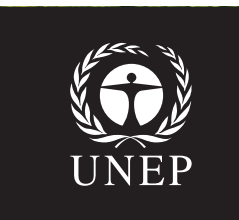




READY, WILLING AND ABLE

Empowering countries to meet the
climate challenge



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FOREWORD



Around the world, national, regional and local governments, businesses and civil society are demonstrating just how far and how fast some sectors of society can make the transition to a climate-resilient, low-carbon future and building the green economies of the 21st century. From the green mortgages in Mexico and the feed-in tariffs in Kenya, to the private sector investments in the renewable energy industry that have again set records in 2010, the examples of a major shift are all around us. These initiatives not only need to be scaled up but also be scaled up fast.

Thanks to the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and thousands of scientists, the world recognizes the urgency of the climate challenge. The risks of unabated climate change are well documented and its impacts are already affecting people and ecosystems. However, emissions are still on the rise and pledges of future action fall short of what science suggests is necessary. As has been shown again this year by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and climate

modelers, a significant emissions gap exists between what is promised by countries and what is needed to stay on track with the 2 degree target.

The fight of each country against climate change cannot be owned or driven from the outside. Countries and their people have to be authors of climate actions taking place on their territory as part of their development process. However, some countries, in particular developing countries are facing a lack of human, organizational, institutional, scientific, technological, or resource capacities to develop their own comprehensive response to climate change.

Both within and outside of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process, confronting climate change requires new and increased capacities. Capacity to monitor and assess the changing climate and its potential impacts on people and ecosystems. Capacity to plan for and to integrate climate change into development strategies and plans. Increased capacity to take advantage

of and remove barriers to investments in climate resilience, clean technologies and low-carbon growth. And capacities to learn quickly from it all, to report not only back into the global UNFCCC process, but to share with other countries moving along similar pathways.

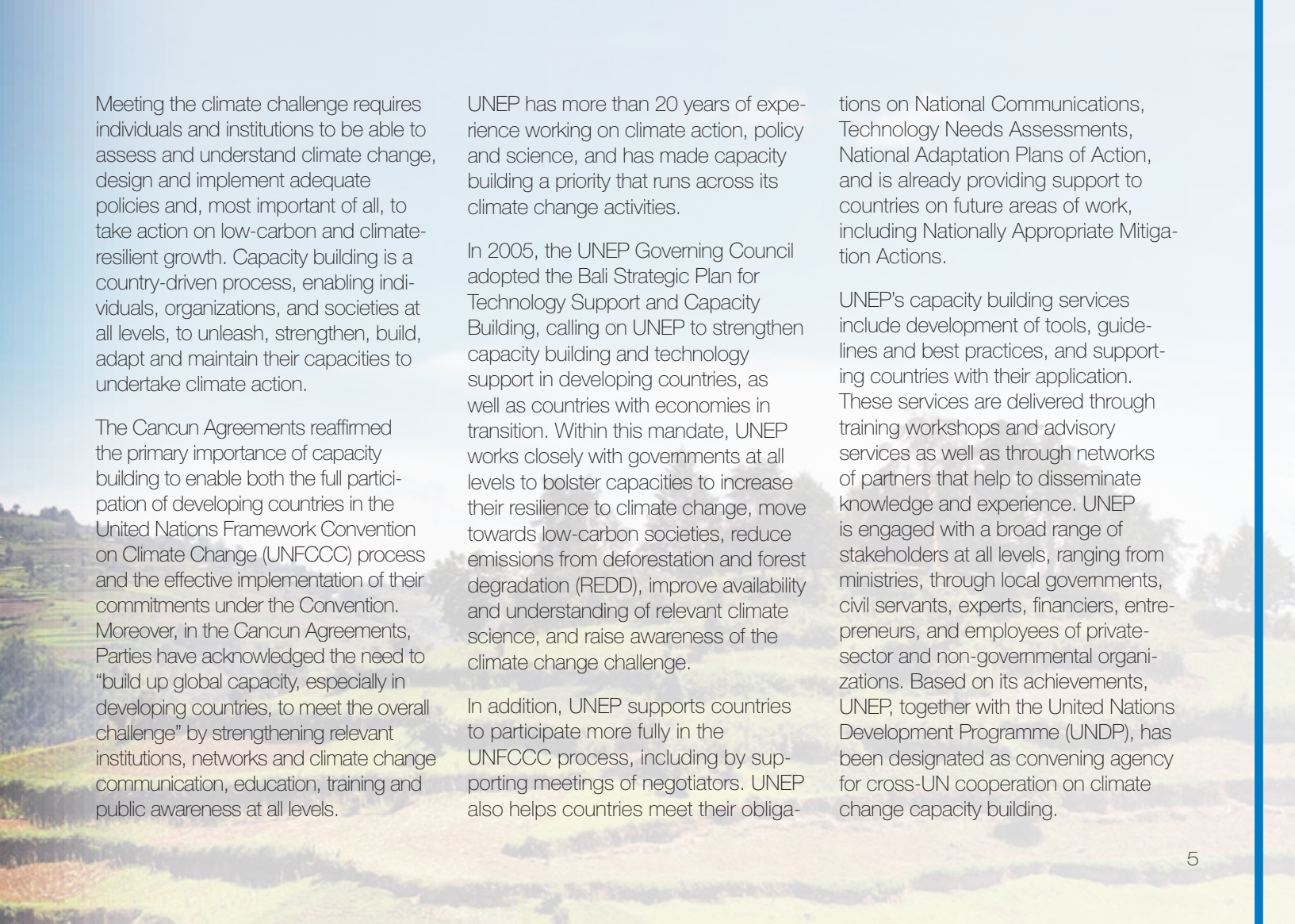
UNEP's *Ready, Willing and Able*, shows that across the world, in many ways, solutions are available to support countries in overcoming obstacles and empowering themselves to meet the climate challenge.

