

## **U.S. Plenary Statement:**

- The United States has been a supporter of the GEF since its launch over 27 years ago. The GEF is the only multilateral fund dedicated to achieving a variety of global environmental benefits, and it works across several environmental issues to do so.
- In addition, the GEF's unique role as financial mechanism to several environmental conventions gives the fund additional legitimacy and credibility in the international sphere.
- These comparative advantages and the GEF's track record of success allow the United States to continue to pledge to the GEF, even as our priorities regarding international environmental finance evolve.
- Therefore, in the context of the need for fiscal responsibility and spending restraint in the United States, we are pleased to pledge \$273.2 million to GEF-7 over the coming years, subject to appropriations by Congress. We welcome the strong show of support among Participants for the GEF; in particular, we recognize and welcome the historic contributions and leadership shown by the emerging economies in this replenishment.
- The United States looks forward to supporting the GEF in implementing a successful replenishment over the next four years.
- Thank you.