



**Warsaw Business Dialogue
Enhanced Business Engagement in the UNFCCC:
Leveraging Business Actions in Technology and Investment
Warsaw, 17 November 2013**

**Statement by
Richard Kinley, Deputy Executive Secretary
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**

Distinguished participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am glad to help open the Warsaw Business Dialogue and thank Lewiatan and The Major Economies Business Forum for inviting me.

I come with two main messages.

- First, business must be part of the international process. It must be prominent in UN Climate Change Conferences, and with the COP Presidency we are trying to enhance this role now and for the future. Most importantly, business must work with governments and civil society at home to frame ambitious national policies and positions for the international process.
- And second, business must be a driver in the wider mobilization that represents a solution to the climate challenge.

For that wider mobilization, no one group – the private sector, governments at any level or the international process acting alone – is going to solve climate change or deliver the miracle solution.

True commitment and real action are required from all.

For business this action must focus on two areas, high resilience and low carbon.

Business must invest in high resilience: resilient infrastructure, resilient operations and resilient supply lines.

The resilience of communities that host business, provide workers and consume goods and services produced also has to be kept in mind when designing resilient business strategies.

Greening the entire value chain hedges against costs from loss due to climate change and is sound strategy for an unpredictable future.

Low carbon goes beyond managing risk and captures potential rewards in the coming climate friendly economy.

Consumers are demanding it, policymakers are institutionalizing it and investors are seeing it as a way to maximize safe, stable returns.

Low carbon means different things to different sectors.

It means green goods and services, clean and efficient energy, new technologies. And it means diversification into climate friendly financial assets.

The result is the same regardless of sector.

Business action, if it is taken with the zeal, determination and innovative thinking that business brings to its priorities, can move the world closer to the climate solutions we need.

In addition to the direct impact on the wider world, such action reverberates into national government policymaking; it resonates into the international process.

Your action is your most powerful voice, as action speaks louder than words.

- Of course, your participation in events such as this is also critical.
- It makes you active agents in the ongoing global dialogue and brings your voice, credibly, to the international process.

Your actions and voice provide the context of confidence that governments need to move the international process forward, which is an absolute necessity in the coming year.

2014 is the year when business action can be the catalyst that empowers governments to make bold pledges and strong commitments.

2014 is the year when we must see an ambitious and effective draft agreement emerge in Lima, a draft agreement that has positive business fingerprints on its design and business endorsements on its details.

2014 is our opportunity to create a stable platform for high-resilient, low-carbon economic development, economic development that can be sustained across the borders of an increasingly global growth landscape and across generations.

We have an opportunity to make the international process a locus of action where cities, countries and regions leverage business action into a sustainable future for all.

The writing is on the wall.

Climate change is fundamentally transforming traditional business models.

We are moving towards a low-carbon, low-emission economy today – towards a new industrial revolution driven by technology and investment.

Forward thinking companies are embracing this new reality and adjusting technology and investment decisions.

We need all companies in all countries to join them, to join the new high-resilient, low-carbon revolution.

Thank you.

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