



# PRESS RELEASE

## **Oslo agreement on fast-start climate finance 'historic' says UNDP's Helen Clark**

*Oslo, 27 May 2010* – The formation of an international partnership to expedite ‘fast-start’ finance for forest-related climate mitigation in developing countries was reached here today at a meeting hosted by the Government of Norway.

Under the agreement, a voluntary partnership among 58 donor and developing countries will see the investment of US \$4 billion over the next three years in projects to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide associated with forestry practices in developing countries. The agreement represents a major step towards the establishment of an international REDD+ mechanism (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries) under the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change).

“We at the UN fully recognize the historical significance of the conference and see the Partnership being advanced here as offering the first major fast start finance to flow to developing countries at this juncture in the climate negotiations, offering progress in an area which we know offers some of the quickest and most dramatic reductions in greenhouse gas emissions by reducing deforestation and forest degradation,” said UNDP Administrator Helen Clark in her address to the Oslo Climate and Forest Conference.

“This is critical, and we focus on it particularly this year as we review the MDGs and look at how we can speed up progress towards them. If we can get a win-win from Partnerships like REDD+ for development and for fighting climate change we truly are achieving multiple objectives.” she said.

The REDD+ mechanism – Reducing emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (including associated sustainable management of forests, conservation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks) – is an effort to create a financial value for the carbon stored in forests, offering incentives for developing countries to reduce emissions from forested lands and invest in low-emission, climate resilient development pathways.

The UN-REDD Programme, a collaborative partnership within the United Nations between UNDP, FAO and UNEP, seeks to support countries in preparing for a future REDD+ mechanism. Within the partnership, UNDP leads the activities on engagement of indigenous peoples and other forest-dependent communities, governance, livelihoods and coordinating national programmes.

**For more information on:**

- UN-REDD Programme: contact [Estelle.Fach@undp.org](mailto:Estelle.Fach@undp.org) of UNDP's REDD team in New York or visit [www.un-redd.org](http://www.un-redd.org).
- the REDD+ Partnership agreement (adopted Oslo, 27 May 2010): [www.oslocfc2010.no](http://www.oslocfc2010.no)
- UNDP Administrator Helen Clark's statement to the Oslo Climate and Forest Conference (webcast): <http://www.regjeringen.no/en/sub/Portal-Oslo-Climate-and-Forest-Conference/Media.html?id=601478>