



DAG HAMMARSKJÖLD FOUNDATION



UN-OHRLS



## CONCEPT NOTE

### **Countering Climate Change Vulnerability: Obligations and Opportunities in Implementing a post-2012 Agreement**

*A seminar with focus on the Least Developed Countries, the Landlocked Developing Countries and the Small Island Developing States for Permanent Representatives to the United Nations in New York*

Nearly 100 countries with a total population of 1 billion are particularly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change although their own emissions account for less than 5 per cent of global emissions. These countries have long played an active role in the international climate negotiations and have a strong interest in securing a positive outcome at the UN Conference in Copenhagen in December 2009.

A global agreement on climate change entails obligations and opportunities for all member states. Negotiators and implementers of the agreement will want to have equal access to relevant and reliable information on issues which affect their own ability to counter climate change.

The proposed seminar takes place a few days before the High-level Event on Climate Change on 22 September at UN Headquarters. The objective of the High-level Event is “to lay a strong and necessary foundation of trust among leaders”, by providing “a platform for Heads of State and Government to consider the key political issues to be addressed during negotiations leading up to success in Copenhagen.”

The goal of the proposed seminar is to provide a forum for participants to gain updated and relevant knowledge to help them further develop well-informed positions in forthcoming climate change and development negotiations. Special attention will be given to Financing in the Climate Change Regime and Technology Transfer for Adaptation.

The seminar will give specific and relevant information on the current status of climate change negotiations. Links will be made to climate discussions of the G8, G20 and Major Economies Forum, the Pacific Island States, the Alliance of Small Island States, African Union, CARICOM and other groups.

The moderated seminar will be interactive and provide time for questions and answers around key issues to be resolved before Copenhagen. Permanent Representatives will have a timely opportunity to identify priorities of interest to their leaders in advance of the High-level Event on Climate Change on 22 September. Seminar participants will receive a set of background materials from DHF and IIED, including papers contributed by E3G, FIELD and Climate Analytics on issues such as financing and adaptation.

Mr. Janos Pasztor, Director of the Secretary-General's Climate Change Support Team has been asked to brief the seminar on preparations for the High-level Event . Dr. Saleemul Huq, Director of the Climate Change Program at the International Institute of Environment and Development (IIED) will be responsible for the main substantive session. Ambassador (ret.) Bo Kjellén, Swedish Environment Institute (SEI), has been invited to moderate the seminar (tbc) and Dr. Fiona Rotberg of Monitoring and Evaluation Consultants to oversee the compilation of seminar materials.

The New York seminar is largely based on a successful Dialogue Workshop: “Setting the Agenda for Urgent Action to Address Climate and Development Challenges“ hosted by the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation in Sweden earlier this summer. The workshop was conceived at the initiative and request of participating African ambassadors to Sweden who will be involved in the Copenhagen Conference. The evaluation of the workshop scored very highly and it was suggested that diplomatic colleagues in New York would likely appreciate a similar event.