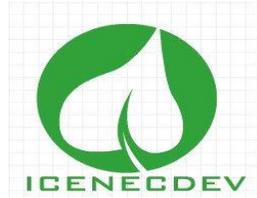


**The International Centre for Environmental Education and Community
Development (ICENECDEV)**



Vision: ICENECDEV, working for a Sustainable Planet.

Mission: Empowering People to Protect the Environment.

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Goal and Objectives of UN Global Compact Multi-stakeholder Sensitisation Meetings:

Goal:

- **To Raise an awareness of the United Nations Global Compact Initiative**

Objectives

- **To promote CSOs, Businesses, Cooperatives, Companies to become active participants of the United Nations Global Compact**
- **To set a local network and platform for dialogue and exchange of information on the United Nations Global Compact.**

Overview of United Nations Global Compact

The United Nations global compact is a voluntary initiative that seeks to advance the universal principles on human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption through active engagement of the corporate community, in cooperation with civil society and representatives of organized labour.

The United Nations Global Compact is a United Nations initiative to encourage businesses worldwide to adopt sustainable and socially responsible policies, and to report on their implementation. The UN Global Compact is a principle-based framework for businesses, stating ten principles in the areas of human rights, labour, the environment and anti-corruption. Under the Global Compact, companies are brought together with UN agencies, labour groups and civil society. Cities can join the Global Compact through the Cities Programme.

The UN Global Compact is the world's largest corporate citizenship initiative with 10000 corporate participants and other stakeholders over 130 countries with two objectives: "Mainstream the ten principles in business activities around the world" and "Catalyse actions in support of broader UN goals, such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The UN Global Compact was announced by then UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in an address to the World Economic Forum on January 31, 1999,^[3] and was officially launched at UN Headquarters in New York on July 26, 2000.

The **Global Compact Office** is supported by seven UN agencies: the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; the United Nations Environment Programme; the International Labour Organization; the United Nations Development Programme; the United Nations Industrial Development Organization; and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

The UN Global Compact is a founding member of the United Nations Sustainable Stock Exchanges (SSE) initiative along with the Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI), the

United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP-FI), and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

The Ten Principles of United Nations Global Compact

The UN Global Compact was initially launched with nine Principles. On June 24, 2004, during the first Global Compact Leaders Summit, Kofi Annan announced the addition of the tenth principle Against corruption in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption adopted in 2003.

Human Rights

Businesses should:

- Principle 1: 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

Businesses should uphold:

- Principle 3: 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 employment and occupation.

Environment

Businesses should:

- Principle 7: support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;
- Principle 8: undertake initiatives to promote environmental responsibility; and
- Principle 9: encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

Anti-Corruption

- Principle 10: Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

United Nations Local Global Compact Networks

Local network are clusters of participants who come together to advance the United Nation Global Compact and its principles within a particular geographic context. They perform increasingly important roles in rooting the Global Compact within different national, cultural and language contexts, and also in helping to manage the organizational consequences of

Global Compact's rapid expansion. Their role is to facilitate the progress of companies (both local firms and subsidiaries of foreign corporations) engage in the Global Compact with respect to implementation of the ten principles, while also creating opportunities for multi-stakeholder engagement and collective action. Furthermore, networks deepen the learning experience of all participants through their own activities and events and promote action in support of border UN goals.

As Local Networks should be business-led, but multi-stakeholder in nature, often the hosting entities are business associations, chambers of commerce, employers federation or alike.

In practical terms, Local Networks are mainly responsible for the following:

- Promoting the ten principles and practices of the Global Compact and broader UN development goals within their county context. This includes, but is not limited to, practice of learning by doing, dialogue, partnership and striving to bring together other stakeholders.
- Hosting at least two activities annually on substantive issues advanced by the Global Compact (at least on thematic area) based on local priorities to which all Network members are invited. The activities can be high level events, roundtable discussions, workshops etc.
- Supporting efforts by participants to develop a communication on progress (COP) or Communication on Engagement (COE).

-Upholding the integrity of the Global Compact initiative in country

Description of activities of Local Networks

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- Supporting efforts by participants to develop a Communication on Progress (COP) or Communication on Engagement (COE).
- Upholding the integrity of the Global Compact initiative in the country.

United Nations Global Cameroon Local Network

Participants of the United Nations Global Compact in Cameroon

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The Corporate Commitment

The Global Compact is a leadership initiative, involving a commitment by a company's Chief Executive Officer (or equivalent), and supported by the highest-level Governance body of the organization (eg, the Board).

