

“Early, bold and comprehensive action to climate change is absolutely necessary. Businesses must take action to reduce their carbon footprint and to develop innovative solutions. I particularly encourage business involvement in leadership initiatives, such as *Caring for Climate*.”

—(UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, December 2007).

## CARING FOR CLIMATE: THE BUSINESS LEADERSHIP PLATFORM



### A CALL TO BUSINESS LEADERS



World Business Council for  
Sustainable Development



## Climate Risk — everybody's concern and everybody's business

The scientific evidence is no longer contested. Changes in the Earth's climate system are attributed to human activity, with its combustion of fossil fuels and forest destruction. If left alone, these changes will have deep impacts on the way humans live on the planet and how businesses operate. While the poorest countries and societies will suffer the most, the climate crisis will affect everyone.

But it is possible to change the trajectory if we act now. Immediate action will be less costly than suffering the long-term consequences of climate change. Solutions will turn into clear business opportunities.

Climate change has become a priority for the United Nations. Through the personal dedication and leadership of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, and the work of all its agencies and specialized bodies, the UN strives to ensure that all parts of society contribute to addressing climate change.

## Caring for Climate — the UN's initiative for business leadership on climate change

"Caring for Climate: The Business Leadership Platform", was launched by the UN Secretary-General at the Global Compact Leaders Summit in 2007. Caring for Climate is a voluntary global initiative that seeks to mobilize the business community to develop solutions that reduce climate risk while at the same time create value for the company. The initiative is jointly developed by the United Nations Global Compact, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD).

Caring for Climate helps companies to advance practical solutions, share experiences, inform public policy as well as shape public attitudes. When endorsing the initiative, chief executives are prepared to set goals, develop and expand strategies and practices, and to publicly disclose emissions. This commitment to communicate annually on progress is part of the existing disclosure commitment within the UN Global Compact framework, the Communication on Progress (COP).



## Caring for Climate – why engage?

Climate change will affect business and society in fundamental ways. It will change the context in which the private sector operates and its ability to prosper. However, climate change can also offer opportunities for business. By joining Caring for Climate, companies can:

- align their climate initiatives with a collective effort that has high credibility and visibility;
- gain access to the experiences and best practices of their peers, facilitating the articulation of climate strategies and the cooperation to develop new technologies;
- reduce risks and capitalize on opportunities;
- demonstrate their role in advancing the agenda through vision, innovation and smart investments; and
- add their voice to a global call to governments to create incentives and rules that reward leadership and innovation.

## Engagement opportunities

As a global society we are trying to deal with climate risk through a complex combination of approaches. Governments are working towards a new framework of objectives and rules to succeed the Kyoto Protocol. A major milestone will be the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in December 2009. Companies must inform this process to reach smart policies that enable innovation and accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy and a safer society.

To this effect, the Caring for Climate initiative and its partners are planning several events:

### **First Meeting of Caring for Climate Signatories – October 2008**

- A learning forum for signatories to discuss strategies, showcase practices and analyze actions.

### **World Business Summit on Climate Change – May 2009 in Copenhagen, Denmark**

- A meeting of business leaders, scientists and policy makers in the run-up to the 15<sup>th</sup> COP.

### **Caring for climate report “Towards a low-carbon economy”:**

- The report will highlight good corporate practices and expectations for smart policy frameworks that enable deeper cuts in carbon emissions.

Caring for Climate signatories will also be invited to participate in events held in parallel to major UN meetings with the WBCSD and UNEP.

Signatories are further encouraged to engage at the local level, together with Global Compact Local Networks around the world.



# Caring for Climate —

## The business leadership statement

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A Statement by the Business Leaders of the UN Global Compact

### **WE, THE BUSINESS LEADERS OF THE UN GLOBAL COMPACT:**

#### **RECOGNIZE THAT:**

- 1.** Climate Change is an issue requiring urgent and extensive action on the part of governments, business and citizens if the risk of serious damage to global prosperity and security is to be avoided.
- 2.** Climate change poses both risks and opportunities to all parts of the business sector, everywhere. It is in the interest of the business community, as well as responsible behavior, for companies and their associations to play a full part in increasing energy efficiency and reducing carbon emissions to the atmosphere and, where possible, assisting society to respond to those changes in the climate to which we are already committed.

