



**ICC letter on behalf of world business to Ministers attending the G8 Environment Ministers meeting, 22-24 April 2009, Siracusa, Italy**

Dear Ministers,

Making progress towards solving environmental concerns requires shared visions and actions between governments and the private sector, not only within the G8 but throughout the world. Business is addressing key environmental issues such as climate change and biodiversity at local, national and international levels both as enterprises and through public private partnerships. In your deliberations leading up to the G8 La Maddalena Summit, business seeks to work with you to define and implement comprehensive and viable solutions to environmental challenges and promote sustainable development.

The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), the world business organisation that speaks on behalf of enterprises from all sectors in every part of the world, would like to point out the fundamental interrelation between economic growth, trade liberalization, environmental protection, and sustainable development. The G8 is particularly well-placed to address these issues in an integrated and cooperative fashion.

ICC supports the G8's priority attention to climate change, integrated with energy security, and its dedication to multilateral approaches to global challenges. Moreover, we encourage G8 governments to contribute to other opportunities to catalyze international cooperative action in these areas, such as those created by the Major Economies meetings and the Asia Pacific Partnership which complement the ongoing United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations leading towards the completion of a post-2012 framework agreement on climate change in Copenhagen this coming December.

The global economic crisis has spurred renewed calls for governments and business to work cooperatively to develop the policy and financial drivers to delink environmental impacts from economic and social development, provide energy access and shape a global low-carbon economy.

Sustainable development depends on economic growth and recovery. We urge you to support an economic rebound that creates jobs and promotes technological innovation and good environmental practices. Indeed, the more rapid and successful attainment of environmental objectives should be a priority in government stimulus plans and should favour environmental stewardship and resource efficiency.

In this regard, ICC calls on the G8 countries to avoid protectionism and other counter-productive measures. These would only compound economic problems and undermine the needed consensus for cooperative climate change and environmental action at a global level.

Attached to this letter are two annexes on the key issues of climate change and biodiversity you will be discussing which highlight fundamental areas to address in partnership.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'G. Sebban', written in a cursive style.

Guy Sebban

ICC Secretary General

## ANNEX 1

### Climate change

Today's major challenges transcend national borders and boundaries, effectively addressing them requires concerted long-term international cooperation. Climate change is one of the most pressing challenges of our times, associated as it is with meeting real needs for energy, development and economic growth.

ICC, as UNFCCC business and industry focal point, supports the UNFCCC process and recognizes the necessity of cooperative international action to address climate change. A global post-2012 UNFCCC framework agreement at the 15<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) meeting this December in Copenhagen that includes all major emitters to address climate change effectively and efficiently is the best course of action. ICC believes that a post-2012 framework under the UNFCCC should seek to maximize and enable the contribution of business and should reflect the following overarching principles:

- Commit all countries to mid and longer term objectives and policies, taking into account the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, national capabilities and circumstances;
- Recognize the important role of markets in any cost-effective response to climate change and enhance market-based approaches in conjunction with other policy instruments for more environmentally sound investment;
- Keep all energy options open and stimulate the broader use of existing energy efficient and low emissions technologies to enable cost-effective greenhouse gas emissions reductions;
- Recognise that concerted, global support for research and development will need to be put in place in order to increase the pace of change commercialization and deployment for certain technologies;
- Address adaptation needs, particularly in vulnerable developing countries, and create frameworks and governance structures to efficiently attract the necessary resources;
- Strengthen multilateral trade and investment that will support the financial and technological flows required to implement solutions.

Existing low-emissions technologies have the potential to significantly reduce global emissions, but enabling frameworks, intellectual property rights protection, market-based deployment of those rights, innovative funding mechanisms and specific policy responses are needed to support their rapid deployment, in both developed and developing countries. New technologies will also be needed. A future framework must facilitate the scale-up of research, development and demonstration of clean energy technologies through new financial mechanisms and international cooperation. Innovative public private partnerships that foster rapid development of advanced technologies to reduce emissions will play a pivotal role. ICC and the global business community have the expertise necessary for successful deployment of finance and technology to address climate change and are ready to continue engagement with policymakers for a successful outcome in Copenhagen. The G8 has a key role to play in helping

secure a successful outcome in Copenhagen.

## **ANNEX II**

### **Biodiversity**

Increasing world population, changing consumption patterns, and impacts of a changing climate are all placing strains on the planet's biodiversity. It is in this challenging context of escalating demands that we must consider and ensure sustainability. Business supports the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and has been contributing to its work under the coordinating umbrella of ICC.

Currently, a major focus of the CBD is the negotiation of an International Regime on access and benefit sharing in relation to genetic resources. Business is actively and constructively engaging in these negotiations and contributes a practical perspective on the realities of how different sectors access, use and develop genetic resources.

Governments negotiating this regime are facing an important choice. They can either build a regime which will facilitate and support innovation and trade using genetic resources so that benefits can be created and shared; or they can create a heavy regulatory framework that will be unworkable in practice, be an obstacle to innovation and trade, and costly for both governments and the private sector to implement.

Business urges governments to work towards the former vision of an International Regime which it believes will be more consistent with the objectives of the CBD to promote the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources. The International Regime should support national systems and increase their transparency and legal certainty, as well as promote and build capacity for a contract-based approach to access and benefit sharing.

ICC looks forward to contribute constructively to discussions on biodiversity.