

Oral Statement

Means of Implementation and Follow-Up & Review

Tom Jacob, International Council of Chemical Associations

On behalf of the **Global Business Alliance**

Thank you Co-Facilitator. We accompany this with a more complete written submission. My name is Tom Jacob and I am speaking on behalf of the Global Business Alliance. Implementation of this Agenda will be challenging for all nations; but the challenge of delivering against the SDGs is one confronting Business, as well. Societies depend upon both government and business to deliver their needs and wants on a societal scale. As such, we - governments and business – are the actors that must also deliver **change**. For business, this amplifies our traditional role in **economic growth and innovation, to meet those needs and wants affordably and sustainably**. That creates opportunities that can accelerate and broaden implementation.

An important role for business is recognized throughout this Draft document and the agreed Addis Action Agenda. Therefore the engagement mechanisms with business as articulated in Follow up and Review paras 61 and 70, are particularly important. We strongly recommend that this document be fully aligned with the modalities used by the Financing for Development process. But even with such technical changes, this document fails to fully capture the special role – and special obligations – that will fall to business as this Agenda plays-out.

Co-Facilitator, we have already begun the journey from a time in which “sustainability” was in its infancy, to a World in which sustainability will be the operational norm. This Agenda is a significant milestone on that journey - identifying shared challenges and a shared understanding of what must be delivered. We - governments and business - need that shared understanding to meet societies’ expectations.

Co-Facilitator, “early action” is already occurring in business that governments can build upon. Global businesses are increasingly adapting to emerging sustainability expectations in their management, operations, products and reporting. Business is also delivering many sector-specific sustainability initiatives that are increasingly being taken global. Governments can accelerate “implementation” by encouraging their own industries to partner with such global initiatives, bringing benefits of more sustainable practices while improving competitiveness and raising standards for supporting industries as well.

In sum Co-Facilitator, we share responsibility for meeting the expectations of civil society and the public. But traditional regulatory models alone won't work on the government side; and "Business as usual" won't work on the industry side. New roles must evolve. This offers potential to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs and, we recognize, sets apart the contribution that business must make to realize more sustainable development.

Thank you, Co-Facilitator; and to the room – thank you for your exceptional indulgence of these supplemental statements. We do appreciate the challenge you face