



UNITED STATES COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

New York City, NY, November 27, 2023

The Honorable John Kerry
U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Secretary Kerry,

As USCIB prepares to represent the U.S. business community at COP28, we welcome the continued strong leadership of this Administration, and its constructive focus on catalyzing investment in all forms of energy to support a just transition, new green jobs and sustainable paths to shared prosperity across society. We recognize the unprecedented opportunity which the Inflation Reduction Act offers to mobilize private capital to achieve our shared climate goals and strengthen long-term growth at home and abroad.

For this year's Climate COP, USCIB will bring a multisectoral delegation of globally leading U.S. companies ready to share commitments and solutions to tackle climate change, while prioritizing investment, employment, and shared economic growth in the U.S. and abroad. It has perhaps never been clearer – every sector of American business plays a critical part in strengthening implementation.

USCIB and our members are looking for meaningful progress on the following key negotiating items:

- A strong, forward looking political outcome of the first Global Stocktake (GST1), to set the stage for robust next-round NDCs, incentivizing and enabling the private sector to serve as implementation partners and leaders.
- Operationalization of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. Ensuring the right operating rules and establishing foundations for a high-integrity cross-border carbon market is a critical element of holding true to promises made in Paris. While Article 6 is not intended to establish a global carbon price, we believe in its potential to support a more cohesive multilateral approach to carbon pricing.
- Agreement on elements of the Just Transition Work Programme (JTWP). Any COP28 decision on the JTWP should empower and recognize employers, while aligning with the definition of just transition set out in the Paris Agreement, centered on quality jobs, green skills, and workforce development. We encourage alignment with the ILO Just Transition Guidelines, while also

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Business and Industry Advisory Committee (BIAC) to the OECD
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reflecting more recent outcomes from the 111th Session of the International Labour Conference and its discussions on Just Transition.

USCIB also looks forward to supporting key progress on advanced climate technologies, especially through engagement with the CTCN and the current U.S. leadership of the CTCN Advisory Board.

In addition to mandated negotiated outcomes, USCIB will focus on engaging constructively on the UNFCCC Secretariat workstream on accountability, especially as it pertains to the draft UNFCCC Recognition and Accountability Framework. USCIB is concerned this framework risks producing a chilling effect on future voluntary climate action initiatives and net-zero pledges by both individual U.S. companies and collective action groups – our concern is that this granular approach could slow implementation and discourage private sector climate action at a point when we need to scale up climate mitigation and adaptation efforts. We ask your support for the critical role of the private sector to bring solutions to ensure energy and food security, and the innovation and investment needed to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement.

The UAE Presidency has laid out ambitious priorities for this year's Climate COP, with a focus on fast-tracking the energy transition and transforming climate finance. As U.S. business, we fully support UAE's focus on inclusivity and underscore the immense value that all stakeholders – including business - bring to strengthen the UNFCCC process, and to speed up implementation in this critical decade. We ask you to consider the U.S. private sector a key partner in achieving the goals set out in the Paris Agreement and beyond. The power of private sector inclusion can be seen through the joint U.S. and UAE initiative, AIM for Climate, which has invited in private sector collaboration in a commendable manner.

COP28 has the potential to become the most inclusive COP in history, with governments, Observers, NGOs, business, and wider civil society coming together for the first Global Stocktake to reaffirm commitment to the Paris Agreement and keeping the promise of 1.5 alive. We ask your support to include recognition of the role of private sector in COP28 outcomes – as key implementation partners to ensure energy security and a just transition while safeguarding economic prosperity.

We recognize that COP28 will be especially challenging, marked by significant geopolitical and economic uncertainty. As U.S. business, we see this challenge as an opportunity for global U.S. leadership. We look forward to supporting the COP28 process, bringing forth the innovation and expertise unique to American business, and we stand ready to be a resource to the Administration – both in Dubai and beyond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Whitney Y. Baird', written in a cursive style.

Whitney Y. Baird, President and CEO
United States Council for International Business