

**NEED FOR LEADERSHIP BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR
ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE by REDUCING EMISSIONS
and
SAFEGUARDING OUR COMMON FUTURE**

Address by ALAIN BELDA,
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to

UNITED NATIONS HIGH LEVEL EVENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

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Mr Secretary General
President of the General Assembly
Your Excellencies
Distinguished Delegates and Guests

Alcoa is honoured to be a participant this important forum for the future of our planet.

We believe climate change is a critical global issue which requires leadership and immediate action from every sector of society.

In the US, Alcoa is a founding member of the United States Climate Action Partnership and the Global Roundtable on Climate Change. USCAP's shared goal is to slow, stop, and reverse growth of greenhouse gas emissions over the shortest period of time reasonably achievable.

USCAP believes that legislative action and leadership on climate change is urgently needed by the United States.

In Brazil, Alcoa has joined the Climate Action Defense Compact, an agreement to work towards limiting and stopping global warming caused by greenhouse gases.

As a leader in global business, Alcoa accepts responsibility in that leadership to be the force for change.

We are convinced that a global plan of action on climate change can be built in ways that create more economic opportunities than risks.

And we are taking action to address climate change and energy efficiency wherever we operate and to inspire others to join us.

But no one business or government can do this alone.

Governments everywhere, need to align climate change and energy policies, to provide the tools to achieve necessary emission reductions,.... to limit global GHG emissions, address energy security and.... meet the challenges of adaptation.

This is critical to providing clear direction and policy certainty globally.

The framework should provide flexibility for business to achieve efficient lowest cost reductions immediately and promote investment in development and application of necessary breakthrough technologies.

It should include measures and incentives to reduce emissions from land use change and deforestation.

We need to change the way we produce and use energy and much other economic activity and infrastructure across the globe.

We need to accelerate deployment of low- and zero-carbon technologies.

Innovation and new technologies have been growth drivers in the global economy in the past.

They will be the keys to driving sustainable growth in the future.

Growth in China and the developing world is providing the engine for the global economy- and the opportunity to build new urban, transportation and energy infrastructure which meets the challenge of climate change.

For our part, Alcoa is committed to our industry and our products being part of the solution to climate change.

Alcoa has reduced its direct greenhouse gas emissions by 25% since 1990. We achieved this ambitious goal in 2003, seven years before our 2010 target date, and we have maintained the lower emissions level ever since.

We do this by driving change in our energy use, striving for efficiency, innovation for cleaner processes, greater recycling and new technology.

We can and must do better and we will.

We are investing and have for the last 5 years, serious money in developing new smelting technology that would eliminate all consumable carbon anodes and related carbon dioxide emissions, as well as all PFC emissions. This would result in total elimination of carbon emission in the production of aluminium.

We are committed to decreasing the company's reliance on fossil fuels by increasing the use of natural, renewable energy sources that help lower carbon dioxide emissions.

Aluminium is endlessly recyclable and ...recycling is a central priority for Alcoa

Using recycled metal saves 95% of the energy it takes to manufacture new metal. Almost three quarters of all the aluminium produced in the past 100-plus years is still in use today.

The greatest impact through greater use of our key product is in transportation.

The typical aluminium auto part is 40-50% lighter than a comparable steel part. Every 10% reduction in a car's weight can result in a 7% reduction in the vehicle's GHG emissions.

Expanding use of aluminium in transport would be good for the environment, energy independence, communities, and business.

Add to these green buildings, more efficient energy transmission, better product packaging, better food protection and we can be a solution to the problem.

The result is that the entire aluminium industry has the potential to be greenhouse gas neutral by the year 2020 through increased aluminium in the transportation sector and capture of the weight savings to make lighter more fuel efficient vehicles. This without the significant benefits of a technological breakthrough.

This represents a significant agenda for Alcoa and business in general into the future.

In closing, least you think this is an advertisement about aluminium applications.

I believe there are as many opportunities as there are risks for our industry and our company in the propositions we have espoused.

I and we are completely convinced that we have to act and mitigate human made impact on climate and we have to do it NOW.

But for as much as we make our own efforts and seek and propose solutions, no one sector can successfully deal with them alone. Positive results will only come from a coordinated, world effort, to define clear global rules of engagement.

I challenge every one-governments, business, communities, NGOs, and civic leaders to collaborate for the purpose of making a difference in the sustainability of our shared future.

In our experience and as is demonstrated by our dialogue today- for complex global sustainability issues like climate change finding solutions requires systemic change and clear direction and leadership from all sectors of society.

It requires cooperation around the world by governments, business, NGOs and researchers to develop and promote market solutions for the widest and most rapid deployment.

Yes there are risks and there are opportunities, there are political issues, there are economic ones and there are questions as to who did what first and whose responsibility it is to start, and as to who pays.

It requires rich countries to lead the way but it does not exempt developing economies from acting in the long term best interest of everyone and of their own population.

We need courageous, ambitious and aggressive global policies that force the search for solutions, immediate ones and long term ones. That deal with root cause issues.

If you give us that, we can succeed in making ourselves part of the solution – making sustainability a reality in business and society. And.... we can do it at the best speed in the most economical and efficient way for society.

I know that reaching the challenge ahead of us calls for significant change and won't be easy.

This is the time for courageous, ambitious and aggressive global policies that require solutions to the problem of climate change.

We do not need incremental policies that deal with consequences and we can't do what private enterprise does best without clear, enforced, global policies and regulations.

Global businesses like Alcoa, want to see development by the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change of a flexible, multilateral framework which recognizes the diversity among major economies and... which establishes fair, effective, and binding international commitments for all major emitting countries.

I believe there is no other option andFailing to act presents an unacceptable level of risk.

As an industry leader, we at Alcoa accept the responsibility to act and look to joining with all of you in what must be a shared global effort.

Thank you