

How to Participate

As a voluntary initiative, the Global Compact seeks wide participation from a diverse group of businesses and other organizations. To participate in the Global Compact, a company*:

- Sends a letter from the Chief Executive Officer (and, where possible, endorsed by the board) to Secretary-General Kofi Annan expressing support for the Global Compact and its principles (address: United Nations, New York, NY 10017; fax: +1(212) 963-1207);
- Sets in motion changes to business operations so that the Global Compact and its principles become part of strategy, culture and day-to-day operations;
- Is expected to publicly advocate the Global Compact and its principles via communications vehicles such as press releases, speeches, etc.; and
- Is expected to publish in its annual report (or similar corporate report) a description of the ways in which it is supporting the Global Compact and its ten principles. This "Communication on Progress" is an important tool to demonstrate implementation through public accountability.

* *Non-business organisations are asked to visit the Global Compact website (www.unglobalcompact.org) for further information on how to engage with the initiative.*

In terms of the practical ways in which companies pursue the principles, the Global Compact offers engagement opportunities to all participants through the following:

Networks. The Global Compact has established many dozens of country and regional networks around the world. These networks are designed to support the implementation of the Global Compact in a local context through dialogue, learning and projects, and to provide support for quality assurance. Companies and other Global Compact stakeholders are encouraged to take an active role in relevant country networks.

Dialogues. The Global Compact supports action-oriented regional or international meetings, or "policy dialogues", that focus on specific issues related to globalisation and corporate citizenship. Issues addressed include "The Role of the Private Sector in Zones of Conflict"; "Business and Sustainable Development"; "Transparency and Anti-Corruption"; "Business and Human Rights"; and "Finance and Corporate Responsibility".

Learning. Companies are invited to develop and share examples of corporate practices, experiences and lessons learned on the Global Compact website. Local and regional learning events support the sharing of knowledge.

Partnership Projects. The Global Compact encourages participants to engage in partnership projects with UN agencies and civil society organizations in support of global development goals.