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ACCO & ISSP ANNOUNCE FIRST GLOBAL CONGRESS FOR CLIMATE CHANGE & SUSTAINABILITY PROFESSIONALS

Convening held in Chicago on December 9-12, 2019 to focus on advancing the workforce critical to leading institutional action on climate change and sustainability

April 3, 2019 – Earlier today, the Association of Climate Change Officers (ACCO) and the International Society of Sustainability Professionals (ISSP) announced that they will jointly convene a global congress to advance their respective fields and elevate the recognition of professionals as invaluable to successfully driving institutional progress on climate change and sustainability. The first-of-its-kind Congress will be held in Chicago on December 9-12, 2019.

Organizations are increasingly making ambitious commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, develop resilience plans and support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) unanimously adopted by all 193 members of the United Nations General Assembly in 2015. Effective response to the challenges and opportunities that organizations face across sectors and regions requires substantially increasing the stature, convening authority and resourcing of the professionals who have emerged as key leaders and implementers of these initiatives.

Participants at the Congress will engage in facilitated discussions on standardizing competencies and organizational structures, advancing professional credentialing, and establishing a uniform voice representing the practitioner community. The Congress’ innovative participatory program will be shaped by a planning council of leading practitioners from industry, government agencies and higher education institutions.

“Success in reducing emissions, increasing adaptive capacity and enhancing resilience will require unprecedented operational and policy shifts, and a substantial upgrade to workforce capacity to design for changing conditions impacting our natural, built and social systems,” said Daniel Kreeger, Executive Director of ACCO. “It is critical that climate change and sustainability professionals come together, align efforts and substantially advance the capabilities and recognition of their fields of practice.”

By aligning efforts as the two most prominent international credentialing bodies in the fields of climate change and sustainability, ACCO and ISSP seek to convene practitioners in a substantial stride towards climate action and sustainability.

“Our members lead public, private and not-for-profit institutions to integrate sustainability and climate considerations, yet the occupations themselves are still poorly defined” said Jeff Yorzyk, Board President of ISSP. “In partnering with ACCO, we believe our members and credential holders will be poised for success, and our organizations will be better able to elevate and advocate for the occupations. We must collaborate and challenge one another on the tough questions if we are to evoke true change.”

More information about the Congress is available online at www.ACCOISSP.org. Additional information on the program agenda will be made public later this Summer.
About the Association of Climate Change Officers
The Association of Climate Change Officers (ACCO) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit membership organization for executives and officials worldwide in industry, government, academia and the non-profit community. ACCO’s mission is to define, develop and support the functions, resources and communities necessary for effective organizational leadership in addressing climate-related risks and opportunities. ACCO administers the Certified Climate Change Professional® (CC-P®) and Certified Climate Change Officer® (CC-O®) credentialing programs, as well as the Compact of Colorado Communities and the Maryland Climate Leadership Academy, the nation’s first state-sponsored climate change training institution. For more information about ACCO, please visit http://www.ClimateOfficers.org.

About the International Society of Sustainability Professionals
The International Society of Sustainability Professionals (ISSP) is the world’s leading association for sustainability practitioners. ISSP is a member-driven organization, committed to moving the sustainability profession forward by building strong networks and communities of practice, and defining excellence with internationally-recognized credentials identifying sustainability professionals. Webinars, online courses, regional networking meetings and chapters, an in-depth body of knowledge, special reports, and resource directories are a sampling of the rich content offered to members. Formed in 2007, ISSP boasts members from every region of the world. https://www.sustainabilityprofessionals.org.

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