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FACT SHEET

Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas

Through the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA), the United States is working with partners in the region to advance the development and deployment of innovative clean energy technologies to combat global climate change, enhance national security, and advance sustainable development and green growth.

At the Summit of the Americas in April 2009, President Obama invited countries of the Western Hemisphere to participate in ECPA. Since then, the United States and other partners including Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, and Mexico, have launched close to 40 different initiatives and projects throughout the region. Progress is tracked and shared on the ECPA information clearinghouse, which is managed by the Organization of American States (OAS), at www.ecpamericas.org.

The Obama Administration has invested more than $60 million in fiscal years 2009 and 2010 in ECPA and related climate change activities in the Western Hemisphere. U.S. Secretary of Energy Steven Chu, together with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, hosted the first Energy and Climate Ministerial of the Americas in 2010. Leaders will discuss ECPA and other Summit of the Americas accomplishments in Cartagena, Colombia, in 2012 at the Sixth Summit of the Americas.

The region's commitment to ECPA has resulted in the following successes:

- The Peace Corps' Renewable Energy and Climate Change Initiative involves volunteers in 11 countries throughout the hemisphere working to reduce energy poverty and increase the use of renewable energy in rural communities.

- The United States and Brazil, in cooperation with the American Planning Association, are collaborating to build a network of urban planners across Latin America and the Caribbean to promote green buildings, energy efficient housing, and sustainable transport in low-income communities.

- The United States, through the Department of Energy, is supporting Chile's Renewable Energy Center and Costa Rica's Energy Efficiency Center to promote clean energy technologies and policies in the region.

- Central American leaders are advancing toward integration of their power infrastructure through SIEPAC – the Central American Electrical Interconnection System – in partnership with the Institute of the Americas in San Diego.

- The U.S. Trade and Development Agency's Clean Energy Exchange Program of the Americas brought nearly 50 Latin American and Caribbean energy officials and project sponsors to the United States on a series of six clean energy reverse trade missions.

- The United States, through the Department of Agriculture, is promoting sustainable biomass and renewable energy usage with Guatemala, Honduras, Ecuador and Uruguay.

- The OAS, with support from DOE and the Department of State, is facilitating a Caribbean Sustainable Energy Dialogue of governments and will provide technical assistance to enable participating countries to implement actions and strategies to increase the sustainability of their energy supplies while reducing carbon emissions from the energy sector. Through the Low Carbon Communities of the Caribbean Program, the OAS and DOE are jointly providing assistance on energy efficiency and conservation.

The Obama Administration's Commitment to ECPA

President Obama is committed to making ECPA a productive, meaningful partnership that improves the lives and welfare of people throughout the Americas. Highlights of new areas of cooperation include:

- **Andean Glacier Monitoring and Research Center:** The United States intends to support a regional research network for glacier monitoring and modeling led by Chile's world class researchers to inform policy and decision-making on how glacial retreat will impact water security in Andean glacier countries.

- **Geothermal Energy Cooperation:** The United States has committed to send a geothermal expert to Chile to provide technical support for geothermal training and industry development. The United States plans to take home lessons learned from Chile's experiences in geothermal power development.

- **Regional Adaptation Hub:** The United States will strengthen the resilience of vulnerable sectors and populations of Central America. Activities will improve climate and weather information to reduce disaster risks and vulnerability to climatic shocks. This will also help governments utilize that information, including through early-warning systems to prepare and plan for hazards such as hurricanes, floods, and forest fires.

- **Earth Observation and Monitoring:** The United States will enhance the capabilities of SERVIR, an earth observation, monitoring, and visualization system launched in 2005 that has helped countries in Central America monitor the weather, forest fires, and ecological changes.

- **Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Tropical Ecosystems** The United States will promote cooperation among the United States, Mexico, and Central America to slow, halt and reverse emissions from deforestation across large ecosystems that constitute the vast majority of the region's remaining forests. The regional cooperation will

promote development of common remote sensing imagery and sharing of forest and land use monitoring data and facilitate cross-boundary sustainable forest management.

- **Sustainable Urban Development:** The Ashoka Changemakers, with support from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Rockefeller Foundation, are running a housing competition to identify inclusive, sustainable, energy efficient housing strategies for low-income residence in urban areas. Ashoka will award a $10,000 prize to the winner during a ceremony at the National Building Museum in June 2011.

- **U.S.-Chile Energy Business Council:** The United States and Chile will launch a new energy partnership, U.S.-Chile Energy Business Council, focused on clean energy, energy efficiency, renewable energy and energy infrastructure. The Council will seek to advance clean energy development, identify business and investment opportunities in both countries, and pursue collaboration on energy infrastructure resiliency, technology innovation, and incorporation of energy efficiency and renewables in industry, transportation, building and public sectors. This includes promoting more efficient and reliable energy infrastructure to better address energy and climate security challenges.

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