

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

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UNEP

ANNUAL REPORT

SEIZING THE GREEN OPPORTUNITY

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The Mission of the United Nations Environment Programme is to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.

* All dollar (\$) amounts refer to US dollars.

* The term 'one billion' in this report refers to one thousand million

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These icons appear throughout the report to indicate the six cross-cutting thematic priority areas identified for UNEP in its Medium-Term Strategy 2010-2013:



climate change



disasters and
conflicts



ecosystem
management



environmental
governance



harmful substances
and hazardous waste



resource efficiency
and sustainable
consumption and
production

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05

MESSAGE FROM THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL



INSTIGATED AND ARTICULATED BY UNEP, the latest research by leading economists tells us that a significant greening of the world economy can be achieved with as little as 1 per cent of global gross domestic product invested in clean technologies, renewable energy and the sustainable use of natural resources. From major economies such as China and the United States, to least developed countries such as Rwanda and Haiti, a green economy mindset is gaining traction. As the title of this Annual Report suggests, we must seize this opportunity.

“Although the outcome of the Copenhagen conference did not go as far as many would have hoped, the Copenhagen Accord is a significant step forward in global efforts to address the climate challenge. We must now transform words into deeds and put the resources pledged at Copenhagen into play to assist the most vulnerable.”

— BAN Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary-General

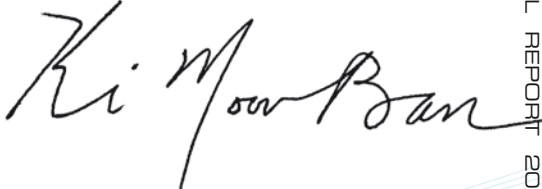
Among the most significant implications of the shift to a greener economy is its potential to mitigate climate change and assist countries in coping with its growing impacts. In the lead-up to the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, we saw unprecedented political engagement at the highest level from world leaders, buttressed by public support, business leadership, local government action and scientific research. People from all walks of life are getting more and more involved in efforts to combat climate change.

Although the outcome of the Copenhagen conference did not go as far as many would have hoped, the Copenhagen Accord is a significant step forward in global efforts to address the climate challenge. We must now transform words into deeds and put the resources pledged at Copenhagen into play to assist the most vulnerable.

We also need to move quickly towards a legally binding agreement. Achieving this goal will remain high on my list of priorities for 2010. To that end I will continue to rely on the support and creativity of the staff and management of UNEP, who deserve

great credit for their work in 2009 on the UN Seal the Deal! campaign and in implementing my call to move toward a climate neutral UN. The first-ever inventory of the United Nations greenhouse gas footprint, a collaboration of all UN agencies coordinated by the UN Environment Management Group, has taken us closer to transforming the United Nations into a low-carbon, resource-efficient institution for the twenty-first century.

Just as we mobilized the world behind climate action in 2009, so must we now, in 2010, renew our focus on the Millennium Development Goals as the clock ticks towards the agreed deadline of 2015. I will continue to count on UNEP for the leadership we need to ensure that environmental sustainability is recognized both as a legitimate goal in itself and as a means to achieving all our development objectives.



INTRODUCTION BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



AS THE WORLD EMERGES from the deepest financial and economic crisis since the Great Depression of the 1930s, where will public policy and private investment go and flow over the coming year and decades?

2009 marked a moment when at least one new idea gained traction at the highest political level and among leading economists and think-tanks as perhaps a fresh and inspiring path to sustainability.

I refer to the Green Economy/Global Green New Deal Initiative, launched by UNEP some 15 months ago at a time when banks and businesses were imploding and millions of people were being laid off.

It remains a work in progress. But has achieved a degree of resonance and support in capitals from Seoul to Kigali and Berlin to Beijing that indicates a longevity above and beyond the

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