

**Secretary General's meeting with Sir Nicholas Stern, author of "The Report on the Economics of Climate Change", 16 February 2007**

*[The Report on the Economics of Climate Change was prepared by Sir Nicholas Stern, at the request of Gordon Brown, the UK Chancellor of the Exchequer. It was released in October 2006 and has received extensive publicity. Sir Nicholas has travelled widely to promote and explain the key findings of the Report:*

*The benefits of strong, concerted and early action to slow climate change outweigh, by far, the economic costs of not acting;*

*Action now to address climate change will have especially significant effects on climate in the second half of this century, given the long lead times involved.*

*By 2050, the cost of 'business as usual' could reach up to 20 per cent of global GDP per year; the most conservative estimate is a 5 per cent GDP loss.*

*The estimated cost of measures to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at around 550 parts per million ranges from -1.0 per cent to +3.5 per cent, of global GDP by 2050 with a central estimate of 1 per cent.*

*Even the highest cost estimate for early action (3.5 per cent of GDP) is below the most conservative estimate of the costs of climate change itself (5 per cent of GDP).*

*The most vulnerable – the poorest countries and populations – are expected to suffer earliest and most from climate change;*

*The conclusions of the Report support early action to combat climate change, with developed countries taking the lead;*

*While not questioning the urgency of the problem, some economists have questioned the Stern Review's judgment about how costs from future climate change should be counted for purposes of comparison with costs of early action.]*

- **I commend Sir Nicholas, and the Government of the UK, for an excellent Report that has contributed to highlighting the economic aspects of climate change.**
- **I share the belief that an economic case must be made to mitigate climate change in order to ensure urgent public and collective action.**
- **I agree that strengthened international cooperation is vital to technology development, and to funding adaptation and mitigation in developing countries, including the development of an adequate and stable long-term carbon pricing regime.**
- **I appreciate the urgency attached to strengthening adaptation to climate change, especially in the most vulnerable countries.**
- **I agree that the international community should provide stronger support to countries' efforts to deal with climate change, for example by reducing deforestation or providing clean, renewable, affordable energy.**

- **I confirm support to promote momentum in order to advance the political process.**
- **I echo the increasingly widespread understanding that climate change is not predominantly an environmental challenge, but also has very important social and economic dimensions.**