CEO Climate Leaders

What is it?

CEO Climate Leaders – comprising CEOs and chairs from the world's largest companies – are signatories to a statement that expresses support for concrete, business-led, climate solutions. Together, they represent most of the world's major industrial and services sectors, including financial services, agriculture, biotech, building efficiency, industrial motors, automotive, utilities, oil and gas, renewable energy, ICT, cement, and steel, among others. This initiative aims to:

- Communicate with common messaging that focuses on solutions and economic opportunities
- Build momentum for an ambitious global climate change deal by - demonstrating CEO leadership on climate change
- Catalyse greater and broader private sector commitments and action on climate change

Following a meeting where more than 35 CEOs met at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2015 in Davos, the CEOs developed an open letter (medium.com/@ClimateCEOs) calling for an ambitious agreement at COP21. This set out their climate commitments and extended an open offer to work with global leaders to co-design climate solutions relevant to different jurisdictions. It was published in April 2015, signed by 43 signatories representing companies with combined revenue of more than $1.2 trillion in 2014. The letter was supported by a full page advertisement published in the Financial Times, and the hashtag #ClimateCEOs had a reach of 25 million in 3 days, with media coverage across the world. The United Nations Secretary-General, Mr Ban Ki-Moon said at the Spring Meetings of the World Bank and IMF,

"…I was pleased to see in the Financial Times this morning that many business leaders are publicly stepping up to meet the climate challenge. They know that taking bold climate action makes good business sense, and that an ambitious global agreement is vital." (Remarks)

From Greenpeace International,

"These 43 CEOs are ready for a big climate deal in Paris. Can we move on from this idea that serious climate action and business don't mix?" (on Facebook)

Why now and what next?

In the run-up to UN climate change conference (COP21) in Paris this December, strong business support for climate action can help create the conditions needed not only for an ambitious climate agreement but also concerted global climate action through Paris and beyond to help close the gap. This is an opportunity to accelerate innovation, drive the next wave of sustainable economic growth, and usher in the low-carbon economy.

New signatories to the statement will be announced on **23 November – one week ahead of COP21**. The goal of the launch is to build awareness of business's support for global action on climate change and to help build momentum for a climate deal in Paris and ongoing action through 2016 and beyond. It will involve a combination of:

- A joint global media release
- Speeches, blogs, and Op Eds by CEOs
- Social media

How to Join

To join the group, CEOs sign the open letter (with email confirmation) and nominate a senior representative to be their contact point. To support the CEOs' work, senior representatives from companies meet via teleconference to share information and develop activities across the group.

For further information on the CEO Climate Leaders and how to join, please contact ceoclimateleaders@weforum.org