

**US-RUSSIA CIVIL SOCIETY SUMMIT  
PANEL ON THE ENVIRONMENT  
MOSCOW, JULY 6-7, 2009**

**MESSAGE TO THE PRESIDENTS  
ON ENVIRONMENTAL COLLABORATION**

Representatives of US and Russia environmental non-governmental organizations would like to stress that Russia and the US have some of the largest reserves of fresh water and boreal forests in the world, and are among the top three emitters of industrial greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

We also bring attention to the important role of collaboration of civil society in nature conservation and environmental protection efforts.

*We call upon the presidents of both countries:*

- to universally and openly support the activities of non-governmental, environmental organizations; and include representatives of environmental NGOs in the newly established Russian-American Presidential Commission on Cooperation
- to lead the process of creating the binding Copenhagen Agreement to limit global warming to 2 degrees Celsius
- to take measures to halt the loss of biodiversity and to develop bilateral protected area networks, first and foremost in the shared North Pacific Region, taking into account the role of local communities, including indigenous peoples
- to ensure that financial responses to the fiscal crisis (for example, direct and indirect stimulus spending) are directed only toward environmentally-friendly or environmentally-neutral activities, such as investments in renewable energy
- to institute comprehensive greenhouse gas accounting for lending portfolios of financial institutions through representatives of Russia and the US on the Board of the World Bank Group and other multilateral financial institutions
- to ensure cooperation on introduction and development of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative and similar initiatives for other industries