



Background: UN Global Compact and Leaders Summit 2013

ABOUT THE UN GLOBAL COMPACT

- 1) The UN Global Compact is the world's largest corporate sustainability movement with 8,000 corporate signatories and 4,000 other stakeholder from 145 countries – representing nearly every industry sector and size, and hailing equally from developed and developing countries. In 2012 alone, 1,425 companies from over 100 countries joined the initiative.
- 2) Each company has committed to embed human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption principles into their operations and publicly report on progress. A total of 4,520 sustainability reports submitted by Global Compact participants in 2012; currently the world's most extensive collection of corporate sustainability communications, with a total of nearly 19,000 reports.
- 3) Launched in 2000, the UN Global Compact works toward the vision of a sustainable and inclusive global economy that delivers lasting benefits to people, communities and markets. A unique public-private initiative, the UN Global Compact is rooted in the UN – under the chairmanship of the UN Secretary-General – but led by the private sector in collaboration with civil society.
- 4) For companies, participation in the UN Global Compact is an avenue for committing to and carrying out responsible corporate practices. It is also an appeal to our shared humanity, and the desire to be part of a larger movement to uphold the common good – linking the enduring, universal values of the United Nations with a comprehensive, practical framework for business action.
- 5) In 2012, 1,712 companies from over 100 countries responded to the Global Compact Implementation Survey, making it the largest annual study conducted on corporate responsibility policies and practices by business globally. The **Global Corporate Sustainability Report 2013** – which provides a “snapshot” of corporate sustainability efforts by business and key findings of the survey – was launched on 5 September ahead of the Leaders Summit.

Global Compact Platforms and Initiatives

A number of issue platforms, sets of principles and global working groups have been developed to spur action by companies and lead the way to new solutions and actions.

- **Caring for Climate** provides a framework for companies to set goals, develop and expand strategies and practices, and publicly disclose emissions. The world's largest voluntary business and climate initiative with nearly 400 companies, Caring for Climate is jointly convened with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- **CEO Water Mandate** provides a framework for the development, implementation and disclosure of water sustainability policies and practices – and has been endorsed by approximately 100 chief executives. A global **Water Action Hub** is currently being piloted to identify and foster country-level actions and partnerships.
- **Women's Empowerment Principles** help the private sector advance gender equality in the workplace, marketplace and community. A collaboration with UN Women, 600 CEOs have signed a statement of support for the principles.
- **Children's Rights and Business Principles** – developed in partnership with UNICEF and Save the Children – call on business to respect and support children's rights throughout their activities and business relationships in the workplace, marketplace, community and environment.



- New platforms include **Business for Peace, Business and Education, and Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security**. A new **Business Partnership Hub** will identify and foster country-level actions and partnerships, with a **Water Action Hub** currently being piloted and others launched at the Leaders Summit, including on Climate and Energy, Social Enterprise, Anti-Corruption and UN-Business Partnerships.
- **Global Working Groups** include the **Human Rights & Labour Working Group, Working Group on the 10th Principle Against Corruption, Advisory Group on Supply Chain Sustainability, and Expert Group on Responsible Business and Investment in High-Risk Areas**.
- **Global Compact LEAD** supports leading Global Compact participants in their efforts to achieve higher levels of corporate sustainability performance.

Deeply connected to the initiative are the **Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI)** – with over 1,200 investors managing assets over US\$ 34 trillion – and the **Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME)** – with over 400 academic institutions from nearly 80 countries. These sister initiatives are bringing mainstream investors and business

Global Compact Local Networks

Companies based in 101 nations have convened to establish self-actualizing Global Compact Local Networks. Local Networks serve an essential role in rooting the UN Global Compact within different national contexts – and their distinct economic, cultural and linguistic needs.

Participation in Local Networks provides companies the opportunity to engage with a variety of stakeholders, including other businesses and representatives from civil society, government, academia, business associations and investors. All UN Global Compact companies are encouraged to participate in their Local Network, and, where relevant, to facilitate engagement by their subsidiaries in networks as well.

Local Networks provide an important base for jump-starting business action and awareness on the ground.

Examples of the types of activities undertaken by Local Networks include:

- Collective action projects;
- Events that raise awareness of corporate sustainability and the UN Global Compact;
- Support with implementation and disclosure, including through workshops, training and study tours;
- Multi-stakeholder policy dialogue;
- Local, regional and global networking opportunities; and
- Recognition of participants working to advance the UN Global Compact principles.

UN GLOBAL COMPACT LEADERS SUMMIT 2013

- 1) Every three years, the UN Global Compact hosts a Leaders Summit to bring together chief executives with leaders from civil society, Government and the United Nations. At the Summit, CEOs renew their commitment to responsible business practices and set the direction for future priorities and actions.
- 2) Chaired by the UN Secretary-General, the **UN Global Compact Leaders Summit** is the premier UN-business event. The 4th UN Global Compact Leaders Summit will take place in New York at the Grand Hyatt on 19-20 September. We expect 1,200 top executives, as well as Heads of State and cabinet level government officials, deans of business schools, NGO leaders and UN heads. To kick off the Summit, a Leaders Dinner will be held the night of 19 September at the Museum of Modern Art.
- 3) With the theme *Architects of a Better World*, the Summit's objective is advance the role of corporate sustainability to be a transformative force in achieving a shared, secure and sustainable future for all. With the Millennium Development Goals 2015 deadline approaching, the Leaders Summit will set the stage for business actions around the post-2015 global development agenda. The goal is to scale up and align current efforts, thereby ensuring that business contributes to global priorities – such as climate change, equality, decent jobs and education – at unprecedented levels.