



International Chamber of Commerce

The world business organization

WMO WCC-3 High Level Segment

4 September

09:30-10AM

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentleman,
I am honoured to be with you here today.

My name is Laurent Corbier and I am speaking on behalf of the International Chamber of Commerce, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development and the World Energy Council.

Climate change is a global problem that requires a global solution. The engagement of all countries in a cooperative spirit will be crucial to success. Business is part of the solution and very much engaged in the fight against climate change. Many companies have already made major changes in how they operate and have seized opportunities for new processes, products and services that help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

This is a crucial year. The private sector calls upon government leaders to reach an agreement in Copenhagen on a post 2012 framework to provide business with a clear, predictable framework to stimulate investment in technologies that will enable a transition to a low carbon economy.

The World Climate Conference - 3 is a crucial step in this process to help raise awareness and more importantly to develop climate related services that can assist governments and businesses in making better decisions. So, the Conference tag line << *better climate information for a better future* >> does speak to Business.

As we all know, climate change affects how our companies make investments, and how we manage our facilities, processes, products and services.

Climate change is a cross cutting issue –threatening energy, food and water security, impacting human health and biodiversity and affecting key economic sectors such as transport and tourism.

During the business and industry forum on Wednesday, we heard about the “perfect storm” facing the world - how demand for energy, and for food and water, will rapidly increase by 2030 - all while having to aggressively deal with climate change.

These challenges can only be resolved collaboratively. Business and society share a common need to improve information and enhance information sharing of climate data, to develop early warning and response measures, and to improve adaptation planning and provide better risk management assessments.

International Chamber of Commerce

38 Cours Albert 1er, 75008 Paris, France

Tel +33 (0)1 49 53 28 28 Fax +33 (0)1 49 53 29 42

E-mail icc@iccwbo.org Website www.iccwbo.org

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The viability of businesses depends on their vulnerability to the impacts of climate change and their ability to adapt. Predictive services and climate modelling can help them adjust their business model and open the door to new opportunities.

We therefore believe that the Global Framework for Climate Services can help companies benefit from better accessibility to climate information and encourage you to utilise the expertise of the private sector in the further development and implementation of the Framework

Solutions to global climate change require broader dissemination of existing low-carbon technologies, the demonstration and deployment of breakthrough technologies and increased research and development leading to innovative technologies of the future.

Successful implementation of climate change strategies requires that appropriate investments are applied locally or regionally - these can only happen based on sound information, including climate data geared for business needs. Businesses will need to identify the risks and opportunities, and adjust plans and strategies so as to mitigate risks and take advantage of opportunities.

The Business and Industry Forum also explored innovative public - private partnerships that foster rapid development of advanced technologies to reduce emissions. The recent G8 and Major Economies Forum meetings in Italy encouraged global partnerships to drive the development and deployment of low-carbon technologies.

Business has extensive expertise in this area, and is already working with governments and international bodies such as the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme to develop collaborative solutions among various actors and key stakeholders in developing and developed countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we are only three months away from Copenhagen. Many groups around the world have expressed that now is the time to respond to the sense of urgency that the scientific community is signalling.

Now is also the time to respond to the need for enhanced investment by the business community by securing an agreement that will maximise the contribution of business.

Thank you very much.