



Confederação Nacional da Indústria



The Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity

As a result of the need for engagement of the business sector in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Secretariat of the Convention (SCBD) compromised to stimulate the establishment of business and biodiversity initiatives on a national level as well as to provide mechanisms to facilitate the exchange between the various initiatives on a global level.

As a part of the process, CBD launched at the end of 2011 the Global Partnership on Business and Biodiversity, which should take vital part in disseminating information among the numerous initiatives worldwide, facilitating the dialogue among stakeholders and introducing new tools that can help the business sector in the process of mainstreaming biodiversity in their management strategies, reporting activities related to sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity, among other benefits. The CBD Secretariat has been helping in the establishment of B&B initiatives in a number of countries and offering opportunities to the initiatives to interact in a positive way.

So far, 21 Initiatives have been set up in the following regions/countries:

ASEAN, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, EU, Finland, France, Germany, India, Japan, Korea, Mesoamerica, Mexico, Netherlands, Peru, Poland, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka.

The Global Partnership (and the associated National/Regional Initiatives) aims to provide a space at the national or global level where different stakeholders and actors working on B&B issues can communicate and collaborate on common projects and areas of interest, including sharing of information and best practices.

The Partnership works closely with SBCD and seeks to serve a voice of industry to processes such as multilateral agreements dealing with biodiversity/sustainability. The Partnership is strongly involved in the design and delivery of CBD business events (ie: business forum) as well as the crafting of decisions and recommendations related to business. At the regional and national levels, the Initiatives should also ensure that the information from these processes is understood by the companies.

Currently, the National Confederation of Industry - Brazil, representing the Brazilian Business and Biodiversity Initiative, serves as the chair of the Global Partnership.



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HLS - GPBB Statement

13th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity
High Level Segment
Perspectives from Partners and Stakeholders
Dec 2nd 2016

I thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the business sector, to represent business from a variety of economic sectors, and specially those companies represented by the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity.

The business sector has understood the importance of biodiversity and of the ecosystem services associated. We understand the key role the economic activities play in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, as well as the urgency of addressing global biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation.

We welcome CBD's decisions that recognize the importance of the engagement of the businesses in the agenda and the mainstreaming of biodiversity into corporate strategies and decision making.

Businesses have a significant role in the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Strategic Plan. It's crucial that the governments acknowledge the efforts that have been made and that they promote a public-policy environment that enables the commitment from all different economic sectors in enhancing their support towards biodiversity conservation.

The establishment, back in 2011, of the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity, is a successful example of business' willingness to partner with CBD and governments in search of achieving CBD's goals. Today, five years later, more than 20 regional and local initiatives on Business and Biodiversity have been set and have been collecting success cases of engagement, including publications, capacity building, guidelines and different tools that support businesses understand their relation and dependencies on biodiversity and ecosystem services and hence to endeavor to ensure attention to the need of conserving the natural capital.

As I present this statement, CBD hosts the 6th edition of the Business and Biodiversity Forum, a two-day event that brings together around 200 people to discuss mainstreaming biodiversity and opportunities for businesses. Indeed, there are opportunities for business, but challenges remain, especially concerning communication, as well as, in many cases, an enabling environment for proactive and voluntary actions from businesses.

COP 13th is a milestone for the business sector. The Cancun Business and Biodiversity Pledge has been signed by almost 100 companies, only over a month after being released. By the Pledge, the businesses express their commitment to take concrete actions that deliver solutions for the conservation of biodiversity, its sustainable use and the fair and equitable



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sharing of benefits from genetic resources. We call on governments and policy makers to engage with businesses as they implement their obligations under international biodiversity conventions and that they create the necessary policy conditions to encourage the mainstreaming of biodiversity into the business models.

It's of great importance that the global community works together with the business in achieving our pledge. Therefore, I invite CBD and the governments to ensure their support to our pledge.

Thank you.

Elisa Romano

Chair of Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity
Confederação Nacional da Indústria - Brasil



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Cancun Business and Biodiversity Pledge **Cancun, Mexico, December 2016**

We, the undersigned business leaders, representing businesses from a variety of different economic sectors including financial institutions, are joining together to emphasize the importance to businesses of biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides, the key role that businesses can play in conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services and the urgency of addressing global biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation.

The Global Context

Biodiversity sustains our economies, livelihoods, and human well-being. It provides resources for food, fibers, construction, medicine, energy and other essential goods. It also provides essential ecosystem services, such as the supply of water, buffering from natural disasters and resilience against climate change. Such resources and services are indispensable for our continued prosperity. Biodiversity is also crucial in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, many of which are based on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse are among the ten highest risks facing the world in terms of their impacts, as identified by the World Economic Forum Global Risks Report 2016. There are only four years left to achieve the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets – a globally recognized framework for action on biodiversity. While progress has been made, global assessments indicate that we are not on track to achieve these targets by the 2020 deadline.

Businesses have an important contribution to make in the achievement of the Strategic Plan and the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity: the conservation of biodiversity, its sustainable use, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from genetic resources. Initiatives like the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity, initiated under the Convention on Biological Diversity, are contributing to this end, by engaging businesses and governments to work together towards these objectives.

We are convinced that accelerating the transition to a sustainable economy will provide opportunities for economic growth and employment, both in developing and developed countries alike. Taking actions that will move us towards sustainable consumption and production patterns can generate tangible benefits to businesses, including a more reliable supply of materials and products, cost savings and protection against natural disasters. This transformation is imperative for achieving the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity as well as for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals.

Our Commitment and Call for Action

We therefore pledge to take concrete actions that deliver solutions for the conservation of biodiversity, its sustainable use, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from genetic resources, by:

- Understanding, measuring and, where feasible, valuing our companies' impacts and dependencies on biodiversity and ecosystem services;
- Taking action to minimize negative impacts and optimize positive impacts on biodiversity;



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- Developing biodiversity management plans, including actions to address supply chains;
- Regularly reporting on our companies' impacts and dependencies on biodiversity and ecosystem services;
- Promoting awareness about the values of biodiversity among our employees, managers, shareholders, partners, suppliers, consumers, and across the business and finance communities;
- Acting as ambassadors for responsible stewardship of biodiversity, focusing on the economic opportunities and solutions, and helping to strengthen and disseminate the business case for better integration of biodiversity considerations into decision-making by businesses;
- Engaging in opportunities to share our companies' experiences and progress made, with a view to encouraging other companies and organizations to act as well;
- Taking steps to mobilize resources to support such concrete actions on biodiversity and assist, as appropriate, in accounting for and tracking these resources; and
- Providing information on actions undertaken and achievements in addressing the above.

We call on:

- governments and policy makers to engage with businesses as they implement their obligations under international biodiversity conventions, and to create the necessary policy conditions that will encourage the mainstreaming of biodiversity and sustainability considerations into their day-to-day activities, business models and risk frameworks;
- businesses around the world to join us, and
- the global community to work with us in achieving this pledge.

Signatories

Company _____

Signature _____