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## PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING

# Scottish Government debate - UN Climate Negotiations, Durban

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### Summary

- The international COP17 climate conference in Durban must deliver a balanced package that lays the foundations for a legally binding deal for the future. This requires political will, trust, and international leadership.
- The major challenges at Durban are to secure the future of the Kyoto Protocol and give certainty on the legal form of a future climate treaty that includes both developed and developing countries, respecting the principle of equity.
- WWF believes a comprehensive global treaty should be agreed by 2015. Until then, countries must establish low-carbon development strategies, reduce emissions and help developing countries adapt to climate change.
- While the Scottish Climate Change Act is an excellent example of climate leadership, Scottish Ministers must now take action to ensure that real action is taken at home to reduce emissions across the Scottish economy.
- To continue to set an example to other countries aspiring towards low carbon development, the Scottish Government must commit to implementing the Report on Proposals and Policies (RPP) in full, and funding its full implementation in the Draft Scottish Budget.
- The Scottish Parliament will shortly consider an Order to allow the use of carbon units to meet Scotland's targets. WWF Scotland opposes the use of credits, and believes that the emissions reduction we have committed to should take place in Scotland and not be 'bought in' from overseas.

### Background

Following disappointment at Copenhagen in 2009 and the moderate progress in Cancún in 2010, COP17 in Durban will be a tipping point in the UN negotiation process on climate change. Government leaders can either build on the progress achieved in Cancún and act to prevent runaway climate change, or they can allow short-term national interests to continue us on a path towards 3 or 4°C of warming. The path our leaders choose will be critical and they need to be reminded that they will be making these choices while on African soil – a continent particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.



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WWF hopes that Ministers at the conference will:

- commit to a second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol, and work to secure a mandate for a legally binding instrument in protocol form by 2015;
- promote agreement on innovative sources of finance to capitalise the Green Climate Fund, including shipping and aviation 'bunker fuels';
- support ways to close the 'Gigatonne Gap' between the current low level of global ambition and the level of action needed to keep global average temperature increases to no more than 1.5°C; and
- insist on global common accounting rules so that the non-Kyoto Protocol developed countries fulfil their agreed obligation to comparability of effort.

### Scotland's example

WWF believes a comprehensive global treaty should be agreed by 2015. Until then, countries – including Scotland - must establish low-carbon development strategies, reduce emissions and help developing countries adapt to climate change. WWF Scotland believes that Scottish Ministers can play a significant part in securing positive outcomes at the conference. WWF has applauded Scotland's Climate Change Act as an excellent example of international climate leadership, and we trust that Scotland's Climate Change Minister will be able to share Scotland's commitment and experiences with other countries at COP17.

However, while WWF Scotland has welcomed strong signals given by Scottish Ministers about securing a transition towards a low carbon economy, we believe the real work to live up to this reputation is yet to be started. Rhetoric must be followed by real action on climate change. In particular, Scotland's own action plan to reduce Scotland's emissions – the Report on Proposals and Policies (RPP) – must be implemented in full in order to be able to continue to demonstrate our commitment and leadership. Published in early 2011, the Government's RPP clearly shows that Scotland can achieve the statutory annual targets between 2011 and 2022. However, it falls well short of providing the confidence that these targets will actually be hit and fails to commit to the step-change in policy action described as necessary by the UK Committee on Climate Change. WWF Scotland calls on Ministers to work to implement all policies and proposals set out in the RPP, to enable us to meet our much-praised emissions reductions targets.

### Draft Scottish Budget

The Draft Budget and Spending Review are also important levers in securing the transition to a low carbon economy. However, WWF has real concerns that current Draft Budget proposals offer little confidence that Scotland's ambition will be met by action. Spending proposals on housing and transport – sectors that contribute almost 50% of our domestic emissions – fall short of what WWF believes is needed to meet our targets. WWF Scotland calls on Ministers and MSPs to ensure that the Scottish Budget is compatible with our climate change targets.

### Limits on Carbon Units Order

The Climate Change (Limit on Carbon Units) (Scotland) Order 2011 will soon be put before the Scottish Parliament. This Order, under the Climate Change Act, allows Scottish Ministers to meet 20% of our legally-binding emissions reductions targets through the purchase of carbon credits. WWF Scotland believes that for Scotland to be able to demonstrate leadership in the global community, this Order should be rejected. WWF Scotland believes the emissions reduction we have committed to should take place domestically, not be 'bought in' from other countries, and calls on MSPs to reject the order.

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