

**International Chamber of Commerce  
Towards a Global Pact for the Environment  
14 - 18 January 2019  
Nairobi, Kenya**

**Opening Statement**

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen – It is my honour to address you on behalf of the International Chamber of Commerce.

ICC is the world's largest business organisation with over 45 million members in over 100 countries. As Permanent Observer to the United Nations General Assembly, we are committed to supporting your work here and to accelerating the transition to an inclusive and sustainable future that leaves no one behind.

We wish to thank you for the opportunity you have given business and other non-Party stakeholders to engage in this process. We firmly believe that inclusive multilateralism is needed to achieve our shared sustainable development goals, including in relation to the environment.

There is no doubt that safeguarding the environment is one of the biggest imperatives of our time. Businesses across every size, geography and sector are rising to the challenge and setting the pace through ambitious commitments and actions to reduce their environmental footprint and integrate sustainability into their core operations. This is the right thing to do ecologically, economically and socially and it makes business sense.

The UN Secretary General's report on the gaps in international environmental law and environment-related instruments rightly reflects the fragmented nature of environmental law and environmental governance, the resulting inconsistent content, uncertain legal status of environmental law norms, as well as the deficiencies in implementing and enforcing international environmental law. We encourage member states to give careful consideration to how the Report can be best utilized as a basis for the development of an effective Global Pact for the Environment.

ICC can bring positive, constructive and real-world experience from the business community to help inform this process and we are grateful for the Report's recognition of the importance of enhancing the role of non-Party stakeholders.

ICC regards a holistic, mutually reinforcing and balanced framework of regulation, markets and international cooperation as critical to advancing economic, environmental and social progress.

ICC sees a Global Pact for the Environment as an important opportunity to improve the effectiveness of international environmental law by codifying, clarifying and harmonizing recognized as well as emerging norms (whether found in treaty law, customary international law or general international law). If properly designed, such a Global Pact for the Environment could provide significant benefits to the private sector in terms of business certainty and efficiency as well as to the environment and sustainable development.

In this context, we will be looking to work with governments to:

- Provide the business sector perspective as to the nature and content of a Global Pact.
- Contribute to a clear, predictable and coherent legal and policy framework so as to encourage responsible investment, trade and job creation aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals and that enhance environmental management and protection.
- Accelerate “ambition” in both raising environmental standards and norms and strengthening their implementation; and
- Improve reporting obligations, implementation and enforcement of environmental regulation.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen –

Business is committed to safeguarding the environment, to implementing our commitments, and to delivering inclusive and sustainable growth. We stand ready to engage constructively in support of this process both here in Nairobi as well as in your home jurisdictions to reach an ambitious and effective outcome.

Thank you.