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THE CLIMATE GROUP



CORPORATE LEADERS NETWORK FOR CLIMATE ACTION



WE MEAN BUSINESS

Joint press release

December 11, 2017

## Anniversary of Paris Agreement: Broad coalition of major global companies calls for accelerated climate action

PARIS (December 11, 2017) –Two years after the groundbreaking adoption of the Paris Agreement (December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015) a broad alliance of 54 global companies from all continents and a broad range of industries jointly call for ambitious climate action as a basis for future economic success. In a joint declaration, they particularly address the twenty most industrialized countries accounting for 74% of the global emissions to use the G20 as a forum to come up with concrete long-term measures to accelerate the global decarbonization while inviting other countries to join efforts. Measures include a phase-out of fossil fuel subsidies by 2025, an adequate price on carbon and clarity on climate-related financial risks.

In the statement, the companies call for framework conditions that lay the foundation for a pathway towards limiting global temperature rise to well below 2° Celsius and allow them to actively contribute to the implementation of the Paris Agreement. They argue that a low-carbon development will secure jobs and prosperity, kicking off a new wave of innovation and entrepreneurship. The statement is, amongst others signed by Allianz, Michelin, UC Rusal and Unilever\*. The undersigned companies represent more than 1.9 million employees worldwide and total revenues of more than 676 billion €, equivalent to a fourth of the GDP of France and more than twice of Denmark's GDP.

The business coalition also addresses Heads of States who gather tomorrow at the "One Planet Summit" in Paris. They call on governments to keep up the momentum of the Paris Agreement when developing and implementing long-term decarbonization strategies. At the same time, the signatory businesses reaffirm their deep commitment to proactively tackling climate change in their own activities and policies, and take into account frameworks supporting business climate action such as internal carbon prices, TCFD implementation in their own reporting, as well as science-based targets.

"With this statement, businesses send a strong signal to world leaders that they are ready to do their part to achieve a low-carbon economy in line with the Paris Agreement", says Sabine Nallinger, Managing Director of the German Foundation 2° that initiated the statement. "The companies make clear that the global decarbonization is already taking place and will need to be accelerated. Those who stay on top of this trend will shape the transformation and benefit most from the value creation in a future low-carbon economy. Policymakers of G20 countries have a particular responsibility to act as leaders and offer support to all other countries to win them as partners for this global low-carbon transformation", Nallinger continues.

Nigel Topping, CEO of We Mean Business, the global business and climate coalition, remarks: "Since Paris, we have seen companies delivering further, faster action on climate change. In 2015, business signaled that it stood ready to work hand in hand with governments to deliver on the promises of Paris. With a 10-fold rise in companies committed to bold climate action since the Paris Agreement was signed it is clear that it is delivering on that commitment."

Feike Sijbesma, CEO DSM, World Bank Climate Leader and CPLC co-chair, adds: "The private sector strongly supports the three goals of the One Planet Summit: to scale solutions, to step up our efforts and to collaborate in partnership. A key ask of this Declaration is for governments to put a meaningful price on carbon. An economic incentive will unlock the private innovation — and capital — needed to make the transition to a low-carbon, climate-resilient economy."

—ENDS—

## Further quotes by coordinators and businesses:

### **Oliver Bäte, CEO, ALLIANZ**

*As one of the largest investors in renewable energies globally, we advance the transition to a low-carbon economy. To get there, business requires stable regulatory frameworks and an adequate price on carbon. In our capital allocation, we already integrate environmental and social aspects. We welcome more transparency on climate-related data, because it enriches a more reliable basis for investment decisions.*

Press contact: Anja Rechenberg | Allianz SE | Group Communications and Corporate Responsibility (GCORE) | +49.89.3800 4511 | ANJA.RECHENBERG@allianz.com

### **Tex Gunning, CEO, LeasePlan**

*As a global leader in vehicle leasing solutions, LeasePlan is committed to using its scale, expertise and broad geographic presence to create healthier environments in our towns and cities by promoting low emission vehicles and the infrastructure required. Our aim is to achieve net zero emissions by 2030. Therefore, we wholeheartedly support the objectives of the World Future Council Foundation and we are proud to sign the International Business Declaration.*

Press contact: Edwin van Wijk | Head of Global Media Relations | +31 20 709 3036 | edwin.vanwijk@leaseplan.com

### **Marc Benioff, Chairman and CEO, Salesforce**

*Salesforce is net-zero today and we deliver a carbon neutral cloud to our customers. We believe business can be a powerful platform for change, and companies must step up to protect the planet for future generations.*

Press contact: Gina Sheibley | +917.297.8988 | gsheibley@salesforce.com

### **Renat Heuberger, CEO, South Pole Group**

*Climate change-related risks can already be quantified, and have become tangible enough to back real business decisions. The most urgent task for governments is to create the rules and regulations under which low-carbon business and innovation can thrive. We need to put a price on carbon and let companies find the smartest, most cost-effective ways to cut emissions.*

Press contact: Nadia Kahkonen | Head of Communications | +66 2 678 8977, 9 ext 27 | n.kahkonen@southpole.com

### **Bunmi Akinyemiju, CEO, Venture Garden Group**

*We stand with our fellow global businesses to tackle climate change in alignment with our organization's mission of sustainability and transparency. By providing the public and private sector with actionable data and insight using digital technology, we will support both policy and governance across Sub Saharan Africa.*

Press contact: Subulola Jiboye | +234 (0) 81 – 657 8 0158 | subulola.jiboye@venturegardengroup.com

**Initiated and organized by:** Stiftung 2° (Foundation 2°)

**Coordinated by:** Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) | The Prince of Wales's Corporate Leaders Group (CLG) | Corporate Leaders Network for Climate Action (CLN) | Entreprises pour l'Environnement (EpE) | Foundations Platform F20 | Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) | Japan Climate Leaders Partnership (Japan CLP) | We Mean Business (WMB)

**\* 54 signatories:** Acciona | adidas | AIDA Cruises | Allianz | Arcadis | Avant Garde Innovations | Bausparkasse Schwäbisch Hall | Capricorn Investment Group | DAIKIN Airconditioning Germany | Diageo | DSM | Econet Group | Energetics | EPSON Europe | Formula E | Gegenbauer Holding | Groupe ADP | H&M | Hangzhou Minsheng Pharm | IBA Group | IBERDROLA | ING Group | Interface | Jiahe Agricultural Stockbreeding | Kering | LafargeHolcim | LeasePlan | Marks & Spencer | MICHELIN | Natura Cosméticos | Otto Group | Outokumpu | Philips | Philip Morris International | PUMA | Qingdao Double Whale Pharmaceutical | RTE | Saint-Gobain | Salesforce | Schneider Electric | Schüco International | Shandong Zhongcheng Feed Technology | Shenzhen AUSA Pharmed | Simble Solutions Ltd | Solvay | South Pole Group | Sun Daily Farm | UC Rusal | Unilever | Venture Garden Group | Virgin Group | Woolworths | Wuhan Dangdai Science & Technology Industries | Yukou Poultry

**Please note: The business statement is still open for further signatory businesses. Interested businesses are invited to contact [ParisMomentum@2grad.org](mailto:ParisMomentum@2grad.org) until 31.01.2018.**

### **Media contact:**

Laura Törkel | Communications and Press Officer Foundation 2° | +49 (0) 30 – 2045 3734 | [laura.toerkel@2grad.org](mailto:laura.toerkel@2grad.org)