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Affairs and
Head of U.S. Delegation to COP 10**

**Panel: "The Convention after 10 Years: Accomplishments
and Future Challenges"
Buenos Aires, Argentina
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**Tenth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN
Framework Convention on Climate Change
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- Madam Chair, I want to thank the COP President for his invitation to speak on this panel, as well as for the excellent background paper.
- The United States remains committed to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

- We have looked back and taken into account our experience under the Convention and we are today achieving progress.
- The United States believes that the best way to address climate change is through economic growth that at the same time preserves the environment for future generations.
- President Bush observed this truth in 2002, when he said: “To . . . address climate change, we need to recognize that economic growth and environmental protection go hand in hand. Affluent societies are the ones that demand, and can therefore afford, the most environmental protection.”
- The United States is committed to bringing hope and opportunity to the world’s poorest people.
- Consistent with Article 3 of the Convention, our climate change policy combines near-term actions while maintaining economic growth that will improve the world’s standard of living.
- A sustained effort by all nations over many generations is required to address climate change. It will also require the

development and deployment of new transformational technologies.

- The United States has a realistic, ten-year goal of reducing the greenhouse gas intensity of the U.S. economy by 18% by 2012. We are laying the groundwork for current and future action through substantial investments – nearly \$5 billion this year – in science and technology.
- We have 14 formal bilateral climate change relationships with other countries and regional organizations that together with the United States account for more than 70% of global greenhouse gas emissions.
- We have also initiated five multilateral science and technology initiatives, including;
 - the Group on Earth Observations,
 - the Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum,
 - the International Partnership for the Hydrogen Economy,
 - the Generation IV International Forum, and
 - the newly launched Methane to Markets Partnership.
- In addition, the United States is active in the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership, a UK initiative

launched at WSSD to enhance the sustainable delivery of energy in the developed and developing world.

- Through these technology initiatives, we envision revolutionary changes in the world's energy systems.

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- The President's paper notes there are many accomplishments over the past ten years in which we should all take pride.
- Through the collective and individual actions of all Parties, we have helped place the issue of climate change on local, national and international agendas, in the forefront of public and media attention, and within the strategic planning of a growing number of businesses.
- Under the Convention, we have built institutions and put processes in place that enable governments to take action, coordinate those actions, and then measure the results.
- The Convention has also encouraged the development and deployment of cleaner, more efficient technologies.

- It has helped generate an impressive level of bilateral and multilateral assistance to developing countries that supports their efforts to address the long-term challenge of climate change. Since 1990, the United States alone has provided over \$2 billion.
- Science tells us that we cannot say with any certainty what constitutes a dangerous level of warming, and therefore what level must be avoided. However, there have been substantial advances in climate change science. Since 1990, the United States has spent over \$23 billion to better understand the complex issue of climate change and variability.
- There has also been progress on adaptation and technology. COP-8's Delhi Ministerial Declaration emphasized the need for effective and results-based adaptation measures, and for capacity-building to facilitate the integration of adaptation concerns into sustainable development strategies. The Declaration also makes clear that to be effective, climate change policies must be compatible with economic growth, not impede growth.
- Over the years, our discussions have evolved away from limited one-size-fits-all policies to a more practical

approach that underscores the importance of sustainable development, adaptation, and technology.

- There is an increasing acceptance of differences in national circumstances in developed and developing countries. Parties also appreciate that different approaches can contribute toward the same goal, and that international cooperation – both within and outside the Convention – can take many forms.

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- Climate change remains a complex issue. Parties are developing and implementing their approaches, either under the Convention or the Kyoto Protocol. Many lessons are to be learned – lessons that will provide a foundation for future action in climate change. We need to absorb and analyze these lessons learned before committing to new actions.
- One of the important lessons is that the Convention cannot make countries accept approaches that are not consistent with their national circumstances. Its decision-making process has tended to favor top-down mandates, rather than bottom-up, results-oriented solutions.

