



**COP21 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

<p><b>Unilever</b></p>	<p>Unilever argues that there is a strong business case for sustainability - it drives growth, mitigates risks, cuts costs and builds trust.</p> <p>In 2014 Unilever's most sustainable brands accounted for half its growth and grew at twice the rate of the rest of the business. Sustainable living products were also more profitable than standard products by 2 gross margin points. Unilever was the 3rd most sought after employer globally in 2014, as listed by LinkedIn and half the company's incoming graduates cite its sustainability credentials as the main reason for joining. Unilever was ranked number one in its sector in the 2015 Dow Jones Sustainability Index.</p> <p><b>We will become carbon positive in our operations by 2030. To do this, we will:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Source 100% of our energy across our operations from renewable sources by 2030</li> <li>• Source all our electricity purchased from the Grid from renewable sources by 2020</li> <li>• Eliminate coal from our energy mix by 2020</li> <li>• And in order to achieve our target of Carbon Positive by 2030, we intend to directly support the generation of more renewable energy than we consume and make the surplus available to the markets and communities in which we operate. [NB Embargo Date - 00:01 27/11/15]</li> </ul>
<p><b>Progress to date</b></p>	<p><b>Reducing our carbon footprint:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CO2 from energy in manufacturing has been reduced by 40% per tonne of production since 2008 - the equivalent of one million tonnes of CO2 per annum.</li> <li>• In absolute terms we have reduced CO2 from energy in manufacturing by 65% since 1995.</li> </ul> <p><b>Making manufacturing and distribution more eco-efficient:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have made cumulative cost avoidance of over €400m through eco-efficiency measures in our factories.</li> <li>• E.g. at the UK Marmite factory we convert waste into methane via an anaerobic digester that provides 30% of the factory's thermal energy needs; waste mayonnaise from Purfleet in the UK is turned into biofuel; Ben and Jerry's uses ice cream waste to create biogas; plastic laminates in Africa are turned into school desks.</li> </ul> <p><b>Eliminating deforestation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Together with others in the industry, Unilever has committed to achieving zero net deforestation associated with four commodities – palm oil, soy, paper and board, and beef – no later than 2020.</li> <li>• 55% of Unilever's agricultural raw materials were sustainably sourced by the end of 2014, exceeding our interim milestone of 50% by 2015.</li> <li>• Unilever is the largest user of physically certified palm oil (310,421 tonnes). 20% of our palm oil comes from physically certified sources (up from 9% last year).</li> <li>• We actively encourage other consumer goods companies on their no deforestation commitments through collaborations like the Consumer Goods Forum and the New York Declaration on Forests. As a result of these efforts, over 90% of globally traded palm oil is now covered by sustainability commitments.</li> </ul> <p><b>Helping consumers use less water, less energy and recycle more:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our compressed deodorants last as long, and perform as well while using only half the gas and 25% less packaging.</li> <li>• Our concentrated laundry liquid now comes in eco packs that can be used to refill existing bottles. They use up to 70% less plastic and reduce greenhouse gas impacts by 50-85% per consumer use.</li> <li>• Our newly developed packaging technology for Dove Body Wash bottles uses 15% less plastic, also saving us €50 million.</li> </ul> <p><b>Helping to lead industry-wide change:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unilever has invited others, including competitors, to adopt its compressed deodorant technology to encourage the whole industry cut its aerosol carbon footprint by 25%.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In June this year we partnered with peer companies, experts and key stakeholders to identify how we can work together to eliminate waste on an unprecedented scale across the globe.</li> </ul>
<b>COP21</b>	<p>With the SDGs recently adopted by the UN, the world's attention has now turned to implementation. Paris is a first test of our ability to make the progress needed to achieve the SDGs - tackling poverty and inequality will be impossible without action to preserve a stable climate.</p> <p>We have been working with the UN, the World Economic Forum, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development and the French government to help mobilise the private sector in the run up to Paris. There are many ways businesses can commit e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setting ambitious science-based carbon reduction targets</li> <li>• Joining the call for net zero emissions by 2050</li> <li>• Setting a price on carbon in their internal operations</li> <li>• Joining RE100 to move to 100% renewable electricity</li> </ul> <p>We also hope that business leaders will add their names to the Paris Pledge for Action, which will be unveiled during the negotiations by French Foreign Minister, Laurent Fabius.</p> <p>Unilever is advocating for a Paris Agreement which amongst other things commits to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The most ambitious long term emissions reduction goal possible (Net Zero by 2050)</li> <li>• National contributions at the highest end of ambition</li> <li>• A mechanism for strengthening national contributions every five years</li> <li>• Further progress on eliminating deforestation</li> <li>• Emphasis on the power of partnerships to deliver growth and emissions reductions together</li> </ul>
<b>Paul Polman</b>	<p>Paul Polman is CEO of Unilever. The company is one of the world's leading suppliers of Food, Home and Personal Care products with sales in over 190 countries and reaching 2 billion consumers a day. Brands include Dove, Ben and Jerry's, Comfort, Surf, Marmite, Magnum, PG Tips and Hellman's.</p> <p>Polman introduced the Unilever Sustainable Living Plan (USLP) to halve the environmental footprint of the manufacture and use of the company's products by 2020. The USLP commits to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decoupling growth from environmental impact.</li> <li>• Helping more than a billion people take action to improve their health and well-being.</li> <li>• Enhancing the livelihoods of millions of people by 2020.</li> </ul> <p>Polman has been CEO since 2009 and has overseen delivery of consistent top and bottom line growth ahead of the market – with underlying sales growth averaging 5% per annum over this time. The turnover of the company is now around EUR 50 billion.</p> <p>He believes that business leaders and governments should be bold in tackling the interlinked challenges of poverty and climate change - there is simply no economic case for <i>not</i> tackling these. He played a key role in shaping the Sustainable Development Goals and will be present in Paris during the COP21 negotiations.</p> <p>For information, he currently holds the following positions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commissioner for the Global Commission on the Economy and Climate.</li> <li>• Chair of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), an alliance of more than 200 businesses worldwide committed to creating a sustainable future.</li> <li>• Member of the B Team, which has called for a net zero greenhouse gas economy by 2050</li> <li>• Sits on the board of the UN Global Compact, the world's largest corporate sustainability initiative, set up by the UN in 2000.</li> <li>• As co-chair of the Global Consumer Goods Forum Sustainability Committee, Paul and Unilever helped lead the work that resulted in the Forum's commitment to net zero deforestation by 2020.</li> <li>• Awarded the UN's environmental accolade - Champions of the Earth Award - for leading the private sector toward sustainability.</li> </ul>