

Key Highlights from the Inaugural Caring for Climate Business Forum

The United Nations Global Compact, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change secretariat and UN Environment Programme launched the inaugural Caring for Climate Business Forum on 19 November 2013 where, for the first time, the private sector joined with the public sector in the co-creation of climate change solutions as part of the Conference of Parties. Chief executives showcased to diplomats, policymakers and world leaders the contributions that business and investors are making towards climate action. Held in cooperation with the Polish COP19/CMP9 Presidency, the Business Forum helped to bring greater scale to business innovation on climate change, encourage Governments to raise ambition on climate policies and foster collaboration among business, investors, Government, civil society and the UN.

The Business Forum showcased innovative commitments and solutions for climate change from businesses, including plans to use 100 percent renewable energy by 2020, and a new global framework to mitigate the footprint of large-scale events. Actions taken in markets across the globe were presented at the Forum, including in China, where Caring for Climate has facilitated commitments by companies across seven action areas for combatting climate change and reducing pollution and emissions.

Senior leaders from the UN, business, Global Compact Local Networks and civil society shared their visions, plans and recommendations for climate action on the road to a global climate agreement in 2015 and beyond:

Martin Korolec, Poland's Minister of Environment and COP19 President, recognized the Business Forum as the official entry point for the private and public sectors to engage in a first-of-its kind meeting during the official Conference of Parties programme.

Christiana Figueres, UNFCCC Executive Secretary, discussed the need for businesses to collaborate with Governments, particularly at the national level. While the pillars of the private sector and policymakers are in place, the bridge connecting the two still needs to be built.

Andrew Steer, WRI, urged business to align its government affairs activities with corporate sustainability initiatives, which was further supported by the *World Bank*. *Steve Howard, Ikea* expressed the desire for Governments to lead the policy agenda in order to unlock business innovation. *WBCSD President Peter Bakker* urged business to scale up efforts on climate change and collectively drive action. Others called for setting a price on carbon as a critical instrument to achieving emissions reductions.

Leveraging the themes of innovation, ambition and collaboration, the Business Forum featured eleven focused sessions co-organized with partners including The Climate Group, CDP, UNEP's Finance Initiative and WRI. Sessions covered themes related to the UNFCCC agenda such as mitigation, adaptation, capacity-building and technology-transfer, and financing – and cross-cutting issues such as transparency and responsible policy engagement.

Among other topics, sessions highlighted: the importance of a coherent, predictable regulatory framework for companies; building momentum on energy efficiency and renewables; the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short Lived Climate Pollutants (CCAC); the need to unlock private finance to achieve transformational impacts; the global insurance industry's statement to build climate and disaster-resilient communities and economies; and the added value to achieve climate goals through collective action, including public-private partnerships.

New tools and resources for companies launched at the Business Forum include the [Caring for Climate \(C4C\) Progress Report 2013](#) which examines trends in participation in C4C, emissions performance of companies and progress made against the five commitments, and a [Guide to Responsible Corporate Engagement in Climate Policy](#). The [Climate and Energy Action Hub](#), an interactive platform for companies to collectively provide technologies, resources, services and business models to scale up climate and energy efforts, featured nearly 20 projects seeking partners from the private and public spheres.