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Business and Industry Major Group Intervention
Access to Energy
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delivered by Norine Kennedy, United States Council for International Business (USCIB)

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I would like to speak on the issue of accelerating access to energy for sustainable development. Maintaining and growing the energy supplies required to provide access to those lacking it and to meet future demand with reduced environmental impacts will require significant investments in the long term at every step of the energy supply, transport, distribution and consumer chain. We are all familiar with the International Energy Agency's estimate of \$17 trillion of needed investment between now and 2030. What we often forget is that even after that money is spent, the scenario still envisions millions without access to energy. From the perspective of business and industry, that shortfall is not satisfactory. We must accelerate.

In deciding how to raise and spend that considerable sum of money most effectively in accelerating access to secure and affordable energy, we must involve a wide range of business sectors in addition to the traditional sectors of power generation, utilities and natural resource extraction. Transport, grid maintainers, automotive, transport and energy intensive sectors are also essential parts of the energy supply and use chain.

I am speaking on behalf of Business Action for Energy (BAE), a business coalition comprising major business groups, including the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) and the World Energy Council (WEC). This group brings together that broad range of industry sectors and nationalities that are engaged in making investments and providing solutions towards energy for sustainable development. This group will be making examples and recommendations available to this meeting, and we look forward to working with you all.

Mr. Chairman, you said the challenge of energy access reminded you of running up a downward bound escalator. How do we reorient the direction of that "escalator?" In the view of business, fighting bribery and corruption in both public and private sectors is one of the most critical priorities. Bribery and corruption undermines energy infrastructure, discourages investment and hampers local business growth. Governments and business have to continue to work together in the prevention of bribe solicitation and in the prosecution of offenders.

On a more positive note, to further speed the energy access "escalator" moving in the right direction, governments, businesses and other key stakeholders should work in partnership to provide sustainable energy services, notably in partnership projects at the small and medium scale. These cooperative approaches, constructed with appropriate responsibilities and rules, can leverage resources, ensure affordable energy and supplement other options.

Thank you Mr. Chairman
