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UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

**Dialogue on long-term cooperative action to address climate change by enhancing implementation of the Convention**

**First workshop**

**Bonn, 15–16 May 2006**

**Dialogue working paper 13 (2006)**

**Submission from the United States of America\***

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## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

### INITIAL VIEWS ON ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED IN THE DIALOGUE ON LONG-TERM COOPERATIVE ACTION TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE BY ENHANCING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

17 April 2006

The Conference of the Parties, by its decision 1/CP.11, invited Parties to submit their initial views on the issues to be discussed in the dialogue on long-term cooperative action to address climate change by enhancing implementation of the Convention. The United States is pleased to provide its views on the Dialogue.

The United States recalls that the COP provided that the dialogue will take the form of an open, non-binding exchange of views, information and ideas in support of enhanced implementation of the Convention in up to four workshops. The United States supports the areas identified in 1/CP.11 as a focus for any workshops, namely:

- (a) Advancing development goals in a sustainable way
- (b) Addressing action on adaptation
- (c) Realizing the full potential of technology
- (d) Realizing the full potential of market-based opportunities;

We believe it makes sense to treat each of these four areas separately in a different session of the Dialogue, which will allow for comprehensive coverage of each of the identified topic areas. For each session, Parties participating in the Dialogue could provide views about specific issues of their choosing within these areas. Co-facilitators to the Dialogue could organize presentations by Parties, experts, or international organizations so as to help highlight issues of relevance within each topic area. The co-facilitators would then prepare their report outlining the information and diversity of views for distribution by the Parties.

We would like to highlight several issues that could usefully be raised in each area of the Dialogue:

Advancing development goals in a sustainable way: In recent years there has been increasing recognition of the need to integrate actions to address climate change into broader sustainable development goals. Focusing on actions that achieve short-term and local benefits (for example, energy security, pollution abatement and economic competitiveness) as well as climate actions not only promote efficient policy outcomes, but also have the added benefit of broadening the constituency for taking actions to promote cleaner development. A number of initiatives are being undertaken that contribute to and enhance the implementation of the Convention while broadening the basis for clean energy actions. The Dialogue could focus on highlighting such approaches and exploring ways of broadening support for climate actions through significant “win-win” opportunities, including those related to developing countries, as reflected in paragraph 5 of Decision 1/CP.11. It would be useful to exchange information on experiences on multilateral and bilateral cooperation and initiatives, as well as on public-private partnerships that advance technology development, deployment and transfer.

Addressing action on adaptation: The United States believes that actions to promote adaptation and reduce vulnerability are an important component of the Dialogue. We note that in many cases such actions will have the benefit of promoting resilience to near-term events associated with climate variability as well. One challenge to addressing adaptation in the Dialogue is that adaptive responses are not easily generalized and will differ according to the type, severity, and location of impacts, the sectors that may be vulnerable, and the existing

capacity to prepare and respond to climate stresses. The Convention could give consideration to the integration of climate information, such as recent climate data and trends, observations and forecasts, into planning efforts as an essential step in mainstreaming adaptation into important decision-making processes, since this is an issue that all Parties will need to address regardless of their adaptation priorities. This might best be facilitated through the sharing of examples where climate risks are being considered in planning decisions.

Realizing the full potential of technology: This session offers an opportunity to review key technologies, assess efforts and prospects for their deployment, and identify incentives for advancing their deployment. The United States notes increased attention to the importance of technology development and deployment for achieving the ultimate objective of the Convention. Achieving that objective will require substantial application of cleaner technologies, many of which are still under development. Government-driven research, development, and demonstration (RD&D) programs will continue to be critical to advancing technologies that have the potential to achieve the levels of reductions necessary for stabilization. The Convention could give more attention to the importance of strong RD&D programs as an element of an effective mitigation strategy. RD&D is also occurring in a number of rapidly industrializing countries outside Annex 1.

Realizing the full potential of market-based opportunities: The United States considers it important that any discussion related to this area take a broad perspective on how market forces and business wherewithal can be effectively mobilized to contribute to the implementation of the Convention across a range of national and sectoral conditions and circumstances. These include a range of incentive-based approaches and information tools, and can also encompass approaches that seek to capture benefits other than those under the Convention.

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