

FINAL

**Business and Industry Major Group
Statement for Opening Plenary UNEA-6
February 26, 2024**

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies & gentlemen,

Madame President, we express our appreciation to Morocco for its leadership and the work of all member states, co-facilitators, UNEP staff and the Major Groups. We welcome the resolutions that member states have tabled, and the recognition that many of the challenges we face are interconnected - requiring holistic and implementable solutions for the SDGs.

The private sector plays a critical role in addressing these challenges, through our daily operations, as important engines of innovation, as the mobilisers of investment, and as builders of capacity. These are roles and responsibilities that our community takes very seriously.

Businesses are making vast investments to address the global challenges we face. From SMEs and youth startups that drive local economies to the diversity of global businesses, we are delivering progressive, equitable, green, and sustainable jobs.

We stand ready to do more!

To do this successfully, we need risk and evidence based policies, and - in the spirit of cooperation - effective sharing of best practices. We note with concern a trend of consistently reopening text that has previously been agreed in international forums. This risks creating a policy landscape that is inconsistent and potentially undermining the goals and objectives we are ultimately here to address. We seek consistency in terms of language, and a sharpened focus on the deliverables, and avoiding duplication of already existing work.

Global governance must enhance opportunities for productive partnerships. With this in mind, Business and Industry calls on UNEA to may explore its convening responsibilities to build collaborative approaches. Madame President, thank you again, and be assured of the business community's commitment to increase our collaborative efforts with you and other groups.