



What is the UN Global Compact?

The United Nations Global Compact is the world's largest voluntary corporate citizenship initiative -- with over 12,000 businesses participants and other stakeholders from over 150 countries. It is a call to companies everywhere to voluntarily align their operations and strategies with ten universally accepted principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption, and to take actions in support of broader UN goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals. Endorsed by chief executives, the UN Global Compact is a leadership platform for the development, implementation, and disclosure of responsible and sustainable corporate policies and practices.

The Global Compact provides:

- Entry into a network of over 8,000 companies and 80 Local Networks around the world and the ability for business to standardize their sustainable practices across international business units.
- Solutions for companies to make sustainable changes, such as reducing waste and improving resource use, offer cost-cutting solutions for companies, saving millions annually.
- Opportunities to network on a national, regional and global level with like-minded businesses and collaborate on projects.
- Access to tools and resources that will help businesses avoid and/or prevent the rising business cost of unsustainable business.
- A platform for businesses to maintain brand integrity through transparency and sustainable sourcing which are important factors in maintaining brand loyalty and competing in sophisticated market economies.

The Corporate Commitment

Participation in the UN Global Compact is a widely visible commitment to the implementation, disclosure, and promotion of its ten universal principles. A company joining the initiative is expected to:

1. Make the UN Global Compact and its principles an integral part of business strategy, day-to-day operations and organizational culture;
2. Incorporate the UN Global Compact and its principles in the decision-making processes of the highest-level governance body (i.e. Board);
3. Contribute to broad development objectives (including the Sustainable Development Goals) through partnerships;
4. Integrate in its annual report (or in a similar public document, such as a sustainability report) a description of the ways in which it implements the principles and supports broader development objectives (also known as the Communication on Progress); and
5. Advance the UN Global Compact and the case for responsible business practices through advocacy and active outreach to peers, partners, clients, consumers and the public at large.

How to join the UN Global Compact

To join the initiative, a company:

- Prepares a [letter of commitment](#) signed by the Chief Executive (and endorsed by the board where possible) to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, expressing support for the UN Global Compact and its principles.
- Completes an online application form at http://unglobalcompact.org/HowToParticipate/Business_Organization_Information.html



The Ten Principles

The Global Compact's ten principles enjoy universal consensus and are derived from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Labour Organization's Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and the United Nations Convention Against Corruption.

The Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact

The Global Compact asks companies to embrace, support and enact, within their sphere of influence, a set of core values in the areas of human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption:

- **Human Rights**
Principle 1: Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and
Principle 2: make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.
- **Labour Standards**
Principle 3: Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;
Principle 4: the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;
Principle 5: the effective abolition of child labour; and
Principle 6: the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.
- **Environment**
Principle 7: Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;
Principle 8: undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and
Principle 9: encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies
- **Anti-Corruption**
Principle 10: Businesses should work against all forms of corruption, including extortion and bribery.