



**Statement from the GLOBE Americas forum,
Mexico 21-23 November 2008**

1. *As legislators from the Americas we met in the context of the most severe financial and economic crisis in recent history. We concluded that the crisis represents a unique opportunity to embed climate and energy security objectives as an integral part of economic and social recovery.*
2. *In our view, an approach to economic recovery that favours business as usual would be misguided and could lead to the transformation of the economic crisis into a climate, energy, ecological and human crisis.*
3. *We welcome the format of the G20 Summit, with the inclusion of the emerging economies as equal partners, as recognition of the new realities of the twenty first century and the move toward a new multilateralism which allocates commitments and responsibilities in an equitable manner.*
4. *We also welcome the commitment expressed by US President elect Barack Obama in linking economic recovery to a long term view of sustainability and fully support his commitment to reduce US emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 and by a further 80 per cent by 2050 with the establishment of a federal cap and trade regime.*
5. *As governments consider policies to stimulate their economies, we urge them to grasp the opportunity to restructure the current economic model to focus on the key elements of our future prosperity – economic recovery, improving energy security and making progress towards poverty reduction and low carbon development - whilst assigning an economic value to the environment. A coordinated programme of public sector investment in low carbon infrastructure, combined with improved urban planning, could provide new jobs, increase energy security, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and stimulate the economy. At the regional level, legislators should work together to harmonise initiatives in this regard.*
6. *With UN negotiations on a post-2012 framework to tackle climate change scheduled to conclude in Copenhagen in December 2009, we hereby fully support the GLOBE post-2012 paper, agreed by legislators from the G8 and the major emerging economies in Tokyo in June 2008.*
7. *We recognise that to reach a global reduction in GHG emissions of 50 per cent from 1990 levels by 2050 will require action from all countries. Given historical responsibilities and differing economic circumstances, it is right that the industrialised countries should lead the way with deep binding emissions reduction targets under a post-2012 agreement. However, given that in 2050 8 billion of the estimated 9 billion global population will be living in what are*

currently classified as developing countries, action by these countries is also critical.

8. *We believe that industrialized countries should take on binding emissions reduction commitments, including legislation, that lead to an aggregate reduction of at least 25-40 per cent from 1990 levels by 2020 and 60-80 per cent by 2050. In return, the most advanced developing countries should aim to reduce the rate of increase of their own greenhouse gas emissions between now and 2020 with a view to taking on binding absolute emissions reductions thereafter, subject to industrialized countries delivering on their commitments in terms of emissions reductions, technology transfer and finance. We urge all countries to promote policies to adapt to the impacts of climate change and call on industrialized countries to scale up financial mechanisms to help the poorest countries to adapt.*

9. *In the period up to 2020, major developing countries should take on nationally appropriate commitments that reduce the carbon intensity of their development, supported by measurable, reportable and verifiable finance and technology transfer by developed countries.*

10. *Whilst the role of governments is critical we recognize the responsibility on us all, including business and civil society, to play a role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. At the same time we recognize the role of governments and legislators in representing the interests of disadvantaged groups, including the need to protect human and social rights, and call for consistent corporate and social responsibility criteria that avoid double standards.*

11. *We believe that putting in place the right financial architecture is a key element of a post-2012 framework, and testing and considering new financing approaches - such as the Climate Investment Funds and Mexico's Climate Fund proposals - will be essential in informing the development of a global deal.*

12. *We recognise that deforestation should be a priority for action, especially when the associated cost effective opportunities and significant co-benefits for local communities and for biodiversity are considered. We support the recommendations in the GLOBE Illegal Logging paper and urge that country commitments on REDD are included in a post-2012 climate agreement in line with the Bali Action Plan. Early action in relation to demonstration activities should be rewarded.*

13. *Biofuels, together with efficiency standards, are one of the few options to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transport in the short- to medium-term. We support the production and use of biofuels as outlined in the GLOBE Biofuels paper, subject to strict sustainable economic and environmental criteria and protecting land for food production. Trade tariffs and other barriers should be reviewed for biofuels that meet the sustainability criteria to allow those countries with a comparative advantage in their production (tropical and sub-tropical countries) to develop viable industries and assist least cost greenhouse gas emissions reductions.*

14. *We urge the GLOBE Commission on Land Use Change and Ecosystems to explore the issue of food security in the context of land use change, climate and energy security.*

15. *Other renewable energy sources including solar, wind, hydro, wave and geothermal, should be promoted to improve energy security, provide domestic jobs and increase climate security.*

16. *Given the success of the GLOBE Americas Forum, we urge GLOBE to convene legislators from the Americas region, together with ministers responsible for finance, economics, energy, industry, agriculture and environment, in advance of COP15 in Copenhagen in December 2009.*