

"A Climate for Cooperation and Strategic Leadership": Business & Industry Global Dialogue '07

hosted by UNEP with the support of Brazilian business and industry

Maksoud Hotel, Sao Paulo, Brazil, 15 - 16 October

- Media Information Note

Supported by Brazilian business and the UN Global Compact, UNEP's first "Business & Industry Global Dialogue" in Brazil is being held in Sao Paulo from 15 - 16 October. Over 200 business delegates and representatives from business organizations, industry and financing institutions, public institutions and non-governmental organizations will be discussing new trends, innovations, policy developments and UN-business partnership opportunities to address climate change, energy and responsible chemicals management.

The meeting forms part of the tradition of annual UNEP Consultative Meetings with its international Business and Industry network, held since the mid-1980s in Paris, France every year. At the previous meeting of October 2007, participants agreed to in future to have this event in different regions every second (uneven) year, and to address one or two overall themes. Based on initial support for the proposed new format, UNEP DTIE has consulted with industry representatives from Brazil. They have responded positively to the possibility of relevant Brazilian business and industry bodies co-hosting the event with UNEP in October 2007.

The overarching theme of the event this year is climate, energy and responsible chemicals management. Delegates will participate in six sessions addressing new developments and challenges globally as well as in Latin America to address matters such as renewable energy options, employee training for safer chemicals management, awareness raising on sustainable consumption, and new market mechanisms to promote cleaner technologies. Speakers participating in the panel discussions will include representatives from internationally known institutes such as the Pew Centre and the World Resources Institute in Washington DC, The Energy and Resource Centre (TERI) in India, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in South Africa as well as financial sector institutions such as London-based Carbon Disclosure Project, the Brazil Stock Exchange and the Washington-based Global Environment Facility. The meeting concludes with a high level public-private roundtable debate where high level managers from business will be joined by, among others, the Environment Ministers from Brazil and Uruguay in an exchange on how the regulatory environment and markets can better complement one another in advancing progress on reducing GHG emissions and promoting safer production.

Opening the meeting, UNEP DTIE Director Sylvie Lemmet said: "As we meet under the umbrella theme *A Climate for Cooperation and Strategic Leadership* we are challenged to think in terms of not only risks but also opportunities, global and regional ones for a variety of industry sectors. We are meeting here to focus on the global issues of climate, energy and responsible chemicals management. Our meeting also include half a day with a regional, Latin America focus, during which participants will be able to discuss these global agenda items with a regional perspective. I encourage participants to debate these issues frankly and identify where we can work jointly in a UN-business partnership manner." She thanked the UN and Brazilian partners for their support in hosting the meeting, in particular the Confederação Nacional da Indústria (CNI), Associação Brasileira

da Indústria Química (ABIQUIM), Federação das Indústrias do Estado de São Paulo (FIESP), Instituto Ethos and the German agency InWEnt.