

**Remarks of Ruksana Mirza,
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**Pew Center on Global Climate Change: “Agenda for Climate Action”
National Press Club
2/8/06, 12:30pm**

Thank you and Good Afternoon.

Climate Change is a serious global challenge that requires a comprehensive and thoughtful response. I would like to start by commending the Pew Center for the leadership that it has shown in moving the discourse on this important topic forward.

Holcim (US) has been a member of the Business Environmental Leadership Council of the Pew Center since 1998 and is committed to the principles of the BELC including:

- that we can make significant progress in addressing climate change and sustaining economic growth in the US by adopting reasonable policies, programs and transition strategies; and,
- that US businesses can and should take steps to assess opportunities for emission reductions, and invest in more efficient, products, practices and technologies.

As you heard from Vicki, Pew’s Agenda for Climate Action calls for the establishment of a reliable and credible system for the tracking and reporting of GHG emissions as a basis for a future US GHG reduction system. Holcim agrees that this is an essential element for moving forward.

In 1999, along with other leading cement companies Holcim Ltd, our parent company, launched the Cement Sustainability Initiative under the auspices of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development. Under this initiative, industry worked to develop the WBCSD/WRI greenhouse gas accounting and reporting protocol, and members committed to:

- develop emission inventories using the protocol;
- set reduction targets; and,
- publicly report on their progress in achieving these targets.

In 2006, the CSI has announced its intention to go further by requiring its members to obtain third party verification of their emission inventories.

In keeping with the requirements of the CSI, in 2002, Holcim committed to reduce our global CO₂ emissions per ton of product by 20% by the year 2010 relative to baseline emissions in 1990. Holcim is working towards this goal by improving our energy efficiency, reducing our dependence on fossil fuels by increasing the use of alternative waste derived fuels and replacing the most energy intensive component of cement with other cementitious materials. Holcim committed to an *efficiency objective* because we believe that if global society intends to protect the climate while meeting the

demands of a growing population, society must improve the CO2 efficiency of its consumption and production.

The Agenda calls for action by all sectors of the economy. The report recognizes that there is no single technology or single policy instrument to address climate change, but rather that a combination of technology investments, policy initiatives and market development initiatives are required. The Agenda also recognizes that a GHG reduction program must be market-based and incorporate sector-specific needs to ensure that US competitiveness is maintained. Holcim strongly believes that policies which provide incentives that move the economy towards greater efficiency, towards doing more with less, will not only help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but also strengthen the economy and move society towards the larger goal of sustainability.

Thank you.