

**Ambassador's Remarks**  
**Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas**  
**Wednesday, March 21, 9:00a.m.**

Good morning. I am delighted to participate in this event on energy efficiency jointly organized by the Organization of American States, the U.S. Department of State, and the Government of Mexico, particularly the Secretariat of Energy and the Commission for the Efficient Use of Energy. Thank you particularly to Mark Lambrides and Juan Cruz from the Organization of American States for their work in putting together this workshop. I also would like to give a warm welcome to participants from countries throughout the hemisphere.

This event is the first of what we expect will be a series of workshops and information exchanges as part of the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas. Mexico has taken on a leadership role on energy efficiency within the Partnership. To help support Mexico's work and recognize its leadership, the Department of State has given a grant of one million dollars to the Organization of American States to support joint efforts by the United States and Mexico in finding ways to promote energy efficiency and access in countries throughout the hemisphere and to share experiences on how to encourage energy efficiency.

President Obama launched the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas at the April 2009 Summit of the Americas in Trinidad and Tobago. A year later, Western Hemisphere energy ministers gathered in Washington to participate in the Energy and Climate Ministerial of the Americas to highlight progress and facilitate the development of new initiatives.

Initiatives under the partnership are developed from contributions around the hemisphere. Chile has developed a renewable energy center, and countries in the Caribbean have promoted regional cooperation through groups such as the ECPA Caribbean Initiative. Canada also leads a dialogue to make the use of heavy oil more sustainable.

Mexico has been a strong partner on ECPA activities from the start, and has focused particularly on energy efficiency. In September 2010, Mexico held a highly successful Energy Efficiency and Access Forum, which was attended by representatives throughout the hemisphere.

Mexico has also worked internationally on a wide range of energy efficiency projects.

And, domestically, Mexico has been a leader on establishing targets for energy efficiency and use of clean energy. Its most recent National Energy Strategy includes goals of generating 35 percent of its electricity from non-fossil fuels by 2026 and reducing energy consumption by 10 to 15 percent below current trends during the same period.

The Mexican government has also supported innovative programs to incorporate energy-saving features into low-income housing through its “green mortgage” program, to promote energy efficiency by encouraging consumers to exchange old appliances for new, more energy-efficient models, and to exchange incandescent lightbulbs for fluorescent ones.

The United States is also working hard domestically on energy efficiency, including through the “Better Buildings Initiative”, which sets a national target of improving energy efficiency in commercial buildings by 20 percent by 2020 and commits the Federal Government to spend \$2 billion for energy efficiency upgrades of federal buildings.

There is also a tradition of cooperation on energy efficiency between Mexican cities and USAID’s Mexico Competitiveness Program. For example, USAID worked with Mexico City to develop its Environmental

Management System, which reduces energy and water use in the public sector and promotes procurement of “green” goods and services, and to put in place a sustainable building certification program for the federal district.

During this conference, Mexico will share its experiences with these and other programs to promote energy efficiency and encourage other countries participating to share their experiences as well. I am confident that we all have much to learn from each other.

As President Obama said at the Summit of Americas in 2009, “An Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas will help us learn from one another, share technologies, leverage investment, and maximize our comparative advantage.” This workshop will clearly help us reach those goals.

I congratulate Mexico on its efforts to reach out to other countries in the hemisphere on ways to increase energy efficiency, and I look forward to the success of this and future events.

Thank you.

Approved: DCM: Laura Dogu - ok

Drafted: ECON: Eleanore Fox

Cleared: ECON: Adam Shub – ok

ECON: Brian Harris – ok

USAID: Jeff DeGraffenreid - ok

PAS: Cristina Prado - ok

WHA/EPSC: Aaron Spencer - ok

ENR/EEE: Patrick Meyer - ok

OAS: Juan Cruz – ok