Participation in the 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:

- Make the Global Compact and its principles an integral part of business strategy, day-to-day operations and organizational culture;
- Incorporate the Global Compact and its principles in the decision-making processes of the highest-level governance body (i.e. Board);
- Contribute to broad development objectives (including the Millennium Development Goals) through core business activities, advocacy, philanthropy and partnerships
- Communicate publicly (through its annual report or other public document such as a sustainability report) the ways in which it implements the principles and

supports broader development objectives – also known as the Communication on Progress; and

- Advance the Global Compact and the case for responsible business practices through advocacy and active outreach to peers, partners, clients, consumers and the public at large.

Benefits of Participation in UN Global Compact

Participation in the Global Compact offers numerous benefits:

- Adopting an established and globally recognized policy framework for the development, implementation, and disclosure of environmental, social and governance policies and practices.
- A platform to share and exchange best and emerging practices to advance practical solutions and strategies to common challenges.
- The opportunity to advance sustainability solutions in partnership with a range of stakeholders, including UN agencies, governments, civil society, labour, and other non-business interests.
- The opportunity to link business units and subsidiaries across the value chain with Global Compact Local Networks around the world — many of these in developing and emerging markets.
- Access to the UN's extensive knowledge of and experience with sustainability and development issues.
- Utilizing Global Compact management tools and resources, and the opportunity to engage in specialized workstreams in the environmental, social and governance realms.

United Nations Global Compact and Civil Society organisations

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) are an important and integral part of the UN Global Compact and its goal of embedding economies with universal principles and values. Civil society organization contribute much needed perspectives and expertise that can complement those of others participants and stakeholders.

Participating civil society organizations offer their knowledge in shaping special initiatives and workstreams; in the development of tools and research; in assisting business participants in the practical implementing the principles; in furthering partnership projects; and by helping to hold business accountable with respect to their commitment to the UN Global Compact and its ten

principles. Currently almost 400 civil society organizations are involved at some level. In addition, four members of the UN Global Compact Board are representatives of civil society.

How civil Society Organization Can Participate

Global Compact participants pledge to support the ten principles within their organizations and sphere of influence. The following outlines six ways which CSOs can engage and participate.

1. Engage with Global Compact Local Networks

As an initiative, the UN Global Compact has established more than 80 Local Networks throughout the world. These autonomous, business-led networks are designed as multi-stakeholders “chapters” to advance the UN Global Compact at the local level, through the implementation of the ten principles and partnership projects. CSOs are encouraged to contact the focal points of the relevant Local Networks (s) to explore participation. The focal point and their contact information can be found under local Networks.

2. Join and/or Propose partnership Projects on Corporate Sustainability

One of the two goals of the UN Global Compact is to catalyze partnership projects in support of broad development objectives, including the millennium Development Goals. Therefore, CSOs are encouraged to forge partnership projects with business participants and other supporting stakeholders of the UN Global Compact, including UN agencies and programs. Several important guides and partnership resources have been developed in this respect. These can be accessed under partnerships for development. This section also outlines the various types of partnerships and includes important links to the activities of the UN Development Programme and upcoming meetings and events related to topic of partnerships.

3. Engage companies in Global Compact-related issues

In addition, CSOs are encouraged to invite companies within their country Network(s) to join partnership projects (existing/new/proposed), and to offer their organizations as potential partners to business on specific projects.

4. Join and/or Support special initiatives and workstreams

The UN Global Compact has a number of topical initiatives and specialized workstreams that may be of interest to CSOs. These cover a spectrum of issues including: climate change, water, human rights, transparency and anti-corruption, responsible investment, zones conflict, and management education. Opportunities may exist for enhanced civil society

engagement and support. Information on these areas and related contact data can be found under Issues. In some cases, opportunities for greater CSO engagement may depend on the status of a given initiative and its current capacities.

5. Provide commentary to companies on Communication on Progress

As part of their commitment to the UN Global Compact, chief executives officers and their companies pledge to communicate annually on the ways in which they are implementing the ten principles and to provide links to these public disclosures on the UN Global Compact website. CSOs and provide feedback directly to companies in the spirit of continuous improvement. Reviewing these public documents may also give CSOs key information on specific corporate activities and programs where greater CSO involvement may be needed.

6. Participate in Global Compact and Local events

As a registered stakeholder in the UN Global Compact, a supporting CSO will receive regular communication on global, regional and local events. CSOs are encouraged, where possible and feasible to participate in these activities – bringing their unique perspectives, expertise, and capacities.

“Civil society organizations are partners and not competitors”

To join the United Nations Global Compact feel free to contact ICENECDEV secretariat at

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