

MEDIA RELEASE

Making transformation happen: Cement sector growing together through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

New Delhi, 27 September 2017 - Today, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)'s [Cement Sustainability Initiative \(CSI\)](#) held its 11th Annual forum in New Delhi, India, celebrating how, through sharing knowledge and experience, the private sector can capture and build on the opportunities offered by the SDGs and understand the risks of inaction.

The annual CSI Forum is the most important sustainability event for the cement industry. Organized in a different location every year over the past decade, for the CSI Forum allows its members to interact with partners and key stakeholders and also gives voice to local and regional participants. This year's Forum was hosted by two of the leading Indian CSI members: **Dalmia Bharat Cement** and **UltraTech Cement**, in partnership with other Indian and global CSI members and the Cement Manufacturers' Association (CMA) of India.

This year's theme focused on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with an emphasis on areas that are most relevant and critical for the cement and concrete sectors. Since the adoption of the SDGs in September 2015 by 193 UN Member States, a multitude of public and private stakeholders have been harnessing their collective strength to accelerate and scale-up their sustainability agenda through the lens of these ambitious 17 Goals and 169 associated targets. The SDGs constitute a bold plan to address socio-economic, environment and societal challenges of our time.

The scale and ambition of the 2030 development agenda creates further opportunities for the private sector to demonstrate the central role it plays in sustainable development and to serve as an essential partner to bridging the gap in financial and technological capacity necessary to meet the challenges of achieving the SDGs.

Through open and constructive debates, the Forum examined and evaluated the new framework set up by the SDGs to tackle the sustainability challenges that businesses and societies must face together. On the basis of a risk and opportunity assessment, the Forum also explored areas where the cement and concrete industry could take leading steps to engage with the SDGs. Together, over 100 participants from more than 30 countries, representing cement companies, trade associations, UN agencies, NGOs, financial institutions and multilateral bodies, considered opportunities for collective action by CSI members and for partnerships. The Forum confirmed the need for a collaborative approach to better understand how businesses can enhance their engagement to scale up solutions for a more sustainable world and business environment, in India and worldwide.

Mr. Philippe Fonta, Managing Director, WBCSD, commented *“The SDGs provide a structured framework to further enhance the good work that has already been done by the cement sector, mainly through the CSI collaborative approach. CSI members are leading the way in sustainability by seizing the opportunities that collaboration creates. The priorities of the CSI remain in the two key areas of ‘Climate & Energy’ and in ‘Safety & Health’, making SDG3 and SDG13 the most relevant ones for our initiative. However, all 17 SDGs are addressed in some way, both by the sector and right across the value chain, and the development of an SDG Framework will help to coordinate the effort, which we strongly endorse at this Forum. “*

Mr. KK Maheshwari, Managing Director, UltraTech Cement, spoke about the interface of the Indian cement industry with the SDGs *“The cement industry in India constitutes one of the core sectors and plays a vital role in the growth and development of the nation. In the last three years alone, the industry has created new production capacity of 52 million tons thus catalyzing development and employment in rural India where the cement plants are primarily located. The Indian cement industry is driving thought and practice leadership in the sustainability space. It is imperative for us as an industry to accelerate the implementation of our sustainability commitments to contribute in a meaningful manner to the SDGs.”*

Mr. Mahendra Singhi, Group CEO (Cement), Dalmia Bharat Cement, speaking about the way ahead for the cement sector *“The Sustainable Development Goals mirror an image of a happy, healthy, safe, auspicious and peaceful world envisioned in our sacred books as back as 2,000 BC. Realization of this ambitious vision is no longer limited to public and private sector. The scale of implementation and the limited timeframe necessitates every Individual to become a change agent of 2030 development agenda for creating a better world.”*

Ms. Aparna Dutt Sharma, Secretary General, CMA, stated that *“The globally energy efficient Indian cement industry is geared to move ahead to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals. CMA is happy to partner with the World Business Council for Sustainable Development to bring the first annual meet of the Cement Sustainability Initiative to India.”*

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About the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)

WBCSD is a global, CEO-led organization of over 200 leading businesses working together to accelerate the transition to a sustainable world. We help make our member companies more successful and sustainable by focusing on the maximum positive impact for shareholders, the environment and societies.

Our member companies come from all business sectors and all major economies, representing a combined revenue of more than \$8.5 trillion and 19 million employees. Our global network of almost 70 national business councils gives our members unparalleled reach across the globe. WBCSD is uniquely positioned to work with member companies along and across value chains to deliver impactful business solutions to the most challenging sustainability issues.

Together, we are the leading voice of business for sustainability: united by our vision of a world where more than nine billion people are all living well and within the boundaries of our planet, by 2050. www.wbcscd.org

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About the Cement Sustainability Initiative (CSI)

The Cement Sustainability Initiative is a global effort by 24 leading cement producers, with operations in more than 100 countries. Range in size from very large multinationals to smaller local producers, these companies collectively account for around 30% of the world's cement production and more than 60% in India. All CSI members have integrated sustainable development into their business strategies and operations, as they seek strong financial performance with an equally strong commitment to social and environmental responsibility. The CSI is an initiative of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD). www.wbcscdcement.org

About Dalmia Bharat Cement

A pioneer in cement manufacturing since 1939, Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited is among the top four cement manufacturing companies in India with a capacity of 25 million tons per annum.

The Company is headquartered at New Delhi with cement manufacturing plants spread across India: In the South at Dalmiapuram and Ariyalur (Tamil Nadu), Kadapa (Andhra Pradesh); in the West at Belgaum (Karnataka). The Eastern presence is at Bokaro (Jharkhand), Rajgangpur and Kapilas (Odisha) and Midnapore (West Bengal). North East presence with plants Lanka and Umrangshu (Assam) and Lumshong

(Meghalaya). The Group is a multi- spectrum cement player with a market leadership position and pioneer in super specialty cements used for oil wells, railway sleepers and air strips. Dalmia Bharat is the largest producer of Portland Slag Cement (PSC) in India. The company is recognized as the lowest carbon footprint cement producer globally and working towards making its all cement plants water positive.

www.dalmiacement.com

About UltraTech Cement

UltraTech Cement Limited, an Aditya Birla Group company, is among the leading producers of cement in the world and the largest in India with an annual capacity of 93 million tons per annum (MTPA) of grey cement. With over USD 4.2 billion in revenues and more than 14,000 employees, UltraTech has 18 integrated units, 21 grinding units and six bulk terminals in India. Overseas, UltraTech has two grinding units and one clinkerisation plant in United Arab Emirates, one grinding unit each in Bahrain and Bangladesh, and a bulk terminal in Sri Lanka.

UltraTech is also the largest producer of white cement, wall care putty and ready-mix concrete in India. UltraTech offers solutions for the construction industry with its presence in building products including dry mix mortar, concrete blocks and water proofing. A consumer validated Superbrand, UltraTech stands for premium quality, reliability, green technology and innovation, making it the choice of every discerning engineer and customer. www.ultratechcement.com

About the Cement Manufacturers' Association (CMA)

The Cement Manufacturers' Association (CMA) is the apex representative body of large cement manufacturers in India. The Association was established in 1961 and is a registered body under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860. CMA is a unique platform as it represents both the private and the public sector cement companies.

CMA's activities are focused on policy advocacy and government outreach with the objective of providing members a consolidated voice on environmental, logistics, taxation, alternate fuels, sustainability, innovation, waste consumption, etc., as well as representing the Indian Cement Industry at national and international forums. The association has regularly been highlighting issues pertinent to Industry, both at the Central and state government level. www.cmaindia.org

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