



PRESS RELEASE

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The Climate Group supports Tony Blair's new climate change initiative: *Breaking the Climate Deadlock*

Friday, 14 March 2008, TOKYO - Former UK Prime Minister, Tony Blair, has today announced a major new climate change initiative: *Breaking the Climate Deadlock - achieving a global deal on climate change*. The Climate Group - an independent, not-for-profit organisation working internationally with government and business leaders - is providing strategic international support for this new initiative. The announcement was made as the fourth and final Ministerial Meeting of the G8 Gleneagles Dialogue on Climate Change, Clean Energy and Sustainable Development, begins in Japan.

The focus of *Breaking the Climate Deadlock* will be on a set of key countries and regions fundamental to a successful global deal, including the USA, the European Union, Japan, India and China. To succeed, the initiative has to develop and gain major political support for a framework for an international agreement by 2009 and implementation strategies that will result in greenhouse gas emissions reductions consistent with the levels suggested as necessary by the scientific community.

There is a real risk that current governmental disagreements - both philosophical and practical - between and among developed and developing nations will delay achieving a comprehensive and effective long-term international agreement on how to deal with global climate change. Tony Blair has engaged The Climate Group to prepare reports, convene a political advisory and expert group and develop and implement an engagement strategy. The project's goal is to build widespread political and business support for a robust and ambitious international agreement that guarantees climate security while enabling countries to meet their economic, social and environmental goals.

Most importantly, *Breaking the Climate Deadlock* firmly supports the ongoing UN negotiations and leadership by the G8 and - rather than becoming a parallel process - seeks to add impetus to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It will inject a new political momentum in support of the formal G8 and UNFCCC processes designed to broker a new global climate deal.

Tony Blair, former UK Prime Minister, says: "It is the key long term challenge but the need for action is now. This is urgent. And it can't be done except by global action across the developed and developing world. The evidence is clear. The will to act is there to a greater degree than ever before. Now the imperative is to shape the framework for a global deal which includes all the major countries to let that be done. I'm delighted The Climate Group, who have such a strong reputation in the field, have assembled such a distinguished panel of experts to undertake this work."

Dr Steve Howard, CEO, The Climate Group, says: "We welcome Tony Blair's continued leadership on climate change, building on his bold move in first tabling climate change as an issue at Gleneagles. There is a window of opportunity, if we forge the right international agreement, for us to do the best deal for the planet and unlock an era of low carbon prosperity."

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Delivery of 'Breaking The Climate Deadlock'

Initially, the project will research and develop core propositions and principles that will underpin the foundations of a global deal, based on an understanding of the particular needs and aspirations of the key international players together with the firm belief that a low carbon economy is necessary to achieving them over the long term.

These principles will then be used to propose the key elements of a Global Deal, focusing particularly on concrete proposals on how to mobilise massive investment into the development, diffusion and deployment of the most effective low carbon solutions.

The project aims to work closely with key political and business leaders in US, Japan, EU, China and India (and others as appropriate) to build support for an international agreement that makes ambitious cuts in emissions while recognising their legitimate non-climate aspirations with the ultimate goal of a prosperous low carbon economy.

In June 2008, a report presenting the vision of this low carbon economy and core propositions of what is needed from a global agreement to achieve this - this will include key recommendations for the G8 meeting in Hokkaido in July. This will be followed by a second report in early 2009 that will detail the specific mechanisms required to support technology development, diffusion and deployment, adaptation and low carbon development.

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Accelerating a Global Deal

Climate change is not an environmental issue alone, it is deeply intertwined with other major economic, social and political issues.

The shift to a low carbon economy presents an enormous opportunity for rich and poor countries alike. Therefore, the issue is not a choice between national priorities, economic growth and fighting climate change but how to create an international framework - a Global Deal - capable of unleashing these opportunities and creating a low carbon economy that keeps emissions at a safe level, promotes sustainable economic growth and reduces vulnerability to climate change.

Such a Global Deal will only be possible if it is seen as fair and effective by all parties and responds to existing political, social and economic priorities.

To succeed, Mr Blair's initiative has to develop and gain major political support for a framework for an international agreement by 2009 and implementation strategies that will result in GHG emissions reductions consistent with the levels suggested as necessary by the scientific community. The focus will be on a set of key countries and regions fundamental to a successful global deal: including USA, EU, Japan, India and China.

The programme will research and analyse how the burden of responsibility prevent further build-up of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and how measures to reduce vulnerability and enhance adaptation to inevitable climate change should be implemented and funded.

Tony Blair's Leadership on Climate Change

Tony Blair was a leading advocate on the need to take the challenge of climate change seriously during his time as British Prime Minister. His Presidency of the G8 and EU Council of Ministers in 2005 focussed in large part on his goal of moving the international debate forward. He established the Gleneagles Dialogue and commissioned the Stern Review. He promoted domestic legislation to set effective emissions cuts and ensure that the UK met its Kyoto targets and continued to have economic growth.

Global leaders accept this and recognize that the period 2008-10 offers both a major challenge and a major opportunity for international climate policy to facilitate and drive tangible emission reductions globally.

Mr Blair has discussed this project with international leaders including UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon; UK Prime Minister, Gordon Brown; Germany's Chancellor, Angela Merkel; Prime Minister Fukuda of Japan; President of the European Commission Jose Manuel Barroso, and US President George W Bush, as well as others including many international business leaders. Tony Blair has already received widespread international support for *Breaking the Climate Deadlock*.

About The Climate Group

The Climate Group (www.theclimategroup.org) is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that works internationally with government and business leaders to advance climate change solutions and accelerate a low carbon economy. Its coalition of proactive leaders - from government, business and civil society - has demonstrated that emissions reductions, essential to slow climate change, can be achieved while boosting profitability and competitiveness. More companies, states, regions and cities around the world are realising there are significant economic as well as environmental advantages of taking decisive action now. The Climate Group was founded in 2004 and has offices in the UK, USA, China, India and Australia.

For further information please contact:

Tom Howard-Vyse on +44 (0)207 960 2991 or thoward-vyse@theclimategroup.org