

## **High Level Segment Opening Statement**

- Mr. Secretary-General, Mr. President, Ministers, distinguished guests and colleagues, I'd like to start by extending our thoughts and prayers to the people of the Philippines.
- The U.S. has led the way in the relief effort just as we typically do. In the past 10 years, the U.S. has contributed \$30 billion out of a worldwide total of \$90 billion in humanitarian assistance for disasters of all kinds.
- Of course, scientists don't know that climate change produced Typhoon Haiyan, but it is just the kind of thing we can expect more of in a world where our climate is rapidly changing and it reminds us that the corresponding impacts have the potential to be fundamentally disruptive to our world and the world we hope to leave to our children and grandchildren.
- It is for this reason that President Obama and the U.S. government are hard at work to help solve our shared climate challenge.
- Last June, President Obama announced the U.S. Climate Action Plan to address climate change at home and abroad.
- We have issued important draft regulations on carbon pollution from new power plants in the United States, and are hard at work developing regulations that will cover existing power plants as well.
- President Obama has also issued landmark rules for vehicles. Fuel efficiency standards for cars and light trucks are doubling from 27 miles per gallon to over 54 miles per gallon over the space of about a dozen years. A strengthening of standards is also in the works for heavy-duty vehicles.
- These are large-scale efforts, with power and transportation together accounting for about two-thirds of total U.S. energy emissions.

- Having doubled renewable energy production in the President's first term, we're doubling it again between now and 2020, and we're ramping up even further our substantial energy efficiency efforts.
- All in all, we're making good progress toward meeting our commitment to reduce emissions in the range of 17 percent by 2020 from 2005 levels.
- The U.S. also continues to play an important role in climate finance, increasing our assistance to \$2.7 billion in fiscal year 2013 and convening donor countries to develop coordinated strategies to meeting the \$100 billion long-term finance goal.
- Simultaneously, we are fully engaged in crafting a new international climate agreement for the post-2020 period that is ambitious, effective, and durable. We have advocated a structure for the new agreement that is designed to attract the participation of all countries.
- This kind of structure, based on a spectrum of mitigation commitments, self-differentiated across the broad range of evolving national circumstances and capabilities, and in this way consistent with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, is the only kind that we can see producing the ambitious, inclusive agreement we need.
- By contrast, an agreement based on 1992 categories that are unchanging will not work. There are options here. If those categories are to be operational in character – in other words, determine who has what kind of obligations and responsibilities – they must evolve to reflect changing circumstances. Alternatively, they can remain unchanged if they are not operational. But they cannot be both operational and unchanging.
- Our meeting here in Warsaw can help build momentum towards Lima and Paris, especially if we are willing to leave ideology at the door and remain committed to the Durban mandate.

- And as we work overtime in the UNFCCC, we must also expand the field of international cooperation to include complementary initiatives that can make tangible progress right now to address the key drivers of greenhouse gas emissions. That's why we have been pushing hard, together with partners including the EU, Mexico, Canada and island states, for practical action through the Montreal Protocol to phase down hydrofluorocarbons. This alone has the potential to avoid some 90 gigatons of emissions by 2050.
- Let us work together, mindful of our mutual responsibilities to each other, our own citizens, and the global community.