

**Intervention to the Eighth Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC
from the United States, the United Kingdom and Australian Business Councils for Sustainable
Energy and the European Business Council for a Sustainable Energy Future**

Distinguished delegates: thank you for this opportunity to present the Business Council views. My name is James Wolf and I am Chairman of the Climate Change Task Force of the US Business Council for Sustainable Energy. I'm speaking on behalf of the U.S, U.K, and Australian Business Councils for Sustainable Energy and the European Business Council for a Sustainable Energy Future. Our organizations have members throughout the world in both developed and developing countries that represent energy efficiency, natural gas, renewable energy, independent power and electric utility industries that are committed to finding solutions to reduce the global threat of climate change.

Earlier this year at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, governments acknowledged the vital role of energy in achieving sustainable development. At the Summit, governments agreed to take actions "at all levels" to "improve access to reliable, affordable . . . socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services," through various means, such as decentralized energy systems, natural gas, renewable energy and energy efficiency. Governments also agreed "with a sense of urgency" to take the necessary steps to "substantially increase" the share of renewable energy and to deploy energy efficient technologies and solutions.

As emphasized in Johannesburg, we believe that it is necessary for local and national governments, industry and society to work in partnership to meet the challenges presented by sustainable development and climate change mitigation. We as clean energy businesses are committed to achieving these objectives.

To ensure that necessary long-term reductions in GHG emissions are achieved, a variety of tools and measures are needed. We encourage all governments to support the use of emissions trading and other market mechanisms to create incentives for early action.

We applaud the progress that has been made since Marrakech towards the implementation of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and the dedicated work of the CDM Executive Board to help eliminate market uncertainties. But there is still work to be done.

- Clear and straightforward CDM baseline and additionality requirements and guidelines are needed to provide business with the certainty necessary to invest in CDM projects.
- The rules and procedures for small-scale projects need to be further streamlined to minimize transaction costs.
- The environmental integrity of the process must be preserved.
- Finally, prompt start of the CDM is essential.

In closing, we urge Parties to take positive steps to adopt financial and regulatory policies and incentives to promote innovative sustainable energy solutions and access to clean and renewable energy. Such actions must also be accompanied by strong capacity building to enable countries to fully develop and deploy clean energy technologies and sustainable development.

We support an integrated approach to developing climate change solutions that take into account the important role of energy for sustainable development. Thank you for the opportunity to present these comments.

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