

Open letter from global CEOs to world leaders urging concrete climate action

CEO-led initiative to create a fertile ground for a responsible and global climate deal in Paris 2015



Climate change is one of the biggest global challenges that will shape the way we do business now and in the coming decades. The [United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties 21 \(COP21\)](#), to be held in Paris in December 2015, aims to deliver a new climate change agreement that will put the world on track to a low-carbon, sustainable future while keeping the rise in global temperature to under [2 degrees Celsius](#).

This coalition, comprising 43 CEOs from companies with operations in over 150 countries and territories, and facilitated by the [World Economic Forum](#), believes the private sector has a responsibility to actively engage in global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and to help lead the global transition to a low-carbon, climate-resilient economy. This coalition further seeks to catalyze and aggregate action and initiatives from companies from all industry sectors—towards delivering concrete climate solutions and innovations in their practices, operations and policies.

The undersigned, as CEO climate leaders, urge the world's leaders to reach an ambitious climate deal at COP21, aligned with the [UN Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#). We extend an open offer to national governments to meet and co-design tangible actions as well as ambitious, effective targets that are appropriate for their different jurisdictions.

Our commitments

The companies we represent are taking voluntary actions to reduce environmental and carbon footprints, setting targets to reduce our own GHG gas emissions and/or energy consumption while also collaborating in supply chains and at sectoral levels. Technological innovations will be an important element.

We agree on the need for inspirational and meaningful global action and aligned messaging. We will act as ambassadors for climate action, focusing on solutions and economic opportunities and using “[the science debate is over: climate change is real and addressable](#)” *as one of the common themes to raise public awareness.

We will actively manage climate risks and incorporate them in decision making—not least to realize growth opportunities. We will take steps to implement effective strategies to strengthen not only our companies’ but also societal resilience.

Our vision supporting a climate deal

We believe that effective climate policies have to include explicit or implicit [prices on carbon](#) achieved via market mechanisms or coherent legislative measures according to national preferences, which will trigger low-carbon investment and transform current emission patterns at a significant scale. We support global mitigation approaches that promote cost effective incentives for cutting emissions, while respecting level playing fields and preventing carbon leakage.

We urge a strategic action agenda—supported by clear and consistent policies and robust monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV)—that will complement business efforts to stimulate innovation as well as collaborative actions across value chains, and to develop and scale up alternative and renewable energy sources, promote energy efficiency, end deforestation and accelerate other low-carbon options and technologies such as ICT.

We welcome transparency and disclosure regarding financial investments and policies in relation to all energy-related activities—including fossil-based and alternative. We support assessments of [resilience to climate risks](#) and call for new financial instruments to stimulate alternative energy and efficiency projects as well as green bonds. This will enable climate action to be integrated with financial reporting and instruments.

We encourage governments to [set science-based global and national targets](#) for the reduction of GHG emissions and the development of alternative energy sources.

Hastening the shift to a low-carbon economy in an economically sustainable manner will [generate growth and jobs](#) in both the developing and developed world. Delaying action is not an option—it will be costly and will damage growth prospects in the years to come. The CEO climate leaders call on government leaders and policy makers to align on global measures, to be consistent in policy-making and to develop helpful innovation frameworks.

A comprehensive, inclusive and ambitious climate deal in Paris on mitigation, adaptation and finance—in combination with a strong set of clear policy signals from the world’s leaders—is key to accelerating this transition. This opportunity should not be missed.

*We will build on the data contained in [The Consensus Project of the Scientific Community on Climate Change](#), the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\) of the UN](#) and the [New Climate Economy Report](#) (“Better Growth—Better Climate”) of the Global Commission on the Economy and Climate.

Signatories

We are CEOs from 43 companies and 20 economic sectors.

With operations in over 150 countries and territories, together we generated over \$1.2 trillion in revenue in 2014.

CEO	Position/Company
Olof Persson	President and CEO, AB Volvo
Pierre Nanterme	Chairman and CEO, Accenture*
José Manuel Entrecanales	Chairman and CEO Acciona*^
Domecq	
Ton Büchner	CEO, AkzoNobel
Michael Diekmann	Chairman of the Board of Management (CEO), Allianz SE
Gregory Hodkinson	Chairman, Arup Group
Gavin Patterson	CEO, BT Group*^
Niels B. Christiansen	President and CEO, Danfoss
Frank Appel	CEO Deutsche Post DHL Group*
Henrik Poulsen	CEO, DONG Energy
Andrew N. Liveris	President, Chairman and CEO, Dow Chemical Company*
Francesco Starace	CEO and General Manager, Enel SpA
Hans E. Vestberg	President and CEO, Ericsson
Gérard Mestrallet	Chairman and CEO, GDF SUEZ*
Bernardo Gradin	CEO, GranBio Investimentos
Ajit Gulabchand	Chairman and Managing Director, Hindustan Construction Company
Stuart Gulliver	Group CEO, HSBC Holdings
Ignacio S. Galán	Chairman and CEO, Iberdrola
Peter Agnefjäll	President and CEO, IKEA Group*
Ralph Hamers	CEO, ING Group
Sandra Wu Wen-Hsiu	Chairperson and CEO, Kokusai Kogyo Co. Ltd
Bruno Lafont	Chairman and CEO Lafarge*
Marc Bolland	CEO, Marks and Spencer
Nikolaus von Bomhard	Chairman of the Board of Management, Munich Re
Torben Möger Pedersen	CEO, PensionDanmark
Eric Rondolat	CEO, Philips Lighting
Feike Sijbesma	CEO and Chairman of the Managing Board, Royal DSM*^
Frans van Houten	President and CEO, Royal Philips*^
Jean-Pascal Tricoire	Chairman and CEO, Schneider Electric*
Franky Oesman Widjaja	Chairman and CEO, Sinar Mas Agribusiness and Food
Jean-Pierre Clamadieu	CEO, Solvay*
Christian Rynning-Tønnesen	President and CEO, Statkraft*
Jean-Louis Chaussade	CEO, Suez Environnement*
Takeshi Niinami	President and CEO, Suntory Holdings
Tulsi Tanti	Chairman, Suzlon Energy
Michel M. Liès	Group CEO, Swiss Re
Masashi Muromachi	Chairman of the Board Toshiba Corporation*
Paul Polman	CEO, Unilever*^
Antoine Frérot	Chairman and CEO, Veolia*

Anders Runevad

Anthony Pratt

David W. Kenny

Kuok Khoon Hong

Group President and CEO, Vestas Wind Systems

Executive Chairman, Visy Industries

Chairman and CEO, The Weather Company

Chairman and CEO, Wilmar International

* Member of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development

^Member of the Prince of Wales's Corporate Leaders Group on Climate Change

* From GSL, Global Solidarity, add the new reality posed by Hansen last report indicates that as of 1°C increase in average global temperature over the oceans will rise up to 8 meters, creating a situation of this global catastrophe. To meet this challenge it is necessary to replace the energy matrix and decontaminated, not just reduce carbon emissions. To this makes lack funding upscale. We propose the Green Solidarity Fund consisting of 2% of global GDP annually and allocate 25% of it to end hunger, pandemics and extreme poverty.

Arch. Roberto Guillermo Gomes