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## PRESS RELEASE

**New Delhi, 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2017**

Ananta Aspen Centre and the Aspen Institute organized a session on “**India-U.S. Cooperation on Climate Change and Energy: Path ahead**” which focused on the future of the bilateral cooperation and collaboration between the two countries and reflected on the **outcomes of the Seventh India-U.S. Track II meeting** held in New Delhi on 7th-8th December. The session included select members of the Dialogue: **Dr Navroz Dubash**, Senior Fellow, Centre for Policy Research; **Dr Arunabha Ghosh**, CEO, Council on Energy, Environment and Water, **Mr Jamshyd Godrej**, Chairman, Godrej and Boyce Manufacturing Company Limited and Co-Chair, India-U.S. Track II Dialogue on Climate Change and Energy; **Dr Andrew Light**, University Professor of Public Policy, George Mason University and Distinguished Senior Fellow, World Resources Institute; **Mr John Podesta**, Founder and Director, The Center For American Progress and Co-Chair, India-U.S. Track II Dialogue on Climate Change and Energy; **Mr William Reilly**, Former Administrator, US Environmental Protection Agency and Co-Chair, India-U.S. Track II Dialogue on Climate Change and Energy, spoke at the session. It was chaired by **Mr Krishan Dhawan**, Chief Executive Officer, Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation.

**Mr Jamshyd Godrej** spoke of the recent establishment of the International Solar Alliance. He stated that India has many challenges with regard to development. The last few decades of cooperation with the US have been useful and important part of India’s journey.

**Mr John Podesta** appreciated the voluntary actions being taken in India towards a greener and more sustainable lifestyle e.g.: green buildings etc. **Mr William Reilly** stressed that what India does on Climate Change and Energy is hugely consequential for the success of the Paris agreement. In conclusion, he emphasized the need to keep the dialogues going.

**Dr Arunabha Ghosh** elucidated how the Climate Change dialogue has shifted to bilateral cooperation. He mentioned three aspects to look at: What India can do for US, what US can do for India and what US and India both can do for the world? For instance, both can work together on clean energy finance and collaborate to create an innovative market place.

**Dr Navroz Dubash** spoke about Indian concerns after US withdrawal from the Paris Agreement: Will there be displaced responsibility on other countries? He focused on the importance of transparency in Energy and Climate Change sector. With regard to the Paris Agreement, the question remains: who is going to take the lead? Perhaps a group of leaders could be formed and India could be a part of this group of actors to ensure the Paris Agreement remains robust and federal.

**Dr Andrew Light** explained how the history of US-India Climate Change cooperation goes back decades. Decoupling economic growth and reduction in emission has taken place across the world recently. The world has done a pretty good job in sending the message to the US that Climate Change is an important issue to the rest of the world despite US stand. India has a uniquely important role and opportunity.

### **About Ananta Aspen Centre:**

#### *Engaging India, Nurturing Change*

Ananta Aspen Centre is an educational and policy studies organisation based in New Delhi. It focusses on values based leadership and open dialogue on challenges facing Indian society to help foster its transformation. The Centre engages civil society, business, governments and other key stakeholders to share ideas and bring a wide range of perspectives on issues important to India's development, foreign policy, strategic affairs and national security. Ananta Aspen Centre is an independent non-profit organization registered under the Indian Trusts Act and under 12A and 80G of the Income Tax Act.

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