

**Partnerships for Environmental Policy (5 min keynote)
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Thank you, Marta. I'm again delighted to be here today representing USAID in the discussion of **partnerships for environmental policy**.

At the end of September, President Bush addressed the **Major Economies Meeting on Energy Security and Climate Change** and urged a new path forward to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, which includes the idea of partnerships with the world's largest emitters of greenhouse gases.

Key to this effort will be the advance of clean energy technologies. By developing new, low-emission technologies, the world's major economies can meet the growing demand for energy while reducing air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

Achieving the vision of an age of clean energy will require significant commitments from all major economies, and **partnerships** among governments, **non-governmental organizations** and the **private sector**. Such a partnership could include the creation of a new international clean technology fund to help developing nations harness the power of clean energy technologies proposed by President Bush at last month's meeting in Washington.

One model for global partnerships is the **Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles** (PCFV), which has succeeded in moving nearly all countries in the world to lead-free gasoline. The U.S. was a founding member of this Partnership and a

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major supporter. Because of the PCFV, Sub-Saharan Africa is now lead-free, and with two years to go to meet the Partnership's goals of unleaded gasoline world-wide by 2008, there are only 21 countries that still sell leaded gasoline.

What are the challenges in Southeastern Europe? In this region, six countries have yet to eliminate lead from the gasoline they sell: Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Macedonia, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, and here in Serbia. Many of these countries have old refineries, and some are now being privatized. The **Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles**, under the leadership of the Regional Environmental Center's **Marta Bonifert** and UNEP, is actively working with many of these countries to make these important changes.

As these refineries are privatized, now is the time to make the switch to unleaded gasoline. Unleaded gasoline is good for health, vehicles, AND it is good for the pocketbook, in some countries, air pollution costs have been calculated to be 5% of GDP.

We only need to look to Africa, which eliminated lead in gasoline in 49 countries at the beginning of 2006, to see that countries *can* make these changes and *can* do it in a cost-effective way. Countries all over the world are updating their refineries, and this provides an opportunity, whether it is in Serbia, Kenya or Costa Rica, to upgrade fuel quality. These forward-thinking refineries serve as models for the rest of their regions - and for the world.

More recently, the United States has been a strong supporter of the **UNEP Global Mercury Partnerships**. We

feel that these **Partnerships** have the ability to make the same type of transformational change as the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles.

Another partnership launched by the U.S. in 2002 is the **Partnership for Clean Indoor Air**, designed to address the increased risk facing 3 billion people who burn traditional biomass fuels indoor for cooking and heating.

Finally, the international **Methane to Markets** is a global partnership that advances cost-effective, near-term methane recovery and use as a clean energy source, reducing a potent greenhouse gas. The "M to M" Partnership currently focuses on four sources of methane emissions: agriculture; coal mines; landfills; and the oil and gas industry. Germany, Poland, Russia, Ukraine and the United Kingdom are members of this partnership, and we are pleased that EU's membership just became official in September.

In sum, it is the collaboration of partners, sharing information, best practices and goals, which allows us to pinpoint the areas of concern and even the facilities of concern, and take the appropriate coordinated action.

The United States is firmly convinced that a Partnership approach is the ideal way to achieve results.

We urge all interested countries to join these partnerships and work collaboratively - with industry and other governments on these important issues, to enhance environmental policies in the region and around the world.

Thank you.