

STATEMENT OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

At the High Level Segment of the 19th Session of Commission of Sustainable Development, New York,
May 11, 2011

The remarks this morning about the importance of sustainable development decision making, both in the private and public sector, the need for an SCP approach that can work in practice and the call for a stronger role for the private sector underscored the essential role business plays as a solutions provider – in each of the five themes discussed here and also their inter-connections as well as the 10 YFP.

Innovation and technology development and their appropriate deployment via sustainable production and consumption concepts are at the heart of greening economies. Business lives the increasingly importance of resource efficiency along its supply chains. We support a holistic approach which includes life cycle thinking in order to help identify more sustainable technology options. Such holistic thinking may also identify new markets for innovative technologies or new materials to produce and thus bring to light opportunities that may otherwise be hidden or not immediately obvious.

Private sector innovation and investment will continue to provide much of the development and financing needed to support the transition to Green Economy. 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 in support of implementation of CSD19's recommendations. Existing 'corporate' responsibility initiatives (at private sector, inter-governmental and government levels) as well as voluntary partnerships are delivering real results in moving business activity in more sustainable directions of green economy.

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 and observer organization managed alternatives be pursued in the run-up to Rio2012. Now more than ever, we must involve business in all aspects of designing, implementing and resourcing sustainability related actions, both in the CSD19's thematic areas, and in the run-up to Rio2012.