

Major Economies Business Forum



on Energy Security and Climate Change

www.majoreconomiesbusinessforum.org

2016 YEAR IN REVIEW

INTRODUCTION

Since the Major Economies Business Forum on Energy Security and Climate Change (BizMEF) was formed in 2009, this voluntary coalition of multi-sectoral business organizations has grown into one of the major voices of the business community in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). BizMEF's voice will be especially important as the international climate change discussions move toward implementing the Paris Agreement forged in 2015.

The BizMEF partnership is modeled on the government-to-government Major Economies Business Forum begun under President George W. Bush and carried forward under President Barack Obama. It is designed to:

- promote dialogue and exchange views on climate change and energy security across a broad spectrum of business interests including major developed, emerging, and developing economies;
- highlight areas of agreement among participating organizations on the most important issues for business in international climate change policy forums; and
- share these views with governments, international bodies, other business organizations, the press, and the public.

Organizations that participate in BizMEF activities represent business groups in Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, the European Union, Denmark, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States, as well as several international sectoral associations. Collectively, BizMEF organizations represent tens of millions of businesses of every size and sector. Because BizMEF partnering organizations represent a broad range of companies and industries—including energy

producing and consuming companies as well as energy technology and service providers—the partnership is able to provide robust and balanced views on a range of issues.

All BizMEF has achieved could not have been accomplished without the active participation of the coalition’s partners. Since its founding in 2009, BizMEF has:

- Issued three broad-ranging declarations;
- Issued 40 position papers on a variety of UNFCCC issues affecting the business community;
- Organized five side events at UNFCCC meetings;
- Hosted four “Business Dialogues,” one each at the UNFCCC meetings in Doha, Warsaw, Lima, and Marrakech;
- Consulted with numerous national delegations in host capitals and at UNFCCC meetings;
- Conducted (through the U.S. Council for International Business (USCIB)) a survey of BizMEF partners covering business engagement in the development of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs);
- Organized with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development’s (OECD) Business and Industry Advisory Committee a workshop on INDCs at the OECD in Paris; and
- Held several face-to-face meetings on the margins of UNFCCC meetings and at other venues, including meetings hosted in Copenhagen, Washington, and Tokyo.

Details of these activities are available on the BizMEF webpage.

Given our growth over the years, BizMEF decided in 2016 to form three regional hubs to help co-ordinate activities. Keidanren in Japan has taken on this role for the Asia region, BusinessEurope for Europe and Africa, USCIB and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce’s Institute for 21st Century Energy for the Americas.

2016: AN ACTIVE YEAR FOR BIZMEF

With the conclusion of the Paris Agreement, the focus of BizMEF has turned to implementation of the Paris Agreement: how it could affect business and the role business can and should play. Activities BizMEF undertook in 2016 to address these implementation issues are summarized below.

BizMEF-BIAC Workshop & Roundtable

On 12 September, BizMEF and BIAC organized a workshop on “Business Engagement in INDCs and the Paris Agreement,” which took place at the OECD conference center in Paris. In the run-up to the Paris Agreement, BizMEF members were involved to one degree or another consulting with national governments in the preparation of initial INDCs. This event brought



BizMEF/BIAC Workshop at the OECD, Paris, France

together about 60 representatives from business, government, academia, and multilateral institutions to discuss results, observations, and lessons learned from the experience.

BizMEF partners shared their experiences in a survey conducted by USCIB. The results were presented in a report (available on the BizMEF webpage [here](#)) and summarized at the workshop. The workshop also addressed ways that going

forward business can contribute to the new five-year cycles of domestic and international global stocktaking exercises to review and renew NDCs. Further, it highlighted the unique insights the business community can provide and the implications the present and future portfolio of NDCs can have on operations, investments, and supply and value chains in the globalized economy.

BizMEF COP-22 BUSINESS DIALOGUE

BizMEF, in association with its newest partner, the General Confederation of Moroccan Enterprises (Confédération Générale des Entreprises du Maroc (CGEM)), organized an afternoon-long Marrakech Business Dialogue on 13 November at COP-22. The event was hosted at the Université Privée de Marrakech. The dialogue featured twenty speakers from government, business, and the UNFCCC and built on the discussion begun at the BizMEF/BIAC INDC Workshop in Paris in September.

Session 1 focused on “Public Private Dialogue for Continuous Improvement of NDCs” and Session 2 on “Looking Ahead to 2018: Private Sector Input to Paris Agreement Cycles of Assessment, Review and Renewal.” Both sessions emphasized the importance of enhancing business engagement in these important activities. In particular, BizMEF has been advocating for a more formalized channel to the UNFCCC through which the broader business community could provide a range of responsible views on the many issues sure to emerge as the Paris Agreement is implemented.

This was the fourth Business Dialogue BizMEF has sponsored. A fifth is being considered for COP-23 in Bonn, Germany in late 2017.

