

Business and Industry Statement Opening statement

Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting for the 19th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (28 February to 4 March 2009)

Business and Industry Major Group: Opening Comments

Thank you.

The Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting of the 19th UN Commission on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) in New York comes at a critical juncture, as some of the subjects under consideration have been in the past year part of constructive deliberations at the UNEP Governing Council, SAICM and the Basel Convention, among others. The global economy continues to recover from the downturn in 2008 and our attention turns to assessing progress towards framing a vision for the Rio 2012 meeting

This CSD cycle presents a cluster of issues which do have a particularly broad multi-sectoral and multidisciplinary significance for business. We regard them as linked across value and supply chains, with relevance to SCP and greening economies and commercial activities in the context of sustainable development. Although each is unique, and requires tailored policies and initiatives, transport, mining, and chemicals sectors have economy-wide relevance and operate in global value and supply chains. There are significant linkages across those sectors, and to other areas of commercial activity. Market (Commodity, Energy) and regulatory conditions matter in promoting eco- and resource efficiency in these industries and we encourage you to place your consideration of what works in those indispensable contexts.

The private sector is a critical partner in creating solutions to today's pressing sustainability challenges in the current cycle and is already actively engaged on many fronts. Here in New York, we plan to offer suggestions for workable and cost-effective policies and approaches that we think will bring mutually reinforcing progress in this area.

Business & Industry has been a full participant in the Marrakech Process and appreciates the open and inviting character of this initiative. SCP should focus on making the market work for sustainable development, with a focus on producing goods and services efficiently and consuming them differently.

We look forward to the upcoming exchange of information and ideas for stronger and broader collaboration and implementation. Thank you for your attention.