



Annual meeting of the Environment Management Group
Hosted by the World Health Organization at its Headquarters
Geneva, 8 October 2007
9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

Statement on a climate-neutral UN

Note by the EMG Secretariat

Draft text of a statement on a climate-neutral UN for consideration by the Chief Executives Board for Coordination at its meeting on 26 October 2007

Joint Statement by the Secretary-General of the UN and the Heads of UN agencies

We, the Heads of the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, hereby **commit ourselves to moving our respective organizations towards climate neutrality** in our headquarters and UN centres for all of our facilities operations and travel, recognizing that some of our organizations have already made great strides to achieve carbon neutrality.

We make this commitment as part of a **broader engagement to integrate the principles of sustainable development into our daily work routines and activities.**

We therefore commit to making our facilities operations and travel increasingly **climate friendly** by:

- **Estimating our greenhouse gas emissions** in a manner consistent with accepted international standards;
- Undertaking efforts to **reduce our greenhouse gas emissions** to the greatest extent that we can;
- **Analyzing the cost implications and budgetary modalities of purchasing carbon offsets** to eventually reach climate neutrality.

Those of us who are already able to go further and commit to achieving the goal of **climate neutrality in our facilities operations and travel**, hereby agree to:

- **Estimate and report in the public domain our greenhouse gas inventories**, on an annual basis and according to internationally accepted standards;
- Undertake, consistent with the goals set forth herein, efforts **to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions**, and set criteria for assessing our progress over time;



- **Offset the remaining greenhouse gas emissions** arising from our facilities operations and travel through the purchase of offsets that meet high international standards of additionality, transparency and verification;
- Continue to maintain or appoint senior officials in our organizations responsible for **developing and implementing organization-wide strategies** and related administrative decisions with regard to achieving climate neutrality.

Conscious that our responsibilities in the field of environment require that we set an example for others through sustainable management practices, **we support, through the EMG, the further development and implementation of collective action needed for greening the UN**; for monitoring our collective efforts; and for reporting back on progress and difficulties encountered in achieving increasingly climate-friendly operations.

Recognizing the **special situation of those of us involved in humanitarian activities**, where the possible additional costs of climate-neutrality may result in fewer resources being available for saving lives, or healing sickness, we request the EMG to make a **special effort to identify additional financial resources for such purposes**.

We agree further to **limit the other negative environmental impacts** of our office activities to the extent we can, including through:

- Setting environmental objectives and monitoring our progress towards achieving them;
- Continuously improving our environmental performance and encouraging our vendors and the providers of building services to do the same;
- Factoring environmental concerns into our main activities and products;
- Reducing the use of paper and of water, the generation of wastes and the emission of hazardous substances, and promoting the separation and recycling of wastes;
- Publicizing the results of these efforts regularly in order to ensure transparency and to inspire others.

Finally, we note with appreciation that UNEP, as the lead agency supporting this EMG project, is putting in place an **advisory support facility**, which will be a resource for all of us in achieving the goals and aspirations described above.
