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Intervention on Behalf of the United States Government Delivered by: **Alexander Metcalf**, International Environmental Protection Specialist, Office of International and Tribal Affairs, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

The United States strongly believes in the value that Partnerships provide to the international community, particularly as effective tools for sustainable development. Rather than taking a solitary approach through regulation, partnerships can play a key role in achieving sustainable development goals reaching partners through voluntary commitments. We work closely with a number of partners in both the public and private sectors, as well as civil society, on a number of issues including those related to the themes of this CSD cycle. To that end, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some accomplishments that have resulted from just two of our many international and domestic partnership programs.

The United States is a founding member of the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles (PCFV), which was launched in 2002 at the World Summit for Sustainable Development. PCFV is truly a global partnership with over 110 partners, including governments, oil and automobile industry partners, UN organizations, and non-governmental organizations.

Goals of the PCFV include:

- The elimination of lead from gasoline
- The reduction of sulfur in gasoline and diesel
- And the deployment of clean vehicle technologies

One of the major achievements has been the elimination of lead in gasoline throughout sub-Saharan Africa. Overall, there are now just 10 countries in the world with leaded gasoline, most with plans to phase it out. In addition, over the past several years 82 countries have committed to reducing sulfur levels in gasoline and diesel to 50 parts per million or below, which will allow for wide scale deployment of advanced emission control technologies.

PCFV is one of 443 registered partnerships for sustainable development by the CSD, however only 7 have more partners than PCFV. Due to its success, PCFV is often showcased as a model for other public-private partnerships in the environment, and a model for UNEP cooperation with partners and cross-sectoral initiatives.

Another successful partnership is the Methane to Markets (M2M) program - an international, public-private initiative, launched in 2004, that advances cost-effective, near-term methane recovery and use as a clean energy source. The goal of the Partnership is to reduce global methane emissions in order to enhance economic growth, strengthen energy security, improve industrial safety, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Since 2004, the M2M has grown from 14 to 33 Partner governments. And the Project Network brings together the necessary actors to implement methane reduction projects, including 950 private-sector and financial organizations currently participating.

Looking back on 5 years of accomplishments, I would like to note the following:

- The Partnership has supported the development of 170 projects in countries around the world that will reduce methane emissions.
- We have held more than 80 technology transfer and capacity-building events in 23 countries
- And we have organized two successful Project Expos - one in Beijing in 2007 and most recently in New Delhi in March 2010. Both of these were very well attended.

Benefits of methane reduction include improving energy supply by making methane available for local energy use; better water quality because of improved agricultural waste management; and the reduction of ground-level ozone through reduced methane emissions.

Thank you very much for the time, Mr. Chairman.