



Caring for Climate



18 October 2011

Dear Caring for Climate Signatory,

Thanks to the leadership and commitment of companies like yours, the *Caring for Climate* initiative is making important contributions in the move towards a low-carbon, climate resilient and green economy. With nearly 400 signatories from 65 countries, *Caring for Climate* remains the world's largest voluntary business and climate initiative. While progress by business is visible in many areas, the urgency and scope of climate challenges requires broader and more widespread efforts by business, civil society and government. The 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development – Rio+20 – offers an excellent opportunity to further engage business to help address climate change on a large scale.

In this context, we are pleased to share with you three developments for the *Caring for Climate* initiative:

### **1. Broadening the Initiative**

The Global Compact and UNEP will make considerable efforts to build a broader, unified group of business leaders committed to corporate sustainability and establish a pathway towards green growth. With full support from the [Caring for Climate Steering Committee](#), the initiative will now be open to companies that have a proven track record of climate leadership but that have not yet joined the Global Compact. Companies that are most committed to climate action will be invited to engage immediately in *Caring for Climate*, with a clear commitment to become a Global Compact participant within two years.

### **2. Collaboration with the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**

The Global Compact, UNEP and the Secretariat of the UNFCCC have agreed to collaborate on *Caring for Climate* and will work together to better align *Caring for Climate* with the global climate policy agenda and enhance the visibility of business actions in the process. In the months ahead, and starting at the 17th Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC (COP 17) to be held in Durban later this year, *Caring for Climate* signatories will have several opportunities to exchange information and experiences, and enhance their understanding of the UNFCCC process. UNFCCC will be invited to be an active observer in the initiative's steering committee and make substantive contributions to guide the future development of *Caring for Climate*.

### **3. Transparency and Disclosure**

Transparency and disclosure have been identified by signatories and stakeholders alike as a key issue in making *Caring for Climate* a legitimate, meaningful initiative that advances best practice in sustainable environmental management in the private sector. In line with existing commitments to transparency, signatories of the initiative will now be required to develop annual reports – known as

"Communications on Progress-Climate" – in which they will be expected to describe how the five core commitments of the [Caring for Climate Statement](#) are being implemented. The reporting requirements and submission processes will be sent to C4C members shortly.

We are pleased to invite you to mark your calendar for the following events:

- Events co-convened by the Global Compact, UNEP-FI and the Principles for Responsible Investment during the **World Climate Summit** on **3-4 December 2011** in Durban, South Africa (<http://www.wclimate.com>).
- **Fourth Annual Meeting of Signatories** on **29 May 2012** in Rio de Janeiro in conjunction with the Rio+20 Corporate Sustainability Forum.

For more information on *Caring for Climate*, please contact Lila Karbassi (Global Compact, [karbassi@un.org](mailto:karbassi@un.org)) or Kaveh Zahedi (UNEP, [Kaveh.Zahedi@unep.org](mailto:Kaveh.Zahedi@unep.org)).

We thank you for your continuous support of the *Caring for Climate* initiative.

Sincerely,



Georg Kell  
Executive Director  
United Nations Global Compact



Sylvie Lemmet  
Director, Division of Technology, Industry and  
Economics  
United Nations Environment Programme