- As a key step for reinvigorating the global response to climate change, we believe the Convention could serve more effectively as a forum for guiding efforts, strengthening the exchange of information and reviewing progress rather than acting as a regulatory structure.
- We also see a need to continue to strengthen inventories and National Communications.
- More work is needed to incorporate adaptation and mitigation into a sustainable development framework. One possibility is for the Convention to draw upon the WSSD partnership model and engage the private sector more completely, for example, through international cooperative efforts in technology.
- Finally, Madam Chair, we believe that the goal of reinvigorating the Framework Convention is a process already well underway. The Convention is a living document that provides great flexibility. We are achieving real results through multilateral partnerships and initiatives.
- While advancing and expanding these innovative approaches, the United States recognizes certain realities:

- Meeting the Convention's ultimate objective is a long-term, generational goal;
 - Fossil fuels are plentiful and will remain the dominant energy source for decades;
 - Developing countries can not be expected to reduce their energy consumption for the foreseeable future given that their overriding priority is poverty reduction;
 - There is no "silver bullet" technology. Neither existing technologies nor one specific technology can fully address this issue. Breakthroughs and a broad portfolio of options are required;
 - Any future climate regime should encourage all Parties to take actions, help facilitate their ability to do so, and allow them to implement climate change programs of their own choice and according to their special needs and unique national circumstances;
- Thank you, Madam Chair.

Intervention by the United States

Panel: "Impacts of Climate Change, Adaptation Measures and Sustainable Development"

Ms. Jacqueline E. Schafer, Deputy Assistant Administrator
U.S. Agency for International Development
December 16, 2004

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Thank you, Chairman.

The U.S. believes that ^{economic growth,} environmental protection and poverty alleviation ^{all go hand in} ~~will both~~ ^{hand.} increase as a result of economic growth. Societies with increasing prosperity that is widely shared are inherently more adaptable to changing economic, social ~~and~~ ^{and, likely} environmental conditions of all kinds, ^{they} and are ~~are~~ more able to invest in environmental protection. Countries that have diverse, robust economies are best ^{positioned} ~~placed~~ to address the challenges and seize the opportunities of changing conditions. The United States has undertaken a broad range of activities to help countries become more resilient to potential climate change.

The U.S. was among the first to address climate vulnerability through ^{they produced greenhouse gas inventories, mitigation plans} ~~the U.S.~~ ^{and} Country Studies Program, which between 1994 and 2001 helped 56 countries build their assessment capacities. Building on these efforts, we are fostering ^{new} ~~partnerships~~ ^{and} ~~mobility~~ ^{assessments} to further knowledge gained through observations, assessments, and ~~adaptation actions.~~ ^{projects.}

- ~~Implementing a Global Earth Observation System of Systems will link thousands of technological platforms in space, sea and on land into one coordinated and sustained observation web.~~ ^(GEOS) Over the next decade, the planned improvements in global earth observation will revolutionize our understanding of the Earth and how it works. It will provide critical input for sustainable development efforts that promise to make peoples and economies around the globe healthier, safer and better equipped to manage basic daily needs. The Group on Earth Observations, created to carry forward this initiative, now includes 57 countries and more than 30 international organizations.

The 10-year plan being prepared for adoption next February includes integrating capability building into all aspects of the GEOSS effort.

- The U.S. Agency for International Development will soon ~~issue~~^{issue} new guidance aimed at strengthening the capabilities of developing and transition countries to respond to climate-related impacts and risks. Application of this guidance will ~~strengthen the capabilities of~~^{assist} development partners and host country institutions to assess ~~relative~~ vulnerabilities and to evaluate and implement adaptation options for agriculture, water, and coastal zone management projects within USAID's development assistance portfolio. The first pilot project to field test this new adaptation tool is ~~underway~~ in Honduras ~~and pilots in Africa and Asia are forthcoming~~^{also beginning}
~~Other projects that will be initiated in the near future~~
- The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and USAID jointly fund Regional Climate Outlook Forums to provide advance information about the likely characteristics of seasonal climate in several sub-regions in Africa, the Americas, and Asia. The Forums bring together climate forecasters and users to develop consensus forecasts and to discuss the best way to disseminate and apply the information, for example in the selection of crops to plant and the best locations for different varieties, in the case of applications to prevent famine. NOAA and USAID are also working with humanitarian and meteorological organizations to provide useful weather and climate information to rural communities.

Mr. Chairman, ~~these and other~~ practical efforts ~~sponsored by the U.S.~~ will strengthen the basis for sustainable development by improving the capacity of countries to respond to climate variability and to the risks and opportunities posed by potential climate change.

Thank you.

DRAFT

It is my honour to make this intervention on behalf of the Association of Small Island States (AOSIS). I am also pleased Mr. Moderator, to be participating in this ^{important} panel under your leadership. Yours is not only a familiar face ^{as we both serve in it} but as a representative one of the SIDS, you are certainly very familiar with the issues being addressed in this panel.

