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Statement from Mark Tercek, President and CEO of The Nature Conservancy, on President Obama's announcement that he will attend the international climate negotiations in Copenhagen

"The White House's announcement that President Obama will attend the climate talks in Copenhagen next month is very encouraging.

Combined with recent commitments by Brazil, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea and the European Union and positive signals from China and India, this sets the stage for a meaningful global deal that can lead to a legally binding agreement next year. The President's personal commitment on this issue will be very important to a positive outcome both in Copenhagen and in the U.S.

President Obama has also signaled that he would be willing to put a series of emission targets on the table, including a reduction from 2005 levels in the range of 17% by 2020, as part of a pathway that would achieve reductions of 30% by 2025, and 83% by 2050.

On the eve of the Copenhagen process, the U.S. offer of emissions targets is an important signal to the rest of the world of the United States' intention to address climate change seriously. Equally important will be financial support to help vulnerable countries that are already facing the impacts of climate change and to facilitate greater action by developing countries.

Dealing with climate change will require a unified bipartisan commitment by Congress and the Obama Administration to assert U.S. leadership on this critical issue."

The Nature Conservancy is a leading conservation organization

working around the world to protect ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people. To date, the Conservancy and its more than one million members have helped protect 130 million acres worldwide. Visit The Nature Conservancy on the Web at <http://www.nature.org/>