



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Major US Companies and Retired Military Officials Call On Obama to Act on International Climate Finance

Diverse Group of Businesses and National Security Leaders Call for Creation of Global Climate Fund

Cancun, Mexico- Twelve major companies employing many thousands of Americans including Pepsi Co, Levi Strauss & Co., Nike Inc., Starbucks and eBay Inc. and sixteen high level retired Generals and Admirals today released letters to President Obama and Secretary of State Clinton calling for them to lead the effort to establish an equitable, effective and accountable global climate fund at the UN climate change negotiations in Cancun.

The letters send a clear message of support from major leaders in the American business community and military experts who are squarely behind American led efforts to forge agreement on international climate finance. The letters show that these efforts will protect US economic interests from the increasing threats of climate change, build new opportunities to create jobs and protect US national security.

"Effective climate finance abroad will contribute significantly to equitable economic growth at home," states the letter from businesses released today in Cancun. "It will create employment opportunities, generate demand globally for U.S. technologies and services, and facilitate innovation in multiple sectors."

The letters warn that a failure to act on these crucial priorities will put US national security and global stability at risk resulting in damaging economic uncertainty and spiraling fiscal cost.

"Providing financing for international climate preparedness and adaptation programs is a vital component of reducing global security threats," states the letter from military officials. "Building climate preparedness in the most vulnerable nations around the globe is among the most effective ways to promote US national and international security from climate-related disasters. Taking this action will also save our country significant resources and assets."

"We can crack the climate finance nut with innovative sources that don't burden taxpayers or the deficit," said Heather Coleman, Climate Change Policy Advisor for Oxfam. "Continued leadership from the Administration will be critical to making progress here in Cancun."

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Full Text of the letters:

Text of Business Leader Letter

Dear Mr. President:

As companies employing many thousands of Americans across a range of economic sectors, we are writing to urge you to lead in the effort to establish a Global Climate Fund under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at the 16th Conference of the Parties in Cancun, Mexico. It is imperative that the United States reassert its credibility and leadership on climate change and establish a fund at this critical juncture.

Climate change effects are global. So are our markets and supply chains. As outlined in your speech to the United Nations Millennium Development Goals Summit on September 22, 2010, it is in our long-term economic interest to partner with developing countries, which will bolster their efforts to transition from poverty to prosperity through sustainable and equitable economic growth.

The establishment of an equitable, effective and accountable Global Climate Fund is just such a partnership. The U.S. should work alongside developing countries as they reduce their emissions, save their forests, and respond and adapt effectively to the climate impacts already being felt by companies and communities alike.

Furthermore, effective climate finance abroad will contribute significantly to equitable economic growth at home. It will create employment opportunities, generate demand globally for U.S. technologies and services, and facilitate innovation in multiple sectors.

An effective climate change policy is also critical our national and global security. Substantial climate impacts contribute to political and social instability. Without immediate and effective action, they will lead to greater poverty and increased conflict, creating uncertainty for trade and investment flows.

It is imperative that the United States lead in the creation of a Global Climate Fund, and the time to act is now. As the impacts of climate change continue to grow around the world, we must ensure that a fair, effective, and accountable fund is established so that nations are able to reduce their emissions and adapt in a sustainable way that has the confidence of all countries.

Mr. President, thank you in advance for your leadership on this issue. Our organizations will stand behind you on this effort and welcome your efforts to fight climate change.

Sincerely,

Aspen Skiing Company
eBay Inc.
Jones Lang LaSalle
Levi Strauss & Co.
Nike, Inc.
Pentair
PepsiCo, Inc.
Seventh Generation
Starbucks Coffee Company
Swiss Re
Symantec

Timberland

Text of Military Official Letter

Dear Secretary Clinton,

We write to urge your support of programs and financing by the United States to enhance climate preparedness in developing countries in order to address the serious security implications for the United States from the impacts of climate change.

The 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) warns that the effects of climate change such as droughts, floods, disease among others could further weaken fragile governments around the world. The QDR also states that increasingly severe weather events can spark or exacerbate mass migration, poverty, and conflict. Without forceful and decisive action, conflicts are likely to erupt as competition over dwindling resources heightens – potentially resulting in political unrest where terrorists can flourish.

The Department of Defense review is among a number of that addressing the effects of climate change on vulnerable countries is in US national security interests. In 2007, 11 retired three and four-star generals for CNA Corporation released a report stating that climate change acts as a “threat multiplier for instability in some of the most volatile regions of the world,” and concluded that “the increasing risks from climate change should be addressed now because they will almost certainly get worse if we delay.” A similar assessment of climate-related impacts to the stability of governments, conflict (particularly around water scarcity), and increased migration was highlighted in the National Intelligence Assessment study in 2008.

More recently, an August 2010 report on Pakistan by the Congressional Research Service cited various ways climate change threatens security including the “creation of conditions that foment extremists or terrorists”. Indeed, recent news reports have indicated that insurgent groups are exploiting the floods in Pakistan by recruiting flood victims into their insurgency.

From the devastating floods in Pakistan, to droughts and other disasters in Afghanistan, Somalia, Darfur, and Yemen, predictions of climate-related disasters will continue to play out. Fragile states further weakened by the effects of climate change will create safe havens for those who seek to harm us and will inevitably result in stretching our military and humanitarian resources unless we proactively build climate resilience in vulnerable nations.

Providing financing for international climate preparedness and adaptation programs is a vital component of reducing global security threats. Building climate preparedness in the most vulnerable nations around the globe is among the most effective ways to promote US national and international security from climate-related disasters. Taking this action will also save our country significant resources and assets.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with you on this important effort.

Sincerely,

General Joe Ballard

General George Buskirk
General John Castellaw
General Michael Dunn
General Donald Edwards
General Pat Foote
General Keith Kerr
General Don Kerrick
General Paul Monroe
General John Douglass
General Norman Seip
General Ted Vander Els
General Roger Blunt
Admiral Alan Steinman
Admiral Don Arthur
Admiral Stuart Platt

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Oxfam is a confederation of independent organizations from 14 countries around the world. It works to help others to tackle poverty.

Oxfam is a member of the tcktcktck campaign - a global coalition environments and development organizations, faith and youth groups and unions that is calling for a fair, ambitious and binding climate agreement.