



Sustainable Business Australia



wbcSD
global network

BRIEFING

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COP22 REVIEW

What happened at COP22?

Following the UNFCCC COP22 negotiations in Marrakesh, 7 – 18 November 2016, the message was clear: the transition to a low-carbon economy is irreversible - and [countries](#), [business](#), [investors](#) and local governments are moving ahead to implement the Paris Agreement.

At the start of negotiations the Paris Agreement had been ratified by 111 countries, making it one of the fastest ratification processes in the history of climate negotiations. The positive momentum continued during the COP, and on 17 November, the [Marrakech Action Proclamation was adopted](#).

"We have seen extraordinary momentum on climate change worldwide, and in many multilateral fora. This momentum is irreversible - it is no longer just driven by governments, but by science, business and global action of all types at all levels", it says.

The Proclamation reaffirmed the commitment of developed countries to mobilize \$100 billion dollars a year by 2020, and is backed up by the then new [Long Term Finance COP decision](#) and the [CMA1 decision](#) on the Adaptation Fund.

These global partnerships continue to send long-term political and economic signals that encourage business to invest with more confidence in the low-carbon economy. Obviously one of the most discussed issues in Marrakech was the increased uncertainty following the USA election. During the COP more than 300 US CEOs [wrote an open letter](#) to the US President-Elect, re-affirming their commitment to addressing climate change through the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

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Furthermore, countries represented in Marrakech rallied together with a number of key global and regional partnerships on climate policy:

- The [US, Germany, Canada and Mexico](#) had already put together their first 2050 long-term plans
- COP22 saw the [launch](#) of a [2050 Pathways Platform](#) by Climate Champions Laurence Tubiana and HE Hakima el Haité with more than 20 countries, 15 cities, 17 states & regions and 196 businesses.
- China reaffirmed its commitment to address climate change and launched its "[10, 100, 1000](#)" [South-South Cooperation Initiative](#)
- [48 Climate Vulnerable Forum countries committed](#) to scale up their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) before 2020 and to be powered by 100% renewable energy, while highlighting the economic benefits and opportunities from reaching the 1.5°C target - notably a [10% increase in global GDP compared to current NDCs by 2050](#).
- The [NDC Partnership was launched](#), a new coalition of developing and developed countries and international institutions working together
- The [Africa Renewable Energy Initiative](#) (AREI) is forging ahead with its ambitious initiative to deliver 300GW of renewable energy generation capacity by 2030

Business took a leading role at COP22

It is now an accepted truism, that there is the world before the Paris Agreement and there is a world after it. COP22 was the first COP post-Paris, and it was uplifting to see business taking a leading role during the meeting.

For the first time in COP history, the [Low-Emissions Solutions Conference](#) mobilized leaders from business, government, cities, science and academia to discuss solutions. It brought together over 700 people, 200 companies, and 100 speakers over three days, including from 30 WBCSD companies; putting innovative technological solutions at the heart of COP22 and the global climate action agenda.

In all panels, speakers confirmed that multi-stakeholder collaboration of business, academic, and government is vital for success. The LESC embodied this collaboration and reinforced the cooperation towards rapid and successful implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

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The event included:

- Dialogues with Ministers representing Mission Innovation and the Clean Energy Ministerial, offering further platforms to expand collaborative action;
- Sustainable energy, including smart grids and micro-grids
- Sustainable fuels, including announcements on [new members joining global collaboration below50](#); and the launch of the [Biofuture Platform](#)
- Sustainable built environments showcasing materials, construction innovation, energy efficiency, adaptation and resilience
- Sustainable mobility across electric vehicles, fuel cell vehicles, and decarbonizing transport
- Sustainable cities: WBCSD [EEB Amplify](#) was launched at COP-22 on Buildings and Cities Day, aiming to scale up the Energy Efficiency in Buildings program from 10 cities to 50 by 2020
- Climate-smart agriculture strategies and solutions taking place under the [Low Carbon Technology Partnership initiative](#).

The voice of WBCSD (with advisory from its Network Members present at the COP, including Sustainable Business Australia) and its member companies were also heard in official plenary sessions, Ministerial roundtables and bilateral meetings with high-level policy-makers. WBCSD companies and Secretariat met with the Ministers and delegations from the US, Mexico, Canada, the EU, China, Brazil, Argentina as well as the Head of the UNFCCC.

The dialogue with governments will remain critically important for advancing the Low Carbon Technology Partnerships, their connections to the NDCs and 2050 pathways to the low-carbon economy.

It was compelling to see the continuation during COP22 of the powerful collaboration and leadership that brought the Paris Agreement into being.

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