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## ICC COMMUNIQUE

TO UNEP 10<sup>TH</sup> SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL/GLOBAL  
MINISTERIAL ENVIRONMENT FORUM  
MONACO, 20-22 FEBRUARY 2008

*“It is our duty to grasp the exceptional opportunity provided to pool efforts from all sectors and all regions in the service of a global approach to sustainable development” His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco in speech to ICC Commission on Environment and Energy meeting, 6 November 2007*

Companies all over the world understand that economic growth must go hand in hand with environmental protection. There is no inherent contradiction between economic growth, trade liberalization, environmental protection and sustainable development. Economic growth and open trade provide the conditions in which protection of the environment can best be achieved. Working in partnership with governments, civil society, intergovernmental organisations and concerned citizens all over the world, ICC, as the most representative business organisation with members in 130 countries, is uniquely placed to voice business views and to help build consensus to effectively address environmental risks.

ICC has enjoyed a long and constructive relationship with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Since 1991, when ICC launched the Business Charter for Sustainable Development, a set of principles for environmental management which have helped thousands of companies worldwide establish an excellent foundation on which to build their own integrated environmental management systems, to 2005 when ICC and UNEP cooperated closely on the successful “African Business for Sustainable Development” session in Nairobi during the 23<sup>rd</sup> UNEP Governing Council the Global Ministerial Environment Forum.

While there are many areas and issues where business is making positive contributions and all six thematic areas of UNEP’s Medium-Term Strategy are vital to business concerns, we would like to briefly highlight two where ICC has and looks to continue its strong engagement with UNEP.

### **Climate Change**

ICC and its members are encouraged by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) adoption of the “Bali roadmap” last December for negotiating a new global warming pact by 2009. The roadmap paves the way for a fresh focus on what can be done, the resources needed, and the role of the different parties including governments, business and civil society.

We are united in a strong common desire and ability to be part of an immediate contribution to identifying and deploying effective solutions to climate change. The private sector can be a critical enabler for cost-effective climate solutions and plays a critical role in the development

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and global utilisation of both existing and new, cost-effective, efficient energy technologies with low greenhouse gas emissions in all sectors. ICC members have actively addressed climate change by: investing in and promoting energy efficiency and conservation; developing and deploying new technologies, products, services and processes; reducing, measuring and reporting greenhouse gas emissions from facilities and products; developing and implementing voluntary commitments and; introducing customer and employee programmes. In addition, companies are helping communities address the pressing issue of adaptation to the effects of climate change. The impacts of climate change will have a myriad of effects on business and result in opportunities and challenges. Business will be a partner in defining mechanisms to identify, develop, commercialise and transfer technologies aligned with national adaptation priorities and development strategies. We need to move from identification of risks to the prioritisation and implementation of key projects.

At the UNFCCC Bali meeting last December, ICC, in conjunction with the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, staged the Bali Business Day, which brought together major actors from a variety of business sectors and civil society to reinforce commitments of business to address climate change and help turn dialogue into action. As the business and industry focal point in the UNFCCC and a long-time partner and supporter of UNEP, we will continue to bring the voices, experience, resources and actions of a wide range of business sectors and nationalities.

### **Resource Efficiency**

Business sees the challenge ahead as one of supporting the growth of business activities, particularly in developing countries, that contribute to the economic, social and environmental objectives of sustainable development. Companies of all sectors, sizes and nationalities make a contribution and must be engaged.

Successful and sustainable development is largely a function of a vibrant private sector operating in a market-oriented framework. In this regard, the right local market conditions are critical for local business communities as well as for foreign investors. Further, cooperation between business and governments is crucial.

This effort need not be a matter of consuming less, but should instead offer choices for consuming differently – both improving the quality of life and enabling effective stewardship of the world's resources.

Moreover ICC members are convinced that energy efficiency makes good business sense and enhances competitiveness as well as a critical part of the global evolution towards a more sustainable energy future. Business has made a significant contribution to enhancing energy efficiency. Business supports energy efficiency and given the right fiscal and regulatory frameworks can do more to help governments achieve the triple objectives of growth, jobs and environmental improvement. ICC members are prepared to share experience and describe



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the benefits of modern energy management systems in identifying, prioritizing and implementing energy efficiency.

To further international cooperation and ensure the necessary frameworks are put in place to improve energy efficiency, ICC has recommended that policymakers follow certain key principles, such as: tapping market forces; favouring an open environment for trade and investment; encouraging voluntary energy labels and standards; integrating efficiency into other aspects of energy policy; developing reliable metrics; and adopting strategies that evaluate product life cycles.

As his Serene Highness Prince Albert II stated during the speech to the ICC Commission on Environment and Energy in November 2007, “while the current environmental challenges are difficult it provides an opportunity for business along with its civil society partners such as UNEP to make a concrete difference.”