

BUSINESS AMBITION FOR 1.5°C



Dear Business Leaders,

Climate change is undoubtedly the defining issue of our time – and we are at a pivotal moment. The world today is facing unprecedented, interconnected environmental challenges. If we do not urgently change course, we risk missing our chance to avoid runaway climate change, with disastrous consequences for people and all the natural systems that sustain us.

However, there is still time to get the world back on track. We have the innovation, tools and expertise to make this happen – what we need now is leadership. We are at a critical juncture, where climate change is moving faster than we are every day, and as the recent [report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\)](#) shows every half degree makes a world of difference.

We know that our ambition and actions need to be bolder if we are to stand any chance of winning this race. That is why we are calling on you to **step up and commit your business to set science-based targets** aligned with limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

The business benefits of science-based climate action are clear. Leading companies are already proving that a 1.5°C-compliant business model is possible, and there is evidence that these companies will be best-placed to thrive as the global economy undergoes a just transition to a net-zero future by 2050.

We are inviting those visionary leaders who commit their companies to a 1.5°C target to be recognized in the lead up to COP 26 – emphasizing the implementable, scalable and replicable business solutions that will support a genuinely systemic transformation.

As a Chinese proverb says: “A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.” This is the moment for true leaders to take this bold step which can inspire others to follow.

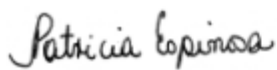
Sincerely,

**H.E. María
Fernanda
Espinosa Garcés**
President of the
73rd Session of
the General
Assembly
United Nations

**Ambassador Luis
Alfonso de Alba**
UN Special Envoy
for the 2019
Climate Action
Summit

Lise Kingo
CEO & Executive
Director
UN Global
Compact

Achim Steiner
Administrator
UN Development
Programme



Patricia Espinosa
Executive
Secretary
UNFCCC



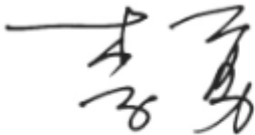
Inger Andersen
Executive Director
UN Environment
Programme



Liu Zhenmin
Under-Secretary-
General
UN Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs



Petteri Taalas
Secretary-General
World
Meteorological
Organization



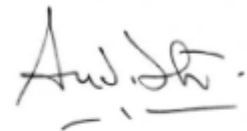
Li Yong
Director-General
UNIDO



**Jayathma
Wickramanayake**
UN Secretary-
General's
Envoy on Youth



Paul Simpson
Chief Executive
Officer
CDP



Andrew Steer
President & CEO
World Resources
Institute (WRI)



**Manuel Pulgar
Vidal**
Climate & Energy
Practice Leader
WWF



Nigel Topping
Chief Executive
Officer
We Mean
Business (WMB)



**Christiana
Figueres**
Co-Founder
Global Optimism



Nicholas Stern
Chair of the
Grantham
Research Institute
on Climate Change
and the
Environment
London School of
Economics



John Denton
Secretary General
International
Chamber of
Commerce



Paul Polman
Co-Founder &
Chair of Imagine
SDG Advocate



**Professor Klaus
Schwab**
Executive
Chairman
World Economic
Forum



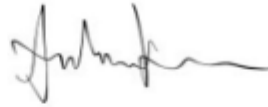
Anand Mahindra
Chairman
Mahindra Group



**Tomasz
Chruszczow**
High Level
Champion for COP
24
Climate Champion
through the
Marrakech
Partnership



Gonzalo Muñoz
High Level
Champion for COP
25
Climate Champion
through the
Marrakech
Partnership



Andrew Higham
Chief Executive
Officer
Mission 2020



Aron Cramer
President & CEO
Business for
Social
Responsibility



Fiona Reynolds
Chief Executive
Officer
Principles for
Responsible
Investment (PRI)



Halla Tómasdóttir
Chief Executive
Officer
The B Team



Helen Clarkson
Chief Executive
Officer
The Climate Group



Hugh Evans
President & CEO
Global Citizen

Kathleen Rogers

Kathleen Rogers
President
Earth Day Network

Kathy Calvin

Kathy Calvin
Chief Executive
Officer
United Nations
Foundation

Mindy A. Lubber

Mindy Lubber
CEO & President
Ceres

Peter Bakker

Peter Bakker
President & CEO
World Business
Council for
Sustainable
Development