



# **BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT IN THE UNFCCC: BUILDING ON THE TALANOA DIALOGUE**

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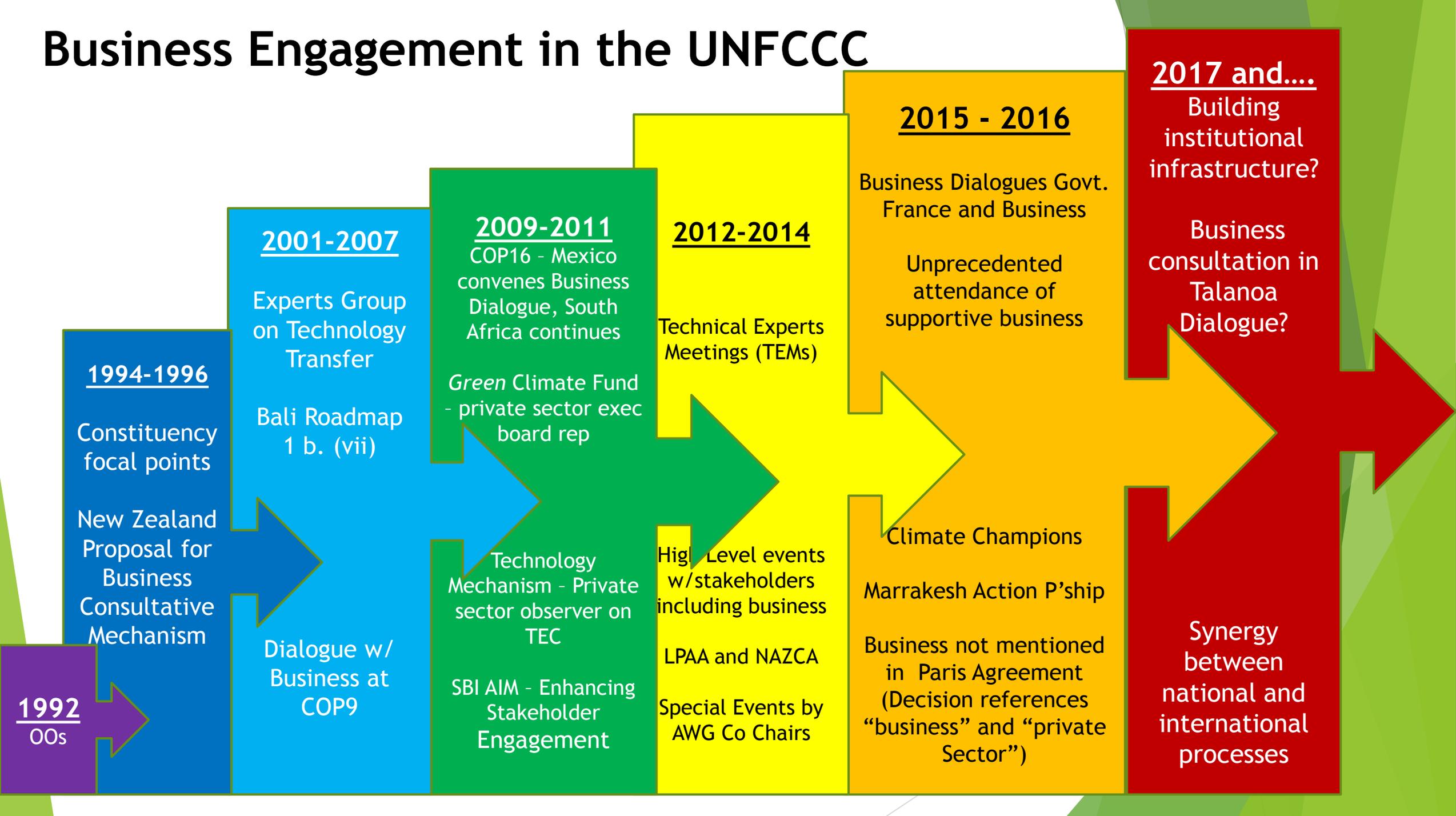
# Outline

- ▶ Background
- ▶ Where are we now?
- ▶ Where would we like to go?
- ▶ How do we get there?

**Institutional evolution and innovation:** We are still predominantly using pre-Paris structures to respond to post-Paris tasks and realities

**A Metaphor for Growing Apart?:** Separation of venues impediment to interaction and dialogue when these are needed more than ever

