



**Parliamentarians for Global Action
31st Annual Forum: Environment and Energy Management**

**United States Congress
October 21 – 22, 2009**

We, Parliamentarians participating in Parliamentarians for Global Action's (PGA) 31st Annual Forum on Environment and Energy Management:

Acknowledging that energy and global warming represent two of the most critical and consequential challenges of the 21st century;

Affirming the principle that tackling global warming and energy insecurity can be a major international driver for economic growth and job creation in the coming decades;

Understanding that the environmental impacts of global warming also represent major threats to global public health, human security, food security, gender equality, and the stability of nations, particularly in developing countries

Understanding that reducing dependence on fossil fuels and diversifying and decarbonizing the global energy portfolio is an energy security imperative, as well as critical to fighting global warming;

Recognizing that confronting these challenges will require a concerted and coordinated global response;

Accepting the broad scientific view that global concentrations of greenhouse gasses are approaching dangerous and irreversible levels, and that urgent action is required.;

Recognizing that rapid economic growth, while contributing to human development and poverty eradication, poses new challenges and opportunities in transitioning to a low-carbon economy;

Cognizant that the majority of historic greenhouse gas emissions are attributable to industrialized countries, but acknowledging that the responsibility to act is universal;

Affirming that any actions to tackle global warming should take into account diverse national and regional circumstances—including conflict—in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, as well as our respective capabilities;

Cautioning that the pursuit of climate change and energy security policies must avoid introducing unnecessary and potentially disruptive barriers to trade, investment and socio-economic development, but instead should help inform and advance ethical standards of international commerce;

Affirming our commitment to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as the core mechanism for addressing climate change at the global level;

Recognizing that in conjunction with international climate negotiations, each country must also forge ahead with domestic policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while fostering economic growth; including through PGA National Chapters and its global network;

Agree to work within our respective Parliaments, Parliamentary Committees, and other regional and international fora in which we participate, to:

1. ***Commit*** to the goal of significantly reducing global greenhouse gas emissions, with corresponding short, medium and long-term targets;
2. ***Support*** the international negotiations in Copenhagen to achieve an effective post-2012 international agreement to reduce global warming emissions;
3. ***Carry out*** individual and collective actions, in a broad range of sectors, to address climate change, based on the principles of equity, flexibility, effectiveness, and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities;
4. ***Encourage*** fellow Parliamentarians to actively promote all legal measures to achieve the goal of a low-carbon economy, including the expansion of alternative and renewable sources of energy;
5. ***Support*** the development and expansion of policies to promote sustainable, low-carbon energy production, while creating jobs and advancing economic opportunities;
6. ***Elevate*** the human rights dimensions of the global warming threat;
7. ***Coordinate our efforts and work together*** as we set and implement our own domestic emissions reductions targets;
8. ***Cooperate*** and exchange best practices in climate change mitigation and adaptation measures in order to better integrate financing and technical assistance into international, regional and national efforts to reduce vulnerabilities to climate change;
9. ***Facilitate*** the deployment and commercialization of clean technology through various means, such as public and private investment, financial assistance, and technology transfer;
10. ***Strengthen*** information sharing and response capabilities to natural disaster risks raised by climate variability and extreme weather events;
11. ***Increase*** public awareness of the impacts of climate change, and enhance grassroots participation in efforts to reduce emissions;
12. ***Promote*** a new economic and environmental ethic that advances the principles of equity and broadly-shared prosperity in the international and domestic solutions forged to combat climate change;