

Major Economies Business Forum

on Energy Security and Climate Change

www.majoreconomiesbusinessforum.org



Confederation of Indian Industry
Since 1895



Confederation of Danish Industry



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A Business Consultative Channel to the UNFCCC

The Major Economies Business Forum (BizMEF) believes that the time is ripe to establish an inclusive, recognized consultative process for business input to the UNFCCC and its emerging institutions. Experience with other international institutions provides a basis for design of an efficient, comprehensive approach that can provide representative business views on relevant issues. Business views are not, however, monolithic, and the approach we are advocating would convey not only common views when they can be determined, but also where appropriate the range of responsible business views on challenging issues.

Based on past experience, the approach we recommend should:

- Utilize membership based on inclusive national committees with companies from all sectors and with participation, also, from international sector-based associations and cross-sectoral partnerships;
- Draw on a variety of existing, competent sources for business expertise, policy recommendations, and technological and economic assessments;
- Reflect a range of responsible views where appropriate;
- Marshal relevant expertise, for example, concerning trade, technology, finance, *etc.*;
- Provide wide-ranging policy and practical advice and technical input;
- Be self-funded and organized, with transparent membership and governance;
- Account for both national and international market and regulatory realities;
- Provide an integrated perspective that reflects environmental, economic and social circumstances and synergies; and

- Allow for two-way communication with Parties and the Secretariat.

It is also important to mention what our recommended approach would not do. It would not:

- Preclude Parties or the UNFCCC Secretariat from seeking input from other business sources;
- Replace activities or advocacy of individual business associations; or
- Address overtly political questions, such as targets or goals.

National committees provide important benefits for understanding and communication. They provide means to: (1) understand and share perceptions of national views to the international business community; and (2) communicate international perspectives to national governments.

The approach we recommend could be a significant resource not only for business, but also for governments and the Secretariat to solicit views from business globally. Unlike existing *ad hoc* approaches, it also provides a means to build capacity and understanding over time.

Business believes that a direct exchange of views and information with the Secretariat and national delegations is the most effective approach to international consultation. While business is prepared to participate in multi-sectoral dialogues and exchanges, we view such approaches as separate and far less effective. As well, we understand that other major groups may wish to create their own direct channels for consultation. Each process should be designed to capture the unique and relevant expertise of each group.

About BizMEF

BizMEF is a partnership of major multi-sectoral business organizations from major economies. Modeled after the government-to-government Major Economies Forum, BizMEF is a platform for these groups to:

- promote dialogue and exchange views on climate change and energy security across a broad spectrum of business interests including major developed, emerging, and developing economies;
- highlight areas of agreement among participating organizations on the most important issues for business in international climate change policy forums; and
- share these views with governments, international bodies, other business organizations, the press, and the public.

For more information on BizMEF, please visit our website at:

www.majoreconomiesbusinessforum.org.