



## COMMISSION ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT



[www.ccdcommission.org](http://www.ccdcommission.org)

### Adapting to Climate Change Must Start Now

Climate change already affects us all, but developing countries are particularly exposed to its impacts: droughts, floods and wind storms as well as longer term changes in ecosystems. The effects of climate change are already threatening the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. By integrating risk reduction and adaptation to climate change in the development agenda, it is possible to make a difference. But we must start now.

### The Challenge

Greenhouse gases (GHG) are changing the climate. International negotiations have focused on reducing their concentration in the atmosphere – with little success thus far. Although all efforts must continue to agree on and implement GHG limitation activities, this work cannot blind governments to the need to begin to adapt to changing climate systems right now. The poorest countries in the tropics are being and will be hardest hit.

### The Commission

With this urgent need in mind, the Swedish Government decided to contribute to international efforts in adaptation and risk reduction by launching the international Commission on Climate Change and Development. Its expertise in development, disaster risk reduction and climate change can help identify ways forward. The Commission's work complements processes already under way within the UN, the OECD and the EU. It seeks active cooperation and dialogue with other actors in this field.

### The Commission's Focus

At its first meeting in February 2008 the Commission decided to focus on the crucial but contentious challenges surrounding adaptation within a context of the human impacts, the views and rights of the poor, and the links between adaptation and mitigation. It will concentrate on the issues of social protection, how households and communities cope, food security, and ecosystem services. It will look at the need for new resources, and who will provide them. And it will deal with the chaotic

“institutional architecture” that has grown up around adaptation, disasters and climate change. It will propose ways to integrate risk reduction and adaptation to climate change into the development and poverty reduction plans of poor countries. It will also present proposals on how to design development cooperation programs that take account of climate impacts and the risk of disasters.

### Objectives

The Commissioners will work with experts and other bodies as needed to:

- ▶ Identify incentives to encourage poor countries to undertake risk-reduction and climate-proofing measures and to increase awareness of the need to integrate these measures into development and poverty-reduction strategies.
- ▶ Find ways to combine long-term work on mitigation with the immediate need for adaptive measures in developing countries.
- ▶ Identify guidelines for international development cooperation in adaptation and risk reduction, taking account of local and national perspectives in developing countries.
- ▶ Seek policy coherence by integrating concerns for climate change into wider development efforts.

### Other Tasks

- Assess the role and importance of ecosystems in disaster prevention and devise strategies to strengthen their capacity to meet climate change.
- Give special attention to the dangers that slum dwellers are exposed to and identify solutions to reduce their vulnerability.
- Give priority to slow disasters such as droughts and chronic instability stemming from water scarcity.
- Assess how risk management mechanisms in the insurance industry might be used for risk reduction and adaptive measures in developing countries.

### The Commissioners

The Commission gathers 13 renowned individuals and is probably unique in its international character and balanced composition. It is chaired by the Swedish Minister for International Development Cooperation, Ms Gunilla Carlsson. Its members participate in their personal capac-

ity and will bring a range of experiences from different regions and disciplines. The Commission can thus be innovative and connect policy makers and organizations around the world.

Gunilla Carlsson, Swedish Minister for International Development Cooperation, chairs the Commission. The other members are:

**Wangari Maathai** (Kenya)

Professor, Founder of the Green Belt Movement

**Sun Honglie** (China)

Professor, Head of the China Climate Change Expert Committee, Chinese Academy of Sciences

**Nanna Hvidt** (Denmark)

Director of the Danish Institute for International Studies

**Angela Cropper** (Trinidad and Tobago)

Deputy Executive Director for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

**Jacques Aigrain** (France-Switzerland)

CEO Swiss Re

**Mohamed El-Ashry** (Egypt)

Senior Fellow UN Foundation

**Sunita Narain** (India)

Director of the Centre for Science and Environment

**Jonathan Lash** (USA)

President of the World Resources Institute

**Ian Johnson** (UK)

Chairman of IDEAcarbon

**Bernard Petit** (France)

Deputy Director-General of the Directorate-General for Development, EU Commission

**Margareta Wahlström** (Sweden)

Former Assistant Secretary-General UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

**Youba Sokona** (Mali)

Executive Secretary of the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS)

### Commission meetings

The Commission will gather four to five times over a period of 15 months. Following the Stockholm meeting, the Commission planned to meet in Cambodia 11–13 May and in Mali 28–30 October, 2008. These two countries are on the front line of climate change, for different reasons, and will allow the Commissioners to gain first-hand insights. Commissioners will also participate in relevant international conferences, seminars and hearings.

### Commission Website

Those interested can find contact information and learn more about the work of the Commission through its website ([www.ccdcommission.org](http://www.ccdcommission.org)), which offers briefing papers from experts, a calendar of events, publications, media reports and links to other relevant organizations.

### Commission Financing

The Commission is established and financed by the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs but will work as an independent body. The Swedish government has allocated 17.8 million SEK for this purpose.

### Commission Secretariat

A secretariat under the Ministry for Foreign Affairs is located at the Stockholm Environment Institute. Johan Schaar, former Special Representative for the Tsunami Operation at the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, heads the secretariat. Anders Wijkman, Member of the European Parliament, chairs the Commission's expert group, consisting of researchers and advisors from a range of institutes and organizations.

### Results

The Commission will disseminate its findings throughout its lifetime. Its final report is intended to serve as an input to discussions between donor and developing countries on how to integrate adaptation to climate change into development efforts. The results will be presented in the spring of 2009, ahead of the meeting on a new global framework to climate change (post Kyoto) in Copenhagen in December 2009.



PHOTO: PATRICK MILLER

### The Commission in brief

- The initiative was taken by the Swedish Government in autumn 2007 and presented to the UN General Assembly.
- The Commission has 13 members and is chaired by the Swedish Minister for International Development Cooperation, Ms Gunilla Carlsson.
- The Commission has a broad mandate, but its work will focus on exploring the link between adaptation to climate change and development.
- The Commission will meet 4–5 times in different countries until it delivers a final report in the spring 2009.