www.climate-l.org

While political buy-in is key to making strides towards tackling climate change, individual action undertaken by more informed citizens is fundamental as well. The UN Communications Group Task Force on Climate Change, through its member agencies, has developed a strategic communications programme to deliver messages and information to key target audiences in order to build support among decision-makers and the public for a new global agreement that will effectively address climate change.

## Public awareness-raising activities carried out by the UN system and the UN Communications Group include:

- An active network of communicators from 28 participating programmes, organizations and agencies that seeks to maximize and focus existing communications resources on the climate change issue.
- "UNite to combat climate change" a UN-wide campaign to promote an inclusive, comprehensive and ratifiable deal in Copenhagen.
- The UN information Gateway on climate change (www. un.org/climatechange) that connects to all UN system entities active on climate change, and, cooperation with the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) for Climate-L.org and its Earth Negotiations Bulletin. The Gateway will be upgraded to include a searchable database of all UN system activities on climate change.
- Global UN branding and advertising campaign on climate change in cooperation with the International Advertising Association (IAA).
- Training of journalists from developing countries to effectively report on the climate change issues and the UNFCCC negotiations.
- Climate Neutral Network (CN Net): an online tool for outreach, networking, and awareness-raising on climate change; which aims to catalyze an international response to global warming. Participants register; submit their climate neutral strategies; and share best practices. Target groups are governments (national, local) and the business sector.
- Promotion of education on sustainable development and solutions to the problem of climate change.

## **CLIMATE-NEUTRAL UN**

Following the Secretary-General's urging to "lead by example", the CEB decided in October 2007 to move towards a climateneutral UN. A UN Climate Neutral Strategy devised through the UN's Environment Management Group provides the framework for doing so.

In accordance with the strategy CEB members committed to achieve the following by 2009:

- Estimate greenhouse gas emissions consistent with accepted international standards;
- Undertake efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to the extent possible; and
- Analyze the cost implications and explore budgetary modalities-including consulting with governing bodies as needed-of purchasing carbon offsets to eventually reach climate neutrality.

Progress made as of late 2008

- The majority of UN system organizations have now designated climate neutral focal points. Nine of them have established internal task forces to address climate neutrality within their organization, while ten have designated a 'senior-level champion' to drive the process. Eight organizations have prepared a strategy document outlining how they intend to move the organization towards climate neutrality.
- The organizations' main sources of greenhouse gas emissions are from official travel, refrigerants use in air conditioning, official vehicles, and electricity consumption. Good progress has been made by organizations in estimating their greenhouse gas footprints, with some seventeen agencies having begun the process, eight of which have preliminary data, and four of which have final or near-final numbers.
- Some ten agencies have developed strategies outlining how they will reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, of which seven have already begun implementing some measures. Seven organizations have organized climate-neutral events through the purchase of offsets.
- A UN Climate Neutral Knowledge Management website has been established to provide a platform for sharing experience, tools, methods, guidelines, bench-marking and documenting best-practice. It will also document individual agency's greenhouse gas emissions and reductions.

#### Next steps

- Further refine the UN climate neutral strategy, in particular, agreeing on methodological issues where a common approach is needed.
- Follow through on commitments for 2009.

### List of acronyms

- CBD Convention on Biological Diversity
- CDM Clean Development Mechanism
- CEB United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination
- CMP Conference of the Parties serving as Meeting of the Parties (for the purposes of this publication this refers to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol)
- COP Conference of the Parties (for the purposes of this publication this refers to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change)
- CN Net Climate Neutral Network
- CTBTO Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization
- FAO Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- GCOS Global Climate Observing System
- GEF Global Environment Facility
- HLCP High Level Committee on Programmes of the CEB
- IAA International Advertising Association
- IAEA International Atomic Energy Agency
- ICAO International Civil Aviation Organization
- ICSU International Council for Science
- IFAD International Fund for Agricultural Development
- IISD- International Institute for Sustainable Development
- ILO International Labour Organization
- IMO International Maritime Organization
- IMF International Monetary Fund
- IPCC Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- ITU International Telecommunication Union
- LDCs Least Developed Countries
- MDB Multilateral Development Banks
- MDGs Millennium Development Goals
- NAPAs National Adaptation Programmes of Action
- OHCHR Office of the High-Commissioner for Human Rights
- REDD Reduction of emissions from deforestation and degradation
- SIDS Small Island Developing States
- **UN United Nations**
- UNAIDS Joint and Co-sponsored UN Programme on HIV/AIDS
- UNCCD UN Convention to Combat Desertification
- UNCG UN Communications Group

UNCTAD - United Nations Conference on Trade and Development UN-DESA - UN Department of Economic & Social Affairs **UNDG - UN Development Group UNDP - United Nations Development Programme** UN-ECE - UN Economic Commission for Europe UN-ECA - UN Economic Commission for Africa UN-ECLAC - UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean **UNEP - United Nations Environment Programme** UN-ESCAP - UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific UNESCO - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization UNESCO/IOC - UNESCO-Intergovernmental Oceanographic Council UN-ESCWA - UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia UNFCCC - UN Framework Convention on Climate Change **UNFPA - United Nations Population Fund UN-HABITAT - UN Human Settlements Programme** UNHCR - Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees UNICEF - United Nations Children's Fund UNIDO - United Nations Industrial Development Organization UNISDR - UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction UNITAR - United Nations Institute for Training and Research UNITAR/CCP - UNITAR Climate Change Programme UN-OCHA - UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs UNRWA - United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East UNU - United Nations University UNU-EHS - UNU Institute of Environment and Human Security UNWTO - World Tourism Organization **UPU - Universal Postal Union** WB - The World Bank WFP - World Food Programme WHO - World Health Organization WIPO - World Intellectual Property Organization WMO - World Meteorological Organization WTO - World Trade Organization