

## **TDS Remarks for High Level Segment**

**Doha – December 5, 2012**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is my privilege to be here in Doha representing the United States. I'd like to thank our Qatari hosts for their gracious hospitality and commitment to making progress on this most important of issues.

Climate change challenges us as few issues do. We need, all of us, to build resilience against the impacts of climate and extreme weather – impacts we have felt keenly this year in the United States. We need, all of us, to hasten the transition to low-carbon economies so that we can avoid much more serious risks in the future. And we need, all of us, to recognize that containing climate change is not only consistent with sustainable growth and development – it is a necessary condition.

Under President Obama's leadership, the United States has taken strong action at home, dramatically increasing fuel efficiency standards for our vehicles, doubling our generation of renewable energy, sharply boosting appliance efficiency standards in buildings, making historic investments in clean energy R&D and more. But as President Obama said just a few weeks ago, we need to do more and we intend to do more. Overall, we are making good progress on our commitment to reduce emissions in the range of 17 percent below 2005 levels by 2020.

Here in Doha, this is an important transitional meeting designed to close one chapter of our negotiating history and open a new one that can point the way to a new era of climate cooperation.



The work to date has been very important. The Parties are on the cusp of completing the Kyoto track, and that is a good thing. On the LCA track, we have made substantial progress over the past three years. We have recorded mitigation pledges by over 80 countries and written new transparency guidelines; we have met our fast start financing commitment, and established a Green Climate Fund and a new Standing Committee; we created a Technology Executive Committee and a Technology Center and Network; and we set up an Adaptation Committee. Much work remains to carry these efforts forward. Where agreement can be found on remaining issues, let's add to this record of success. But by all means, let us conclude the work of the LCA and shift our negotiating focus to the future.

The Durban Platform represents an opportunity to negotiate an agreement for the 2020s and beyond – one that will be applicable to all and therefore have the potential to achieve the ambition we all seek. We have had an important year of conceptual dialogue, and we need to continue to enhance that work toward the vision of an ambitious and equitable agreement. And let's provide a thorough opportunity for Parties to discuss all critical issues, including the principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. The United States would welcome such a discussion, because unless we can find common ground on that principle and the way in which it should apply in the world of the 2020s, we won't succeed in producing a new Durban Platform agreement. And we have to succeed. So let's have that discussion.

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In these remaining days of the Doha COP, let's strive to work together in good faith to deliver a successful outcome that will light the path forward.

Thank you.