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United Nations Global Compact  
2 United Nations Place  
New York  
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1 June 2012

Dear Sir/Madam

### **UN Global Compact Communication on Progress: Grace Letter**

Unilever is a founder signatory to United Nations Global Compact. We fulfil our commitment to the annual Communication on Progress through our online global sustainability report: <http://www.unilever.com/sustainable-living/>

This year we have increased the extent of our reporting as we are publishing our first progress report on the Unilever Sustainable Living Plan, including assurance of key targets and performance data. We have therefore extended our reporting cycle - and consequently the uploading of information to our website. This is scheduled for completion in July 2012.

Once our website is complete it will include our usual index showing how the principles of the Compact are integrated into our approach to business (for example through our Code of Business Principles and Supplier Code) and also how we are working with others to help achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals. In the interim, overleaf is our statement of support for the Compact from our Chairman and CEO.

In April 2012 we published a printed report detailing the progress we are making against the 60 targets in our Plan - which encompass health and well-being, reducing environmental impact and enhancing livelihoods, as well as targets for employees and workplaces. Our Unilever Sustainable Living Plan: Progress Report 2011 can be found at:

<http://www.unilever.com/sustainable-living/ourapproach/messageceo/>



As our Communication on Progress was due in May 2012, we are submitting this letter in order to request a 'grace period' extension while we complete the detailed update of our website.

Yours faithfully

Rachel Cowburn-Walden  
Global External Affairs Manager – Corporate Responsibility



## 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. In April 2012 we published a report on the progress we have made in the first year of our Plan.\*



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 the Board and 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**

**Paul Polman**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

\*See Unilever Sustainable Living Plan: Progress Report 2011  
<http://www.unilever.com/sustainable-living/ourapproach/messageceo/>

\*See our Global Compact Index (published online in July 2012)