

## Session Topic: Addressing Inter-linkages Between Climate Change and Sustainable Development

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The United States has been working with countries around the world to promote clean development and to address climate change. Our approach is based on the idea that we will make more progress over time if we place climate goals into a broader development agenda – one that promotes economic growth, reduces poverty, enhances agricultural productivity, provides energy security, reduces pollution, *and* mitigates greenhouse gas emissions. Since 2001, the United States worked hard to promote practical, results-oriented partnerships, including international partnerships and public-private partnerships.

### **1) Methane Recovery and Use**

Case Study | [Methane to Markets Partnership](#)  
The Methane to Markets Partnership is an action-oriented initiative that will reduce global methane emissions to enhance economic growth, promote energy security, improve the environment, and reduce greenhouse gases. Other benefits include improving mine safety, reducing waste, and improving local air quality. The initiative focuses on cost-effective, near-term methane recovery and use as a clean energy source. It will be done internationally through collaboration between developed countries, developing countries, and countries with economies in transition – together with strong participation from the private sector.  
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Lessons learned | **Methane capture and use projects can facilitate economic development and improve local living conditions.**

Obstacles confronted | Over the last two centuries, or since the dawn of the industrial revolution, methane concentrations in the atmosphere have more than doubled, largely because of human activity. Methane is a greenhouse gas, meaning that its presence in the atmosphere may contribute to climate change.

Next Steps | Continue work to develop and deploy the transformational energy technologies that will significantly cut projected emissions and the greenhouse gas intensity of the global economy in the context of sustained economic growth.

### **2) Earth Observations**

Case Study | [The Group on Observations \(GEO\)](#)  
GEO has established a Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS). The GEO vision for GEOSS is to realize a future wherein decisions and actions for the benefit of humankind are informed via coordinated, comprehensive and sustained Earth observations and information.  
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Lessons learned | **Understanding the Earth system is crucial to enhancing human health, safety and welfare, alleviating human suffering including poverty, protecting the global environment, reducing disaster losses, and achieving sustainable development.**

Obstacle confronted | Lack of a broad global observation system to support measurements of climate variables.

Next Steps | Members will continue work to build on and add value to existing Earth-observation systems by coordinating their efforts, addressing critical gaps, supporting their interoperability, sharing information, reaching a common understanding of user requirements, and improving delivery of information to users.