



2014 UN Climate Summit - Key Messages

September 23, 2014

- **The global business community welcomes the UN Climate Summit.** We commend the wide range of commitments and initiatives announced by national governments, the private sector and other key actors. The Summit's timing – concurrent with the launch of deliberations over the UN's Post-2015 Development Agenda – underscores the fundamental importance of pursuing a new climate agreement in the context of inclusive growth and sustainable development.
- **USCIB is committed to a successful outcome** here in New York, at the Lima conference in December, and at next year's concluding conference in Paris. We are mobilizing our member companies, our global business network and other resources in support of an ambitious, worldwide agreement that fully engages private-sector resources over the short and long-terms.
- **All states as well as the private sector must participate in the new UNFCCC accord.** All major emitting countries should participate at an appropriate level, and enlist the expertise of the business community to apply innovative solutions to the climate change challenge. The private sector's practical expertise and technical know-how should inform the UN's work throughout the process of agenda-setting, negotiation and implementation of the global agreement.
- **Climate change and access to energy should be addressed in tandem.** They require close international cooperation, both in the context of the UNFCCC negotiations and in other important forums (e.g., Montreal Protocol, WTO). In balancing climate commitments with other international obligations, we encourage governments to seek synergies and avoid imposing conflicting requirements on states and the private sector.
- There is an **urgent need to encourage innovation and deployment of technologies and remove barriers to trade and investment in green technologies and solutions.** These include remaining barriers to trade in environmental goods and services, as well as factors that undermine the certainty of investment decisions, including the weakening of intellectual property rights protection.

- **All sectors of the economy must be enlisted** in mitigation and adaptation efforts, including both energy- producing and energy-consuming industries. All sectors can contribute, and are linked in supply and value-chains, and in the global marketplace.
- **Carbon pricing is an important, but not the only, market-based climate policy tool.** Different countries and regions have specific economic and energy circumstances and goals, so any such pricing at the international level would need to reflect those realities. Equally important, and probably easier to tackle in the near term, are market distortions such as barriers to trade and investment, IPR restrictions and subsidies. These distortions should be addressed as an urgent priority, in order to enable the more rapid and efficient dissemination of important climate-friendly technologies, goods and services.
- We are **encouraged by recent signs from the UN on increased private-sector participation** in the climate deliberations. We applaud these efforts and urge all UN members to recognize the essential contributions that business can make in addressing climate change. We encourage the UNFCCC to strengthen existing channels, and develop new ones, to foster substantive engagement of the business community as an integral part of the Paris 2015 UNFCCC agreement.