

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Business & Climate Summit to bring together over 1000 leading businesses, investors & policymakers in Paris on road to COP21**

- *Summit takes place at UNESCO Headquarters on 20-21 May 2015 as the centrepiece of Climate Week Paris*
- *Recommendations from the Summit to go forward to global policymakers as they prepare for an ambitious legally-binding climate agreement*
- *Strong line-up of international speakers from business, investor and policy communities to make case for bold climate action*

For the first time, major international business networks have joined forces for a two-day conference on climate action, 200 days before COP 21. The Business & Climate Summit, to be held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on May 20-21, will bring together over 1000 leading businesses, investors and policymakers to make the case that bold action on climate will ensure we secure economic growth while limiting global temperature rise to less than 2 degrees Celsius.

It will provide a unique forum for business leaders to showcase the bold action companies are already taking and call for ambitious policies that will allow business to scale up low-carbon solutions.

The Summit is split over two days. Day One (May 20: 12:00-21:00): 'Vision of a Low Carbon Society: Business Solutions towards a Low Carbon Society' will showcase what business are already doing and are planning to make the low carbon economy a reality. Day Two (May 21: 08:00-17:30): 'Realising the Vision: Accelerating the Solutions Roll Out' will look at what policies are required to create the prosperous, low carbon economy of the future.

At the conclusion of the summit, a series of policy recommendations will be presented to policymakers to help galvanise more action and catalyse ambition leading up to COP21.

A full agenda can be found at [www.businessclimatesummit.com/agenda](http://www.businessclimatesummit.com/agenda)

The Summit has attracted a strong line-up of leading international speakers from the business, investor and policymaking communities including:

- Harold McGraw, McGraw Hill
- Georges Plassat, Carrefour
- Paul Polman, Unilever
- Pierre-André de Chalendar, Saint-Gobain
- Tulsi Tanti, Suzlon
- Tony Hayward, Glencore Xstrata
- Marcello Costelli, Fibria
- Jean-Pascal Tricoire, Schneider-Electric
- Philippe Marchessaux, BNP Paribas
- Mats Anderson, AP4
- Colin Melvin, Hermes
- Laurent Fabius, French Foreign Minister
- Christiana Figueres, UNFCCC
- Rachel Kyte, World Bank

A full list of confirmed CEO speakers can be found attached to this release and will be updated in the weeks leading up to the Summit itself.

Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of UNFCCC said:

*"The science is clear—global emissions need to swiftly peak as a prelude to a deep de-carbonisation of the global economy by the second half of the century. Many businesses know this and are planning for that future: it is time for the rest to come on board."*

Brice Lalonde, Special Advisor, UN Global Compact said:

*"It's time to be serious about climate change. Business is doing a lot and could do so much more with governments and long-term policies."*

John Danilovich, Secretary General, International Chamber of Commerce said:

*"Business has a key role to play in ensuring an effective response to the climate challenge. We see the Business & Climate Summit as a pivotal moment in establishing an enhanced dialogue between government and business in the run-up to COP21—and in securing a recognized consultative role for business under a future global agreement."*

The Business & Climate Summit will address some of the key climate issues impacting on the investment community as well as the business community. Addressing the challenges of climate change will require a re-direction and mobilization of traditional investment flows. Innovative mechanisms to leverage public finance and to use finance effectively in all economic sectors in developed and developing countries will be critical.

Nigel Topping, CEO, We Mean Business said:

*"The Business & Climate Summit, bringing together the global business, investor and policymaking communities, will be critical in shaping an ambitious climate agreement achieving net zero emissions at COP21 later in the year. The investment community can play a leading role in this process by redirecting traditional investment flows towards a low-carbon, prosperous economic future for all."*

The Business and Climate Summit was initiated following the UN Secretary General's call for the private sector to take a more active role in the world decarbonisation process at the UN Climate Summit in New York last year. As a midway point between that meeting in New York and COP 21 later this year in Paris, the Business Climate Summit marks a key moment for the business voice on climate to be raised and heard by policymakers.

Mark Kenber, CEO of The Climate Group said:

*"The Business & Climate Summit will form the centrepiece of Climate Week Paris (May 18-24) which is being co-ordinated by The Climate Group. Through key events during the week, including the Business & Climate Summit, The Climate Group and its partners are bringing the world's leading companies and policymakers together to show low carbon makes good business sense – and a strong global deal means a smart economy. "*

For more information about Climate Week Paris, please visit [www.climateweekparis.org](http://www.climateweekparis.org)

**ENDS**

#### NOTE TO EDITORS

For more information about the Business Climate Summit, please visit us at [www.businessclimatesummit.com](http://www.businessclimatesummit.com) or follow us on twitter: @BClimateSummit | #BusinessClimate.

For details about media registration, please contact: [pressbcs@havasww.com](mailto:pressbcs@havasww.com)

