N AUGUST 2021, UN Secretary General António Guterresdescribed the climate projections from the IntergovernmentalPanel on Climate Change (IPCC) report as “a code red forhumanity.” The report was published during a period thatbrought historic, deadly flooding in western Europe and China;uncontrollable fires in the Mediterranean and the westernUnited States; and extreme heat in the Pacific Northwest ofNorth America. The report projected that such disasters willsoon be far more common—and far more severe.Between September and October 2021, right after theIPCC Report was published, Deloitte polled more than 2,000C-suite executives across 21 countries to examine businessleaders’ and companies’ concerns and actions when it comes toclimate change and environmental sustainability. We wanted toknow how CxOs were transforming their businesses to meet themoment.While no one person or entity can tackle climate change alone,business leaders have a platform to support their ownorganizations’ climate transformation efforts, engage theiremployees in meaningful action, advocate for externalorganizations’ taking steps to fight climate change, andcollaborate and innovate on sustainability solutions acrossindustries and disciplines. Moreover, CxOs are well positioned toadvocate for change: Our research found that CxOs appear toshow much higher perception of and concern for climate changethan the general public.\*Climate, indeed, weighs heavily on the minds of the world’sexecutives. The results of our latest survey suggest CxOs’concerns about the planet’s future have increased significantlyover the past eight months—but so has their optimism thatimmediate action can make a difference. They understand thatthe future of our planet depends on business cutting carbonemissions and ingraining more sustainable practices into theiroperations, and many are approaching the challenge with thegravity and urgency it deserves.