



**United Nations System  
Chief Executives Board for Coordination**

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## **The UN system at the forefront of efforts to address climate change**

### *Statement of Purpose*

1. Climate Change presents the international community with an unprecedented challenge, given the severity and intensity of the anticipated impacts and their global reach. No country or individual will be untouched. The UN system stands ready to support the international community in confronting this defining challenge of our times.
2. Climate change is underway. Scientific observations point to increasingly severe negative impacts in all parts of the world, disproportionately affecting the poor and vulnerable, those who have the weakest capacity for resilience. Their right to healthy, productive and secure lives is increasingly at risk. It is ultimately the human dimension of climate change and the consequences for individuals all over the world that must provide the impetus to action on the scale required. No one country or one actor can confront the immensity of the challenge alone. Climate change requires a concerted global response.
3. Climate change in all its dimensions must be addressed within the broader context of sustainable development, which includes economic advancement, poverty eradication and environmental protection, elements that are essential to the realization of human rights and the achievement of the MDGs and other internationally and nationally agreed goals and aspirations.
4. It is clear that, as the international community comes together for the 15<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Copenhagen, what is required is an ambitious agreement that embodies a new global pact and a renewed international commitment to jointly confront the challenge of climate change in the context of sustainable development.
5. The United Nations system, as the most inclusive multilateral institutional framework for policy and action, has an essential role to play in supporting the international community's efforts to combat climate change, especially those of developing countries. The experience and capacity of UN system organizations provide the international community with an important resource in undertaking the multi-sectoral approach required for mitigation and adaptation. As well as providing the forum for global negotiations on climate change, the system brings together normative, policy and deliberative capacities, scientific and knowledge resources, a global network of country and regional offices, and expertise in key climate-relevant sectors. These sectors include agriculture and fisheries, food security, water security, disaster risk reduction, ecosystem management, education, employment and decent work, energy (including renewables), technology transfer, finance, forestry, health, human settlements, industry, information and communication technologies and services, oceans, tourism, trade and transport, as well as the cross-cutting issues of human rights, gender equality, population dynamics, migration, forced displacement and statelessness.

6. The United Nations system organizations are committed to responding to the challenge of climate change by delivering as one at the global, regional and country levels on the basis of their convening and advocacy roles, normative and analytical expertise, and operational and coordination capabilities. The United Nations system stands ready to provide advice on optimal policy choices, mobilize multi-stakeholder partnerships and otherwise support countries prepare for and implement large-scale climate actions, build the necessary capacity, disseminate relevant technologies and channel the additional financial resources and investments required to meet climate goals and responsibilities in a coordinated, effective and coherent manner.

7. Scaled-up, predictable and additional finance will be essential in mobilizing global action to address climate change. Mechanisms to channel these funds must respond directly to country needs, within a transparent, fair and efficient governance framework. Provision of policy and technical support for the use of such funds is equally critical. The United Nations system possesses tried and tested mechanisms, including UNDP administered multi-donor trust funds and the World Bank Group's investment funds, which can be built upon. Given the magnitude and complexity of the response needed, it is essential that any new framework makes full use of UN system channels and promotes cooperation among them and other mechanisms in responding to country demands.

8. The UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), a body that, under the leadership of the UN Secretary-General, brings together the leaders of all the multilateral institutions that comprise the UN system, has elaborated a framework for action based on the principles of the ongoing climate negotiations. In this context, a number of ambitious, concrete and actionable initiatives have been developed, bringing the diversity of the UN system's capacities together and providing an effective support platform for the efforts of countries to address climate change both through domestic action and international cooperation.

9. The UN system is committed to supporting Member States in implementing current and future international agreements by further aligning the strengths of its organizations, developing clear targeted and accessible support activities and programmes, and enhancing transparency and accountability in its operations. It is determined to strengthen its collaborative work, in partnership with all relevant stakeholders, for green, fair and sustainable development for all, building on the expected outcome of Copenhagen and the outcomes of other major United Nations conferences and summits.

