



UN Climate Neutral Strategy



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"... as we mark World Environment Day today, I would like to make a public commitment, as the Organization's direct contribution to global efforts to safeguard our planet and climate ..." -- 5 June 2007



Greening the UN

- Urgency to protect the environment
- Walk the talk
- Lead by example
- UN Secretary General 5 June statement and 9 July letters, Capital Master Plan
- I-see page on – staff initiatives
- Chief Executives Board decision
- Carbon-neutral events: SG High-level event; UNECE Belgrade Ministerial; ILO; Bali and more



EMG process on C-Neutral

- **Washington, D.C., June 2007**
 - IMG on a Climate Neutral UN
 - IMG technical “network”
- **Outcome:**
 - UN Climate Neutral Strategy (EMG Oct 2007)
 - Decision to move the UN towards climate neutrality (CEB Oct 2007)



Decision by the CEB

- «...moving towards climate neutrality...with a view to achieving the goal of climate neutrality at a later date »
- By 2009:
- Estimate GHG emissions
- Undertake efforts to reduce
- Analyze cost implications and budget modalities
- Further develop the UN system-wide strategy
- Monitoring and reporting on progress



Climate neutrality in context

- Climate neutrality in the UN should be part of broader UN strategy on sustainable operations management
- Separate policies on: procurement, waste management, paper use, recycling, sustainable procurement
- Climate neutrality versus carbon neutrality



What defines an organization's climate neutrality?

- The entire set of policies that the organization adopts to:
 - Estimate emissions
 - Take steps to reduce the emissions
 - Choice of offsets to « neutralize » the remaining emissions



Why a common approach?

- Joint setting of highest standards across the UN system – harmonization benefits
- Comparability, transparency, consistency
- Develop common tools – Excel reporting sheets
- Pool technical expertise
- Cost savings - economies of scale, transactions costs



Ensuring the approach is environmentally credible

- Calculate greenhouse gas inventory: agreed methodologies, credible boundary, external certification, public domain
- Commitment to reducing emissions: comprehensive strategy and programme, targets, public domain
- Highest quality in offsets: additionality, transparency, verified, certified, and more



Setting the boundary (I)

- GHG Protocol of the WRI / WBCSD
- Types of boundary: Organizational, geographical, other
- Common set of principles: e.g. travel to include all tickets purchased by the organization
- Some flexibility for each organization



Setting the boundary (II)

- Management decisions (excludes commuting)
- Accounting system of the organization
- Flexibility:
 - Impacts of meetings (e.g. travel tickets not purchased by UN, waste, hotels)
 - Emissions from courier, mail, waste



Setting the boundary (III)

- Limitations: data, staff and time
 - Identifying data owners
 - Setting up data collection and reporting systems
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- Use of estimates and proxies
 - Coverage: big sources first
 - Document data gaps



GHG Inventory

- Main greenhouse gas sources are typically:
 - Electricity purchased and generated
 - Air transport from UN-purchased tickets
 - Official vehicles
 - HFCs from A/C
- Areas for cooperation:
 - Shared office space – focal point
 - Meetings GHG calculator (UNEP / ICLEI)



Emissions reductions

- Essential step for environmental credibility
- Air travel
- Energy consumption
- UNEP Sustainable United Nations facility (SUN) (Day 2)



Offsetting remaining emissions

- Criteria to ensure environmental credibility
- CERs from the CDM (CEB decision)
- Budgetary issues
- Joint activities approach across UN?
 - Admin rules / tendering procedure
 - Choice of offsets
 - Purchase



Further work for IMG

- Pending methodological issues on inventories and boundary
- Offsets (Day 3)