Actions have been taken by the international community to support the development of capacities and every country and organization have their own success stories. UNEP and our partners will continue to work to ensure that no country is left behind, and that all are equipped to participate in the transition toward low-carbon, climate-resilient societies that have the opportunity to be part of a Green Economy.

Achim Steiner
UN Under-Secretary General and
UNEP Executive Director

EMPOWERING COUNTRIES TO MEET THE CLIMATE CHALLENGE





Meeting the climate challenge requires individuals and institutions to be able to assess and understand climate change, design and implement adequate policies and, most important of all, to take action on low-carbon and climate-resilient growth. Capacity building is a country-driven process, enabling individuals, organizations, and societies at all levels, to unleash, strengthen, build, adapt and maintain their capacities to undertake climate action.

The Cancun Agreements reaffirmed the primary importance of capacity building to enable both the full participation of developing countries in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process and the effective implementation of their commitments under the Convention. Moreover, in the Cancun Agreements, Parties have acknowledged the need to “build up global capacity, especially in developing countries, to meet the overall challenge” by strengthening relevant institutions, networks and climate change communication, education, training and public awareness at all levels.

UNEP has more than 20 years of experience working on climate action, policy and science, and has made capacity building a priority that runs across its climate change activities.

In 2005, the UNEP Governing Council adopted the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building, calling on UNEP to strengthen capacity building and technology support in developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition. Within this mandate, UNEP works closely with governments at all levels to bolster capacities to increase their resilience to climate change, move towards low-carbon societies, reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD), improve availability and understanding of relevant climate science, and raise awareness of the climate change challenge.

In addition, UNEP supports countries to participate more fully in the UNFCCC process, including by supporting meetings of negotiators. UNEP also helps countries meet their obliga-

tions on National Communications, Technology Needs Assessments, National Adaptation Plans of Action, and is already providing support to countries on future areas of work, including Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions.

UNEP’s capacity building services include development of tools, guidelines and best practices, and supporting countries with their application. These services are delivered through training workshops and advisory services as well as through networks of partners that help to disseminate knowledge and experience. UNEP is engaged with a broad range of stakeholders at all levels, ranging from ministries, through local governments, civil servants, experts, financiers, entrepreneurs, and employees of private-sector and non-governmental organizations. Based on its achievements, UNEP, together with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), has been designated as convening agency for cross-UN cooperation on climate change capacity building.



BOOSTING THE UPTAKE OF LOW-CARBON TECHNOLOGIES

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