

UN GLOBAL COMPACT ANNUAL COMMUNICATION ON PROGRESS



The 10 principles of the UN Global Compact provide a universal framework for business conduct, which Ericsson strongly endorses.

Ericsson's commitment to the 10 principles of the UN Global Compact guides us in the development of Group practices throughout our sphere of influence. Moreover, through initiatives like Ericsson Response, the Millennium Villages, the Lake Victoria project and Weather Info for All, we mobilize our core business to support the UN in its efforts to alleviate poverty, improve the environment and bridge the digital divide.

Ericsson policies and directives

Respect for human rights and intolerance of corruption are embodied in our values of respect, professionalism and perseverance and in our Code of Business Ethics. The Code of Conduct (CoC) is also designed to protect human rights, promote fair employment and safe working conditions, and maintain high ethical standards. The Environmental Policy details our commitment to the precautionary approach; to promoting greater responsibility; and to developing environmentally sound technologies. The CR component of our Global Assessment Program is now 20 percent, up from 14 percent in 2008. We insist upon the same standards of labor and environmental performance among all suppliers. During 2009, we completed the annual sustainability and CR training for the Ericsson Board of Directors.

Human rights

Ericsson sees access to communication as a basic human right and we actively support the fulfillment of human rights within our sphere of influence. Our first obligation is to avoid complicity in human rights abuse, notably in countries where regulations and ethical standards are not enforced. Ericsson's core technologies can also help improve lives, promote democratic societies and generate economic opportunities.

- Our CEO joined the Advisory Board for the UN Digital Health Initiative
- Our partnership in the Millennium Villages initiative (p.11) supports sub-Saharan Africans' right to health, education and equality
- We completed a socioeconomic impact assessment of mobile communications in Sudan (p.11)
- The S-CoC program has been implemented in all market and business units. About 530 S-CoC audits and 500 on-site assessments were performed (p.26). Web-based CoC training for suppliers was launched in five languages

Fair labor practices

Human resources procedures ban discrimination and ensure equality and diversity in our operations. We encourage union membership and, in countries where workers cannot freely choose membership, work conditions are discussed with local management in a structured format.

- A new health and safety policy was introduced, and we committed to implementing the Occupation Health and Safety Assessment Series (OHSAS) 18001 (p.27)
- Increased focus on HIV/AIDS in Africa through the Swedish workplace HIV/AIDS Programme (SWHAP) (p.27)
- We fund independent research on health and safety issues relating to radio waves and electromagnetic fields (EMF) (p.25)

Environment

- Our Environmental Management System is globally certified to ISO 14001. This ensures our operations are consistently managed with minimal impact on the environment
- We actively promote technologies that help create carbon-lean societies, and our CEO spoke about this on several occasions in advance of COP15
- We achieved our Group-level carbon footprint reduction target (p.15)
- One significant environmental aspect is the energy consumption of our products during operations. We introduced TCO₂ to advise customers to minimize their footprint (p.17)
- We take environmental aspects such as hazardous substances, producer responsibility and efficient use of resources into account in product design, procurement, production and operation (p.16). We updated our Banned and Restricted Substances lists and a new tool for material data collection was developed
- A global internal competition for innovation and sustainability was held and generated more than 3000 ideas by employees from 70 countries.

Anti-corruption

The Ericsson Group Management System, implemented and monitored wherever we do business, ensures integrity and high standards of conduct. A whistle-blower procedure is in place for employees to report violations relating to accounting, internal controls and procedures or fraudulent practices.

- In 2009, 61,000 employees took the e-learning course on anti-corruption.