ICC COP17 closing statement

Yerevan, Armenia – 30 October 2026

International Chamber of Commerce on behalf of Business and Industry

Thank you Mr. President.

I am speaking for the International Chamber of Commerce, on behalf of the Business and Industry group.

We wish to thank the government and people of the Republic of Armenia for being such excellent hosts, and the COP17 Presidency for its leadership in successfully concluding this Conference, with the support of all the Parties. We also thank the secretariat for its hard work and support in preparing these meetings.

The Nature Finance gap was a recurrent theme at COP17

We need to strengthen conditions to scale public and private investment in conservation, restoration and sustainable use by de-risking nature investments, strengthening market integrity and aligning incentives with measurable nature-positive outcomes.

We also need to accelerate reform of harmful incentives under Target 18 while scaling positive incentives.

It is equally critical to address regulatory barriers, including aspects of prudential and capital rules that constrain private investment.

This first Global Review of Implementation Progress has also made it clear that we are falling behind on implementation.

We call on governments to act on the gaps that were identified through the Review, and to provide the guidance needed for a whole-of-society effort. An effort that includes not only governments but also IP&LCs, women and youth, and business.

The businesses that we represent are clear on what is needed:

- Coherent national biodiversity strategies;
- Approaches to measurement, transparency and implementation that build trust, reduce fragmentation and broaden participation; and

- Implementation plans that integrate the private sector from the outset, and provide practical guidance and clarity on nature metrics, disclosures, nature-positive supply chains and innovation.

Finally, we sincerely thank the Parties and the Presidency for succeeding in reaching an agreement on digital sequence information that will allow this work to go forward.

We will continue to work with Parties, rightsholders and stakeholders to enable broader business participation in the Cali Fund, by ensuring that the multilateral benefit sharing mechanism is workable and clear, supports research and innovation that contribute to environmental and societal goals, and provides legal certainty, more proportional paths for contribution, transparent and accountable governance, and effective impact on biodiversity outcomes.

Business is mobilising for a nature-positive future. Ahead of COP18, we must deliver practical outcomes that build confidence, spur action and accelerate progress towards halting and reversing nature loss through collective effort and partnership.

Thank you.

About the International Chamber of Commerce

The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) is the institutional representative of more than 45 million companies in over 170 countries. ICC's core mission is to make business work for everyone, every day, everywhere. Through a unique mix of advocacy, solutions and standard setting, we promote international trade, responsible business conduct and a global approach to regulation, in addition to providing market-leading dispute resolution services. Our members include many of the world's leading companies, SMEs, business associations and local chambers of commerce.

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