

Methane to Markets Partnership

*Ministerial Meeting
Mexico City, 1 October 2010*

Ministerial Declaration

We, the Ministers and representatives of the Methane to Markets Partners, met in Mexico City for a Ministerial meeting on 1 October 2010 to announce expanded international cooperation to reduce global methane emissions and accelerate our efforts to address climate change in the near term while providing cost-effective clean energy solutions, and delivering human health, environmental, and economic development benefits.

We recognize that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time, and that all countries around the world must work together constructively in order to respond to it. Methane mitigation, in parallel with other greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction strategies, plays a critical role in overcoming this challenge. Methane accounts for approximately 18 percent of the total anthropogenic contribution to climate change, and methane emissions are responsible for nearly one-third of the warming the planet is currently experiencing. Methane is a potent GHG that remains in the atmosphere a relatively short period of time. Therefore, reducing methane emissions today will yield substantial climate benefits, both in the near and long term.

We also recognize the importance of the energy, human health, environmental, and economic benefits that can accompany methane reduction projects in the agriculture, coal mining, landfill, oil and gas, and wastewater sectors. Projects may make methane available for local energy production and strengthen energy security. Projects may also contribute to technology development and transfer and enhance economic development. In addition, they may improve industrial safety by reducing the risks of explosions in coal mines and oil and gas installations. Projects can also bring considerable environmental and public health benefits such as reductions in background levels of tropospheric ozone, lower emissions of other local air pollutants, and improvement of local water quality.

The Methane to Markets Partnership was launched in 2004 with 14 partner countries. Our cooperation has since expanded to include 38 governments, which together represent approximately 70 percent of the world's estimated anthropogenic methane emissions and include the top 10 methane emitting countries, as well as more than 1,000 leading public and private sector organizations. Over the past six years, we have worked together, successfully building international capacity to address methane emissions. We have identified and made progress in reducing barriers to technology deployment and project development. The work of the Partnership has complemented the international community's efforts under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol.

Our efforts are delivering real GHG emission reductions, while providing the foundation for greater reductions in years to come. To date, Partner countries have supported more than 300 methane projects around the world that have already

delivered reductions of approximately 40 million MTCO₂E cumulatively. When fully implemented, these projects are expected to reduce emissions by more than 60 million MTCO₂e per year while providing new sources of clean energy, supporting technology transfer, stimulating local economic growth, and providing public health and environmental benefits.

We appreciate the work of the Partnership's Project Network members for their actions in providing the necessary financial resources and technological and project development expertise to reduce methane emissions. We are also proud of the overwhelming success of the two Methane to Markets Expos, hosted by China and India. The Expo has become the premier international forum on methane emission reduction project development.

While much has already been achieved, we also recognize that more needs to be done to address climate change and that significant cost-effective methane reduction opportunities still remain available throughout the world. As a result, robust global action to reduce methane emissions is urgently needed, including, inter alia, stronger financial support and continued engagement of the private sector, researchers, international financial institutions, and other relevant governmental and nongovernmental organizations, as well as assuring that international cooperation evolves in a manner that is supportive of the UNFCCC.

We would like to build on the successes achieved through the Methane to Markets Partnership by expanding and enhancing our efforts in re-launching the Partnership as a new Global Methane Initiative (GMI). The GMI is intended to build on the existing structure and success of the Methane to Markets Partnership and supports the recently revised Methane to Markets Terms of Reference. Our expanded efforts will include additional methane sources, such as wastewater, and the exploration of approaches to methane abatement and avoidance as well as recovery and use. We will focus on working together to develop methane national action plans that will help countries with significant potential for methane reductions, particularly developing countries, identify opportunities and help developed countries and other stakeholders coordinate assistance. We will continue to work to overcome barriers to technology deployment and project development. We intend to encourage new financial commitments from developed country partners and others in a position to do so in order to ensure the success of our efforts.

Finally, we express our sincere gratitude to the Government of Mexico for hosting this meeting.