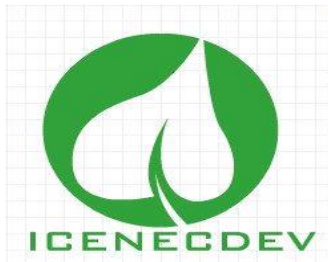


Report of United Nations Global Compact Multi-Stakeholder Sensitisation Meeting

Organised by

**INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
(ICENECDEV)**



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Report of the UN Global Compact Multi-Stakeholders Meeting

THE UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL IMPACT MULTI- STAKEHOLDER SENSITIZATION MEETING AT THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE, BUEA (CUIB) ORGANIZED BY INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (ICENECDEV) ON THE 18th OF SEPTEMBER, 2015.

As presented by ICENECDEV during an overview at the start of the meeting, the United Nations Global Compact is a voluntary initiative that seeks to enhance the universal principles in human right , labour, environment and anti- corruption. This is through active engagement of the corporate community in cooperation with civil society and representatives of organized labour. The goal of this meeting was to create an awareness of the UN Global Compact among CSOs, Companies, Businesses, Cooperatives and trade unions. Forty three (41) participants were present at the meeting: civil Society Organizations, Businesses and representatives of various government services.

This effect as mentioned by ICENECDEV was an observation by UN Global Compact on the inactive nature of organizations in Cameroon and failure to report on the communication of progress/engagement as participants of the United Nations global Compact .It was as a result of this background ICENECDEV organized a multi- stakeholder meeting. The coordinator of ICENECDEV-Fongoh Eric emphasized that such network gives an opportunity for most activities and programs to be visible on the international platform and promote the principles of the United Nations Global Compact. Thus the initiative by ICENECDEV was to encourage Companies,Bussinesses, Cooperatives and CSOs to join the United Nations Global Compact and promote it principles through the implementation of their activities and programmes in different regions in Cameroon.

The coordinator of ICENECDEV mentioned that ICENECDEV is an accredited organisation with United nations Department of Public Information (UNDP) and ICENECDEV also an accredited organization with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

During the meeting , the facilitator,Mr Christian Fonye dwelled on the various thematic areas already mentioned which the UN Global Compact seeks to enhanced ; Human Rights, Environment, Anti Corruption and Labour. The different principles that fall under the thematic areas were all elaborately presented. Participants were made to be aware that, the Global Compact dwells mostly on public – private partnership. major questions for clarification from the meeting were:

- Since this initiative is a public – private partnership endeavor, how can CSOs partner with businesses when CSOs are non – profit? How can the partners work to address urgent challenges?

In response to the above questions, CSOs were informed on their role and responsibility depending on the type of partnership with businesses and companies ,for example,CSOs should be able to present labour standards to the businesses., implementation of the businesses/companies social corporate responsibility and commitment, avoidance of Bussinesses/Companies as accomplices in war or terrorism ,the trade Unions to reduce exploitation and avoid child labour . As indicated, there should be elimination of discrimination in employment and no corruption as spelled out in the ten (10) principles of United Nations

Global Compact . As emphasized, these principles have to be upheld because , ignoring the interest of the next person , can be counterproductive to your own interest

During the presentation on United Nations Global Compact Network, participants agreed on strategies to work with various companies or businesses for better partnership. During the presentation on the UN Global Compact by Magister Felix Forzeh on how civil society organizations can engage with the United Nations Global Compact . The following points were discussed among the participants. These included:

- Sharing and exchanging best practices
- It builds your credibility
- Promote collaboration and networking
- Results to extensive knowledge and like business units and others around the world.
- Give more confidence and also efficiency on how the UN works etc
- Helps to utilize Global Compact Management tools and resources.
- Adds value to your organization

Conclusively, it was agreed at the end of the multi stakeholder meeting for organization to join the United Nations Global Compact obtaining additional information from ICENECDEV Secretariat for the local network.

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

Participants posed questions for clarification of the United Nations global compact Initiative. These included:

Question: The UN Global Compact initiative started in the Littoral Region by GICAM but failed.

What strategies have been put in place to avoid such failure?

ICENECDEV will be working in collaboration with other civil society organizations and companies who are participants of the UN global Compact in Cameroon to establish a network and organize quarterly meetings.

The CSOs and companies through this meeting will be empowered to encourage other organizations and companies on the benefits of joining the United Nations Global Compact.

- It seems the UN Global Compact endeavor is a South West Region affair and others might have theirs. Is there no possibility for conflict among them?

ICENECDEV will be working in collaboration with other civil society organizations and companies who are participants of the UN global Compact in the different region of Cameroon, will incorporate these organizations and companies to better organize and plan the activities of the UN Global Compact in Cameroon.

- We also belong to the United Nations. How then do we address the abuse of human rights especially the issues of homosexuality?

The goal of this meeting is to encourage CSOs and Companies to join the UN Global Compact Initiative in Cameroon. The issue of homosexuality is contextual and is gradually gaining grounds in other parts of the world. Even though in Africa it is in conflict with other cultural norms and values and since the United Nations global compact to extend through its principles supports the human rights, yet the agenda of this initiative is still not apparent to many countries of the world.

Impact:

- More than 43 participants from 33 organisations/Companies, have been educated and sensitized on the principles and benefits of the United Nations Global Compact
- Create a public awareness on United Nations Global Compact in Cameroon.

Lesson Learned:

- The civil society organizations and companies were interested to join the United Nations global compact and mainstream their activities to support the principles of the United Nations global compact.
- A lot of time and effort is taken for the impact of the United Nations Global Compact to reach the entire nation (Cameroon) due to limited material and financial resources.

Recommendation:

- ICENECDEV is requesting for companies, technical expertise at the level of Cameroon and International partners to support United Nations Global Compact in Cameroon to create greater awareness and impact.

Picture Gallery



Presentation by Fongoh Eric-Coordinator of ICENECDEV



Snap shot with Participants after the UN Global Compact meeting



Snap shot with Participants after the UN Global Compact meeting



Presentation by Christian Fonye

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

- 1.** Youth alliance for Democracy and Development (YADD)
- 2.** Social Development International (SOD EIT)
- 3.** Operation Total Impact
- 4.** United Pentecostal Youth MOVEMENT and Development
- 5.** Justice and Peace Commission Catholic Diocese of Buea
- 6.** Rural Women Development Center (RUWDEC)
- 7.** MDDT
- 8.** People Earthwise (PEW)
- 9.** Humanitarian Association of Dynamic Youths(HADY)
- 10.** F4H, RSD
- 11.** Government of Cameroon-Ministry of Social Affairs,South West Region.
- 12.** Bosrta Institute
- 13.** JCI Buea summit
- 14.** Pan African Institute for Development
- 15.** GO Green Students International
- 16.** Agrimat- Plus
- 17.** LUKMEF – CAMEROON
- 18.** Government of Cameroon-Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development South West Region.
- 19.** Journalist The Farmers Voice
- 20.** Reach Out Cameroon
- 21.** Resource Center for Environment and Sustainable Development (RCESD)
- 22.** DRAS S.W
- 23.** DIM
- 24.** Benchmark Educational Service
- 25.** Action for Change Cameroon
- 26.** Inclusive Action Africa
- 27.** Renewed Mind leaders
- 28.** Government High school-Buea Town
- 29.** Human is Right
- 30.** William Initiative for Development (WID)
- 31.** INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (ICENECDEV)
- 32.** The post Newspaper Cameroon
- 33.** Catholic University Institute Buea.