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Press Release

BIAC to G8 Environment Ministers: Addressing Climate Change Remains a Top Priority

Paris, 21 April 2009 – “In the face of the current financial and economic crisis, business remains committed to addressing climate change as a top priority and supports governments' efforts for a successful outcome of the Copenhagen climate change conference,” said BIAC Secretary General Tadahiro Asami in advance of travelling to Syracuse, Italy for a 22 April consultation with G8 Environment Ministers. “The G8 discussions represent an important milestone towards this objective.”

While emphasising that resolute and concerted international action is urgently needed, Asami highlighted the need of fostering innovation and technology dissemination in order to support sustainable growth in both OECD and non-OECD countries. In light of the economic crisis, it is more important than ever to carefully target investments and to seek ways to enhance efficiencies.

A successful global climate change framework taking into account business realities should help avoid distorting impacts from uncoordinated efforts and provide business with predictability for future investments. The post-2012 framework should include all countries and set achievable objectives, recognising common but differentiated responsibilities that take into account national circumstances.

Asami concluded by calling on Ministers to re-affirm the vital role that the OECD and its sister organisations, including the International Energy Agency (IEA), can play for informing and developing future climate policies with the over-arching goal of sustainable development. On the occasion of the G8 consultation, BIAC will present its paper on climate change, encouraging Ministers to focus on the following key messages:

- The future climate change framework should support long-term innovation and investment in clean technologies. There is a clear need for breakthrough technologies, which require global cooperation and support for research and development.
- At the same time, energy efficiency in major consuming sectors holds a major potential and should remain a top priority for policy makers in both OECD and non-OECD countries.
- Both mitigation and adaptation will need to be considered. This means that particular attention must be paid to the interactions between climate change, energy and water, which are intimately linked in many ways.
- Business encourages policy makers to recognise the important role of market-based approaches in conjunction with other policy instruments. Approaches that maximise the dynamism of the private sector will be essential for making lasting progress.

Founded in 1962 as an independent organisation, the Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD (BIAC) is the officially recognised representative of the OECD business community. BIAC's members are the major business organisations in the OECD member countries and a number of OECD observer countries, www.biac.org.

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