

U.S. INTERVENTION ON THE KYOTO MECHANISMS
SBSTA/SBI 10
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Mr. Chairman, the United States appreciates the opportunity, at the beginning of our discussion on the Kyoto mechanisms, to make general observations on the mechanisms contained in various provisions of the Protocol text, including Articles 4, 6, 12, and 17. These mechanisms are integral to achieving the environmental benefits of the Kyoto Protocol. We look forward to the discussion of crosscutting issues to frame our work and help us make progress on the mechanisms. I would like to make five principal points.

First, the United States recognizes the need for domestic action against climate change and the strength of feeling many Parties hold in this regard. The U.S. is in fact already taking substantial action at home:

1. Our Climate Change Technology Initiative – combining both voluntary and regulatory initiatives – is significantly reducing the trajectory of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. Last year we won a 25% increase in funding for expanded technology deployment programs and for programs to develop the next generation of high-efficiency automobiles, electric power technologies, and clean industries.
2. This year the President's budget renews proposals to nearly double existing climate technology programs, adding tax incentives for deployment of key climate-friendly technologies.
3. All across America, we are seeing new initiatives at all levels of government to change the patterns of suburban sprawl in ways that promise to significantly change trends in greenhouse gas emissions from transportation.
4. As we carry out existing laws, we are taking advantage of synergies among pollutants whenever we can. For example, a single regulation issued by the U.S. EPA a little over a year ago to curb the smog-causing emissions from landfills will also cut methane emissions each year equal to the greenhouse gas output of more than 20 million cars.
5. Finally, the President has proposed to put in place by 2008 the kind of cap-and-trade program for greenhouse gases that has worked so well against other air pollution problems in our country.

In short, we are committed to taking much more action at home – *if* we stay on the path charted at Kyoto and move forward under the agreed framework of ambitious targets and flexible implementation mechanisms. This brings me to my second point.

At the outset of our discussions it is important to remind ourselves of the integral linkage between the full implementation of all of the Kyoto mechanisms and the achievability of the ambitious Annex B targets that we adopted in Kyoto. Those targets are indeed ambitious and a serious initial commitment to protection of our climate system. In our case, our target of 7% reduction below 1990 levels requires more than a 30% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions below the levels otherwise expected during the 2008-2012 period.