#### **COMMIT TO:**

- 3.** Taking practical actions now to increase the efficiency of energy usage and to reduce the carbon burden of our products, services and processes, to set voluntary targets for doing so, and to report publicly on the achievement of those targets annually in our Communication on Progress.
- 4.** Building significant capacity within our organizations to understand fully the implications of climate change for our business and to develop a coherent business strategy for minimizing risks and identifying opportunities\*. Engaging fully and positively with our own national governments, inter-governmental organizations and civil society organizations to develop policies and measures that will provide an enabling framework for the business sector to contribute effectively to building a low carbon economy.
- 5.** Working collaboratively with other enterprises nationally and sectorally, and along our value-chains, by setting standards\*\* and taking joint initiatives aimed at reducing climate risks, assisting with adaptation to climate change and enhancing climate-related opportunities.

- 6.** Becoming an active business champion for rapid and extensive response to climate change with our peers, employees, customers, investors and the broader public.

#### **EXPECT FROM GOVERNMENTS:\*\*\***

- 7.** The urgent creation, in close consultation with the business community and civil society, of comprehensive, long-term and effective legislative and fiscal frameworks designed to make markets work for the climate, in particular policies and mechanisms intended to create a stable price for carbon;
- 8.** Recognition that building effective public-private partnerships to respond to the climate challenge will require major public investments to catalyze and support business and civil society led initiatives, especially in relation to research, development, deployment and transfer of low carbon energy technologies and practices.
- 9.** Vigorous international cooperation aimed at providing a robust global policy framework within which private investments in building a low carbon economy can be made, as well as providing financial and other support to assist those countries that require help to realize their own climate mitigation and adaptation targets whilst achieving poverty alleviation, energy security and natural resource management.

#### **AND WILL:**

- 10.** Work collaboratively on joint initiatives between public and private sectors and through them achieve a comprehensive understanding of how both public and private sectors can best play a pro-active and leading role in meeting the climate challenge in an effective way.
- 11.** Invite the UN Global Compact to promote the public disclosure of actions taken by the signatories to this Statement and, in cooperation with UNEP and the WBCSD, communicate on this on a regular basis, starting July 2008.

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\* It is understood that the call to governments to develop frameworks is meant to be framed under the current International framework

\*\* The term "setting standards" is clearly meant to refer to environmental performance standards, such as energy consumption, environmental impact and emissions. It does not refer to "international standards" whose design is the prerogative of governments.

\*\*\*It is understood that the setting of voluntary targets will be in accordance with different responsibilities and capabilities.



## List of Caring for Climate Signatories:

As of April 2008, 206 companies from 48 countries have endorsed the Caring for Climate statement. 153 of these are large companies, and more than 40 percent are headquartered in developing or emerging economies. Signatories represent 30 different industry sectors.

AARSHUSKARLSHAMN, ABB LTD, ABENGOA, ABN AMRO, ADVISER PUBLICITY S.A., AFIBA, AGBAR - SOCIEDAD GENERAL DE AGUAS DE BARCELONA, S.A., AIRBUS SAS, AKSA AKRILIK KIMYA SANAYI A.S., AKZO NOBEL NV, ALCAN INC., ALCATEL-LUCENT, ALLIANZ, ANGLO AMERICAN, APRIL, ARAMEX, ARCELOR MITTAL, AREVA, ARGE CONSULTING, ARTICLE 13, ATACAMA S.A. DE PUBLICIDAD, AUCHAN, AUTOSTRADA PER L'ITALIA SPA, BAYER AG, BBVA, BERACA SABARA, BHI HOLDINGS NIGERIA LTD., BIDGIVE INTERNATIONAL, BRASIL TELECOM S.A., BROAD AIR CONDITIONING, BROEDRENE HAORTMANN, BT, CADBURY SCHWEPES PLC, CAPGEMINI, CELER SOLUCIONES, CENTRAL WARE-HOUSING CORPORATION, CHINA INTERNATIONAL MARINE CONTAINERS, CHINA MOBILE, CISCO, CITY DEVELOPMENTS LTD, COLOPLAST, CONSORT NT, CONSTRUCTUS LTD., CRESCENDA GROUP, DANFOSS, DANISCO, DATUM INTERNATIONAL S.A., DEAN'S BEANS ORGANIC COFFEE COMPANY, DELOITTE & TOUCHESOUTH AFRICA, DET NORSKE VERITAS, DEUTSCHE TELEKOM, DONG ENERGY, DOW CHEMICAL, DUDALINA S.A., DUPONT, E.ON AG, EADS FRANCE, EADS N.V., EBRO PULEVA S.A., EDF, EL CORTE

