



## ***Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations***

### **A Costa Rican expert is nominated for top UN Climate post**

Mr. Oscar Arias, President of Costa Rica, announced today his country's nomination of Christiana Figueres as a candidate for the position of Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The announcement follows the Secretary General's request for nomination of candidates made public on March 10, 2010.

President Arias stated "Costa Rica represents a democratic, neutral mediator with profound commitment to national and global environmental protection. Naming a Costa Rican citizen to this position would send an important signal to a world that shouts for urgent action on climate change. To this we can add Ms. Figueres' long-standing experience in the field, her widely recognized facilitation and conciliation skills, and her knowledge of the many international organizations and norms related to climate change."

Ms. Figueres has a long and distinguished career in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. She has been a member of the Costa Rican negotiating team since 1995. She was elected Vice President of the Bureau of the Convention 2008-2009 in representation of Latin America and the Caribbean, having previously represented the region on the Executive Board of the Clean Development Mechanism. With more than twelve years of management experience, she has served as Minister Counselor of the Embassy of Costa Rica in Bonn, Germany, as Director of International Cooperation in the Ministry of Planning, and as Chief of Staff to the Minister of Agriculture in Costa Rica. She founded and directed the Center for Sustainable Development in the Americas, an NGO devoted to climate change capacity building. In recognition of her achievements in the environmental field, National Geographic Society awarded her with the "Hero of the Planet Award" in 2001. She is a widely published author, frequent public speaker and has made important contributions to the analytic and academic literature on the design of the climate regime.

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