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PRESS RELEASE

United States Promotes Electricity Generation by Nigerian Private Sector

U.S. Ambassador Robin Renée Sanders said today that “the United States Government is honored to help Nigeria find a way to generate the electricity demanded by the Nigerian people, through the private sector.” Her comments marked the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Independent Power Producers Association of Nigeria (IPPAN). The MOU formalizes an agreement between the United States Government, working through the United States Agency for International Development, to support the production of electricity by the private sector in Nigeria. In her remarks, Ambassador Sanders said the U.S. Government is pleased to support the efforts of Nigeria’s private sector and government to increase electricity production to 10,000 megawatts by 2011.

Under the MOU, technical assistance will be provided to IPPAN by the USAID-funded Nigerian Energy and Climate Change Project (NECC). NECC will enhance IPPAN members’ capacity to develop commercially viable projects using indigenous resources and clean technologies. NECC will support the use of flared gas to produce electricity, promote the expansion of renewable energy projects to reduce the impact of climate change, and expand the sister utility partnership between the Nigeria Electricity Regulatory Commission, and the U.S. National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners to improve the regulatory environment for electricity generation in Nigeria.

Ambassador Sanders and USAID Nigeria Mission Director Ray Kirkland signed the MOU on behalf of the United States, while IPPAN was represented by its President Bart Nnaji. Also present at the signing were Dr. Lanre Babalola, Minister of Power, Mr. Odein Ajumogobia, Minister of State for Petroleum, Senator Nicholas Ugbane, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Power, and Honorable Aminu Waziri Tanbuwa, Chairman of the House Committee on Power.