Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol to the
United Nations Framework Convention on
Climate Change (Doha, 8 December 2012)

OBJECTIVES

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) aims *"to achieve, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention, stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system."* [UNFCCC, Article 2]

The Kyoto Protocol to the Convention shares this objective and, implementing the Convention, commits Annex I Parties to the Convention to individual, legally-binding targets to limit or reduce their greenhouse gas emissions within a set period.

The first commitment period for the Kyoto Protocol was 2008-2012.

On 8 December 2012, at the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol held in Doha, Qatar, the Parties adopted, in accordance with Articles 20 and 21 of the Protocol, an Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol by Decision 1/CMP.8 (the "Doha Amendment").

The Doha Amendment establishes a second commitment period for Annex I Parties, from 2013-2020.

KEY PROVISIONS

Article 1, C of the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol

The Parties included in Annex I shall, individually or jointly, ensure that their aggregate anthropogenic carbon dioxide equivalent emissions of the greenhouse gases listed in Annex A do not exceed their assigned amounts, calculated pursuant to their quantified emission limitation and reduction commitments inscribed in the third column of the table contained in Annex B and in accordance with the provisions of this Article, with a view to reducing their overall emissions of such gases by at least 18 per cent below 1990 levels in the commitment period 2013 to 2020.

ENTRY INTO FORCE

In accordance with Article 20, paragraph 4 and Article 21, paragraph 7 of the Kyoto Protocol, the Doha Amendment shall enter into force for those Parties having accepted it on the ninetieth day after the date of receipt by the Depositary of an instrument of acceptance by at least three fourths of the Parties to the Protocol.

Under the current membership to the Protocol, the required three fourths of the Parties to the Protocol is 143 States.

HOW TO ACCEPT THE AMENDMENT

The Amendment is open to acceptance by Parties to the Kyoto Protocol. Acceptance is effected by deposit of an instrument of acceptance with the Depositary (see the following model). Instruments of acceptance should be sent, through the respective Permanent Mission to the United Nations, to the Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat in New York.

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MODEL INSTRUMENT OF ACCEPTANCE

(To be signed by the Head of State, Head of Government or Minister for Foreign Affairs)

WHEREAS the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was adopted at Doha on 8 December 2012,

AND WHEREAS [Name of the Party to the Kyoto Protocol] is a Party to the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

NOW THEREFORE I, [name and title of the Head of State, Head of Government or Minister for Foreign Affairs or regional economic integration organization's authority] declare that the [Government of ...[name of State] or regional economic integration organization], having considered the above mentioned Amendment, accepts the same and undertakes faithfully to perform and carry out the stipulations therein contained.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have signed this instrument of acceptance at [place] on [date].

[Signature]