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NEWS RELEASE

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STATEMENT BY GLOBAL CLIMATE COALITION

Comments by John Shlaes, Executive Director, Global Climate Coalition, issued in Geneva, Switzerland, at the fifth session of international climate change negotiations by the Ad Hoc Group on the Berlin Mandate:

Discussions during this round of negotiations have featured the growing concerns among both developed and developing nations about the negative economic impacts of proposals to constrain basic energy use.

There is a wider recognition of the fallacy of excluding developing countries—where the bulk of future emissions will originate—from requirements to manage greenhouse gas emissions. Nonetheless, developing countries continued to assert adamantly their opposition to requirements to restrain emissions. Unless all parties are fully engaged, the oft-stated goals of this process can't be realized.

There is increasing awareness and a certain degree of disquiet among many developing world representatives that their economies would be harmed if restrictions on energy consumption were imposed on the industrialized countries. It is in no one's interest to impede economic growth in developing countries, where the path to prosperity is often the path toward health and welfare improvements.

Many developed nations realize that a "one size fits all" approach cannot succeed. Such an approach completely ignores the many structural differences in the industrial economies, as the U.S. negotiators made clear in arguing the need for flexibility.

It is essential that this process proceed in a manner that optimizes long-term economic development and growth potential in the course of addressing environmental concerns, so that we all can honor our obligations to future generations. Enhanced economic prospects equate to enhanced opportunities for our children—opportunities for better educations, better environment, and better quality of life.

The Global Climate Coalition, representing businesses and industries that would be required to implement any commitments that are made by governments in these proceedings, recognizes that potential climate change merits serious consideration and examination. The GCC believes that the prudent course of action to address potential climate change will incorporate these elements:

- Commitment to continuing policy-relevant research to reduce uncertainties in the knowledge base of global climate change;
- Support for voluntary programs to manage GHGs;
- Expansion of efforts to develop and diffuse energy efficient technologies; and
- Commitment to least-cost, optimal pathways to GHG management reflecting spatial and temporal flexibility.

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