



unitar

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

Press Release

“Climate Change Diplomacy, from Cancun to Durban”

An Open Dialogue with Her Excellency, **Ambassador Patricia Espinosa Cantellano**, the Secretary of Foreign Relations of Mexico and the President of the UN Conference on Climate Change COP16

Monday 28 February 2011, 15:00 – 16:30, Room XVI of the Palais des Nations, Geneva

Climate change is one of the greatest challenges of the 21st Century. These challenges pose both risks and opportunities for global societies. In order to mitigate these risks and maximise the respective opportunities, the UN climate change negotiations have become a crucial fora for international Parties to devise creative and viable solutions which are effective on a global scale. Essentially all governments must ensure that their greenhouse gas emissions are reduced, but how to do this whilst upholding and securing other government priorities like the economy, trade, development and human rights is the challenge that is in the hands of international diplomats and negotiators.

For some time, multilateral environmental negotiations have been held up by governments' complex and competing agendas, and multilateral consensus has been hard to find, such as at the UN Conference on Climate Change COP15 in Copenhagen, Denmark which took place in December 2009. However the climate change negotiations in Cancun, Mexico last December marked a turning point in the international climate change negotiation process.

In Cancun, Parties were able to agree upon a balanced outcome which made some important progress on areas such as climate finance, adaptation and mitigation commitments. We hence look forward to the continuation of this positive momentum throughout 2011, as we head towards COP17 which will take place in Durban, South Africa in December 2011.

The President of COP16, Her Excellency Ambassador Patricia Espinosa Cantellano, the Secretary of Foreign Relations of Mexico led delegates of the Parties to the UNFCCC to a successful outcome in Cancun, marking a dramatic step forward in the momentum of multilateral climate change negotiations post-COP15. President Espinosa will continue to work with Parties to achieve further progress on the Cancun agreements during her Presidency throughout 2011.

Postal Address: UNITAR - Palais des Nations CH-1211 Geneva 10 - Switzerland

Street Address: International Environment House 11-13 Chemin des Anémones CH-1219 Châteline - Geneva

T +41 22 917 8400 F +41 22 917 8047 www.unitar.org

Institut des Nations Unies pour la formation et la recherche

Instituto de las Naciones Unidas para Formación Profesional e Investigaciones



In this Open Dialogue event, President Espinosa will share her experiences and her views on what actions must be taken in the forthcoming months to ensure the continued success of the UN climate change negotiation process. Her Excellency Ambassador Espinosa will engage in an interactive discussion with the diplomatic community, after which she will respond to questions from the media.

This Open Dialogue event is organized by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) in cooperation with Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations in Geneva.

In order to attend this event, please register online at <http://www.unitar.org/event/ccd>.

For more information, please contact:

Ms. Akiko Perona, Communication and IT Support Section
United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
akiko.perona@unitar.org or +41 22 917 8362

United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

With over 41,000 beneficiaries in 2009-2010, UNITAR is a leading provider of short-term executive training to national and local government officials of Member States and representatives of civil society and the private sector from around the world. Aiming to become a centre of excellence for adult learning, UNITAR strives to respond to the growing demand from Member States, especially the least developed countries, for capacity development in the fields of Environment; Peace, Security and Diplomacy; and Governance.

For more information, please visit www.unitar.org