



Global Compact Network
Australia

The Global Compact & Your Business



Never before in history has there been a greater alignment between the objectives of the international community and those of the business world.

Common goals, such as building markets, combating corruption, safeguarding the environment and ensuring social inclusion, have resulted in unprecedented partnerships and openness between business, governments, civil society, labour and the United Nations.

The United Nations Global Compact is the largest voluntary corporate citizenship and sustainability initiative in the world with over 7700 corporate participants and stakeholders from over 130 countries including Australia.

Launched in July 2000, the UN Global Compact is both a policy platform and a practical framework for companies that are committed to sustainability and responsible business practices.

The UN Global Compact is not a regulatory instrument, but rather a voluntary initiative that relies on public accountability, transparency and disclosure to complement regulation and to provide a space for innovation.

As a leadership initiative endorsed by chief executives, it seeks to align business operations and strategies everywhere with ten universally accepted principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption.

Through a wide spectrum of specialised work streams, management tools, resources, and topical programmes, the UN Global Compact aims to advance two objectives:

- **Mainstream its 10 principles in business activities around the world**
- **Catalyse actions in support of broader UN goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).**

By doing so, business, as the primary agent driving globalization, can help ensure that markets, commerce, technology and finance advance in ways that benefit economies and societies everywhere and contribute to a more sustainable and inclusive global economy.

“KPMG globally and locally is committed to contributing to our communities in a meaningful and sustainable way. By participating in the Australian network of the UNGC, we aim to maximise the impact of a range of our responsible business initiatives, and demonstrate leadership that will inspire others.”

Geoff Wilson, Chief Executive Officer, KPMG Australia

The 10 Principles of The United Nations Global Compact

Human Rights

- 1: Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and
- 2: make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.

Labour Standards

- 3: Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;
- 4: the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;
- 5: the effective abolition of child labour; and
- 6: the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

Environment

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

Anti-Corruption

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

The Australian Network

Vision:

Australia's strongest corporate citizenship movement committed to the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption.

Mission:

To engage the UN Global Compact signatories in Australia through local events and the fostering of a strong, supportive network of like-minded businesses

The Australian Network was launched in May 2009. With seed funding from the Australian Government through St James Ethics Centre's National Responsible Business Project, the local network gives an Australian voice to the UN Global Compact within our own cultural and business context.

The local network comprises businesses across many sectors. Signatories range from major international companies to some of Australia's most energetic and entrepreneurial SMEs.

The local network provides a leadership platform and a forum for members to learn from each other through joint problem solving and the sharing of knowledge, experience and expertise.

Why you should participate

Through the UN Global Compact, common goals such as building markets, combating corruption, safeguarding the environment and ensuring social inclusion, have resulted in unprecedented partnerships and openness among business, government, civil society, labour and the United Nations.

Transparency, trust, confidence and comparability are emerging as key themes in the new economic and environmental climate. There is also growing evidence that companies most engaged in social and environmental sustainability are also the most profitable.

The Australian Network of the UN Global Compact offers a range of practical benefits for members.

Membership benefits include:

- Leveraging the UN's global reach and convening power with government, business, civil society and other stakeholders;
- Sharing good practices and learnings;
- Accessing the UN's broad knowledge in development, environmental, human rights and labour issues, and developing awareness, understanding and expertise in these areas;

“We are a small business committed to positive social development linked to business success. Being part of the Global Compact, helps us to deliver on our goals within the broader community while building a powerful network for change.”

David Faulks, Managing Director, Generation Alliance

- Improving corporate and brand reputation, management, employee morale and productivity, and operational efficiencies;
- Linkages with the UN's Principles for Responsible Investment (UNPRI), the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and the Principles for Responsible Business Management Education (PRME);
- Opportunities to participate on Network Steering Committee working groups and local events including networking, training and connectivity to regional issues; and
- Resources for SMEs to become signatories to the UNGC with the opportunity to demonstrate leadership by advancing responsible corporate citizenship.

It's not just for big business - the benefits for SMEs

Responsible business practice and corporate social responsibility (CSR) are relevant to all companies, big and small. SMEs are directly impacted through supply chain pressures, changing societal values, the need to attract skilled workers and an ever-increasing regulatory framework.

Regardless of your company's size, the business benefits of responsible business practice include:

Brand management and competitive advantage - including enhanced reputation with customers and market differentiation;

Building goodwill and public trust

- creating access to new markets;

Enhanced social license to operate

- stronger relationships with communities;

Employee satisfaction - improved management performance, productivity and capacity to attract, retain and motivate talented staff;

Risk management - long-term security;

Access to capital - improved relations with the investment community;

Minimised environmental impacts

- leading to cost savings;

Financial performance - stronger financial performance and profitability through greater operational efficiency;

Making your commitment

The UN Global Compact is a leadership initiative, requiring a commitment signed by the company's chief executive, and, where applicable, endorsed by the highest-level governance body of the organization. In the context of this commitment, any company joining the initiative is expected to:

- Make the UN Global Compact and its principles an integral part of business strategy, day-to-day operations, and organisational culture;
- Incorporate the UN Global Compact and its principles in the decision-making processes of the highest-level governance body (i.e. board);

- Engage in partnerships to advance broader development objectives (*such as the Millennium Development Goals*);
- 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
- 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

Step 1: Becoming a signatory to the UN Global Compact

Visit the UN Global Compact website for details and online registration: www.unglobalcompact.org

Step 2: Becoming a member of the Australian Network

Once you have become a signatory you are eligible to join the UN Global Compact Network Australia and access membership benefits and opportunities.

Full contact details are below.

Contact: For more information contact the Australian Secretariat for the UN Global Compact (St James Ethics Centre):

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