



**United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)
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**Statement by
Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
on the occasion of the Business Day at the Rio Conventions Pavilion**

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Dear friends,

It gives me great pleasure to set the stage for Business Day today. Here at the Conventions Pavilion, we are here celebrating the 20th anniversary of the three conventions. But just to get a sense of how far we have come, let us remember that 20 years ago, we did not know at least the following three things.

1. We did not know that business can and needs to be part of the solution. There is no doubt that governments set the direction of transformation, but undoubtedly it is business that is the motor of transformation given its forces of innovation and capital.
2. We did not know that the three environmental problems would become so urgent. Just on climate, we must reach global peaking by 2015. And we must stabilize the atmosphere at under 450 ppm if we are to stay below 2 degrees.
3. We did not know that it actually is possible to meet the challenge. We have the technologies and we have the capital to do it. So what are we waiting for?

Three things must happen urgently.

1. Governments must shake off the fear of change and embrace transformation. They must understand that their future long term interest will not be served unless they take decisions in the present. They must understand that it is not by competing, but rather by collaborating and acting together, that will solve the problem.
2. Business must bring to bear the full force of its innovation capacity to reduce its own emissions, to demand emission reductions up and down its value chain, to produce products for low carbon living to educate consumers and to engage with decision makers.

3. Civil society must declare its intolerance of high carbon production and consumption.

It is only through the concerted efforts of Governments, business, and civil society that we will be able to usher in the green revolution that we so urgently need.

Thank you.
