

## Talking Points as Prepared in the Green Freight Initiative by Janet McCabe, Assistant Administrator U.S. Environment Protection Agency

- Thank you, Helena [Molina Valdes, Head of the Secretariat]
- Hello everyone. It is a pleasure to be here with you today, and thank you for the invitation.
- Air quality and climate change are two concerns that have been and continue to be critical, and closely interrelated, priorities for the United States, and the international community.
- We are living in a global economy, and moving freight efficiently plays a key role in meeting our air quality challenges, improving public health and reducing our contribution to climate change.
- Moving people and goods – is essential in our fast paced and connected world. At the same time, rapid growth in transportation has led to rising levels of greenhouse gases and air pollution.
  - As you may be aware, the transportation sector contributes roughly 22 percent of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and about 19 percent of emissions of black carbon.
  - Black carbon is a powerful climate forcer with significant adverse health impacts. Heavy-duty vehicles such as those used for freight transportation have a disproportionate impact on climate and air quality. If left unchecked, heavy-duty vehicles are expected to become the largest emitter of CO<sub>2</sub> from all transportation modes.
- We are here today because we have a tremendous opportunity before us to do something big and meaningful in the freight and transportation sector to address these challenges.
- Under the umbrella of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition's Green Freight initiative, the supporters of this action statement on green freight have announced their commitment to participate in the development and implementation of a Global Green Freight Action Plan, to be launched by December 2014.
- This effort builds upon the high-level political support provided by CCAC ministers under a Green Freight Call to Action announced in November 2013.
- This Action Plan will provide a common roadmap that will harmonize and coordinate the development of green freight programs around the world.
- The Plan capitalizes on the tremendous global interest in improving the efficiency and reducing the environmental footprint of goods movement and doing so in a way with business and the economy in mind.
- And, it will be implemented through public-private partnerships worldwide, providing a platform for companies and other stakeholders to share best practices, information, and promote innovation.

### <SmartWay>

- This new effort builds upon the progress and commitments already made by many in this industry sector, including many of EPA's Smartway Partners.
- In the U.S. we developed the SmartWay Partnership back in 2004 with just 15 partners. This year, EPA is marking SmartWay's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, with over 3,000 partners. Partners include multinational companies such as Hewlett Packard, DHL, IKEA, Wal-Mart, Coca Cola, FedEx, UPS, etc...
- I am pleased to highlight how our SmartWay program, a public/private collaboration between the US Environmental Protection Agency and shippers, carriers, and logistics companies, is driving

efficiencies, reducing emissions, and leading to cleaner freight transport in the U.S., all while saving companies money.

- SmartWay and its partners are successful because we share a common goal – to advance more sustainable transportation. We do this by offering companies tools that assess and track emissions and fuel use; by offering recognition for top environmental performers; and by testing and verifying technologies and strategies that help businesses to cut their fuel use and emissions that improve their environmental performance.
  - Collectively, SmartWay partners have already saved over 120 million barrels of oil resulting in emissions reductions of about 51 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>. To put this in perspective, SmartWay has already reduced carbon pollution by roughly the same amount as taking over 10 million cars off the road for an entire year.
  - In addition, SmartWay is responsible for reducing emissions of over 700,000 tons of harmful NO<sub>x</sub> and 37,000 tons of particulate matter.
  - Overall, SmartWay partners collectively have saved over \$16 billion dollars in fuel costs.
- The SmartWay Partnership can serve as a template for other countries. Canada has already adopted the program. Mexico and China have started similar programs modeled after SmartWay. There is a lot of interest from other countries around the world to learn more about this approach.
- Now, more than ever, it is critical that we work together to reduce emissions and improve the efficiency of the transportation sector. We are rethinking today's most significant environmental challenges in goods movement, and together through the Global Green Freight Action Plan, we can develop more creative and innovation solutions.
- I look forward to continuing our work with the Green Freight Initiative. There are enormous benefits to public health and the environment waiting ahead. Thank you.