

CSD19 – May 11 - Opening Statement/Multistakeholder Dialogue

Business/Industry – Main Messages

Thank you Chair

B&I supports CSD as the pre-eminent UN institution for sustainable development and its implementation. Our comments focus on supporting and stepping up implementation of CSD19 outcomes, outcomes of Rio2012, and indeed of the important ongoing work of CSD.

Rio 2012 will focus on the main themes of greening economic activity and improving institutional frameworks in the context of sustainable development. There are inter-connections and synergies across these and with the 10 YFP. We note that business plays a central role in each.

Transitioning to greener economic activities will depend on the development, commercialization and widespread dissemination of effective existing clean technologies and new, currently non-commercial technologies and infrastructure; as well as management systems to support them.

Private sector innovation and investment will continue to provide much of the development and financing needed for this transition. Enabling frameworks to support that innovation and investment include: rule of law and good governance, transparent, uniformly enforced regulations, protection of intellectual property, honoring of contracts, open markets, and opportunities for partnership and multilateral cooperation.

The fight against bribery and other corruptive practices should be a shared top priority for governments, government enterprises and private companies. Achieving improved conditions for transparency and integrity in doing business in all countries, is of paramount importance for private and public sector actions. Existing corporate responsibility initiatives at private sector, inter-governmental and public-private levels; as well as voluntary partnerships, are delivering real results in moving business activity in more sustainable directions.

Finally Chair, enhancing the engagement of business – along with other major groups -- is an indispensable element of a substantive outcome in Rio2012. We strongly recommend that more flexible, inclusive, substantive mechanisms be pursued in the run-up to Rio2012. Now more than ever, we must involve business in designing, implementing and resourcing sustainability-related actions, both in CSD19's thematic areas, and in the run-up to Rio2012.

Thank you Chair