

**Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) welcomes the World Energy Council's messages to COP21 in a video address to the global energy leaders' community during the Council's Executive Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 29th October 2015.**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I'd like to thank the World Energy Council for inviting me to be part of the 2015 World Energy Leaders' Summit. I'm sorry I cannot join you in person as we are in final preparations for the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris in December.

As you know, the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris is the place where nations will set down the pathways that limit global temperature rise to less than two degree Celsius, the internationally agreed line after which the risks posed by climate change become too great and too costly to manage.

To stay below two degrees, science demands that we peak global emissions in the next decade, drive them down quickly after that and reach climate neutrality as soon as possible in the second half of this century.

At its most fundamental level, achieving this requires a transformation in the way we produce and consume energy.

And it means helping everyone understand clearly that, far from being a burden, this transformation is both a major business opportunity and promises healthier, wealthier, more secure communities for all. It promises more energy access and more energy security right here in Africa and across the developing world if the transition is managed well.

Forward thinking business, investors, communities and citizens are already seeking the innovative solutions to climate change that will make Paris – and especially the national climate change plans, or INDCs – a success.

Tomorrow we will launch our INDC aggregation report. I cannot give full details, but from the perspective of the WEC and its members, I can note that over half of the more than one hundred and forty INDCs analyzed indicate the use of market-based mechanisms to achieve their goals.

The Paris agreement is one element of global action consisting of four parts that must carry us towards a truly sustainable, climate-resilient future.

That system consists of the new climate change agreement itself, a strong finance package to support developing countries and these national plans to increase climate action.

And it includes the major groundswell of non-state climate action from cities, regions, business and investors. Many of these non-state actors are either in the energy sector, investing in the energy sector or turning to the energy sector to find a new, cleaner way to power growth.

These are the companies and people who will transform the emission reductions, the renewable energy deployment and the energy efficiency gains found in the national climate plans into reality. These are the investors and regional partners seeking to work in Africa and the developing world to power growth with clean, renewable energy.

It is therefore excellent to see the messages from the World Energy Council to COP Twenty-One. These messages are a strong signal that the energy transformation that is by now inevitable, irreversible and irresistible needs predictable policy to speed up and scale up.

Today, I thank you for your leadership in the run-up to the crucial Paris climate change conference. And I ask those gathered here to continue to lead in the push for broader and bigger climate action that will come after Paris.

Paris is a turning point towards a clean energy future for our children and their children, a future where everyone has a light to study by and filled with opportunity. We are counting on the energy sector of today to make this clean energy tomorrow a reality.

Thank you and I wish you a productive Summit.

Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)