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## **The Second Ministerial Meeting**

### **Discussion Paper**

#### **1. Purpose**

This paper provides an overview of the Steering Committee's recent discussions regarding the planning of a second Methane to Markets Partnership Ministerial Meeting to be held in conjunction with the process of the sixteenth Conference of the Parties (COP) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Mexico later this year.<sup>1</sup> This paper also provides a discussion of the possible agenda and timing of the meeting and outlines several key items for the Steering Committee's consideration and decision.

#### **2. Background**

At the Steering Committee meeting held in Washington, DC in September 2009, discussions focused on revising the TOR and planning for the future of the Partnership. As an initial step, the Steering Committee agreed to extend the existing TOR for one year (i.e., through 2010) to allow time for revision and expansion of its contents. The Steering Committee also decided that a Ministerial event would be appropriate to announce a revised TOR and provide an opportunity for countries to announce renewed commitments to the Partnership.

The Steering Committee also discussed possible locations and timing for the second Ministerial Meeting. Options discussed included a stand alone event, the 2010 India Expo, and, at Mexico's suggestion, one of several preparatory meetings to the 16<sup>th</sup> UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP16) which will take place in Mexico during 2010. Given the advantages associated with Mexico's suggestion, the Steering Committee decided that a Ministerial in conjunction with a COP16 meeting would be best. After further consultation with Mexico, it has also been suggested to have Ministerial meeting in conjunction with the COP16 itself.

#### **3. Potential Elements of a Ministerial Meeting**

The Steering Committee should determine a program for the ministerial meeting, which could include some or all of the following elements:

*Country statements:* Each Minister could issue a short statement that would provide an opportunity to demonstrate support for the Partnership, highlight successes and announce future plans and commitments.

*Ministerial Declaration* – Ministers could finalize and announce a short declaration that would emphasize the importance of the Partnership to addressing the challenges of clean energy and climate change and note the significance of the revised TOR. These types of declarations are

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<sup>1</sup> The COP16 is scheduled to be held from 29 November – 10 December 2010 in Mexico.

common at events of this kind and would provide a rationale for the Ministers to attend the ceremony. A proposed process for developing such text is described below.

*Press Event* - Photo opportunity and press availability.

*Official Photograph* – with all the Partnership Ministers.

If the Steering Committee wishes to include a Ministerial Declaration in the meeting, the proper points of contact inside the Steering governments should be identified. The ASG would propose the following process, along with tentative dates, to develop the declaration:

***March-April 2010:*** Steering delegates inform the ASG of points of contact for the declaration development process.

***May 2010:*** ASG circulates draft declaration text to all Steering Committee members and Administrative Liaisons, and other designated points of contact for consideration.

***June 2010:*** ASG incorporates comments from the Partnership, circulates revised text, and holds conference call to discuss.

***Day before Ministerial:*** Steering Committee meets to finalize any unresolved issues before the Ministerial event.

The ASG will be responsible for planning the Ministerial and associated Steering Committee meeting, in cooperation with Mexico.

#### **4. Issues for Consideration**

Schedule and Process: Does the Steering Committee wish to have the Ministerial Meeting in conjunction with COP16? If so, does the Steering Committee agree with the organizational process as proposed by the ASG?

Agenda: Which of the suggest elements would the Steering Committee like to see as part of the Ministerial Meeting? Are there other issues (i.e., beyond TOR) that the Steering Committee might wish to consider/address during the Second Ministerial Meeting or at the Steering meeting immediately preceding?

Declaration: Does the Steering Committee agree to the development of a Ministerial Declaration in the manner proposed by the ASG?