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## THE GLOBAL CLIMATE COALITION RECOGNIZES U.S. LEADERSHIP FOR PRESENTING NATIONAL PLAN IN GENEVA

**WASHINGTON, DC, December 8, 1992....**The Global Climate Coalition (GCC) recognizes the continuing leadership and strong commitment of the United States in the climate change arena as demonstrated in the release yesterday of the United States government's National Action Plan (NAP) to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) in Geneva.

The United States was the first industrialized nation to sign and ratify the Framework Convention on Climate Change, and now is the first to submit its national plan to the INC. The United States is also the world leader in scientific research on global climate change.

The Global Climate Coalition agrees with the major theme in the National Action Plan that significant progress is already under way in the United States in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. "American companies spend close to \$100 billion yearly complying with environmental regulations," said GCC Executive Director John Shlaes, "in addition to other voluntary actions such as those taken through the Environmental Protection Agency's 'Green Lights' program." He also pointed out that "industry's continuing commitment to technical innovation yields additional progress across a range of industrial sectors."

The Global Climate Coalition strongly supports the linkage in the National Action Plan of appropriate policy directives with validated science. "There is a clear danger in the debate on global climate change for policy makers to rush into action before the scientific community agrees that proposed actions will actually impact any climate trend," Shlaes said. "This is certainly true in the debate on climate change, where

significant disagreements exist concerning everything from the validity of computer models that are used to predict a dangerous warming trend, to the role of man-made greenhouse gases in altering the dynamics of the natural greenhouse effect."

All forecasts show that the vast majority of future increases in greenhouse gas emissions will come from developing countries. Appropriately, the NAP stresses the value of our nation's capabilities to supply more efficient technologies and services to developing countries. The Global Climate Coalition fully supports efforts that enhance the technology cooperation process.

The Global Climate Coalition supports the recognition in the National Action Plan that economic growth is a critical component in dealing with climate change issues. Mr. Shlaes said that "Within any growing economy there are constant improvements in industrial processes and energy efficiencies that may result in a de facto reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. It is here, in the natural process of industrial modernization, that some of the most significant progress will be made."

Finally, the Global Climate Coalition concurs with the assessment that measures to reduce greenhouse gases, if necessary, must be made by all nations. "Reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. alone will not be significant over the long term," Shlaes said, "If American consumers are to bear the costs of expensive solutions, they will expect that those solutions will actually carry some benefit, and not simply place us at a competitive disadvantage with our international trading partners."

The Framework Convention on Climate Change was drafted by the INC during two years of negotiations, and it was opened for signature in Rio de Janeiro during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in June 1992. A principle recommendation (and a requirement for OECD members) in the Framework Convention is for signatories to submit national plans outlining actions that are consistent with the Convention.

The Global Climate Coalition is an organization of business trade associations and private companies established in 1989 to coordinate business participation in the scientific and policy debate on global climate change. Several GCC members, along with GCC Executive Director John Shlaes, are actively participating in the deliberations of the INC concerning the Framework Convention on Climate Change in Geneva this week.

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