

Business and Industry NGOs (BINGOs) Statement (Long version)
UNFCCC Climate Change Informal Sessions of the Subsidiary Bodies
(31 May – 17 June 2021)
Joint SBI-SBSTA Opening Session

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen – My name is Sandra Hanni from the International Chamber of Commerce, and it is my honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Business and Industry Constituency.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the Chairs of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies for convening these sessions with the support of the UNFCCC Executive Secretary and the UNFCCC Secretariat, the COP25 Presidency, and the incoming COP26 Presidency. We would like to thank you for providing Business and Industry NGOs with this opportunity to speak during this virtual plenary of the SBs. We appreciate being included in these virtual consultations over the next three weeks, and we will do our best to support and inform the discussions as a resource to you. We are here to state our unwavering support for the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.

We applaud the recent announcements of commitments of enhanced ambition. It is tremendous to see a broad range of economies at the forefront of our global efforts – we urge others to follow and commit to enhanced ambition.

Business is taking action. Through the Race to Zero – an unprecedented number of companies of every size and sector are setting the pace to a net-zero emissions future. In order for us to go faster and further, we are looking to you to provide the enabling frameworks, coherent and predictable policies.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates – We have five months until COP26 and we must make them count. This session can help us deliver vital steps forward and we urge you to seize this opportunity to improve understanding and deepen dialogue on key outstanding issues and complete the Paris rulebook, in particular, Article 6, which is essential to mobilise markets, investment and finance by the private sector to advance climate actions.

Article 6, if designed and implemented appropriately, will be a significant driver for enhanced ambition; set frameworks for effective carbon pricing; and create new channels for finance. This takes on additional urgency in the context of building back better as countries and regions develop their plans to restore economic activity, rebuild their infrastructure and prioritise restoring employment, alongside just transition where necessary.

To achieve this, Article 6 guidance will need to be clear on how to account for transfers of emissions reductions and the type of activities that can earn reductions. It must be supported by strong and robust MRV systems that cover mitigation of emissions alongside sinks of greenhouse gases. A clear MRV framework is essential to demonstrate net emission reduction; environmental integrity; prevent double counting; and promote investment and engagement in emission reduction projects deriving from the Paris Agreement.

At COP26, we must launch a campaign to further strengthen NDCs for ambition and inclusiveness, with special attention to involving small businesses so that an “all of society and all of economy” approach is embedded within their foundation as we enter the first real phases of 5 year review cycles. Governments and the UNFCCC process must set a course for inclusive NDCs, developed in continuous consultation and partnership with business alongside other key stakeholders, to also advance the Sustainable Development Goals as integral to pandemic response and recovery planning.

To conclude, COP26 must be inclusive and bring all voices to the table. UNFCCC has a tradition of “gold-standard” involvement of every kind of non-governmental entity. An inclusive COP will continue the practice of each constituency determining its own representatives and, in the context of an in-person blue-zone, everyone having the right to be observe the proceedings and be heard, while maintaining the intergovernmental nature of the UNFCCC process.

We urge you to use this session to set the path for a breakthrough in Glasgow on all agenda items. Business and Industry are – and will continue to be – a part of the climate solution, working both locally and globally with the Parties and directly with the citizens of the world in order to ensure a sustainable transition to a low carbon economy. We stand ready to assist you in every way possible and work with all stakeholders towards a successful and inclusive COP26.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this statement.