



United Nations Global Compact Message from our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

Unilever supports the principles of the UN Global Compact, and welcomes its recognition of the positive contribution that business can make to a more prosperous and sustainable world.

Development and poverty reduction depend on economic prosperity. International trade and investment creates new employment, raises skill levels and generates local economic activity. In short, the very business of 'doing business' extends prosperity and creates new opportunities.

At the same time, companies have a duty to manage all aspects of business in a responsible and sustainable way. We have set out clear principles of corporate behaviour in our Code of Business Principles, which we uphold wherever we operate. We expect our suppliers to uphold Unilever's Supplier Code.

We have ambitious plans to grow our company. But we recognise that growth at any cost is not viable in our increasingly resource-constrained world. We have to develop new ways of doing business which will decouple our growth from our environmental impacts, while at the same time increasing the positive social benefits arising from Unilever's activities. The Unilever Sustainable Living Plan, launched in 2010, is our blueprint for doing this.

The Plan will result in three significant outcomes by 2020. We will help more than a billion people take action to improve their health and well-being; we will halve the environmental impact of the making and use of our products; and we will enhance the livelihoods of thousands of people in our supply chain.

The UN Global Compact is a symbol of leadership in a complex world and of the potential for mutual understanding. It provides a forward-looking forum in which the United Nations, companies and civil society organisations can come together in open and transparent dialogue. It offers the opportunity to define practical ways of working together to create a more prosperous and sustainable world. We are playing our part to contribute to these goals by:

- *Living out the Compact's principles in our everyday business operations**
- *Accepting the Global Compact's invitation to join LEAD to help shape a more sustainable future*
- *Continuing to advocate the Global Compact and its principles in our annual Communication on Progress, on our websites, in our senior executives' speeches and through local networks.*

Michael Treschow
Chairman
May 2011

Paul Polman
Chief Executive Officer

* See our [Global Compact Index](#)