Dear Business Leaders,

Climate change is undoubtedly the defining issue of our time — and we are at a pivotal moment. The world today is facing unprecedented, interconnected environmental challenges. If we do not urgently change course, we risk missing our chance to avoid runaway climate change, with disastrous consequences for people and all the natural systems that sustain us.

However, there is still time to get the world back on track. We have the innovation, tools and expertise to make this happen — what we need now is leadership. We are at a critical juncture, where climate change is moving faster than we are every day, and as the recent report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) shows every half degree makes a world of difference.

We know that our ambition and actions need to be bolder if we are to stand any chance of winning this race. That is why we are calling on you to **step up and commit your business to set science-based targets** aligned with limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

The business benefits of science-based climate action are clear. Leading companies are already proving that a 1.5°C-compliant business model is possible, and there is evidence that these companies will be best-placed to thrive as the global economy undergoes a just transition to a net-zero future by 2050.

We are inviting those visionary leaders who commit their companies to a 1.5°C target to be recognized in the lead up to COP 26 — emphasizing the implementable, scalable and replicable business solutions that will support a genuinely systemic transformation.

As a Chinese proverb says: “A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.” This is the moment for true leaders to take this bold step which can inspire others to follow.

Sincerely,

H.E. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés
President of the 73rd Session of the General Assembly
United Nations

Ambassador Luis Alfonso de Alba
UN Special Envoy for the 2019 Climate Action Summit

Lise Kingo
CEO & Executive Director
UN Global Compact

Achim Steiner
Administrator
UN Development Programme
John Denton  
Secretary General  
International Chamber of Commerce

Paul Polman  
Co-Founder & Chair of Imagine SDG Advocate

Professor Klaus Schwab  
Executive Chairman  
World Economic Forum

Anand Mahindra  
Chairman  
Mahindra Group

Tomasz Chruszczow  
High Level Champion for COP 24  
Climate Champion through the Marrakech Partnership

Gonzalo Muñoz  
High Level Champion for COP 25  
Climate Champion through the Marrakech Partnership

Andrew Higham  
Chief Executive Officer  
Mission 2020

Aron Cramer  
President & CEO  
Business for Social Responsibility

Fiona Reynolds  
Chief Executive Officer  
Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI)

Halla Tómasdóttir  
Chief Executive Officer  
The B Team

Helen Clarkson  
Chief Executive Officer  
The Climate Group

Hugh Evans  
President & CEO  
Global Citizen