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BusinessEurope submission regarding the Workshop at SBI 46 (May 2017) on opportunities to further enhance the effective engagement of non-Party stakeholders

With entry into force of the Paris Agreement, catalyzing business innovation around the globe, investment and implementation is more urgent than ever. It will not be possible to address post-Paris tasks and expectations with pre-Paris structures. The institutional infrastructure that will channel responsible and representative business views and expertise to inform deliberations, provide technical input and strengthen action must be adapted. Otherwise, we risk undermining the common ambitions of the Paris Agreement.

Business and other non-Party stakeholders are at the heart of providing solutions, addressing the impacts of climate change and moving towards a "low carbon and resilient economy" – through participation within the UNFCCC process and in intergovernmental and national fora, including the G20 and WTO. Companies of all sizes, sectors and nationalities are moving as never before to address climate change impacts and lower emissions of greenhouse gases through investment, research and deploying innovative technologies, processes, products and services.

In our view, to be successful and effective, interfaces with the private sector should engage and prioritize representative business groups on substantive consultation and avoid approaches that separate "implementation" from "policy elaboration and dialogue." In that regard, the Global Action Agenda is a good start to mobilize and reflect voluntary efforts by business and other non-Party stakeholders, but it is not enough in itself to catalyze the broader forces and resources of business in all their diversity.

There are a number of general principles that will help improve non-Party stakeholder engagement in the implementation of the Paris Agreement within the UNFCCC process:

Access to the UNFCCC Process

- There must be no discrimination between any of the constituencies.
- Minimize restrictions (numbers etc.) to access to all COPs/SBs and where restrictions are necessary ensure that the selection process is transparent to all groups (Noting that closed meetings/exclusions are necessary when Parties are "negotiating").
- Where space is limited ensure that there is a fair distribution of access between stakeholder groups.

Activities during the UNFCCC Meetings

- Continue system to allow one statement per constituency of 2 minutes at the opening plenaries of COPs/SBs.
- Continue process to organize 2 meetings during COPs/SBs with the COP Presidency, Chairs of the appropriate Meetings (APA, SBI, SBSTA etc.) and the Executive Secretary.
- Continue availability of pre/post meeting documents through the UNFCCC website.



- Continue the availability of in-session documents through the UNFCCC web-portal using social media to call attention to their availability.
- Expand the opportunities to provide written input on all agenda items through ensuring that pre-designated language is contained in the opening paragraphs of all COP/CMP/SB decisions and conclusions.
- Pre-COP consultations should be summarized and conveyed to Parties in an informational document as part of COP documentation.
- Consultations should take place with the BINGO community during the early preparation of meetings (TEMs, High-level events, the Global Action Agenda etc.) to obtain views on priority areas, the appropriate agenda structure, timing and potential speakers from the BINGO community.

The Role of the UNFCCC Champions

- Champions should moderate an annual “pre-COP” with constituencies and, where possible, hold focused formal Dialogues.
- UNFCCC should create an Internet forum for the Champions and constituencies' focal points to raise and discuss relevant issues.
- Continue and expand the availability of meeting rooms for side events in the Blue zone.

Create a Mechanism to access Private Sector expertise

- Create a standing mechanism(s) that allows Parties to access private sector expertise.
- The form of such a mechanism that draws upon private sector expertise could be an advisory body, consultative mechanism or expert committee, however, it is more important that the form embodies “Inclusivity and recognition of diversity” “openness and transparency” “flexibility and adaptability”

Engagement with UNFCCC Standing Bodies

- Continue and augment the formal engagement of members of the Business Community with UNFCCC Standing bodies such as the TEC, CTCN, Green Climate Fund etc.

Synergies between UNFCCC process and Global Action Agenda

- Explore and extend synergies between the UNFCCC process and the Global Action Agenda; one way to do this is to arrange a steering committee with focus on a single joint Business and Industry Day at COP-23 including the COP Presidency, the High-Level Champions, the UNFCCC, and representatives from the business community.

The aforementioned improvements aim to establish a more appropriate representation of business and other non-Party stakeholders at the UNFCCC negotiation table, which is essential for fast progress and investments to meet the Paris Agreement's ambitions.

We look forward to working with the current and next Presidencies to continue the focus on action and partnerships, and hope to continue the Marrakesh momentum into the Fiji Presidency and beyond.