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The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration of the Government of Cook Islands presents its compliments to the Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and has the honour to refer to the Copenhagen Accord noted last December at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

At this stage, the Cook Islands is not in a position to associate itself with the Accord as it does not adequately Address the Priorities of the Cook Islands, a vulnerable small islands developing state. The Cook Islands does however look forward to working through the two Ad Hoc Working groups to develop legally binding outcomes that can be ratified, on long term cooperative actions and on further commitments for Annex 1 Parties under the Kyoto Protocol in Cancun, Mexico at the end of this year. Attached to this note is an analysis of the Accord prepared by the Government of the Cook Islands.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration of the Government of the Cook Islands avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change the association of its highest consideration.

10 March 2010
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Annex 1: Copenhagen Accord

The Government of the Cook Islands presents its analysis of the Copenhagen Accord.

1. It is crucial to address the gap between the targets currently proposes and what is required to achieve emissions peaking by 2015 and declining to 350ppm carbon dioxide equivalent concentrations; which the science informs us is necessary to avoid catastrophic climate change as global average temperature reaches 1.5C above pre industrial levels.
2. The Accord does not address institutional arrangements under the Convention to guide the implementation of adaptation action. The Cook Islands notes the creation of a Technology Mechanism, most likely to support development of adaptation and mitigation technologies. Past experience with the Expert Group on Technology Transfer (EGTT) has shown that mitigation technologies have received far more attention. Further clarification on the Technology Mechanism, and the opportunities it will provide, would be welcomed.
3. Ensuring the environmental integrity of reducing emissions from deforestation and land degradation REDD+ proposals is paramount.
4. Ensuring fairness and transparency in climate change decision making, it is important that any negotiations remain under the UNFCCC.

The Cook Islands looks forward to working with other Parties to develop a better outcome in Cancun that will address the BAP mandate and the necessary work on the Kyoto Protocol, and woul value further discussion on these matters.