



ICC's Commission on Environment and Energy

Business: Part of the solution

Energy today and options for tomorrow

Access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy is fundamental to economic growth and sustainable development. Energy contributes to meeting basic needs, such as clean water, food preservation, transportation, healthcare, sanitation, education and communications. In light of expected growth in world population and energy demand, long-term energy access and security are critical priorities.

According to the International Energy Agency World Energy Outlook (WEO) 2008, investments of \$26 trillion will be required for projects related to energy access and to diversify energy supplies. If we are to see the energy revolution presented in the 2008 WEO, it is vital to address the question of investment in energy supply in developing, emerging and developed economies.

The global economic crisis underscores the urgency of sustainable development, emphasizing a mutually reinforcing balance of economic, social and environmental progress. There is an urgency to act, and while the crisis creates new challenges, it also highlights the importance of seeking cost-effective opportunities for action to address a wide range of competing priorities around the world and within individual nations.

To facilitate and encourage new energy development, access to modern energy services and the rapid deployment of more efficient, cleaner and lower carbon emitting technologies, global business recognizes the following key issues:

- All energy options are important as no one-size-fits-all solution exists.
- Sector-wide changes can take decades.
- Coordinated international effort is needed to ensure an enabling framework and markets.
- National policies have to take current realities and international agreements into account.
- Long-term investments and public-private partnerships should be facilitated.
- Energy efficiency should be a key focus and needs to be further promoted.
- Technology cooperation and deployment should be fostered.
- A variety of market mechanisms fit for national/local circumstances have to be identified.



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Business has a crucial and important role to play in shaping how energy is developed and utilized today, as well as the future energy options for tomorrow. There are many challenges facing the sector and it will require concerted and collaborative effort on all fronts to change the future energy mix and accelerate the pace of change. Business is willing and able to work together with all stakeholders to find appropriate solutions whilst meeting growing demand for energy.

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