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UNFCCC CoP 13 Announcement

Launch of Public-Private Sector Working Group on The Promotion of Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Measures in the Agricultural, Rural and Land Use Sectors

Rome 2007 Initiative on Sustainable Growth - Investing in Emissions Reduction and Rural Development –

The latest figures from the IPCC indicate that the agricultural and forestry sectors account for 13.5% and 17.4% respectively towards the total global greenhouse gas emissions in 2004 with emissions from land use, land-use change and forestry rising by 40% between 1970 and 2004 and the emissions from agricultural activities growing by 27% between 1970 and 1990. According to UNDP 262 million people were affected by climate disasters annually from 2000 to 2004, over 98 percent of them in the developing world. More than 2 billion people worldwide currently have no access to efficient energy supplies, the majority of these living in rural areas.

In order to identify, develop and implement mitigation and adaptation measures in the agricultural, rural and land use sectors at the necessary scale, collaboration between all stakeholders, including international organisations and the private sector is necessary to combine skills and expertise, technologies and resources. The Rome-based UN agencies (FAO, Global Mechanism, IFAD and WFP), which constitute a nucleus and centre of excellence with regards to rural development, have teamed up with major private sector players and financial institutions concerned with climate change issues to initiate first activities and steps.

The financial and private sector, in addition to other concerned stakeholders such as NGOs and research institutions that are also needed, is a major partner that can also act as driver of development through the provision of state of the art technology, finance solutions, and adopting corporate social responsibility measures. The private sector is also particularly asked and needed when addressing and linking climate change aspects with rural energy needs.

A working group was launched as a result of an expert dialogue on 'Investing in Emissions Reduction and Rural Development' which took place in Rome on 14 November 2007 in conjunction with the World Energy Congress. The working group consists of representatives from the following organisations: FAO, The Global Mechanism, IFAD and WFP, CarbonRe/Global Sustainable Development Project, EcoMethane, Japan Carbon Finance and EcoSecurities as well as the European Investment Bank.

Further meetings are planned throughout 2008 to work on the further development of a facilitation platform and mechanisms for identifying, developing and implementing climate change mitigation and adaptation projects and programmes that support rural development, rural energy needs and sustainable land management.

A number of organisations have expressed an interest in the initiative: Bayer CropScience, BP Biofuels, Environmental Defense, Forest Re, Generation Investment Management, HSBC, RAG, Rio Tinto, Shell, Shell Foundation, Syngenta and the UNFCCC Secretariat (as an observer).

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