Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

As you know, addressing climate change is a priority for both President Obama and Secretary Kerry. As our colleagues begin their work at the 19th Conference of Parties of the UNFCCC in Warsaw, the United States is committed to working with its international partners in the UNFCCC to craft a climate agreement in 2015 that is ambitious, durable, flexible, and applicable to all parties.

While we have joined consensus on this resolution, my delegation would like to clarify the U.S. position on several points. The current resolution perpetuates a distinction that is not reflective of global scientific and economic realities, and thereby hampers our efforts to address climate change effectively and globally.

We must make clear that the United States does not accept an interpretation of OP10 to the extent that it is read in a manner inconsistent with the UNFCCC or the Cancun agreements. The mitigation pledges made by all major economies in Cancun represented a significant step forward in the international process, and we are heartened that our international partners have deepened that commitment through their work in Durban and Doha. We look forward to building on those successes at COP19 in Warsaw.

It is self-evident that the concept of “common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities” refers to the continuum of responsibilities and capabilities of individual parties. Responsibility and respective capabilities evolve over time. Other interpretations of CBDR undermine the objective of the Convention and call into question its relevance to adequately addressing climate change. In this respect, the United States does not consider OP15 or its language on the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform to have an effect on the mandate for the negotiations that was agreed in Durban. Similarly, we understand the phrase “the integrity of Mother Earth” as a specific cultural reference that we do not consider to be a universally accepted concept, to refer in the context of this resolution to the importance of protecting Earth for future generations.
We remain deeply committed to working constructively with our partners to address this crucial issue.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.