

BUSINESS ACTION FOR ENERGY

Working for Sustainable Solutions

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY MAJOR GROUP STATEMENT

15th Session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD15)

INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE WITH MAJOR GROUPS

APRIL 30, 2007

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates,

We thank you for the opportunity to join in dialogue with you. I am addressing you on behalf of the initiative Business Action for Energy, an umbrella group for the business and industry major group represented here. BAE is a coalition led by the International Chamber of Commerce, the World Energy Council and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development. Its purpose is to bring high level visibility to common business views on energy and other matters under consideration at CSD15. With regard to priorities for action to help us focus our discussions here, and to keep the momentum in motion beyond CSD15, we would highlight the following:

- The challenges of energy for sustainable development, atmosphere/air pollution, climate change and industrial development are **interwoven** and require integrated, balanced and cooperative solutions involving governments, business and civil society. We encourage CSD15 to develop integrated recommendations, with a clear ongoing process beyond CSD15.
- Actions to address energy, climate change, air pollution and industrial development challenges will be most effective when enabling framework conditions are in place. **Key features of enabling frameworks** include open markets; trade liberalization and investment protection; strong institutions and good governance; protection of human rights; science- and risk-based regulations that are enforced; protection of intellectual property and due diligence.
- **All energy sources** should be considered, assessed on their merits and attributes, recognizing issues, barriers and opportunities for each. The critical role of more efficient, low carbon, less emitting and **advanced technologies, pertaining to all forms of energy** need to be taken into account and supported. Moreover, energy efficiency should be addressed in **all sectors**.
- Business sees the challenge of industrial development as supporting the growth of business activities, particularly in developing countries, that contribute to the economic, social and environmental objectives of sustainable development, and to the advancement of the MDGs. Along with the important matters of energy and climate, business encourages CSD15 to highlight **synergies between industrial activity and sustainability, and to propose ways to encourage the sustainable growth of business sectors** and activities in all countries, including via expanded supply chains, innovation and the development of new markets. Business believes that clean production, eco-efficiency, management systems, technological innovation and voluntary approaches and partnerships all offer opportunities for capacity-building and development in developing countries and for real progress towards sustainable development worldwide.
- **Climate change is a global issue requiring a global solution.** Addressing climate change requires commitment and actions of all major actors in all sectors to succeed.

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- There are numerous successful **business voluntary initiatives and partnerships** related to the CSD14/15 cluster with potential to be scaled-up/replicated. These relate to the development and utilization of cleaner technologies, processes, products, management systems and to further training and capacity building. Major groups are here not just as observers and interlocutors in dialogue, but also as partners in implementation. We look forward to contributing to progress in these areas. We encourage governments and other major groups to support partnerships as part of the ongoing work of CSD15.

We look forward to contributing to a CSD15 session that takes advantage of the diverse expertise here in delegations and major groups, identifies synergies for action and partnerships and includes opportunities for more interactive discussions.