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Technology and Finance Agreements Should Focus on Existing Clean Energy Sources

International Clean Energy Business Coalition Addresses Plenary Session of United Nations Climate Change Negotiations

Bonn, Germany – June 1, 2009 – At the opening plenary session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) at the United Nations (UN) climate change treaty negotiations today, a global coalition of existing clean energy industries delivered specific recommendations regarding how both the private sector and finance are key elements to a successful international agreement in Copenhagen this December.

“Post-2012 technology and financing frameworks must be structured to attract and leverage public and private capital equity flows,” stated Lisa Jacobson, President, U.S. Business Council for Sustainable Energy in her remarks to the UN delegates on behalf of the International Council for Sustainable Energy and the Global Wind Energy Council, a grouping of over 750 clean energy companies and business organizations worldwide.

The SBSTA is the forum created by the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) where topics such as the development and transfer of technology are discussed and debated. The SBSTA is considering reports on technology transfer which highlight the significant role that the private sector will play in the development, transfer and financing of mitigation and adaptation technologies.

These two features are important elements to the next international agreement currently under negotiation that will follow the conclusion of the Kyoto Protocol in 2012. This international coalition of existing clean energy technologies believes that a strong post-2012 agreement in Copenhagen with clear mid-term and near-term greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets will send clear market signals that will accelerate the deployment of existing clean energy technologies.

The coalition also extended its support of preliminary SBSTA reports on performance indicators which state that the creation of enabling environments for technology transfer and financing are key measures of market development and the transfer of technology. More specifically, Ms. Jacobson identified that “Indicators for enabling environments should be specific and track incentives and policies that increase installed capacity of clean energy generation as well as the adoption of codes and standards to increase building efficiency.”

The global transformation to a clean energy economy relies on both a strong policy framework and clear market signals—both of which can be achieved by UN delegates reaching a consensus agreement in December in Copenhagen. Such an agreement must set the conditions needed to foster the rapid and broad diffusion of existing clean energy technologies, as detailed in the full text of the intervention (see attachment).

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The Council is an industry coalition that includes businesses and trade associations representing the energy efficiency, renewable energy and natural gas industries. These industries comprise a suite of currently available technology options that can strengthen domestic energy security, create new high-quality jobs and reduce emissions of greenhouse gases that contribute to global climate change. For more information about the Council please visit our website at www.bcse.org.