

REFERENCES TO OTHER TOPICS

Report of the UN Secretary-General on Climate Change

As there are so many ongoing activities in this field, it is well received that in relation to the follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit; the Report of the Secretary-General: "Overview of United Nations activities in relation to climate change" was released as document: A/62/644. For the full text go to: <http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N08/204/46/PDF/N0820446.pdf?OpenElement>. (ATL)

New Tool for Climate Change Policymakers

A knowledge management website and electronic newsletter has been launched to provide information to decision-makers on the actions of international organizations in responding to global climate change. At this location, users can find the most up-to-date information on climate-related actions throughout the international community and the latest information on United Nations activities. The CLIMATE-L.ORG Project can be accessed at <http://www.climate-l.org>. (ATL)

ITLOS Elections

The 18th Meeting of the States Parties to UNCLOS elected seven members of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea on 13 June for a term of nine years. Among those seven members, Judge Rüdiger Wolfrum (Germany), Judge Joseph Akl (Lebanon), Judge P. Chandrasekhara Rao (India), and Judge José Luis Jesus (Cape Verde) were re-elected, and Boualem Bouguetaia (Algeria) and Vladimir Vladimirovich Golitsyn were newly elected. A full list and curricula vitae of candidates nominated for this election are online at: <http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N08/274/31/PDF/N0827431.pdf?OpenElement>. (ATL)

Emissions Bill Pulled from US Senate Floor

Demonstrating the ongoing divide in the US Senate, a bill seeking to reduce American emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases by nearly 70% by 2050 was withdrawn by the Democratic leadership when only 48 senators voted to prevent a threatened Republican filibuster. Citing terrible timing, lack of discussion on its potential economic impact and the addition of last minute amendments, many senators were unwilling to invest vital political capital to ensure the three-fifths majority needed to pass the bill. The Lieberman-Warner Climate Security Act of 2008 had been introduced as the core of a new federal program that could avert catastrophic global climate change while enhancing America's energy security. The bill, as introduced on 20 May, 2008 can be viewed online at: <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/D?c110:4:/temp/~c110wetK24>. (ATL)

Switzerland: Party to UNCLOS

Having waited for a large proportion of important industrial States to join the Convention, the Swiss Federal Council decided in May to accede to UNCLOS and passed the relevant declaration allowing national legislation to follow suit. Reasons for joining the Convention are not only Switzerland's dependence on international trade, free passage of its small fleet, and the freedom of overflight above the seas, but also the future supply of raw materials, such as minerals from the seafloor. Furthermore, environmental conservation and aspects of international dispute resolution were a deciding factor in joining.

OECD: Ministerial Declaration

Ministers of OECD countries adopted a declaration on "Policy Coherence for Development" on 4 June. Recalling that successful poverty reduction requires mutually supportive policies across issues, they stressed the importance of policy coherence in achieving internationally-agreed principles including the Millennium Development Goals. The declaration is online at: [http://www.oilis.oecd.org/oilis/2008doc.nsf/LinkTo/NT000032CA/\\$FILE/JT03247171.PDF](http://www.oilis.oecd.org/oilis/2008doc.nsf/LinkTo/NT000032CA/$FILE/JT03247171.PDF). (ATL)

G-8 Environment Ministers

Meeting in Kobe to discuss further activities to achieve the 2010 biodiversity target, G-8 Environment Ministers adopted the

Kobe Call for Action for biodiversity. Japan will host the 10th COP of the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2010, which has also been declared the International Year of Biodiversity. The full text of the Call for Action is online at: <http://www.env.go.jp/en/focus/attach/080610-a3.pdf>. (ATL)

EU:

– Water Pollution Measures

The use of 33 pollutants – mainly pesticides and heavy metals – found in rivers, lakes and coastal waters must cease or be phased-out by 2018 in EU Member States. Voting 673 in favour, 10 against and 5 abstentions, the EP adopted legislation to curtail the concentration of "priority hazardous substances" in water systems. The directive, which will enter into force in 2010 is available in full text at: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=TA&language=EN&reference=P6-TA-2008-0283#BKMD-23>. (ATL)

– Waste Legislation

New waste legislation including re-use and recycling of waste has been approved with binding 2020 targets by MEPs. Agreed to after a second reading, the directive sets out rules on recycling and requires Member States to draw-up binding national programmes for waste prevention. The Resolution can be accessed online at: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=TA&language=EN&reference=P6-TA-2008-0282>. (ATL)



Courtesy: EP News

Turkey: Acceding to Kyoto Protocol

The Commission on the Environment of the Turkish Grand National Assembly approved a draft law that enables Turkey's accession to the Kyoto Protocol on 11 June. The decision is considered a significant step toward the adoption by parliament and presentation of the law to the President. If the process is implemented at its current pace, it is expected that Turkey will participate as an official Party to the Protocol at the 14th COP of the UNFCCC and 4th MOP of the Kyoto Protocol in Poznan, Poland from 1–12 December 2008.

African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN)

The 12th session of AMCEN took place from 7 to 12 June in Johannesburg. Decisions adopted included focus on: implementation of the Action Plan of the Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development; climate change, including Africa's preparations for developing a common position for negotiating an international climate change regime beyond 2012; AMCEN's Constitution; and chemicals and hazardous waste management. The draft report of the ministerial segment including the draft AMCEN Johannesburg Declaration on the Environment for Sustainable Development is accessible online at: <http://www.environment.gov.za/HotIssues/2008/AMCEN/docs/MinSegment.doc>. (ATL)

