

Major Economies Business Forum

on Energy Security and Climate Change

www.majoreconomiesbusinessforum.org



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Business Engagement with UNFCCC and Emerging International Climate Change Institutions

Enhancing society's ability to manage the risks of climate change will require more widespread utilization and improvement of existing technologies and the development and global deployment of advanced technologies, services and products. Transformations will occur in coming decades through deployment of already known solutions, research and innovation and, ultimately, through deployment of new and improved technologies requiring thousands of multibillion-dollar investments, both private and public, in facilities and associated infrastructure. They will also require developing related human capacity through research, education, training and employment. Obviously, business will be a major contributor to the response.

Throughout most of the world, business and governments have established channels to interact at local, regional, and national levels to share information on a range of issues. Interactions can occur through trade associations, advisory boards and expert committees, testimony before legislators, public comment processes, partnerships, and other approaches. They can be effective at identifying and resolving issues sooner rather than later. They provide means for two-way exchanges that allow business to develop and share views both in response to official requests and as input to policy discussions. Nothing comparable exists today as part of the international climate discussion. The Major Economies Business Forum (BizMEF) believes that it is of strategic importance to develop recognized business consultative processes at the international level with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its emerging institutions.

Such recognized channels have proven their value in many other international settings, such as the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. Business does not operate in a single sector or from a single perspective, whether technology, finance, or operations. Business considers impacts across supply and value chains in the entire, increasingly global, economy. Consequently, we support the development of a consultative process that:

1. involves all sectors across the value chain;
2. allows business to consider and provide views from multiple perspectives; and
3. considers the potential impacts of public policies and processes on competitiveness, trade, employment, consumers, and taxpayers.

Based on its past experience with other intergovernmental processes, business has the capability to design a comprehensive consultative process at the international level that can be a resource to Parties and the Secretariat. It would provide input and allow for dialogue across the entire range of business-related issues, for example in research and development, technology, trade, and finance, to name but a few.

We recognize that institutions covering these areas are being designed now, so even in the absence of a comprehensive, recognized framework, business needs to provide timely and relevant input now into, for example, the Green Climate Fund, Technology Mechanism, and other matters. BizMEF has developed the accompanying brief issue papers with that objective. They provide specific examples of the areas where, and ways in which, business can provide input to emerging international institutions. However, we feel that it is important for business, governments, and international institutions to share the vision of creating a more efficient, effective, comprehensive framework for engagement that is not “one-off” or ad hoc. Rather, it can have permanence, fill strategic purpose, and build over time in a coherent fashion.

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.