

## **MINISTERS OF ENERGY OF THE AMERICAS TO MEET IN WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS THE REGION'S ENERGY AND CLIMATE AGENDA**

**THE MILESTONE EVENT WILL ADVANCE COMMON OBJECTIVES UNDER THE ENERGY AND CLIMATE PARTNERSHIP OF THE AMERICAS WITH CONCRETE PROGRAMS THAT BENEFIT THE PEOPLE OF THE REGION**

In June 2009, high national authorities and experts on energy of Latin America and the Caribbean met at the Americas Energy and Climate Symposium held in Lima, Peru, to identify collaborative actions addressing the energy and climate challenges affecting the region. On that occasion, the U.S. Secretary of Energy called upon the ministers of energy to meet in Washington to take stock of progress made at the Symposium and at the Summit of the Americas held in Trinidad and Tobago.

At the Symposium, U.S. Secretary of Energy Steven Chu said that “the nations of the Western Hemisphere have diverse capabilities and needs.” “President Obama and I believe that, by sharing ideas, technical resources, and best practices, we can help solve some of our energy problems. Collaboration and cooperation are the keys to our shared success,” Chu added.

The Energy and Climate Ministerial of the Americas will be held in Washington, DC, at the Inter-American Development Bank on April 15, 2010, and at the Organization of American States the following day. US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton will address the gathering.

The first day will enable meetings among representatives from government, civil society, industry, academia, and international financial institutions. On the second day, energy ministers will meet in private, closed-door sessions. Both days will serve to explore possible initiatives in energy efficiency, renewable energy, cleaner fossil fuels, energy infrastructure and energy poverty.

The countries of the Americas have been recurrently addressing the importance of energy and climate change. At the OAS General Assembly held in Panama in 2007, the countries issued the Declaration of Panama on Energy for Sustainable Development. Said Declaration called for a Regional Energy Experts Meeting, which was held at the OAS headquarters in Washington in March 2008. Subsequently, a series of sub-regional meetings were held, which included the Lima Symposium. At the Summit of the Americas held In April 2009, the heads of state and government signed the Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain, which highlights the importance of promoting adequate and sustainable access to energy. The Energy Ministerial will provide the opportunity to move forward a clean energy agenda for the Americas.