Topic 2: Impacts of Climate Change, Adaptation Measures and Sustainable Development

Thank you Mr. Chairman, Honorable Ministers, Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen.

^{first} I would like to thank the panelists for their very good presentation which in differing ways have highlighted the ~~horrible~~ ^{serious} impacts of climate change being experienced around the world, but also the need for urgent action on adaptation, mitigation and mitigation.

Sea-level rise will have severe impacts on the coastal environment, while changing

~~weather patterns will affect our local biodiversity and our water supply,~~

~~have severe economic impacts on biodiversity, our economies, our livelihoods,~~

~~Changes in rainfall patterns, intensity and duration are effects of climate change already~~

~~being experienced by SIDS of the Caribbean.~~ ^{around the world} Our vulnerability to the impacts of natural hazards will certainly be exacerbated by the longer-term threat of climate change. One of

our major concerns in the Caribbean ^{SIDS and rainfall patterns} is the increased frequency and severity of tropical storms and hurricanes. With increased frequency and severity of rainfall will come

increased frequency and intensity of flooding events. All these effects have been

experienced by the SIDS of the Caribbean this past hurricane season. A number of

Caribbean islands were severely impacted by hurricanes and tropical cyclones, leading to

excessive flooding, major damage to infrastructure, loss of agricultural crops and

vegetation, and even loss of life. In the particular case of ^{another} one country, Grenada

^{an entire economy was eradicated} an entire economy was ~~eradic~~ ^{and the floods caused} the floods caused ^{humane} humane ^{we believe that it is clear that} severe devastation in the

^{Mr. Chairman} The effects of climate change and sea-level rise identified are posing a threat to the

sustainable development of Small Island States. The economic sectors of tourism and

agriculture, two industries on which most SIDS heavily rely, are severely under threat of

climate change. ^{and which} Tourism and agriculture ^{are} are major foreign exchange earners for SIDS.

^{Mr. Chairman} and it is for this reason that we are placing ^{particular} much emphasis on the need for adaptation in these two sectors. In addition ^{the issue of new and renewable sources of energy is another} the issue of new and renewable sources of energy is another priority area of concern for SIDS.

^{Mr. Chairman} Adapting to climate change is an integral part of the sustainable development programme

of SIDS. ^{recognize} We acknowledge that sustainable development is primarily a national

responsibility. ^{and} We are committed to promoting sustainable development, eradicating

poverty and improving the livelihoods of our people by implementing strategies which

build resilience and capacity to address our unique and particular vulnerabilities. We

recognize however, that there is also a need to move from vulnerability and adaptation studies to the implementation of effective adaptation measures for sustainable development. We

would however wish to ^{point out} ~~note~~ that we cannot ^{UN} ~~do~~ it on our own ^{that} ~~and~~ we would seek the ^{particular} ~~support~~ of our international donor ^{parties} and agencies in this process. We especially ask ^{that} ~~you~~ make available the necessary resources to assist with our adaptation efforts. ^{given the sizeable resources required, which we plan to try to access technical and financial resources to assist with our adaptation needs,}

^{we further suggest that} ~~Such co-operation can be done~~ ^{carried out} through the Barbados Programme of Action which ^{remains the blueprint for Small Island Developing States and the international community to address national and regional sustainable development in SIDS, taking into account our economic, social and environmental aspects that are the pillars of the holistic and integrated approach to sustainable development.} ^{we fear that further in these efforts will undermine the ability of SIDS to meet the UN Millennium Development goals.}

^{Mr. Chairman,} With the upcoming ten-year review of the BPOA, we look forward to further ^{the support of the international community in the} ~~implementation of programmes aimed at promoting sustainable development in SIDS.~~ ^{and projects and activities} ~~the~~

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Intervention by the United States

Panel: "Technology and Climate Change"

Ms. Larisa Dobriansky, Deputy Assistant Administrator
U.S. Department of Energy

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Thank you, Chairman.

Without advanced technologies to transform the way we produce and use energy, the United States believes the world will be unable to achieve the Convention's long-term objective for greenhouse gas emissions reductions. As a central element of President Bush's climate change strategy, the United States is investing nearly \$3 billion annually in a diversified portfolio of technology options that can provide abundant energy to power economic development and still meet our climate change objectives.

