

# Process for developing international agreements

Presentation by UNEP at  
Informal Brainstorming Workshop on Enhancing Regional  
Integration in the Greater Mekong – The opportunity for  
Asia's first Regional Climate Change Adaptation agreement  
22 July 2009  
Century Park Hotel, Bangkok

# Process

- Scientific findings on problems and needs that require international action
- Building awareness among relevant stakeholders to support policy debate
- International policy-making among States concerned to address problems and needs
- Identify modality of required interventions:
  - Legally binding instrument
  - Non-legally binding instrument

# Context

- Existing international platforms on science-policy linkage and policy making
- Existing international policy frameworks and programmes
- Existing international agreements:
  - Legally binding instruments (MEAs)
  - Non-legally binding instrument

# Feasibility of developing an international agreement

- Compelling evidence that continuous international action is required to achieve policy objectives, such as:
  - Harmonized national policies and measures to meet common international objectives
  - Shared responsibility among States concerned
  - Setting standards and norms
  - Providing procedures for cooperation and mutual accountability
- Political willingness among States concerned to develop an international agreement
  - Benefits in developing an international agreement perceived by States
  - costs of inaction (e.g. possible environmental damage affecting livelihood) acknowledged

# Global-regional linkage in developing an international agreement

- Coherence in principles, norms and obligations be required
- Regional and global agreements should be mutually supportive and reinforcing each other
- A regional agreement might address possible gaps among existing global agreements that focus on specific thematic issues (e.g. by addressing multiple thematic issues unique in the Greater Mekong region)
- A regional agreement might provide a regionally concerted means to facilitate international action under global instruments