

**THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

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**REMARKS AT LAUNCH OF IPCC CLIMATE EDUCATION PROGRAMME
Copenhagen, 16 December 2009**

Dr. Rajendra Pachauri
Vice President Gore [invited]
Ms. Gro Harlem Brundtland [invited]
Ladies and gentlemen,

We are privileged to have with us today three people who have each been extraordinarily influential in making the case for sustainable development and combating climate change.

We are all here in Copenhagen this week because the science says we must act – and act immediately – to prevent runaway climate change.

Nothing that has been written or leaked in recent weeks changes this basic fact.

Our Earth's atmosphere is warming. We humans are the primary cause.

The IPCC has made the definitive scientific case for action.

That is why the IPCC was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize along with former Vice President Gore.

I applaud the initiative taken by the IPCC to invest its Nobel Prize money to support climate scientists from developing countries.

There could be no more fitting way of using the Nobel Prize money.

The IPCC already has a record of creating scientific capacity by assuring geographical balance in its authors' teams.

However, developing countries need more expertise. They need information and knowledge, and they need the capacity to help to generate it themselves.

Using the IPCC's extensive network, the Climate Education Programme can strengthen the ability of Developing and Least Developed Countries to contribute to climate science.

It will improve decision making and development planning.

It will strengthen adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

I call on governments, institutions and private donors to support this initiative.

I would also like to thank the UN Environment Programme, the World Meteorological Organisation and all the member countries that sponsor the IPCC.

The Panel has now started work on the Fifth Assessment report, which will be completed in 2014.

It is also working on two Special Reports dealing respectively with Renewable Energy and Extreme Events.

This work will further add to our common understanding of climate change and guide our responses to it.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As they say, “knowledge is power.”

The IPCC is empowering us to build a safer future.

Thank you.