



World Business Council for
Sustainable Development

Closing Plenary Address COP12

George Kehler, Dow, for Bjorn Stigson, WBCSD

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Ministers, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

WBCSD

I am present here to represent the WBCSD, a collaboration of 190 of the world's leading corporations and their Executive Management and of which we are a member. WBCSD members represent a combined market capitalization of USD6 trillion and as such an important economic force.

CONTEXT

Energy is the **fuel for growth**, an essential requirement for economic and social development. A truly sustainable energy strategy must give **equal emphasis to competitiveness, energy security and the environment**. In the context of growing energy demand, **together** we are seeking approaches to stabilize the concentration of greenhouse gases.

COOPERATION BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS

You as governments cannot create a sustainable energy future on your own. We need a **partnership between governments and business**. We need to work together: The private sector is the major source of **capital and innovation** that can transform the global energy system. We would like to do the right thing, but you have to, as Ministers, provide us with clarity on the **policy framework** within which we do our business.



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THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENTS

Governments need to send a clear signal that the carbon markets will continue beyond 2012.

You need to agree to a **negotiating mandate for the next commitment period** at the next COP, and you need to conclude the negotiations **by 2009** at the latest.

Governments must start building future global policy frameworks and it is necessary for us in business to respond to those policies. We need **leadership and action** by both governments and business instead of a "you first" mentality, so present here at this COP.

Further, you need to give us in business an idea of where you are going long-term. We do not need a target cast in stone, but we need a **clear indication** of your level of ambition for the future.

We are getting questions from governments about the role of business going forward:

- How far can business go on its own based on the normal operations and investments leading to turnover and replacement of capital stock?
- How can we as governments facilitate and enhance further business action?

I think we **owe you a full answer** to these questions and we are as WBCSD working on a contribution. The actions that we recommend connect very much to the conclusions of the Stern Review, namely a focus on:

- Energy efficiency,
- Technology development and deployment, and
- A global price for carbon.



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TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION

Technologies and policies go hand in hand. We need policies that are adapted to the respective type of technology we want to see developed and deployed. Let us also say a few words about **“technology transfer”** or **“technology cooperation”**: You as governments do not normally “own” technology, and therefore you cannot transfer it. What you can do is to facilitate and create the policy frameworks, which create certainty and encourage the private sector to engage in technology cooperation in both the industrialized and the developing world. In this respect we welcome the start of progress made this week on CDM for Africa.

CONCLUDING WORDS

Thank you for this opportunity to provide a business view to the Plenary. No part of society can create a sustainable energy future on their own. We need a partnership between governments and business.

The transformation of our energy infrastructure will not be easy. It will create **winners and losers between countries, between industry sectors and between companies**.

We are, as WBCSD, committed to helping government act swiftly to develop and implement energy-related measures that are benchmarked against the threefold objective mentioned earlier; competitiveness, energy security and environment.

Business is here now and ready to engage.