



Geneva, 21 December 2009
G-2009/43 (46.31)

Dear Madam, dear Sir,

WHAT HAPPENS NOW? THE IOE PERSPECTIVE ON COPENHAGEN

BUSINESS HAS A COMMON VISION

The IOE played its part in the business perspective at the Copenhagen Business Day which was held on the 12th December and ran parallel to the [United Nations Climate Change Conference](#). The business day was organized by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, the International Chamber of Commerce and the Confederation of Danish Industry. Business leaders explored and projected a common vision and commitment to implement climate solutions now and for the future. The wide ranging debate analysed research, innovation, intellectual property rights, funding and market mechanisms that could facilitate climate change solutions, as well as exploring the skills, training and resilience needs for businesses to manage the challenges from climate change policies – this latter, the area of focus for IOE work.

THE POLITICAL PROCESS

The power and authority to make agreements was actually limited to very few high level representatives and world leaders made strategic appearances to emphasise the political importance of tackling climate change. But the Copenhagen event was a huge networking opportunity for the governments, lobby groups and NGOs who have a part to play. Delegations ran to hundreds of people many of whom resorted to fringe and impromptu events when pressure on the conference venue was overwhelmed.

NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE

Although there were great expectations for the Copenhagen meeting it was clear at the outset that a legal framework was unlikely to be achieved. At the end of the conference, although there are many decisions and pledges, the best that could be achieved was an [Accord](#). It seems that at the political level, a global agreement on concerted global action for this global challenge, predictably was overwhelmed by vested self interest. Nevertheless it was decided that the 16th session of the Conference of the Parties and the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol will be held in Mexico from 29 November 2010 to 10 December 2010 and the 17th and 7th sessions of the Conference and meeting will be held in South Africa³ from 28 November to 9 December 2011. The negotiation process will be ongoing in the interim.

PLEDGES OF FUNDING

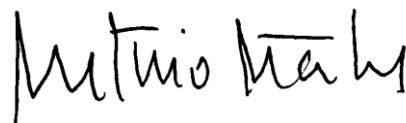
A Copenhagen Green Climate Fund is to be established as a financial mechanism of the [Convention](#) to support projects, programmes, policies and other activities in developing countries related to mitigation, including reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD-plus), adaptation, capacity-building, technology development and transfer. Developed countries have committed some USD 30 billion for the period 2010 - 2012. Funding for adaptation measures will be prioritized for the most vulnerable developing countries.

In order to take meaningful mitigation measures, developed countries commit to a goal of mobilizing jointly USD 100 billion dollars a year by 2020 to address the needs of developing countries. This funding is intended to come from a wide variety of sources, public and private, bilateral and multilateral, including alternative sources of finance. New multilateral funding for adaptation will be delivered through effective and efficient fund arrangements, with a governance structure providing for equal representation of developed and developing countries. It is envisaged that a significant portion of such funding should flow through the Copenhagen Green Climate Fund

SIGNALS FOR BUSINESS

Business, alongside governments and society, will have to focus on how to scale up and effectively deliver the financing needed to support climate change and how to successfully implement cost-effective policy mixes. Business will have to be constantly alert to the developing policy frameworks, opportunities for investment, innovation and trade so that they can make the most effective contribution to tackling this major global challenge. Such large sums of money aimed at providing the solutions for climate change will significantly affect the content and structure of enterprises and jobs. The IOE as the global voice of business in influencing employment and social policy will continue to work with other business organisations and global institutions to provide foresight on the impact of climate change policies on labour markets and provide support to help make enterprises sustainable.

Yours sincerely,



Antonio PEÑALOSA
Secretary-General

Circular addressed to IOE member federations and employer members of the ILO Governing Body.