

UNFCCC Ad Hoc Durban Platform (ADP) Meeting
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BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY (BINGO) INTERVENTION

Thank you. My name is Norine Kennedy, of the United States Council for International Business (USCIB) and the Major Economies Business Forum (BizMEF) and I am speaking on behalf of business and industry groups attending this meeting.

Business will play a central role in the agreement that will emerge in 2015 – Warsaw last year showcased only a fraction of what business has done and can do, with sound regulatory and enabling frameworks. The agreement should involve all countries, motivate all actors, and deliver economic and environmental benefit to all. We encourage you to build recognized interfaces that create enhanced opportunities for business to offer our expertise, mobilize resources and provide substantive input to the new agreement and its institutional framework. You – the government representatives – can benefit from business expertise, priorities and opportunities, how we can contribute, and the frameworks and capacity we need as you embark on the first steps here to build the Paris Agreement.

The private sector innovates, invests and implements in ways that the public sector cannot. Attention to non-state actors, such as business, has opened promising area for cooperation and further work to supplement government efforts. We look forward to further building on this, expanding opportunities for the private sector to work with you and offer our on-the-ground, practical expertise.

We must work together to develop domestic innovative capacity and the ability to absorb, use, and deploy technologies that respond to local needs. Without meaningful IP protection, technologies will not be developed and deployed to those that really need them, nor can they be shared with commercial partners, customers, and suppliers in developed and developing countries.

Next year's Paris agreement must encourage innovation and support creation, deployment of technology and know-how. Technology and investment is mobilized and deployed through foreign direct investment, trade and commercially-based, global partnerships with supply and value chains. Of course, while this is already happening every day, it can be expanded through the work of the TEC and CTCN.

Partnerships between governments, businesses and stakeholders can help build capacity in those developing countries that need it most. As businesses, this will justify greater future investments and trade, and involve more developing countries in activities that promote development and economic growth while responding to climate change. This will be indispensable to a successful, effective and actionable post 2015 Agreement.

What else is business looking for? Clarity and predictability. Business needs to understand what the implications are of the 2015 deal –what and where it can contribute, and through participation and mutual dialogue.

The agreement should be not just “future-proof” but also future friendly. Develop a treaty that can adjust to new scientific, technological and economic realities and circumstances. Business seeks a treaty that works within the context of the challenges of energy access and security, and integrally with the broader post 2015 development agenda being built at the UN in New York. Recognizing limited resources, the treaty should favor cost-effective mitigation and adaptation action. For that reason, market-based mechanisms should have a role in the Paris agreement.

Business routinely works with national governments through well-established channels. We ask that you also interact with us here at the international level, listen to us and recognize our potential to contribute to a successful outcome. Last year, the Polish Presidency launched an unprecedented informal dialogue with business on the margins of the pre-COP. We trust this constructive engagement will be institutionalized in the future en route to Lima and Paris.

We thank you, the co-Chairs, the Polish Presidency and other members of the COP troika and all delegations here for their dedication and willingness to hear our views.