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## **CEB CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION FRAMEWORK**

### **A coordinated approach**

Collective action is concentrated in five focus areas and four cross-cutting areas, which have been identified by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) in response to the UNFCCC negotiation process and in pursuance of the broader mandates and capacities in the United Nations system:

#### ***Focus areas***

- Adaptation
- Technology transfer
- Reduction of emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD)
- Financing mitigation and adaptation action
- Capacity-building

#### ***Cross-cutting areas***

- Climate knowledge: science, assessment, monitoring and early warning
- Supporting global, regional and national action
- Climate-neutral UN
- Public awareness-raising

### **The UN system delivering as One at all levels**

Programmatic work through the CEB's High-level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) is connected to United Nations system operational activities through the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) and implemented at the country level through United Nations Country Teams. The United Nations Regional Commissions correspondingly work at the regional level, while the UNFCCC secretariat serves as the link to the global climate change negotiation process.

### **Use of modern ICT tools for transparency and knowledge-sharing**

- ***Online inventory of United Nations system activities on climate change*** developed, both as an information resource and a planning tool (<http://www.un.org/climatechange/projectsearch>).

- ***Online portal***, "Gateway to the UN System's Work on Climate Change", which provides access to system-wide initiatives and products, and links to individual agency climate change pages (<http://www.un.org/climatechange>).

- ***Knowledge management website*** for use by United Nations staff, delegates and outside experts dealing with climate change, established in cooperation with the International Institute for Sustainable Development (<http://www.climate-1.org>).

## **Major UN system initiatives for global action on climate change**

*All UN system organizations are engaged, individually and through collaborative and innovative projects and programmes, in bringing the richness of the UN system's capacities together through several ambitious and concrete activities that provide an effective support platform for the efforts of countries to fight climate change both through domestic action and international cooperation. Such initiatives include but are not limited to:*

- *Enhanced action on adaptation*, as outlined in the CEB Adaptation Policy Brief and including distinct initiatives such as the Adaptation Learning Mechanism (ALM – <http://www.adaptationlearning.net>) and the Global Adaptation Network (GAN);
- *Green Economy Initiative*, which builds on mutually beneficial synergies in the international community's response to the challenges of climate change and the global financial and economic crisis, focusing on green growth, green job creation, and building a greener society and economy;
- *Climate Finance Platform* for knowledge sharing and decision support on climate finance, particularly for policy makers and project leaders in developing countries;
- *Support for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD)* through the UN-REDD Programme and the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), which together assist Partner Countries in building their technical capacities to realize REDD, help develop methods and tools for measuring and monitoring greenhouse gas emissions and forest carbon flows, and raise awareness of the importance of action on REDD at the international level;
- *One UN Training Service Platform (UN CC:Learn)* with a searchable inventory of UN training and learning material on-line, to foster knowledge sharing and strengthening of climate-change learning and skills development in Member States in an effective and efficient manner (<http://www.uncclearn.org>);
- *Capacity development for national policy makers* through regional and sub-regional preparatory workshops for climate change negotiators from developing countries, technical and policy support to developing country Parties to the UNFCCC for preparing their national communications and strengthening the capacity of developing countries to assess climate change policy options across different sectors and economic activities;
- *Global Framework for Climate Services*, established by the World Climate Conference-3, to be elaborated further in the coming months. The Framework aims to provide science-based climate predictions and information for the management of climate-related risks and opportunities and to support adaptation to climate variability and change;
- *Secretary General's Advisory Group on Energy and Climate Change* to focus and align the UN system's views on energy transition, which is a key requirement for climate change mitigation;
- *Gateway to the UN System's Work on Climate Change* to serve as central portal to all climate change-related activities of UN system organizations (<http://www.un.org/climatechange>), complemented by a searchable *Online Inventory of UN System Activities on Climate Change* (<http://www.un.org/climatechange/projectsearch>).