Our thanks go to CGEM for doing such an outstanding job of co-ordinating this event.

MARRAKECH DECLARATION

At COP-22, BizMEF partners also participated in the [High Level Business Summit on Climate Change](#) hosted by CGEM on 16 November. Chaired by Mrs. Bensalah Chaqroun, President of CGEM, this meeting involved representatives from more than 30 business associations from all over the world. A joint “[Marrakech Declaration](#)” was adopted and signed nearly 45 private sector representatives, including many BizMEF partners. BizMEF intends to work with CGEM to reach out to more developing country business groups to get them involved in this initiative.



BizMEF COP-22 SIDE EVENT

Continuing the themes of the Paris Workshop and the Business Dialogue, on 18 November, BizMEF hosted a Side Event at COP-22 on “Business Engagement in INDCs and Implementing the Paris Agreement.” During this well-attended event, USCIB presented on the results of its survey of BizMEF members on business engagement in the development of national INDCs, and industry associations told of their particular experiences. Representatives from the Global Carbon Capture and Storage Institute and the University of Tokyo acted as respondents. BizMEF intends to seek another side event slot for the upcoming COP-23 in Bonn, Germany.



BizMEF COP-22 Side Event, Marrakech, Morocco

COP-22 Marrakech Issue Papers

Over the years, BizMEF has issued 40 position papers. Issue papers for 2016 include the following:

1. *Perspectives on COP-22/CMP-12 Marrakech, Morocco: Implementing the Paris Agreement*
2. *Business in the UNFCCC: An Essential Element of Institutional Infrastructure for the Paris Agreement*
3. *GHG Markets and Article 6 of the Paris Agreement: The Way Forward*
4. *Transparency and Measurement, Reporting, and Verification*

Each paper undergoes a thorough review process, with BizMEF partners being given ample opportunity to provide comments. Given the voluntary nature of BizMEF, partners have the option of signing on to as many or as few papers as they wish. The table nearby lists the organizations that signed onto each of the issue papers.

Because we recognize that some organisations have longer review and approval procedures than others, all of the papers are kept “open” indefinitely so that groups can sign on to, and have their logo appear on, any paper at any time after it has been finalized. All BizMEF issue papers are available on the [Positions](#) page of our website.

BizMEF 2016 Issue Paper Approval Matrix				
Organization	Issue Paper:			
	COP-22 Perspectives	Business Engagement	GHG Markets	Transparency
BDI	√	√	√	√
Business Council of Canada	√	√	√	√
BusinessEurope	√	√	√	√
BusinessNZ	√	√	√	√
Confederation of British Industry	√	√	√	√
CGEM		√	√	√
Confindustria	√	√	√	√
Dansk Industri	√	√	√	√
IDEAS	√	√	√	√
Institute for 21st Century Energy		√		√
Keidanren	√	√	√	√
Lewiatan	√	√	√	√
MEDEF	√	√	√	√
Swiss Federation of SME	√	√	√	√
TUSIAD		√		√
US Council for International Business	√	√	√	√
World Coal Association	√	√		√
World Steel Association	√	√	√	√

BizMEF WEBSITE TRAFFIC

The BizMEF web page is a tremendous resource for its partners and is the primary means of communicating with the public. The website is hosted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce’s Institute for 21st Century Energy.

In calendar year 2016, the BizMEF site had 1,247 sessions and 2,382 page views from 928 users from about 70 countries. There were 1.9 pages viewed per session. New visitors accounted for 73% of all visitors to the website.

BizMEF Website Traffic in 2016	
Page	Views
Home Page	898
Events	451
Partners	388
Positions	334
About Us	188
Other	123
Total	2,382

The table nearby shows how the web traffic was distributed among the different pages. Other than the Home Page, the Events page was the single most viewed page, followed by the Partners and Positions pages.

New BizMEF Partners

BizMEF welcomed [CGEM](#) as a new partner and the [World Coal Association \(WCA\)](#) as an observer partner. Further additions are expected in 2017.

Business groups interested in joining BizMEF as a full or observer partner should contact Norine Kennedy (kennedy@uscib.org), Alexandre Affre (a.affre@businessseurope.eu), or Kiyoshi Tanigawa (followup@keidanren.or.jp).

Looking Ahead to 2017

We expect 2017 to be another busy year for BizMEF. Based on preliminary discussions with some BizMEF partners, the following plan of work is being considered:

- A BizMEF meeting (most likely in the United States) likely in late May. This would be held in conjunction with another BizMEF workshop on business perspectives on implementing NDCs and collective action under the Paris Agreement.
- BizMEF will develop a written submission regarding the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body on Implementation in-session workshop May 2017 on opportunities to further enhance the effective engagement of non-state actors.
- Develop topics and enlist lead authors for issue papers to be prepared for COP-23.
- Organize a Business Dialogue and Side Event at COP-23.
- Recruit new partners into BizMEF.