



ANSWER TO THE HIGH LEVEL CHAMPIONS BY THE BUSINESS AND CLIMATE SUMMIT PARTNERS

Dear High Level Champions

We believe your role linking the international negotiation path to non state actors is crucial because, at the end of the day, it will mainly be those non state actors that are going to fulfill the Paris accord promises. Actually, the same non state actors have also encouraged the governments to reach the agreement and to be ever more ambitious by giving examples of voluntary commitments, programs, alliances, transformational practices, showing that a low carbon trajectory can be followed at a reasonable cost. We share your analysis of the current situation and call to reinforce the non state actors' involvement.

There is a whole range of non State actors with different positions in society. The United Nations assemblies have for the last twenty years consulted the so-called major groups. It is now a well established rule, but still very formal. All these actors, and beyond, will have a useful impact on the transition to a low carbon society: Scientists, technicians, journalists, parliamentarians, NGOs, trade-unionists, consumers, faith groups, artists, filmmakers, writers, teachers, you name them... But when it comes to the material footprint of societies upon nature, some have the potential of carrying more clout than others; these are the local governments, and the businesses.

It is with that in mind that a number of business networks with international reach have managed the first Business and Climate Summit in May 2015 in Paris and, since then, have decided to establish coordination so that it may be organized regularly, this year in London where we were honored by your presence, maybe next year in Asia. In our view the Business and Climate Summit should become the platform where business commits against climate change, shares information and action, and debates with policy makers to frame long term policies enabling investors, shareholders, asset managers and company stakeholders to direct business and, hopefully, the world economy in the right low carbon direction. This transition will require something like 5% of the 90 trillions of investments that the world economy needs in the next 15 years, so the presence of the finance industry is an important feature of our summits.

Coming to 2018 and your question, we think it would be a good idea to have our Business and Climate Summit in California, for two reasons, one is that governor Brown is willing to organize before leaving office a large event to combat the very visible climate change California is suffering, the second is that the majority of American business is still hesitating to engage against climate change and needs to be mobilized. So, yes, we would be happy to associate the Californian Business and Climate Summit to the important event you plan to organize during the 2018 summer.

Concerning the transparency and accountability issue, it seems we need to invent a mechanism that would keep track of commitments and deliver the relevant information to the public. After Johannesburg 2002, Undesa was the depositary of the type 2 partnerships, but implementation data has vanished. After Rio+20, the US non-governmental organization NRDC and Undesa tried to set up an accountability platform on the Internet. Probably such an endeavor would require help from a foundation to ensure sustainability. The same could apply to the NAZCA-LPAA records. UNFCCC could partner with organizations like the Carbon tracker, CDP, the UN Global Compact or a specific business network and Philanthropic foundations to keep track of commitments year after year.

Obviously technical expert meetings are very useful. They offer an opportunity to invite experts from the private sector in the field chosen for the meeting. The Business and Climate Summit focused on the areas underlined by the New Climate Economy Report “Better Growth, Better Climate”: energy, cities and land-use. We have added transports and of course finance. It seems an effort should be made on adaptation, notably water issues, especially to characterize programs to be supported by climate funds.

We hope we have answered to your questions and remain at your disposal for further discussion.

Yours sincerely

Brice Lalonde, July 2016, for the Business and Climate Summit partners