INGLES S.A., ENERGOINVEST, ENERTOLIMA S.A., ENI, ERICSSON, ESKOM, ESSILOR INTERNATIONAL, EUROSTANDARD BANK AD SKOPJE, EUSKALTEL S.A., FUJI XEROX COMPANY LTD., GAMESA CORPORACION TECNOLOGICA S.A., GENCTUR TOURISM AND TRAVEL AGENCY LTD., GENERATION INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT LLP, GHANA OIL COMPANY LTD, GLOBAL TANITIM, GROUPE LA POSTE, GROUPE ONET, GRUNDFOS, GRUPO CEMENTOS PORTLAND VALDERRIVAS, HAIER GROUP COMPANY, HARINERAS VILLAMAYOR S.A., HAUSKA & PARTNER INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS, HILTI AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT, HO BEE GROUP, HOLMEN AB, ICA AB, IKEA GROUP, IMPACT DEVELOPMENT TRAINING GROUP, INFOSYS, INGENIERIA Y PROYECTOS GRAFICOS S.L., INTERROS, IUT GLOBAL, JAPAN AIRLINES, JOHNSON CONTROLS, INC., KAYA ORMAN URUNLERI LTD., KAYALAR GROUP OF COMPANIES INC., KJAEER GROUP A/S, KORAIL, KOREA LAND CORPORATION, KOREA NATIONAL HOUSING COMPANY, KOREA SOUTH-EAST POWER CO. LTD., LAFARGE, LANDSBANKI, LEGO, LI AND FUNG LIMITED, LINDE GROUP, LIWAL LTD, LLANLLYR WATER COMPANY, LOC MARIA,

L'OREAL, LVMH, MACONDO, MANPOWER, MANSOUR GROUP, MARC. J. LANE & COMPANY, MARTHA TILAAR GROUP, MATER A/S, MCI GROUP, MEDIACORP, METITO (OVERSEAS) LTD., METSO CORPORATION, MSM FININCO, MUNICH RE GROUP, NARAI INTERTRADE CO, LTD, NEDBANK GROUP, NOVARTIS INTERNATIONAL AG, NOVO NORDISK, NOVOZYMES A/S, NTUC HEALTHCARE CO-OPERATIVE, NTUC THRIFT CO-OPERATIVE OCBC BANK, OIL AND NATURAL GAS CORPORATION LIMITED, OMV AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT, ORIGINS EXTERMINATOR, PAHARPUR BUSINESS CENTRE & SOFTWARE TECHNOLOGY INCUBATOR PARK, PASELL S.R.L., PENTLAND GROUP PLC, PFIZER INC., PIRAEUS BANK, PR COMMUNICATIONS, PUBLICIS GROUPE, RAHIMA-FROOZ BATTERIES LTD., REDES ENERGETICAS NACIONAIS, S.A., REPSOL YPF, RICOH CO. LTD, RIO TINTO PLC, RIO URUGUAY COOPERATIVA DE SEGUROS LTDA., ROYAL PHILIPS ELECTRONICS, RUSAL, RWE AG, SABAF SPA, SAMJONG KPMG, SAP, SAS GROUP, SASOL LTD, SCOTT WILSON GROUP PLC, SCOTTISH & NEWCASTLE PLC, SEDUS STOLL AG, SEIKO EPSON CORPORATION, SEMCO SENIOR MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS, SENOKO

