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## PRESS RELEASE

### Groundbreaking Kyoto Protocol Compliance system launched

(Bonn, 3 March 2006) – The Kyoto Protocol’s Compliance Committee has taken up its operations as the last of the bodies established under the 1997 landmark environmental treaty to do so, and elected the Chairs of its Enforcement and Facilitative Branches at a meeting in Bonn, Germany.

Ambassador Raúl Estrada Oyuela (Argentina), elected Chair of the Enforcement Branch, called the Kyoto Protocol compliance system “groundbreaking” and pointed out that the organ was “designed to ensure the environmental integrity of the agreement and to contribute to the credibility of the carbon market created by the Protocol.”

Hironori Hamanaka of Japan was elected Chair of the committee’s Facilitative Branch.

Under the Kyoto Protocol, 35 industrialized countries and the EEC are required to reduce greenhouse gas emissions below levels specified for each of them in the Protocol. Overall, this should amount to reductions of at least 5% below 1990 levels between 2008 and 2012. The 20-member Compliance Committee is tasked with dealing with cases of non-compliance with these and other obligations of the Protocol.

Whilst the Enforcement Branch of the Committee has the power to determine consequences for Parties that encounter problems with meeting their commitments, the Facilitative Branch of the Committee is designed to provide advice and assistance to Parties in order to promote compliance.

“A strong and effective compliance mechanism is key to the success of the implementation of the treaty,” said Richard Kinley, acting head of the United Nations Climate Change Secretariat in Bonn.

Parties to the Protocol provide the UNFCCC secretariat in Bonn with annual reports of their greenhouse gas emissions, which then undergo a rigorous review process. The secretariat also monitors the international carbon emission trading market and receives annual accounting reports from parties on carbon allowances they have acquired or transferred to another Party or result from project-level emission reductions. Compliance is then determined by comparing emissions to allowances.



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The Committee will consider individual cases as they arise and is empowered to make final decisions on such cases. It reports annually to the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

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