



**4<sup>th</sup> GEF General Assembly  
24–28 May 2010, Punta del Este, Uruguay**

**Statement by Yvo de Boer, Executive Secretary  
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**

I thank the GEF for providing the Climate Change secretariat the opportunity to present this statement to the Assembly.

The 15<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC held in Copenhagen last December 2009, concluded with an outcome that responded only partially to the high expectations for the conference. While disappointing to some, Copenhagen nevertheless provided the world with clear signals that Governments want global climate change action to move forward. Copenhagen was an important event because it raised climate change policy to where it belongs: the highest political level. More than 120 Heads of State or Government met in Copenhagen to take climate policy forward.

Copenhagen advanced the negotiations on various elements for long-term cooperative action as defined in the Bali Action Plan, including improvements to the Kyoto Protocol's clean development mechanism. Negotiations on adaptation, a new technology mechanism, a capacity-building framework, reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and a registry for actions and support of nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing countries were almost completed. Progress was also made on options for a governance structure for finance. The COP decided to extend the mandate of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action in order to continue negotiations and to present the final outcome of its work at the sixteenth session in December this year. The Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol will also continue its deliberations this year to deliver the results of its work for adoption by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol at its sixth session.

The conference also produced the Copenhagen Accord a clear letter of political intent to constrain carbon and respond to climate change, both in the short and in the long-term. In

the context of the Accord, all developed countries have submitted their quantified targets for 2020, while 36 developing countries have communicated their mitigation actions. Developed countries have also committed to provide new and additional resources approaching USD 30 billion for the period 2010–2012, and to mobilize USD 100 billion a year by 2020 to address the needs of developing countries. It is now an immediate priority to establish clear measurement, reporting and verification measures for the finance up to 2012.

Financial issues will be critical at COP 16 in Cancun. Negotiations will continue to focus on long-term finance beyond 2012, including in view of reaching consensus on the relevant institutional arrangements for financial governance. Critically, negotiations on finance will also seek to reach consensus on the building blocks for an effective and comprehensive system for measurement, reporting and verification. Additionally, the financial mechanism of the Convention and the Adaptation Fund will be reviewed, along with the assessments of the Special Climate Change Fund and the Least Developed Countries Fund. The role of the GEF is central to these discussions, particularly in the effective delivery of resources to support developing countries in the implementation of their commitments under the Convention. Aside from financial issues, Parties are expected to agree on the essential elements of the implementation architecture in line with the Bali Action Plan addressing adaptation, mitigation action, including on REDD +, capacity-building, technology transfer, matters relating to Least Developed Countries and non-Annex I national communications. In this regard, the support provided by GEF to implement the Poznan Strategic Program on technology transfer, to prepare the third national communications by non-Annex I Parties and to implement the projects identified in the national adaptation programmes of action will serve as important inputs when Parties consider the policy guidance to be provided to the GEF.

The policy reforms introduced for GEF 5 relating to enhancing country ownership and accountability to the Convention are steps in the right direction. But further improvements are required to ensure that countries are supported in developing projects. The recently concluded GEF 5 replenishment negotiations led to the generation of USD 4.25 billion, or a 54 per cent increase in new funds compared with GEF 4. This is a positive indication of the commitment of participating countries to scale up the resources of the GEF. I look forward to a more robust contribution to the Special Climate Change Fund to support developing countries to pursue the development and transfer of technologies, adaptation and response

measures, and to the Least Developed Countries Fund to support the implementation of national adaptation programmes of action.

I would like to conclude by reassuring the full commitment of the Climate Change secretariat to build stronger collaboration with the GEF as part of our joint pursuit of supporting Parties in achieving the objective of the Convention.

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