

AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE POST-KYOTO

*A Global Initiative of the Club of Madrid and the
United Nations Foundation*

Background

There is now a convergence of science, economics, technology and finance to guide joint international action to address climate change, but the window of opportunity for staying within an acceptable range of atmospheric carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases is closing, and the costs of mitigation and adaptation are rising substantially. A sustainable energy future is possible and the costs are not out of reach, but increased political will and greater collaboration between developed and developing countries are missing.

Under current conditions, international negotiations to address global warming will not keep pace with the demand for concerted action. For example, the discussions at the Second Ministerial meeting of the Gleneagles Dialogue on Climate Change in Monterrey, Mexico, in October 2006 demonstrated the urgency of early action to address the reality of global warming but failed to decide on a process for reaching a new agreement. Likewise, at the November 2006 UN meeting on climate change in Nairobi, governments were unable to agree on a timetable for negotiating a post-Kyoto future despite widespread consensus on the diagnosis of the problem.

The Gleneagles Dialogue was conceived as an instrument whereby innovative ideas and measures to tackle these issues could be discussed informally among G-8 and key developing countries outside the formal negotiations of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It was also designed as a tool to monitor implementation of a Plan of Action and ensure that commitments made by the G8 on climate change were effectively delivered. But Gleneagles must evolve from a discussion of issues to a consensus on principles and a framework for a practical and enforceable international agreement *beyond* Kyoto. We cannot wait until 2012 to conclude such an agreement, and the Club of Madrid, together with the United Nations Foundation (UNF) in the U.S., proposes to help start this process.

As an independent organisation dedicated to the promotion of sustainable democratic development, the **Club of Madrid** (CoM) can draw on the unique leadership experience, stature and convening power of its Members, 66 democratic former Heads of State and Government from some 50 countries around the world. It offers a neutral, yet uniquely equipped platform bringing together political experience and the best expert minds to deliberate on major global issues affecting sustainable democratic development. Indeed, the Club of Madrid has already identified climate change as one such issue at the recently held Club of Madrid Annual Conference, "The Challenges of Energy and Democratic Leadership." (For more information about the conference, including the final statement, visit <http://www.clubmadrid.org>).

The **United Nations Foundation** (UNF) is a not-for-profit organization created to support the mission of the United Nations. The Foundation builds and implements public-private partnerships to address the world's most pressing problems and seeks to broaden support for the UN through advocacy and public outreach. Its role is one of a catalyst, a convener, and a fundraising ally. UNF focuses its efforts mainly in the areas of children's health; women and population; energy and climate; and peace and security. Together, the two organizations have a unique ability to tackle the need for greater international collaboration on the global warming crisis.

The next Gleneagles Dialogue meeting, to be hosted by Germany in September 2007 within the framework of the German G8 Presidency, provides an ideal opportunity to influence the development of a practical framework for an international agreement *beyond* Kyoto. Such a framework must recognize the "common but differentiated responsibility" of developed and developing countries and the importance of climate change to sustainable economic growth, especially for developing countries. The framework should consider both mitigation and adaptation, effective targets and timetables for emissions reductions by developed and developing countries, the link between adaptation and development, incentives for implementation and other assistance to developing countries engaging in the process, and the need for expanded research and development (R&D) efforts for cleaner and lower-cost energy technologies, including renewable energy.

Building on the leadership experience of CoM Members, the expertise and knowledge of the UNF, the previous and current work carried out by both organisations on the linkages between the challenges of energy, climate change and democratic leadership, and the convening power of the two organizations, a High-Level Task Force on Climate Change will be established in early 2007. The Task Force will develop and propose a framework for a post-Kyoto agreement on climate change for the next Gleneagles Dialogue meeting in Germany in September 2007 as well as such follow-on meetings as the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC in Bali in December 2007, and the G-8 Summit and the Gleneagles Dialogue Meeting in Tokyo in 2008.

Global Objective

The development of a framework for a post-Kyoto international agreement on climate change.

Specific Objectives

Establish an independent, High-Level Task Force on Climate Change to develop and propose a framework for a post-Kyoto agreement on climate change through the Gleneagles Dialogue process. The Task Force will address a number of key issues including:

- Differentiated targets and timetables for developed and developing countries
- market-based mechanisms, carbon trading, and a more efficient Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)
- Flexible intellectual property rights and competitiveness rules to allow for innovation and transfer of clean energy technologies between developed and developing countries
- Assistance to developing countries for adoption of clean and efficient energy technologies
- Adaptation, its link with development, and financing mechanisms

- Enhanced investment and collaboration on research, development, and deployment of cleaner and lower cost energy technologies.

Activities

- Members of the High-Level Task Force on Climate Change (HLTFCC) will meet on at least two occasions in 2007 in advance of the Berlin Gleneagles meeting and the Bali Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC to exchange views and draw up recommendations. The HLTFCC will be chaired by Ricardo Lagos, President of the Club of Madrid, and Timothy E. Wirth, President of the UN Foundation, and facilitated by Mohamed El-Ashry, former CEO and Chairman of the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The HLTFCC will have a maximum membership of 20 eminent persons, widely recognised for their ability to influence public opinion and shape agendas on global issues. It will include Members of the Club of Madrid, former leaders of major intergovernmental organisations, and renowned representatives of civil society, the private sector, and academia. Membership will reflect both a geographical balance and the voice of governmental and non-governmental stakeholders in the climate change challenge.
- To provide technical input and inform the HLTFCC deliberations, two expert roundtables with approximately 20-30 participants will be convened prior to each of the two Task Force sessions to advise on the most critical topics of debate. In addition, a multi-stakeholder consultation will be organized to facilitate broader participation and enhance the intellectual output of the HLTFCC process.

A small Secretariat staffed by a team of professionals will support the HLTFCC and will be established within the Club of Madrid's own Secretariat. This Secretariat will work in close coordination with the UN Foundation in the US, drawing on its expertise and substantive support.

As former Presidents, Prime Ministers, CEOs and Heads of international organisations, they bring leadership experience and stature to the program's activities. Having had to make difficult decisions in many different areas, they know first hand what the difficult political questions are and thus can offer unique added value to this very particular and major challenge. They will play critical roles in defining the strategy and recommendations, making sure to take into account the concerns and needs of different regions, levels of development, and the role that parties involved--government, politics and institutions--should and can play.

Outcome

Working together with top experts on climate change, the HLTFCC members will lend visibility and spur action on issues and options that need to be addressed to develop the desired international framework efficiently and effectively. Efforts will be made to highlight both potential obstacles and solutions to the proposed elements. The end result of the Task Force's work will be a concise statement of principles and objectives to guide international negotiations toward a post-Kyoto agreement on climate change, particularly within the desired, accelerated timetable, well before the treaty's expiration in 2012.

A review of the results of this process and the outcome of the Gleneagles Dialogue meeting in September 2007 will guide the task force in charting a course for 2008 with a focus on the G-8 Summit and the final meeting of the Gleneagles Dialogue in Japan in 2008.

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