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## PRESS RELEASE

### Governments ready to ratify Kyoto Protocol

Marrakech, 10 November 2001 – Parties to the UN Climate Change Convention have finalized the operational details of the Kyoto Protocol, opening the way to widespread ratification by governments and the Protocol's early entry into force.

“After several years of tough negotiation, the institutions and detailed procedures of the Kyoto Protocol are now in place. The next step is to test their effectiveness in overseeing the five-percent cut in greenhouse gas emissions by developed countries over the next decade,” said Michael Zammit Cutajar, the Convention's Executive Secretary.

“We have also made important progress on strengthening the flow of financial and technological support to developing countries so that they can move towards a sustainable energy future. The Marrakech results send a clear signal to business, local governments and the general public that climate-friendly products, services, and activities will be rewarded by consumers and national policies alike,” said Mr. Zammit Cutajar, who after 10 years in his post will be stepping down at yearend.

The meeting also adopted the Marrakech Ministerial Declaration as an input into next September's World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. The Declaration emphasizes the contribution that action on climate change can make to sustainable development and calls for capacity building, technology innovation, and cooperation with the biodiversity and desertification conventions.

The finalized Kyoto rulebook specifies how to measure emissions and reductions, the extent to which carbon dioxide absorbed by carbon sinks can be counted towards the Kyoto targets, how the joint implementation and emissions trading systems will work, and the rules for ensuring compliance with commitments.

Symbolizing the transition now being made to an operational Kyoto regime, the conference also elected 15 members to the Executive Board of the Clean Development Mechanism. This will ensure a prompt start to the CDM, whose mandate is to promote sustainable development by encouraging investments in projects in developing countries that reduce or avoid emissions; developed countries then receive credit against their Kyoto targets for emissions avoided by these projects.

The 1997 Kyoto Protocol will enter into force and become legally binding after it has been ratified by at least 55 Parties to the Convention, including industrialized countries representing at least 55% of the total 1990 carbon dioxide emissions from this group. So far, 40 countries have ratified, including one industrialized country (Romania). Many governments have called for the entry into force to take place in 2002.

The Marrakech conference, which is the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (COP 7), was attended by 171 governments and a total of some 4,500 participants. COP 8 will be held from 23 October to 1 November 2002; India has offered to be the host.

**Note to journalists:** For interviews with Mr. Zammit Cutajar contact Carine Richard-Van Maele at +41-22-9175816. For general information about the talks contact Michael Williams at +41-22-917-8242/244/196 or [mwilliams@unep.ch](mailto:mwilliams@unep.ch). Webcasts from the meeting, official documents and other information can be found at [www.unfccc.int](http://www.unfccc.int).