

February 2nd, 2022

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INTERVENTION: BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY MAJOR GROUP

UN ECOSOC PARTNERSHIP FORUM 2022

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My name is Alejandra Castro, representing the Business and Industry Major Group. I serve as Vice President and Global Head of Partnerships – International Organizations for Bayer. I am speaking on behalf of the United States Council for International Business. *[Brief introductory material about Bayer here]*

- The Business and Industry Major Group welcomes this year's ECOSOC Partnership Forum, and appreciates the opportunity to contribute to this multistakeholder discussion. It is appropriate and meaningful that the 2022 road to the HLPF begins with this meeting that zeroes in on partnerships in all their diversity.
- The U.N. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda continue to serve as the sustainability framework for business planning and action to advance sustainability in partnership with the international community and with all stakeholders. The SDGs and 2030 Agenda are relevant and accessible for businesses of all nationalities, sizes and sectors, and is also catalytic in supply- and value-chain relationships across businesses in the global marketplace.
- The private sector has been at the forefront of tackling the pandemic – from the historic race to develop vaccines, to repurposing facilities for production of PPE and vaccination campaigns, to training and educating employees on public health and safety. We have welcomed openness across the UN system to partnering with business on pandemic response and recovery, and many members of business and industry have stepped forward. We encourage this forum and other SDG related discussions en route to HLPF to focus on how we can build on and expand these positive and inclusive approaches to bring in, indeed, crowd in, businesses of all sectors with real solutions that will deliver on SDGs and overcome the pandemic and its impacts.
- Business and Industry has noted with concern the findings of the UN Secretary General's report, "Progress Towards the SDGs," which indicates that advancing the SDGs has been delayed, and hard-won progress in key development areas has lost ground in many parts of the world.
- USCIB and our colleagues in the business and industry major group are ready to work with the international community to get back on track, to build back better sustainably with:
 - special attention to those areas where indicators have reflected setbacks in efforts to leave no-one behind, and
 - a dedication to inclusive multilateralism that engages every societal partner working side by side with governments, and with one another.

Business and Industry calls on the ECOSOC Partnership Forum to strengthen and scale up the enabling frameworks and institutional architecture needed to advance multistakeholder partnerships involving business. It will be critical throughout 2030 to co-create effective partnerships, and strive for measurable positive outcomes via those partnerships that advance a sustainable recovery that leaves no-one behind.