



# CLEAN ENERGY MINISTERIAL

## Chair's Summary for 19 July Sessions Washington, D.C. 19-20 July 2010

The first-ever Clean Energy Ministerial took place in Washington, D.C., 19-20 July 2010. Participants welcomed U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu's leadership in convening the Ministerial. Ministers and officials from Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, the European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Norway, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States attended the meeting. Observers from the International Energy Agency, United Nations, and multilateral development banks were also present for the day-long government meeting, ahead of the second day's public forum. The Ministerial meeting grew from the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate (MEF) Leaders' decision in July 2009 to launch the Global Partnership to drive transformational low-carbon and climate-friendly technologies, as well as from dialogues among countries interested in accelerating clean energy technologies.

Ministers shared information about their experiences with the domestic policies, regulatory frameworks, and programs that have proven successful for large-scale clean energy development and deployment within their countries. Some spoke about overcoming challenges with mobilizing capital and finding innovative ways to help consumers and small businesses. Others described their efforts to improve uptake of both established and emerging renewable energy technologies as well as carbon capture and storage demonstration projects while also creating jobs and growing their economies. Some also expressed interest in finding partners to cooperate in achieving specific national goals. Participants agreed that sharing best practices, domestic experiences, and lessons learned can help achieve the common goal of advancing clean energy technologies, and expressed their intention to expand their collaborative efforts further.

Participants discussed how to accelerate clean energy development and deployment even as many governments are moving toward a time of increasing fiscal constraints. The exchange of ideas highlighted the positive impact that well-designed policies can have in providing signals to the private sector to help drive clean energy investments while limiting public sector expenditures, and noted the benefit of public-private partnerships. The group agreed that while public funding may be tight countries cannot reduce their ambitions, and that innovative approaches can help continue progress even under challenging circumstances. Ministers noted that information dissemination, especially regarding large-scale demonstration projects, was critical to advancing technologies. Participants highlighted the idea that other countries' efforts can provide policy and program design insight that can be applied as appropriate in national contexts. Countries also discussed how public funds could be used to leverage private sector and international financial resources. Ministers agreed that by working together governments can more strategically invest in research and development, leveraging public funding to help lower

the cost of clean energy technologies while sharing best practice policies that enable deployment of cost-effective solutions in the near term.

The Ministers explored strategies to enhance cooperation on energy efficiency, noting that such efforts can provide immediate gains. Countries agreed that implementing policies to unlock cost-effective energy efficiency should be a priority and agreed to launch a suite of related initiatives to be publicly announced on 20 July. Participants noted that there are good opportunities for countries to learn from each others' experiences with efficiency. Numerous countries shared information about their innovative approaches to increase energy efficiency in various sectors of their economies. Many countries noted the importance of standards as a tool to advance energy efficiency gains, and the benefits to be gained through coordination of standards regionally and internationally. Ministers agreed that international cooperative efforts on energy efficiency can help overcome barriers and assist countries in reaching their own energy policy goals.

There was wide support among participants for additional Ministerial meetings, and a shared view that it would be beneficial to continue to work together to accelerate the deployment of clean energy technologies. Ministers looked forward to the public announcements to be made on 20 July about the set of initiatives agreed to during this Ministerial, which were inspired in part by the MEF Global Partnership's Technology Action Plans released in Copenhagen in December 2009. During the 19 July session many Ministers previewed their countries' interest in participating in multiple initiatives. Participants agreed to build upon the efforts announced during the Washington meeting and welcomed the offers of the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom to host subsequent meetings in 2011 and 2012 respectively, during which Ministers could take stock of progress made on the initiatives announced at this first Ministerial meeting and hold further policy discussions.