



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cancun Agreements Do Not Meet Climate Goals; Climate Interactive to Offer Webinar on the Implications of the Agreements Early in January 2011.

The Emissions reduction pledges incorporated into the Cancun Agreements concluded last week fall short of the level of greenhouse gas emission reductions required to avoid dangerous climate change. No new pledges, beyond those associated with the Copenhagen Accord, materialized in Cancun, although the important step of incorporating those pledges into the framework of a UNFCCC agreement was taken. Climate Interactive's Climate Scoreboard remains unchanged, showing that current pledges are more consistent with 4.0°C of temperature increase rather than the 2°C goal adopted in the Cancun Agreements.

The Scoreboard tracks pledges in the UNFCCC process and estimates long-term impacts of current pledges. Since before the last UN climate conference in Copenhagen, the Scoreboard has been tracking pledges by countries for the reduction of their emissions and using the C-ROADS model to assess the long-term temperature implications of the pledges. Heading into the Cancun climate summit, the Climate Scoreboard reflected the Copenhagen Accord pledges, where countries set forth their emissions reductions for 2020. For emissions past 2020 we made estimates based on the statements of countries in the run-up to Copenhagen, when 2050 targets were a large part of the discourse. Full details and assumptions are available at:

<http://www.climateinteractive.org/scoreboard/scoreboard-science-and-data>

The Climate Scoreboard showed that expected emissions if the Copenhagen Accord pledges were to be realized were more consistent with warming of close to 4°C rather than the 2°C goal articulated in the Accord. Without the Copenhagen pledges the world would have expected even more warming, close to 4.9°C. Copenhagen represented some progress, but left much more work to be done.

After Cancun, at least with regard to countries' commitments to reduce emissions, the situation remains unchanged. The Cancun Agreements codify the targets of the Copenhagen Accord rather than pushing beyond them. No country made more ambitious pledges in Cancun than what had already been on the table in Copenhagen.

What are the implications for climate advocates, as we look forward to the next UNFCCC meeting in South Africa, or the one after that, two years from now in Brazil?

The accomplishments of Cancun are many, including:

- incorporating the Copenhagen Accord target of limiting temperature increase to 2.0°C (with a review of a 1.5°C target in a few years) into a decision supported by 193 nations
- incorporating the Copenhagen Accord pledges into a decision supported by 193 nations,
- re-building trust in the process and institution of the UNFCCC,
- renewing commitment to transparency within the process, and
- making progress on the creation of a climate fund.

The Agreements also names the critical decisions that must be taken up in 2011-2012. These include, most importantly:

- strengthening 2020 emissions pledges (closing the 5- 9 Gt CO₂e gap) and
- setting 2050 targets consistent with the goal of limiting temperature increase to 1.5 or 2.0°C.

Knowing that these will be the critical decisions on the table in the next two years, the work of climate advocates from business, policy-making, and civil society will be to create the conditions within key sectors and countries to enable progress on these two areas.

To help all of us working to create the conditions for unprecedented progress as the UNFCCC moves forward, Climate Interactive plans to offer a series of interactive webinars in early January. The webinars will use the C-ROADS climate model and other simulation under development at Climate Interactive to help participants understand more about where we stand under the Cancun Agreements, and where the climate science demands the world now head. What do the pledges add up to, in terms of expected emissions and climate impacts? By various metrics of effort and responsibility how do the current pledges of countries and regions compare? Where do the biggest gaps lay? Where might key points of leverage and room for compromise might be found?

Notes For Editors:

The C-ROADS (Climate - Rapid Overview And Decision Support) climate policy simulator is a scientifically sound tool that enables users to rapidly evaluate the impact of national greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction policies on key climate impacts including per-capita emissions, atmospheric GHG concentrations, mean global temperature and sea level, through 2100. C-ROADS has been carefully calibrated to the best available peer reviewed science, including the Fourth Assessment Report of the IPCC. The scientific review panel that assessed the model

concluded that C-ROADS “reproduces the response properties of state-of- the-art three dimensional climate models very well.... Given the model’s capabilities and its close alignment with a range of scenarios published in the Fourth Assessment Report of the IPCC we support its widespread use among a broad range of users and recommend that it be considered as an official United Nations tool.” C-ROADS was developed by the Sustainability Institute, MIT Sloan School of Management, and Ventana Systems and Climate Interactive. Full documentation and details are available at <http://climateinteractive.org>.

- C-ROADS is based on simulation modeling originally conducted at MIT and has been developed by a partnership of MIT’s Sloan School of Management, Climate Interactive and Ventana Systems.
- C-ROADS draws upon and is intended to complement the insights of other, more disaggregated models such as MAGICC, MINICAM, EPPA, AIM and MERGE.
- The development and use of C-ROADS has been supported by Active Philanthropy, Zennström Philanthropies, The Morgan Family Foundation, The Rockefeller Brothers Fund, ClimateWorks Foundation, and others.
- Climate Interactive is a project of the New Venture Fund, based in Washington DC.

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