



International Chamber of Commerce

The world business organisation

**UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
CSD19
BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY MAJOR GROUP
OPENING STATEMENT
(DRAFT)**

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The current session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) comes at a critical juncture. Many of the subjects under consideration have been in the past year part of constructive deliberations at the UNEP Governing Council, SAICM and the Basel Convention, among others. And as noted in the Chair's draft negotiating document, the global community increasingly turns its attention to assessing progress on implementation as a basis for framing a vision for the Rio+20 meeting

This CSD cycle presents a cluster of issues which have a multi sector and multidisciplinary significance for business. We regard them as linked across value and supply chains, with relevance to SCP and greening economies and commercial activities in the context of sustainable development. Although each is unique, and requires tailored policies and initiatives, transport, mining, and chemicals sectors have economy-wide relevance and operate in global value and supply chains.

Business and industry urges governments to support policies that will foster green technologies, production methods and livelihoods in all areas in the context of a return to economic growth. In particular, Business and industry support:

With respect to Mining: incentives to advance safety performance that balance regulatory, enforcement and voluntary activities; the clarification of boundaries of responsibility between companies, government, and civil society organizations on how to address community health issues: a regulatory context for artisanal and small-scale mining and large scale mining to co-exist; and collaborative approaches to ensure that governments deliver on their duty to protect human rights;

With respect to Chemicals: B&I supports SAICM as the core lifecycle forum for achieving the 2020 goal for sound chemicals management set at WSSD. We endorse SAICM's lifecycle approach to chemicals and the strengthening of SAICM including through adequate resourcing as an innovative model of multi-stakeholder framework to advance sustainable development. We support private-public partnerships as a catalyst for improved implementation. An example of this is UNEP's Senior Experts Resource Group. Sustainable development for chemicals is best achieved through a combination of transparent, cost-effective, science-based regulations and voluntary initiatives. Industry led initiatives – such as the International Council on Chemical Associations (ICCA)'s Responsible Care®, and Global Product Strategy and CropLife's International Obsolete Stocks Programme, and, the International Council on Mining and Metals: Minerals and Metals Management 2020 Action

Plan – can be effective instruments to achieve sustainable development and institutional frameworks should encourage their further development;

With respect to SCP: international efforts should avoid duplicating or undermining existing policies and programs and make markets work for sustainable development. Importantly, the global SCP program should be in support of national and regional initiatives that advance us toward a more sustainable future and not be driven by top-down prescriptions that would discourage investment in SCP. SCP should encourage innovation, eco-design and market introduction of environmentally preferable products, cleaner and leaner production and improved supply chain efficiency, which is particularly imperative to the agricultural sector in order to improve farmer's access to inputs and knowledge and maximize the most efficient use of resources. Information on environmentally aware choices for consumption, including through eco-labeling that evolves from consultations with industry stakeholders; and minimizing the environmental footprint associated with post-consumer waste through integrated post-consumer waste management systems and policies should also be supported. These all help to advance us toward a more sustainable future;

With respect to Transport: Technology innovation and deployment, investment in existing and new infrastructure are all critical for reducing emissions for all modes of transport. B&I priorities include: enhanced efficiency to save fuel and reduce emissions in all modes of transport; biofuels sourced from second or new generation biomass, which should be produced sustainably to minimize impacts on food crops and freshwater usage;

With respect to Waste Management: B&I supports flexible, socially acceptable, environmentally sound and cost-effective integrated waste management, based on sound scientific data, including risk and cost-benefit analyses. Priorities include: strengthened business and multi-stakeholder initiatives and partnerships to address e-waste issues, such as the Global e-Sustainability Initiative, which aims to ensure these products are disposed of responsibly and material is reused or recycled wherever possible; global trade in recyclable materials and access to recycling facilities worldwide is essential to economic development and reduction in final disposal. Restrictions in the Basel convention that prevent such trade and the reasonable and integrated use of recycling facilities should be removed; the use of alternative and environmentally recommended fuels, for example biomass resulting from the pulp and paper industry, should not be restricted.

We look forward to the upcoming negotiations, exchange of information, and ideas for stronger and broader collaboration and implementation. Thank you for your attention.