



International Chamber of Commerce



The World Business Council
for Sustainable Development



World Energy Council

PRESS RELEASE:

Business puts a spotlight on tangible action at UN Summit for sustainable development

New York, 20 April 2005 – The challenges surrounding water, energy and development will be tackled head on today by a roundtable of business and public leaders and development experts during the 13th session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development at UN headquarters in New York City. A press conference will immediately follow.

A new business initiative, Business Action for Energy (BAE), will also be launched at the event. It will complement Business Action for Water (BAW), which was launched in December 2004.

The event will highlight what business has done in the past and plans to do in the future to meet the global challenges outlined in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in particular as they relate to water and energy issues. The discussion will focus on concrete actions and tangible results underscoring the natural link between sustainable development and economic growth. Further details of the panel are contained in the attached agenda.

The host organizations of this event are the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) and the World Energy Council (WEC), each a member of Business Action for Water (BAW) and/or Business Action for Energy (BAE). These are joint temporary initiatives developed specifically to represent the business community during CSD 12 and 13 (water) and 14 and 15 (energy). Several additional business associations are involved in BAE.

The panel discussion and press conference will take place on Wednesday 20 April 2005, from 18.15 to 19.45 in conference room 6 of the UN complex.

For more information about Business Action for Energy and Business Action for Water, see www.businessaction.org

**Contact: Rochelle Chetty:
Rochelle1.Chetty@eskom.co.za
+27 (11) 800 5004**

Business Action – Working for Sustainable Solution

Date: Wednesday 20 April,

Time: 18.15-19.45,

Venue: UN Complex, Conference room 6

Business Action is a comprehensive network of business organizations that have come together under one banner in the interests of sustainable development. Business Action initiatives are anchored by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) and include other partners.

Business Action has its roots in Business Action for Sustainable Development (BASD), which was established in 2002 to ensure that the global business community makes a productive contribution to the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

Currently, there are two Business Action activities: Business Action for Water (BAW), which targets CSD 13 and Business Action for Energy (BAE) of which the third founding member is the World Energy Council (WEC) and which targets CSD 14 and 15.

Business Action has three goals:

- To ensure that the voice of business is heard in various United Nations processes
- To identify where business can play a constructive role in the development and delivery of a sustainable future. Business Action will emphasize business solutions to sustainable development that focus on concrete actions and deliverable results
- To demonstrate that business is already actively engaged in initiatives and partnerships to promote sustainable development.

Opening introduction

Ambassador John Ashe, Chair, Commission on Sustainable Development 13, United Nations, New York

Panellists

André Caillé, Chairman, World Energy Council; Chairman, Hydro Québec, Canada

Bertrand Collomb, Chairman WBCSD; Chairman & CEO, Lafarge Group, France

Paula Dobriansky, Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs, US State Department, USA

Reuel Khoza, Chairman, Business Action for Energy (BAE); Chairman, Eskom, South Africa

Jamal Saghir, Director, Energy and Water, World Bank, Washington DC

Achim Steiner, Director General, IUCN, Gland, Switzerland

Moderator

Lloyd Timberlake, Director, Special Projects, Grupo Nueva, Costa Rica

Proposed Agenda

18.15-18.25 Welcome and Introduction by Ambassador John Ashe

18.25-18.35 Overview of Business Action initiatives by Reuel Khoza

18.35–19.15 Roundtable/Panel discussion led by Moderator

Context: Business understands the challenges surrounding water, energy and development, and wants to be part of the effort to find collective solutions.

For that purpose, many companies have embarked on dialogues with other stakeholders and initiated "early actions" to deliver sustainable development solutions. However, there is increasing concern about the lack of enabling frameworks. In essence, current government frameworks largely address "local" needs, while businesses today also have to meet global conditions while addressing the challenges of the global marketplace.

A vital question is therefore how more facilitating conditions and incentives might be created to progress business' contribution to sustainable development?

Each panellist will address the audience, based on the issues addressed above and the points below:

- Water and energy issues and linkages
- Business and sustainable development
- The role of business in public-private partnerships
- The role and contribution of the different actors
- Perspectives of the different role players

19.15 – 19.40 Open discussion between the audience and panel, facilitated by the moderator