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The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

December 7, 2010

Dear Secretary Clinton:

As 194 nations meet in Mexico for the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 16) we urge you to work to ensure that the United States is standing by our commitment, agreed to in the Copenhagen Accord, to provide investments in international action to combat climate change and its consequences. Failing to live up to this commitment will harm American's ability to achieve this and other foreign policy goals and forgo substantial opportunities to grow American jobs and global business leadership in clean energy and climate resilient technologies.

Around the world the impacts of climate change are already occurring and U.S. policy should create the conditions for predictable investments in innovative adaptation solutions in countries hardest hit by climate impacts, support international efforts to protect tropical forests, and provide incentives to speed the deployment of clean energy technologies. By making a prudent investment in international climate finance, we are taking meaningful steps to protect Americans from future impacts of climate change at home and reducing future costs associated with the tremendous growth in humanitarian intervention that would otherwise be required. In order to keep forward momentum on developing country engagement, it is important to continue to confirm your message from Copenhagen, the United States is prepared to do our part to reduce our own emissions while also helping to mobilize the action needed globally.

Moreover, our leadership and effective engagement around the world can be a critical element in stimulating our economy here at home. According to a recent report by Oxfam America, *A fresh look at the green economy: Jobs that build resilience to climate change*, approximately two million Americans are employed in sectors, such as water management, agriculture, and disaster preparedness that contribute to building resilience to the impacts of climate change. International investments will create sizeable opportunities for American businesses and workers to tap into the growing global demand for green and climate-resilient investment. Reducing

climate impacts and improving resiliency will also be critical for protecting the supply chains of many U.S. companies whose operations are increasingly affected by climate change.

The world's poorest countries and communities are already experiencing the impacts of climate change. Over the next decade, yields from rain-fed agriculture in some countries in Africa could be reduced by up to 50 percent, resulting in increased hunger, malnutrition, and the destruction of rural livelihoods. Climate impacts like these will threaten the livelihoods of over one billion of the world's poorest people, and will set back years of efforts to achieve stable democracies and sustainable development. Supporting climate-readiness and adaptation efforts will help decrease these risks while promoting global stability, protecting our country's longstanding development and conservation priorities, and preventing even greater costs in emergency relief and military engagement.

We will not meet our shared climate, national security and economic goals unless the U.S. fulfills our commitments to tackle the international elements that are core to meeting the climate challenge. We urge you to ensure that the US will deliver on the financial commitments it made in Copenhagen. A clear signal in this regard will do a great deal to help realize a balanced outcome in Mexico.

Sincerely,

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Oxfam America
Refugees International
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Cc: Todd D. Stern, Special Envoy for Climate Change, U.S. Department of State
Jonathan Pershing, Deputy Special Envoy for Climate Change, U.S. Department of State