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COEJL: Copenhagen A First Step; Global Climate Change Debate Now Moves to U.S. Senate

NEW YORK – Upon the conclusion of the U.N. Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, Jewish environmentalists are urging the U.S. Senate to tackle important energy legislation and to finance developing countries so they can address global climate change.

The Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life (COEJL), a project of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA), applauded President Barack Obama for participating in the U.N. Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen and for the U.S. proposal of creating a \$100 billion fund by 2020 for vulnerable countries. COEJL, which is one of the nation's leading Jewish environmental organizations, is urging members of the U.S. Senate to fulfill the promises laid out by the president and approve a comprehensive energy reform bill that sufficiently reduces greenhouse gas emissions, includes meaningful measures to minimize the impact on low-income communities, and ensures that the most vulnerable around the world are protected from the effects of climate change.

“As President Obama has stated, we can slow down the rate of emissions the United States and others produce through ambitious and well planned actions,” said Sybil Sanchez, director of the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life. “The United States must do more than engage the world in dialogue; we must show our commitment through our own actions. The U.S. Senate currently has before it legislation to do just that. We encourage Senators to meet the challenge laid out by the president in Copenhagen and to follow their colleagues on the House side by approving legislation that will contribute to immediately curbing global climate change.”

“We applaud the President for personally addressing global leaders at the Copenhagen conference and playing a proactive role in the negotiations,” said Rabbi Steve Gutow, president of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs. “Since the U.S. is the world's second largest producer of greenhouse emissions, President Obama's commitment to change is critical for global efforts to be successful. We hope that the nascent agreement reached in Copenhagen will quickly blossom into a full scale, comprehensive commitment to such efforts.”

The Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life (COEJL), one of the leading Jewish environmental organizations in the United States.

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