# Business Engagement in the UNFCCC

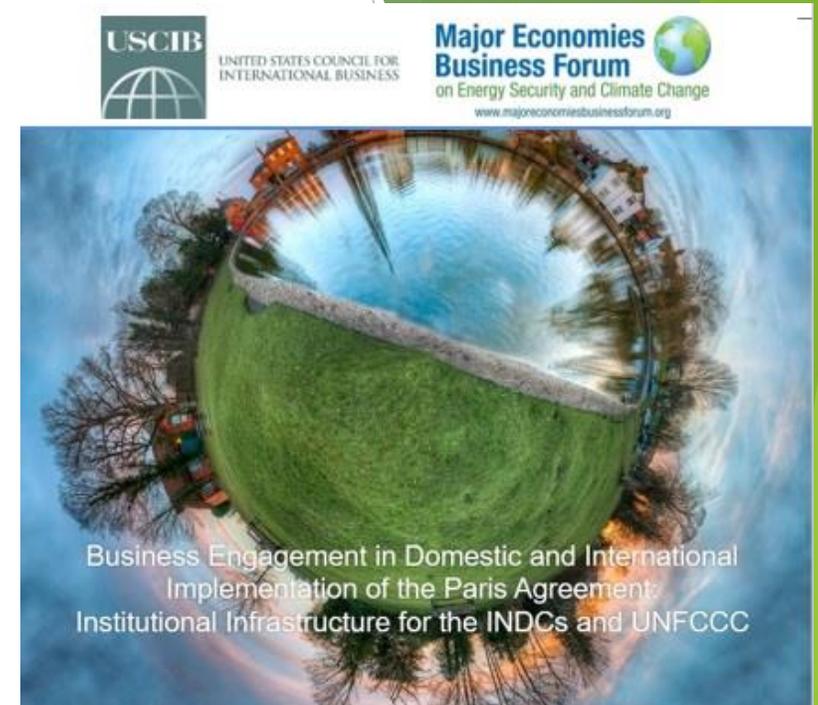


# USCIB BizMEF Report for COP22: Business Engagement in NDCs

- ▶ How engagement w/business can strengthen development & understanding of (I)NDCs at national level;
- ▶ Options to mainstream engagement business and other non-state stakeholders in the international review of (I)NDCs, individually and collectively.

## Framing Questions:

- Recognizing individual circumstances of national settings, what are **good practices** to include business input to strengthen NDCs; what are opportunities to share these experiences with governments and business communities?
- How can consultation with business be designed to contribute to trust-building and credibility through **transparency** and continuity?
- Can the UNFCCC 5-year cycle provide opportunities to begin to build necessary **institutional architecture** to include and reflect business's role and expectations for Paris Agreement?



# Main Takeaways

- ▶ **In-depth and long-term cooperation** between governments and business at national and global levels is essential to build the best models to tackle climate change challenges.
- ▶ In light of the continuous cycle of review and improvement in the Paris Agreement, a **standing and ongoing interaction** structure is best suited to assure credible, timely, consistent information and **responsible and representative views** from business

# SBI SB46 In-Session Workshop, May 2017: Opportunities to Further Enhance Effective Engagement of Non-State Actors

## Business messages

- ▶ The UNFCCC institutional infrastructure should be updated and expanded to recognize and mobilize business engagement as part of global efforts to deliver on the Paris Agreement.
- ▶ The UNFCCC should consider and evolve to accommodate a **recognized institutional interface for business**, built on the model of other such consultative bodies, for example the International Organization of Employers (IOE) and the Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD (BIAC), both of which engage national and regional representative business organizations.
- ▶ Reject assertions of “conflict of interest” and proposals to apply sectoral restrictions: A business channel would inform and **advance shared interests** of governments, business and society

# Where are We Now?

- ▶ Need to step up ambition and pace across many aspects of UNFCCC and Paris Agreement
- ▶ Continued strong positive response and action from business
- ▶ Issues being added that are “unsolvable” without business - for example, just transition
- ▶ Assertions of “Conflict of Interest” from some countries and NGOs

# Business as Observer & Partner in Multilateral Institutions

- ▶ The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) accorded Observer Status to the UN General Assembly
- ▶ Business and business NGOs are a recognized *major group (Agenda21)*
  - ▶ (one of several: trade unions, local authorities, youth, women, &c...)
- ▶ Business participates as a recognized observer in many multilateral forums, including:



**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**



**Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations**



## Recognized business consultative bodies:



International Organisation of Employers  
Organisation Internationale des Employeurs  
Organización Internacional de Empleadores  
*The Global Voice of Business*

# Where would we like to go?

## *A Recognized Business Channel*

- ▶ Inclusive, open, voluntary, self-managed and self-resourced - Representative business groups at national, regional, international and sectoral levels
- ▶ Recognized, mainstreamed and ongoing
- ▶ Transparent, with 2 way flow of communication and information
- ▶ Not aiming for a “single consensus” - would convey multiple views and ideas
- ▶ Synergistic with Action Agenda and other existing structures in UNFCCC
- ▶ Include business communities in developing countries; provide capacity building and information

# BIAC as a model

BIAC National Committees/Employers gps.  
**BDI, Medef, Keidanren, CBI, USCIB...**  
**CNI ...**

Members and Observer States  
**Germany, France, Japan, UK, USA ...**  
**Brazil ...**

**The “BIAC” Model: recognized, independent, comprehensive, responsive, accountable**



- Efficient: provides the right expertise at the right level (technical, leadership)
- Builds long-term capacity, e.g. networks, guidelines, reporting
- Interfaces to main Institution (BIAC) & Nations (national committees of BIAC)
- **Can be adapted to reflect UNFCCC structure, work streams**

# Looking Ahead

- ▶ “SBI invited Parties & non-Party stakeholders to submit views by 31 January 2018, agreed to take stock at SBI 48 of progress in the implementation of the SBI conclusions on non-Party stakeholder engagement with a view to considering how such engagement can be further enhanced.”
- ▶ As an interim step, BizMEF will develop process to inform Talanoa Dialogue en route to COP24
- ▶ COP24 Baby Step: UNFCCC now accommodates dedicated platforms for other constituencies: eg Indigenous Peoples/Local Communities Platform - A Channel for Business?





“The best allies of all those that want to make sure that the Paris Agreement is implemented, the best allies today in the world are probably in the business sector and it is very important to fully mobilize them.”

“Without the private sector we will not have the necessary innovation, we will not have the necessary capacity to discover new markets, new products, new services and to be able to develop new areas in the economy.”

# Thank You

[BizMEF Issue Paper on Business Engagement and Conflict of Interest](#)

<http://www.majoreconomiesbusinessforum.org>

<http://www.uscib.org>