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Mr. Chairman,

- Since our first Ministerial Conference in 1991, the EfE process has led to numerous achievements.

- The most fundamental of these have been the assessments of the state of the environment in our region and the environmental performance reviews.

- But our region has changed dramatically since our first meeting in Dobris, and, given the challenges facing us today, we cannot afford to rest on our laurels.

- Thus, the EfE process must evolve and become more a effective means of improving environmental protection and the lives of people across our region.

- Likewise, we need to build bridges with the private sector, whose role in implementing and financing our environmental objectives is growing as the world globalizes.

- The US looks forward to a successful reform of the EfE process – in particular to fostering a culture of implementation – and a continuation of our fruitful cooperation with EfE partners.

¹ The present document is a scanned copy of a statement received on 12 October 2007 during the Sixth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" (Belgrade, 10-12 October 2007). The document has not been formally processed by the UNECE