POWER, SIN HWA DEE FOODSTUFF INDUSTRIES, SING LUN HOLDINGS, SING TEL, SINGAPORE GENERAL HOSPITAL, SINGAPORE ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, SINGHEALTH GROUP, SKANSKA, SKF, SOMPO JAPAN INSURANCE INC., SPEAK OUT LTD., STATOILHYDRO, STOREBRAND ASA, STRAITS LAW PRACTICE, SUEZ, SUNFOOD INTERNATIONAL COMPANY, SUPERSKILLS GRAPHICS, SURFRUT LTDA, SVQ COMUNICACION Y DESARROLLO CORPORATIVO, TALAL ABU-GHAZALEH ORGANIZATION, TARRERIAS BONJEAN, TATA CHEMICALS, TATA STEEL, TC CENTRE PTE LTD, TCE CONSULTING ENGINEERS LTD., TECKWAH INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION, TELECOM ITALIA, TELEFONICA S.A., TELVENT, THALES, THE COCA-COLA COMPANY, THE CONSORTIUM FOR PURCHASING AND DISTRIBUTION LTD., TIMA GMBH, TITAN, TNT, TOMS GRUPPEN, UNILEVER, UNION FENOSA, UNITED DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANTS, UPM-KYMMENE, V&S GROUP, V. MANE FILS S.A., VEOLIA, WESTPAC BANKING CORPORATION, XL GROUP, YASEKON INTERNATIONAL LTD., YMF CONSULTORIA DE SISTEMAS LTDAQ, YUHAN-KIMBERLY.

Please visit [www.unglobalcompact.org](http://www.unglobalcompact.org) for an updated list of signatories.

# How to join Caring for Climate

All Global Compact business participants are invited to endorse the Caring for Climate Statement. To become a signatory, please send an email to [climatechange@unglobalcompact.org](mailto:climatechange@unglobalcompact.org), indicating the support of your chief executive.

Signatories are recognized on the Global Compact website at [www.unglobalcompact.org](http://www.unglobalcompact.org).

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Business has to understand that it cannot succeed, **it cannot possibly flourish, when the world and the community at large are going to be impacted by changes in the climate.** The Caring for Climate declaration rightly emphasizes the risks and opportunities associated with climate change. The emphasis on the reporting aspect is critically important because one sees a lot of declarations and communiqués being issued, but there is seldom enough follow-up to see that what is intended is actually implemented.”

— Dr. R. K. Pachauri, Chairman, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), launching *Caring for Climate* at the Global Compact Leaders Summit on 5 July 2007 in Geneva/Switzerland

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## About the United Nations Global Compact

Launched in 2000, the UN Global Compact brings business together with stakeholders to advance ten universal principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption. Through the power of collective action, the Global Compact seeks to mainstream these ten principles in business activities around the world and to catalyze actions in support of broader UN goals. With over 3,900 participating companies and hundreds of other stakeholders from more than 120 countries, it is the world's largest voluntary corporate citizenship initiative.



## About the World Business Council on Sustainable Development

The World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) is a CEO-led, global association of some 200 companies dealing exclusively with business and sustainable development. The Council provides a platform for companies to explore sustainable development, share knowledge, experiences and best practices, and to advocate business positions on these issues in a variety of forums, working with governments, non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations. Members are drawn from more than 35 countries and 20 major industrial sectors. The Council also benefits from a global network of about 55 national and regional business councils and regional partners.



## About the United Nations Environment Programme

The mission of UNEP is to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations. UNEP is headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya. The UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (UNEP DTIE) is the division leading the work with business and industry on climate. With its longstanding activities in the areas of sustainable production and consumption, energy, ozone, chemicals, trade, economics, finance and corporate responsibility, the division aims to help decision-makers develop and adopt policies that are cleaner and safer; make efficient use of natural resources; incorporate environmental costs and reduce pollution and risks for humans and the environment.

For more information about Caring for Climate, visit [www.unglobalcompact.org](http://www.unglobalcompact.org)

For sponsorship opportunities, please visit: [www.globalcompactfoundation.org](http://www.globalcompactfoundation.org)