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Environment ministers pledge to strengthen fight against climate change – UN



26 February 2010 – Governments reached a landmark agreement today to boost the global response to the impact of climate change at the close of a United Nations Environment Programme (**UNEP**) gathering in Indonesia.

The wide-ranging agreement, known as the Nusa Dua Declaration, underscores the vital importance of biodiversity, the urgent need to combat climate change and work towards a positive outcome for the UN climate conference in Mexico later this year and advantages gained from advancing towards a 'green economy.'

"The ministers responsible for the environment, meeting just over a month after the climate change conference in Copenhagen, have spoken with a clear, united and unequivocal voice," said UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner.

The Copenhagen Accord, reached at December's UN conference in the Danish capital, aims to jump-start immediate action on climate change and guide negotiations on long-term action pledging to raise \$100 billion annually by 2020. It also includes an agreement to working towards limiting global temperature rise to below 2 degrees Celsius and efforts to reduce or limit emissions.

Mr. Steiner **said** that faced with challenges posed by the erosion of the environment to chemical pollution and climate change in general, environment ministers decided change was urgently needed.

"The ministers also recognized that action towards a 'green economy' – one able to meet multiple challenges and seize multiple opportunities – is taking route in economies across

the globe," he said at the annual session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Forum, held in Nusa Dua, Bali, this year.

"Accelerating this is a key element of the Nusa Dua Declaration and one that can direct future action towards realizing the kinds of transitions needed on a planet of 6 billion people, rising to 9 billion by 2050," Mr. Steiner added.

The meeting was attended by some 1,000 participants from 130 countries, including nearly 100 environmental affairs ministers.

The Declaration, the first by world environment ministers since they met in Malmö, Sweden in 2000, will be transmitted to the UN General Assembly later this year.

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