

RIO+20 REGIONAL MEETING PREPARATORY - ECLAC
7-9 SEPTEMBER 2011
BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY MAJOR GROUP – CLOSING STATEMENT

Business and Industry has a fundamental role in achieving the shared objective with civil society and governments of achieving sustainable development.

For the development and implementation of a Green Economy in our region, it is necessary to have a roadmap defining normative conditions for an effective transition towards a Green Economy, in which governments play a significant role. The path of transition to it must be clear, objective and transparent, with proposals and agreed definitions of social, environmental and economic goals which must be clear and measurable, where representatives of major groups should be part of the decision making process.

Regarding governance, the existence and the effort to converge towards institutional coherence is necessary. As we face challenges in the three pillars of sustainability, the governance of relevant intergovernmental institutions looms challenging. Achieving a truly sustainable development requires these institutions possess strategically aligned policies in the common cause, allowing the coordination of work collaboratively to achieve common comprehensive answers to all stakeholders.

In terms of process, Business and Industry is essential to this transition as these allow to advance the greening of the supply and value chains. The knowledge and experience of business should be part of the roundtable discussion to develop strategies that allow us to respond jointly to the requirements of complex markets and to cope with global challenges in a global adaptation to climate change and new trade rules. Sustainable development must be supported by investment in science and innovation and focus on both local and global needs. Technological development will contribute significantly to the generation of new tools and solutions, where the regulation of these, based on science and its use, will allow access to a truly sustainable development.

Like in Johannesburg, a large number of business organisations have joined under the banner of Business Action for Sustainable Developmentⁱ, group which Instituto Ethos (Brazil) have joined for this particular instance, through which we are all fully available to engage with governments on these issues.

Today, the promotion of sustainable business practices is essential for creating a sustainable future and businesses are committed to expand the concept of incorporating sustainable development shared goals with civil society and governments to eradicate poverty, mitigate the effects on the environment and generate wealth, compromising alliances with governments and other stakeholders to expand and enhance its role of corporate responsibility in society for creating shared value.

ⁱ The BASD is formed by the following partners: International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), United Nations Global Compact, Aquafed - Intl. Federation of Private Water Operators, Air Transport Action Group (ATAG), Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE), CropLife International, Cement Sustainability Initiative, Digital Energy Solutions Campaign (DESC), International Aluminum Institute, International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA), International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM), IPIECA - Global Oil & Gas Industry Association, World Steel.