

# “Climate Change and Environmental Responsibility” UN Global Compact Leaders’ Summit

Bjorn Stigson, President WBCSD, July 6, 2007

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## Framing of the Issue

- A world increasingly shaped by SD issues
  - In particular climate change
- The issue is not if we should address the climate issue, but how ?
  - We need to both mitigate impacts and to adapt to the unavoidable consequences
- No part of society can solve this on its own. We need a partnership between governments, business and civil society.
- Business has started to take action to increase energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions because it makes perfect business sense.

It will reduce resource use, increase efficiency, reduce costs and improve profits as well as secure our longer term license to operate, innovate and grow..

Your climate change strategy as a company will be an important competitive differentiator in the future.

- Business is the main actor in society that owns technology and drives innovation in products and services. Business is also the main investor in buildings, machinery and industrial processes. What we invest in will have major consequences for society’s ability to manage climate change.
- Business needs a supportive regulatory framework that gives sufficient certainty and guidance for investments that can stretch 30-50 years into the future.

We also need clear signals to the markets about the price of carbon so that it can be included in the economic decision making.

- This session will focus on “learning by sharing” about how business has and will contribute going forward to find solutions to a more sustainable and climate friendly energy future.
- We have two background documents that have been developed in a dialogue facilitated by UN-GC, UNEP and WBCSD.
  - A leadership statement  
“Caring for climate, the Business Leadership Platform”  
It is a voluntary statement signed by 100 GC participants so far.
  - A publication of case studies that show examples of company actions to address climate change  
“Caring for climate, Tomorrow’s Leadership Today. Climate Change, Environmental Responsibility and Examples of Corporate Leadership.”

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