

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**U.S. Business Coalition Delivers Distinguished Leadership Awards to Christiana Figueres,
Jukka Uosukainen and Jonathan Pershing at COP 23**

Bonn, Germany – At the 23rd Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE) recognized the exemplary leadership of three individuals for their global service to the UNFCCC and constructive partnership with clean energy industries.

“In honor of the Business Council for Sustainable Energy’s 25th anniversary, our coalition wanted to recognize the leadership of three distinct individuals who have impacted the course of global action on climate change and clean energy. We are inspired by their public service and look forward to working with them to help countries meet the goals of the Paris Agreement,” commented BCSE president Lisa Jacobson.

During COP 23, the three BCSE Distinguished Leadership Awards were presented to:

- Ms. Christiana Figueres, Convener, Mission 2020, and former UNFCCC Executive Secretary
- Mr. Jukka Uosukainen, Director, Climate Technology Center & Network, and former Special Envoy for Climate Change for Finland
- Dr. Jonathan Pershing, Program Director of Environment at the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and Former Special Envoy for Climate Change, U.S. Department of State

Ms. Christiana Figueres, Convener, Mission 2020, and former UNFCCC Executive Secretary:

“The leadership of the Business Council for Sustainable Energy at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change has helped power historic transformation of the energy sector, which is shifting exponentially toward renewables. This unstoppable momentum is essential because the challenge before us all is to bend the curve of emissions by 2020. Thank you to the Council and to its members for their recognition.”

Mission 2020 is a global initiative aiming to accelerate action on climate change so we can reach a turning point on GHG emissions by 2020. The evidence that a 2020 climate turning point is within our grasp is growing every day. While GDP has grown in developing countries, global CO₂ emissions have remained flat for three years, thanks to profound worldwide changes in energy systems based on slashing energy waste, and the exponential growth in clean energy. For more information, please visit <http://www.mission2020.global> and read [2020: The Climate Turning Point](#).

Mr. Jukka Uosukainen, Director, Climate Technology Center & Network, and former Special Envoy for Climate Change for Finland:

“There are already thousands of climate technologies available. The key challenge is getting them deployed in developing countries where they are most needed. The Climate Technology Centre and Network strives to mobilize global expertise to deliver the right solutions, knowledge, and financing, to achieve our common goals under the Paris Agreement. The private sector plays a critical role in this process. I would like to thank the Business Council for Sustainable Energy for their partnership in ensuring access to innovative, reliable and clean energy solutions.”

The Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) connects developing countries with technology experts and financiers from around the world, identifying the best matches and then facilitating capacity building and technology transfer. As the implementing arm of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Technology Mechanism, the CTCN is hosted and managed by the UN Environment and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and supported by 400 network partners around the world. Almost 200 technology transfers are underway in more than 70 countries for sectors ranging from agriculture and energy to industry and transportation. More than 33% of all incoming mitigation-related requests to CTCN focus on energy efficiency, 30% - on renewable energy. For more information, please visit www.ctc-n.org.

Dr. Jonathan Pershing, Program Director of Environment at the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and Former Special Envoy for Climate Change, U.S. Department of State:

“The Business Council for Sustainable Energy was one of the first business organizations to view climate change as an opportunity and not as a threat. Since its founding the BCSE has helped drive a solutions-oriented agenda. It has made an enormous contribution to a critical and fundamental shift by focusing on economic growth and opportunity, which has helped compel so many of the robust actions now being taken by cities, states, and businesses. As we continue to move forward, we must adopt an increasingly longer-term perspective and take the steps that may be politically difficult today but will be essential if we are to successfully shift our global trajectory towards deep decarbonization, and combat climate change.”

The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation's Environment Program makes grants to protect people and places threatened by a warming planet by addressing climate change globally, expanding clean energy, and conserving the North American West. For more information, please visit: <https://www.hewlett.org/programs/environment/>.

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The Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE) is a coalition of companies and trade associations from the energy efficiency, natural gas and renewable energy sectors, and also includes independent electric power producers, investor-owned utilities, public power and commercial end-users. Established in 1992, the Council advocates for policies that expand the use of commercially-available clean energy technologies, products and services. For more information on the Council, please visit: www.bcse.org and download [Sustainable Energy in America Factbook](#) 2017 edition for the latest industry information.