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Business and Industry Major Group: Opening Comments delivered by Louise Kantrow,
ICC

Thank you.

The 18th session of the United Nations (UNCSD) Commission on Sustainable Development in New York comes at a critical juncture, as the global economy ratternpts to recover from the current downturn and our attention turns to assessing progress towards the MDGs and framing a vision for the Rio 2012 meeting.

This CSD cycle presents a cluster of issues which have a particularly broad multi-sectoral 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 assessment to understand its challenges and circumstances, it is also important to bear in mind that the transport, mining, and chemicals sectors do not operate in a vacuum. There are significant linkages across those sectors, and to other areas of commercial activity. Market (Commodity, Energy) and regulatory conditions matter in promoting eco- and resource efficiency in these industries and we encourage you to place your consideration of what works in those indispensable contexts.

The private sector is a critical partner in creating solutions to today's pressing sustainability challenges in the current cycle and is already actively engaged on many fronts. Here in New York, we plan to speak about a variety of successful approaches in sectors including chemicals, mining, transport as well as innovative solutions on waste management and sustainable consumption and production.

Creating an enabling environment within which enterprises of all sizes and sectors can develop, create jobs, invest and pursue technological innovation and cooperation, coupled with sound governance and policies to reduce barriers to international trade and investment, traces a significant route out of poverty. Sound enforced regulation and good governance that relies to the extent possible on sound science, risk management, the market and voluntary approaches to supplement legal requirements are critical elements of enabling frameworks for sustainability.