PAUL POLMAN – CHAIR, INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE B TEAM

Paul Polman is Chair of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), The B Team and Vice-Chair of the U.N. Global Compact.

A leading proponent that business can – and should – be a force for good, he was described recently by The Financial Times as "A standout CEO of the past decade", whose role in helping to redefine the relationship between business and society has been "path-breaking".

As CEO of Unilever (2009-2018), he demonstrated that a long-term, multi-stakeholder model – captured in the Unilever Sustainable Living Plan – goes hand-in-hand with good financial performance. During his tenure, Unilever was one of the best-performing companies in its sector, delivering ten years of consistent top and bottom line growth.

In recognition of his commitment to driving transformational change, Paul was appointed to the U.N. Secretary General’s High-level Panel that developed the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He has played a leading role since in highlighting the business case for the 2030 development agenda, including as a founder member of the Business & Sustainable Development Commission. He also remains a U.N.-appointed SDG Advocate.

Paul has been honoured with France’s Chevalier de la Légion d’Honneur, in recognition of his role in the historic 2015 U.N. Climate Change agreement in Paris. In 2018 was named an Honorary Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire (KBE) for services to business. He is also a recipient of the Public Service Star from the Government of Singapore and received the Treaty of Nijmegen medal.