



# United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

## Kyoto Protocol and the UN Climate Change Secretariat a global framework to tackle climate change

### **The UNFCCC**

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is universally recognized to be the appropriate global forum to tackle the problem of climate change. With 192 Parties, the Convention enjoys near-universal membership. The ultimate objective of the Convention is to stabilise greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that will prevent dangerous human interference with the climate system. The UNFCCC was founded at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992.

### **The Kyoto Protocol**

The Convention is complemented by the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, which has 176 Parties. Under this treaty, which entered into force in 2005, 36 industrialized countries and the European Community have committed to reducing their emissions by an average of 5 per cent by 2012 against 1990 levels. Industrialized countries must first and foremost take domestic action against climate change. But the Protocol also allows them to meet their emission reduction commitments abroad through so-called “market-based mechanisms”.

### **The CDM**

One of the Protocol’s market-based mechanisms is the clean development mechanism. (CDM). Under the CDM, projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions in developing countries and contribute to sustainable development can earn certified emission reduction (CER) credits. Countries with a commitment under the Kyoto Protocol buy CERs to cover a portion of their emission reduction commitments under the Treaty. There are currently more than 840 registered CDM projects in 49 countries, and about another 1800 projects in the project registration pipeline.

### **Adaptation and other issues**

The UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol are also designed to assist countries in adapting to its inevitable effects of climate change. They facilitate the development of techniques that can help increase resilience to climate change impacts – for example, the development of salt-resistant crops – and to exchange best practices with regard to adaptation. The UNFCCC commits all Parties to formulate, implement, publish and update adaptation measures, as well providing for a variety of support mechanisms for adaptation implementation in developing countries, including measures on the provision of funding. Among other issues the Convention and Protocol cover are technology transfer and financing the response to climate change.

### **The UN Climate Change Secretariat**

The United Nations Climate Change Secretariat – based in Bonn, Germany – supports the climate change negotiations under the auspices of the UN. The secretariat staff numbers around 270, and is guided in its work by the Parties to the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol. The secretariat organises meetings and analyses and reviews climate change information and data reported by Parties. It furthermore supports the UN bodies which are for example responsible for overseeing the clean development mechanism and compliance under the Kyoto Protocol, along with supporting the computerized system that ensures that emissions trading among Kyoto countries is fully consistent with UN rules.

## Communications team contacts at Bali

**MEDIA SERVICES AND LOGISTICS:** Mr. Axel Wuestenhagen  
Mobile: +62 (0) 81 337 909 371; E-mail: awuestenhagen(at)aon.at

**SPOKESPERSON:** Mr. John Hay  
Landline.: +62 361 77 1404; Mobile :+62 (0) 81 338 973501; E-mail: jhay(at)unfccc.int

**ONLINE AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES:** Mr Alexander Saier  
Mobile: +62 (0) 81 338 973502; E-mail: asaier(at)unfccc.int

**INTERVIEW SCHEDULING** (UNFCCC Executive Secretary and officials): Ms. Carrie Assheuer  
Landline: +62 361 77 5196; Mobile: +62 (0) 81 338 973504; E-mail: cassheuer(at)unfccc.int

**PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM BOOKING:** Ms. Elke Hoekstra  
Landline: +62 361 77 1203; Mobile :+62 (0) 81 338 973496; E-mail: ehoekstra(at)unfccc.int

**ACCREDITATION:** Ms. Judith Adrien and Ms. Veronika Crowe-Mayerhofer  
Landline: +62 361 77 0209; Fax: +62 361 77 4154; e-mail: press(at)unfccc.int