We place great emphasis on leveraging resources through partnerships with businesses, academia, and other countries. Therefore, the United States is pleased to be involved in the following multilateral technology partnerships that will dramatically impact our ability to address climate change in an economically sensible way.

- The U.S.-organized **Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum** provides its 17 members with a framework to foster the rapid development and deployment of cost-effective and environmentally safe carbon dioxide sequestration technologies.
- In the **International Partnership for the Hydrogen Economy**, another U.S. initiative, 16 governments are working together to overcome the technological, financial, and institutional barriers to hasten the global transition to a hydrogen economy.

- The **Generation IV International Forum** is a multilateral effort to develop the next generation of economical and safe nuclear reactors, and the **ITER** project, once established, will help us realize the promise of nuclear fusion.

Further, we are committed to the U.K.-initiated **Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership** to expand the global markets for these systems and the **Climate Technology Initiative** to advance practical efforts to promote technology transfer to developing countries.

An important objective of U.S. participation in many of our collaborations, such as the **Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation** forum, is to mobilize private sector investment by promoting innovative financing that reduces risks and transaction costs. These efforts are aimed at developing new policies and business models to create self-sustaining markets for financing energy efficiency, renewable, and infrastructure projects.

We also support the **Expert Group on Technology Transfer**'s efforts to build collaboration to accelerate technology transfer through a country-driven approach that recognizes the value of assessing technology needs to set priorities and creating the right conditions for investment.

This work furthers sustainable development by advancing broader economic and social goals. Nations that develop strong, market-based institutions will be in the best position to make the sustained investments necessary to manage climate change over the long term.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to share our perspective on this important topic.

Intervention by the United States

Panel: "Mitigation of Climate Change: Policies and their Impacts"

Ms. Judith Ayres, Assistant Administrator

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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Thank you, Chairman.

Our efforts to address climate change will take place over many decades. It is important that they be both practical and sustainable. We believe it is vital for our actions to be in harmony with broader efforts to achieve prosperity for all nations. To this end, the United States has established, and is committed to, a comprehensive program that seeks practical near-term reductions, while investing in the technologies that will enable us to achieve our objectives, over time.

The U.S. has put into place a broad range of initiatives to achieve the President's goal of reducing our nation's greenhouse gas intensity 18% by 2012:

- Through our **Climate VISION** program, managed by DOE, U.S. agencies are working in partnership with industrial economic sectors which represent 90% of U.S. industrial emissions—to develop and implement cost-effective strategies to reduce emissions, advance deployment of new technologies, and report progress on meeting voluntary commitments.
- EPA's **Climate Leaders** program works with over 50 companies, such as General Motors and Alcoa, to develop long-term, comprehensive climate change strategies. Our partners are setting ambitious corporate-wide GHG reduction goals and the systems to measure their progress.
- Further, EPA's **Green Power Partnership** promotes the purchase of electricity generated from renewables, and the **SmartWay Transport Partnership** promotes greenhouse gas reduction opportunities in the freight shipping industry.
- These voluntary programs are new additions to our successful suite of **ENERGY STAR** programs, which prevented emissions of more than 48 million metric tons of carbon dioxide, in 2003, equivalent to preventing the emissions of more than 30 million automobiles.

These are just some of the numerous voluntary, regulatory, and incentive-based programs initiated, to meet the President's goal.

We also support over \$4 billion in energy tax incentives to promote greenhouse gas emission reductions. These include credits for the purchase of hybrid and fuel-cell vehicles, residential solar heating, electricity produced from alternative sources, and combined heat and power systems.

Further, we are also partnering with other countries to promote cost-effective greenhouse gas reduction strategies:

- Last month, the U.S. hosted the first meeting of the **Methane-to-Markets Partnership**, which involves 14 countries. The Partnership will work closely with the private sector to target methane currently escaping from oil and gas systems, coalmines, and landfills, potentially achieving reductions of 50 million tons of carbon equivalent, annually, by 2015.
- EPA's **Integrated Environmental Strategies** program assists other countries in assessing the local pollution and health benefits of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Technical support for renewable energy development is also provided through programs such as the **Wind Power Toolkit**, which provides information on procurement and financing.

These **short-term efforts** are a key component of the comprehensive **long-term strategy** to achieve deeper cuts in greenhouse gas emissions while still growing the world's economy. In this respect, the roundtable on technology complements our discussion on mitigation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.