

Climate Change as a Global Challenge Thematic Debate of the General Assembly

31 July - 1 August 2007

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The UN General Assembly will hold an informal thematic debate on climate change as a global challenge at UN Headquarters in New York on 31 July and 1 August 2007. The debate will focus on latest scientific assessments, adaptation and mitigation as the two components of a global response, the role of the private sector and the possible next steps in the multilateral process.

"Climate change, and how we address it, will define us, our era and ultimately the global legacy we leave for future generations. It is time for new thinking, and a new inclusiveness.... The United Nations is a big part of the solution, and I will do all I can to ensure we play our role to the full".

Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary-General

The most recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports in 2007 have brought about a deeper understanding of the issue and a sense of urgency for collective efforts of the international community. Developing countries, which have limited resources, will be the most affected by this environmental problem. Scientists are certain that "warming of the climate system is unequivocal" and most of the changes is due to human activity.

Climate change has become a main priority for the United Nations and its specialized agencies. The UN system is working to bring countries together to develop a global approach to address the problem. Member States, civil society and the private sector have launched many initiatives. The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change offers an institutional framework within which a global solution can be achieved.

The UN Chronicle highlights the importance of climate change with its special issue titled Green Our World! Below are links to articles appearing in this special issue, as well as climate change-related UN Chronicle web stories.

UN Chronicle, Issue 2, 2007, Green Our World

<http://www.un.org/Pubs/chronicle/2007/issue2/0207cont.htm>

Issue 2, 2007 Articles:

- Now Is the Time: We Must Find a Global Response to This Most Global of Problems
Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon
<http://www.un.org/Pubs/chronicle/2007/issue2/0207p04.htm>
- Consolidating Political Will we need a New Vision of Sustainability
By Helen Clark, Prime Minister of New Zealand
<http://www.un.org/Pubs/chronicle/2007/issue2/0207p14.htm>
- Confronting Climate Change: A Shared and Global Responsibility
By Portia Simpson Miller, Prime Minister of Jamaica
<http://www.un.org/Pubs/chronicle/2007/issue2/0207p16.htm>
- A Threat to Our Human Rights: Tuvalu's Perspective on Climate Change
By Apisai Ielemia, Prime Minister of Tuvalu
<http://www.un.org/Pubs/chronicle/2007/issue2/0207p18.htm>
- Guiding Principles Needed Towards a Global Strategy for Climate Change
By Kiyo Akasaka, UN Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information
<http://www.un.org/Pubs/chronicle/2007/issue2/0207p22.htm>
- From Stockholm to Kyoto: A Brief History of Climate Change
By Peter Jackson
<http://www.un.org/Pubs/chronicle/2007/issue2/0207p06.htm>

To read more of UN Chronicle Issue 2, 2007 articles, please click:

<http://www.un.org/Pubs/chronicle/2007/issue2/0207cont.htm>

Web Stories:

- 9 July, 2007
[Saving Least Developed Countries from Disastrous Effects of Climate Change](#)
By Sana Aftab Khan
- 3 July, 2007
[Rethinking Policies to Cope with Desertification](#)
By Theresa Mutter
- 27 June, 2007
[Reducing Environmental Risks Could Save 13 Million Lives Globally](#)
By Yuwei Zhang
- 19 June, 2007
[Environment is Hot Topic for Youth](#)
By Theresa Mutter
- 5 June, 2007
[Global Warming Threatens Traditions of Indigenous Peoples](#)
By Yuwei Zhang
- 21 March, 2007
['Constructive Outcome' at Climate Change Meeting](#)
By Jonas Hagen

LINKS TO RELATED RESOURCES

- Thematic Debate of the General Assembly - "Climate Change As a Global Challenge"
<http://www.un.org/ga/president/61/follow-up/thematic-climate.shtml>
- IPCC Reports - Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
<http://www.ipcc.ch/>
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
<http://www.unfccc.int>
- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
<http://www.unccd.int/>
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
<http://www.unep.org/>