

Implementation of the Convention affects our businesses, employees, customers, shareholders and the governments that depend on business for so many societal needs. Many of the tasks of implementing future decisions of governments and responding to subsequent changes in global markets falls to business. Among them, business plays an integral role in the development, commercialization and dissemination of technologies.

Sustained economic growth and environmental protection are essential to citizens of all nations. Equally important is the interdependence of economic growth in developed and developing countries. To help ensure that the Convention builds on business practices and open-market principles, analysis of impacts on national economies, businesses and jobs will be critical. In this regard, the collective experience and technical and management expertise of the business community can be of benefit, especially through the enhancement of technology and economic assessment.

Business continues to be engaged in the long-term issues arising from the Convention. We recognize that climate change presents a global challenge which requires a global response. Our activities must respond as well to the evolving nature of the economies and societies in which we operate. Inevitably, these activities reflect existing conditions, national circumstances and actions already taken.

As business, we routinely face the challenge of decision-making and risk management in the face of uncertainty, as does government. In these situations, our experience indicates that flexible approaches which keep options open, and assess and account for changing circumstances and information provide more effective solutions, now and in the long run.

To conclude, these are critical factors that business considers and applies as we continue to provide quality goods and services to the world's growing markets and societies, and employment opportunities for its people. In this, as in so many other areas, we are your partners. We look forward to continued involvement in the Convention process and to contributing our knowledge and experience toward effective responses to the difficult challenges posed by implementation of the Convention.

Again, we appreciate this opportunity to address you, and thank you for your attention.

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