



Caring for Climate Business Forum

Lise Kingo Remarks

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Thank you for that kind introduction.

Your excellencies and distinguished guests, welcome to the Caring for Climate Business Forum. I'm Lise Kingo, Executive Director of the United Nations Global Compact.

I'm thrilled to be here in Paris with so many leaders who share a common desire to see an agreement on climate.

I think that we can all agree that this has been an incredible year. As the United Nations moved forward with an ambitious agenda for development and climate, world leaders have come together. Unified in a common goal to address the most critical issues of our time.

As I prepared for COP21, I reflected on how all of the stars have aligned this year; how world leaders have aligned to take bold actions.

I asked myself, when was the last time global leaders were so unified? Nearly fifty years ago this week in Paris, world leaders agreed to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Seventy years ago, world leaders formed the United Nations.

As I thought about these moments, it was clear that COP21 will take its rightful place among these milestones. No doubt that world leaders have an historic opportunity to reach an agreement -- one that future generations will look back at and how it shaped the world they know.

And certainly with the recent tragedies, solidarity and unity could not have come a better time.

All of us at the UN Global Compact are encouraged by the political will of leaders from more than 190 countries to negotiate an agreement.



And never before have we seen this level of engagement from the private sector and it is clear that the momentum is unstoppable.

In our recent survey with Accenture, 91% of CEO's believe that the climate challenge is significant and an urgent priority for business.

It is no longer a question of if we transition to a low carbon economy. Rather, it is a question of how.

We believe that the private sector can help to fill the gap between what has been committed by Governments through the INDCs and what is needed to reach a carbon neutral economy by mid-century.

So what are we doing?

At the UN Global Compact, we have built the largest coalition of businesses that are taking action on climate.

As many of you know, since 2007 Caring for Climate has brought more than 450 companies together to call for a robust international agreement, recognizing that this is essential for providing predictability, unlocking capital and advancing the power of sustainable business.

We have consistently challenged businesses to go further.

We have inspired companies to transform their business models, adopt policies that reduce their emissions and be transparent about their efforts.

Since 2013, Caring for Climate signatories have reduced their carbon footprints by 12%. The new targets announced at COP, if achieved, will generate an estimated annual emissions savings of 93.6 million metric tons CO₂e or more than the annual carbon emissions of Peru.

And of course, we are here to support an agreement that sends the right market signals to reward responsible business.



As the official platform for business at COP21, we will showcase corporate leadership on climate in key areas like carbon pricing, responsible policy engagement and science-based targets.

All of these efforts are corporate efforts are encouraging.

In recent years, we have seen an increase in the pace and ambition of corporate sustainability as the risks and opportunities have become more apparent.

But it is not enough.

We need 100% participation from the business community.

Coming out of Paris, we must mobilize the great majority of companies that are not yet part of this movement.

We must expand corporate engagement as the UN moves forward with implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and the climate agreement in 2016.

We must continue the solidarity and unity that has brought the global community together in order to from negotiations to implementation and create the world that we want to live in.

I believe that we are ready to meet this challenge.

Before I close, I want to personally thank our many partners and sponsors who have made this day possible.

In particular, our Caring for Climate strategic champions -- Braskem, EDF, SkyPower Global and State Grid Corporation of China.

Thank you for your support.

And thank you to everyone for participating today.