



International Chamber of Commerce

The world business organization

Permanent Observer to the United Nations

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Co-Facilitators, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. At the recently concluded session of the General Assembly, the International Chamber of Commerce, which is the oldest, largest and most representative business organization in the world, was granted Observer status in the General Assembly. On that occasion, ICC Chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal said: "this is a huge recognition of the role that business can play in contributing to a better and more peaceful world"

Now as Observer, we are pleased to be part of this preparatory process and provide our commentary to the "Call for Action". At the outset, we join member states and stakeholders who have called for the document to be concise, action oriented, with a focus on the need to foster partnerships and political commitment. These are all elements which resonate with ICC and the business community. As we approach the important weeks to elaborate the Call for Action ICC is encouraged by the scope and direction the agenda is taking as reflected in the SG's Background note and the possible themes for the partnership dialogues.

We believe that productive partnerships will be central to achieving SDG14.

The world's most daunting development challenges are too large and complex for any one segment of society to solve alone. We must incentivize and advance collective action and partnerships uniting all relevant global stakeholders, including the private sector.

Public Private Partnerships simultaneously contribute to a better understanding by the private sector of public needs and more strategic planning by governments that accommodates private sector needs so governments can better leverage private sector capacities, leading to a more efficient allocation of resources.

We suggest using business and commercial connections – such as value chains, business networks, chambers of commerce, etc. as vehicles for partnerships and other forms of business contribution to the achievement of SDG14.

We also encourage consideration of other necessary attributes for successful durable partnerships, such as: capacity building, scaleability, institutional infrastructure, and sharing of good practice. Without due account of the full picture of enabling factors, partnerships will not emerge in the numbers and at the scale needed for impact.

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We also look to the “Call for Action” to support the development of policy frameworks that work with the private sector to realize progress on the key themes addressed by SDG 14 – from marine biodiversity, to ocean acidification to environmental investments.

ICC looks forward to playing an active role in the preparatory process for the Call to Action. And we hope that member states will welcome the opportunity to draw on the insights, expertise and actions of the private sector as we work towards our shared goal of meeting SDG 14.