

2021 HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2021, the ICC Global Environment & Energy Commission successfully contributed to international climate policymaking and the international debate on the development of coherent policy frameworks, solutions and tools to enable and scale enhanced climate ambition and action – in particular by small business actors – and facilitate the transition to a net-zero emissions economy by 2050.

Making Climate Action Everyone's Business

International Carbon Markets

Article 6 Business Campaign



(Article 6 Negotiators celebrated the end of their six-year journey Photo: UNFCCC)

ICC developed a major global campaign, including the full ICC network in 130 jurisdictions to set out the “business case” for a successful agreement and implementation of Article 6 the Paris Agreement enabling cross-border emissions trading. The campaign was credited by several government delegations in Glasgow as having played an important role in finally getting those negotiations over the line.

ICC Carbon Pricing Principles



Carbon pricing is seen as an important instrument to help reduce emissions and will play a key role in achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement. A new inter-commission technical working group, under the auspices of the Global Environment & Energy/Taxation Commissions, explored company experience under the 60 existing national carbon pricing regimes and established [10 clear best practice principles](#) for their design and implementation. The paper makes a clear and powerful case for how harmonisation of national carbon pricing regimes around a common set of best practices can help drive more ambitious climate action without imposing unnecessary costs on the real economy. [Watch the launch event here.](#)

(Photo: ICC)

Sustainable Tourism



(Photo: ICC)

ICC Secretary General John Denton joined the Minister of Tourism from Saudi Arabia and other key stakeholders at COP26 to launch a major new global center of excellence for sustainable tourism. This partnership will provide a platform to accelerate the roll out of [ICC SME 360X](#) – a new sustainability measurement tool specifically designed for MSMEs – to small operators in the sector.

SME Climate Action



ICC played a key role in enabling and supporting business — particularly SMEs — to become more sustainable and launched the [ICC SME 360X](#) at an event during UN General Assembly week with free beta trials available to any SME that wishes to start measuring its sustainability profile. A certification programme will be explored for SMEs that are committed to enhancing their ESG performance. Also, at the request of G20 governments, ICC developed a report on SME climate and sustainability reporting.

(Photo: ICC)

ICC Framework on Environmental Marketing Communications



The past few years have seen a renewed interest in environmental marketing, particularly in the context of growing momentum on climate action globally, including collective efforts by governments and businesses to mitigate the threats of climate change and promote sustainable consumption. Recent years have seen a proliferation of environmental marketing claims, many of which are vague, non-specific or general in nature. A joint working group, including members from the Global

Marketing & Advertising/Environment & Energy Commissions, finalised work on updating the ICC Environmental Framework to address new emerging climate-related, circularity, recyclable content, degradability and additional “free-of” claims.

The [ICC Framework for Environmental Marketing Communications](#), released in December 2021, provides a helpful approach for advertising industry stakeholders to use in developing and analysing environmental claims and assuring that ‘self-declared’ environmental claims are truthful and are appropriately substantiated to avoid misleading consumers.

(Photo: ICC)

Making Trade Work for People and Planet Sustainable Trade Finance Taxonomy



ICC set out on a new initiative to develop the first-ever industry taxonomy to define what constitutes a sustainable trade finance transaction — filling a major gap in existing practice within the financial sector. A beta version of the [Standards for Sustainable Trade & Sustainable Trade Finance positioning paper](#) was launched at COP26. This is an area where ICC is uniquely placed to shape both the global debate and industry practices and set the stage for a major consultation exercise with the ICC network to develop the initial framework into a tool that is both robust and workable from an industry perspective.

ICC received widespread media coverage for our engagement and substantive interventions on carbon pricing and sustainable trade — including in the [Financial Times](#), [BBC](#) and [Reuters](#). [Watch the launch event here](#).

(Photo: ICC)

Circular Economy Report



At the launch of the WTO multi-stakeholder structured discussions on trade and environmental sustainability (TESSD) in November 2020, ICC Secretary General announced an ICC-commissioned study, in partnership with the Institute for International Trade (University of Adelaide), on international trade and the circular economy.

The major study — [The Circular Economy and International Trade: Options for the World Trade Organization](#) — was released on 16 December 2021, prior to the launch of three WTO Ministerial Declarations on trade and environmental issues on 15 December — on trade and environmental sustainability, plastics and fossil fuel subsidies. It will be formally introduced to the WTO TESSD members in early 2022. Further information on the study is available [here](#).

(Photo: ICC)

Key dates for 2022



13 – 29 March	UN Convention on Biological Diversity Preparatory Meetings (SBSTTA 24, SBI 3 and OEWG-3)	Geneva, Switzerland
25 April – 8 May	UN Convention on Biological Diversity COP15, Part 2	Kunming, China
6 – 16 June	UNFCCC Intersessional Meeting	Bonn, Germany
13 – 20 September	UN General Assembly	New York, USA
7 – 18 November	COP27	Sharm, El-Sheikh, Egypt

Bi-Annual Environment & Energy Commission Meeting

Details regarding the next meeting of the Global Environment & Energy Commission will be shared in due course.

Don't miss a thing

To stay informed and engaged on all exciting news and updates during 2022, we invite you to follow us on social media: [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Facebook](#) and visit the [ICC website](#).

ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (ICC)

The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) is the institutional representative of more than 45 million companies in over 100 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.