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UN ECOSOC Partnership Forum 2023

Business and Industry Major Group at the UN in NY

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Mme. President, Excellencies and stakeholder colleagues. I am Norine Kennedy, representing the United States Council for International Business, and a Co-Chair of the B&I Major Group at the UN here in New York. We are excited to be among you, in a community of SDG partnership practitioners, together in person and ready to roll up our sleeves for 2023.

All stakeholders agree that work needs to expand and pick up the pace to reach the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Like the PGA, we see the greatest catalytic potential and need for action in 3 priority areas that he identified: the multilateral system should invite solutions for sustainability, science, and solidarity. In the coming year, through an initiative called Moving the Needle, business will be gathering private sector tools and approaches that we use in these 3 areas, as opportunities to partner for impact, especially as highlighted by the UN Secretary-General's report, Our Common Agenda.

2 suggestions for your consideration:

We should enhance international solidarity to address inequities between countries and ensure the weakest and least developed nations get the necessary support to meet the needs of their societies. We look forward to LDC-5 and FfD related discussions this year into next that can bring these critical needs in areas of governance, infrastructure, employment, digital inclusivity and human rights to the fore.

We should bolster inclusive multilateralism that advances cooperation not only among and between states, but also via working partnerships with all stakeholders. Multi-stakeholder partnerships are the very poster child of inclusive multilateralism, and we hope this meeting will tap the deep potential of this type of collaboration and aim to mainstream it. Please count on business to help.

Looking ahead to the SDG Summit, and next year's Summit for the Future, we are calling for greater inclusivity of business and stronger cooperation across private and public sectors at all levels.

The potential of the private sector to work with governments and the international community for sustainability, science and solidarity solutions is not yet fully tapped, and with how far we have fallen behind on the SDGs, we should not hesitate to crowd in all partners.

The SDGs call on us to leave no-one behind. At this Partnership Forum and going forward to the SDG Summit, we must also not allow anyone to sit on the sidelines.