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SPEAKING POINTS

THE HONOURABLE JOHN BAIRD
MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT

CANADA'S NATIONAL STATEMENT AT COP 16

CANCUN, MEXICO
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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

We have come to Cancun optimistic that we can make progress towards implementing the Copenhagen Accord as the basis of a new post-2012 international climate change agreement that is fair, effective and comprehensive.

En route vers Cancún, nous avons pu constater des signes de progrès en matière d'adaptation, d'atténuation, de transfert de technologies, de financement et de réduction des émissions provenant de la déforestation. Nous sommes ici pour poursuivre sur cette lancée.

Going into Cancun, there are signs of progress on adaptation, mitigation, technology transfer, financing and reducing emissions from deforestation. We are here to build on this momentum.

The Copenhagen Accord was a significant breakthrough in the international climate change dialogue, laying the foundation for a post-2012 international climate change agreement that includes commitments from all major emitters. Countries that have signed on to the Accord are responsible for more than 85 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions.

In addition, the Accord provided for significant international financing, including a collective commitment by developed countries to provide new and additional resources approaching $30 billion to developing countries during the 2010 to 2012 period, with adaptation funding focused on the most vulnerable, especially least developed countries, small island developing states and Africa.

Canada committed to doing its fair-share of this fast-start financing and we've kept our promise. We are contributing $400 million this fiscal year in new and additional funding to support developing countries' efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change.

L'apport du Canada ciblera des initiatives réalisées dans trois domaines prioritaires : l'adaptation par les pays les plus pauvres et les plus vulnérables; le développement et le déploiement de l'énergie propre; la réduction des émissions provenant de la déforestation.

Canada's support will go to initiatives in three priority areas—adaptation by the poorest and most vulnerable countries, clean energy development and deployment, and reducing emissions from deforestation.

We are providing $5 million in support for climate change adaptation initiatives in Haiti, $3 million for Vietnam's National Target Program on Climate Change and adding $7 million for the World Food Program for adaptation and food security in Ethiopia, bringing that contribution to $15 million for 2010/2011. We have also contributed $20 million to the Least Developed Countries Fund that addresses the special needs of the 48 least developed countries that are especially vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change.

Domestically, we are working in collaboration with the provinces and territories towards the target we inscribed in the Copenhagen Accord to reduce emissions by 17 per cent below 2005 levels by 2020. This is aligned with the United States, a country with which Canada has inextricable economic ties.

Together with the United States, our largest trading partner and with whom we share the world's largest border, we are working to reduce emissions in the transportation sector, a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions in both countries. This year, Canada finalized standards for regulating emissions from passenger vehicles and light trucks that are aligned with those of the U.S. We are also working towards doing the same for heavy-duty vehicles.

Toutefois, lorsque les intérêts canadiens et américains différeront, nous n'hésiterons pas à adopter une orientation stratégique indépendante, tout comme nous l'avons fait dans le cas de l'électricité.

However, where Canadian and American interests differ, we will not hesitate to pursue an independent policy direction, just as we have done in the case of electricity.

We are striking out on our own as we work to regulate coal-fired electricity generation, which will lead to significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

Furthermore, we will continue our discussions with the United States to highlight the importance of large hydro power as an important renewable energy source and contributor to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

To conclude, I'd like to thank our Mexican counterparts for hosting this year's conference and for the tremendous effort they have made to ensure that we will have a successful outcome. Canada will continue to work constructively to implement the Copenhagen Accord as the basis of a comprehensive, legally binding post-2012 agreement.