



NEW YORK DECLARATION BY BUSINESS

We, the business participants of the UN Global Compact Leaders Summit, gather in New York at a critical moment in the history of the global economy. Future advances in global integration, sustainable development, protection of our planet and, ultimately, peace critically depend on the ability to collectively address challenges. The need for responsibility and leadership has never been greater.

We believe that embedding principles and responsibility into the marketplace is an essential part of the solution. Sustainable and inclusive global markets can contribute significantly to a future world where all people live in societies that are prosperous and peaceful. To do so, we must intensify our efforts to build a new era of corporate sustainability – where the UN Global Compact principles are integrated into business everywhere based on both material and ethical rationales.

The opportunity to build a sustainable future has never been greater. The case for responsible action is clear: embedding human rights, labour, environmental and anti-corruption principles into corporate practices benefits both society and business. We recognize that, despite good progress, there is much to be done. Now is the time to build on the advances made in the past decade and bring mass scale to the discipline of corporate responsibility, helping to chart a future where sustainable development, a healthy planet and peaceful cooperation prevail.

Understanding this unique moment in time, we, the business participants of the UN Global Compact Leaders Summit, agree to the following statements and pledges:

1. We recommit to the UN Global Compact, and the call to embed ten universal principles – in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption – into our strategies, operations and culture, as well as to take actions in support of broader United Nations goals and issues, especially the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). We pledge to report on our activities through an annual Communication on Progress.
2. We welcome the Blueprint for Corporate Sustainability Leadership, which challenges and inspires us to achieve higher levels of sustainability performance within the UN Global Compact. The Blueprint sets a bar for leadership, and we will seek to achieve it.
3. We will deepen work to advance the ten principles throughout our organizations, including relevant governance bodies and subsidiaries, and into the supply chain. We welcome related tools and resources introduced or profiled at this Summit and, where appropriate, seek to give them the widest possible implementation:
 - a. We welcome the "Protect, Respect, Remedy" framework of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on business and human rights. Additionally, we commit to advance the Women's Empowerment Principles.
 - b. We will strive to improve workplace conditions in accordance with the ILO core labour standards.
 - c. We embrace the "Environmental Stewardship" framework and its guidance on developing more comprehensive strategies.
 - d. We will strive to implement the "Reporting Guidance on the 10th Principle Against Corruption".
 - e. We will seek to enhance responsible practices in the supply chain and welcome the guide on "Supply Chain Sustainability".
 - f. We welcome "Responsible Business in Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas: Guidance for Companies and Investors" and recognize the potential for business to contribute more substantially to peace and development.

4. We also will strengthen support for critical development goals, particularly the MDGs, through our core business, social investment and advocacy. We will strive to do so both individually and in partnerships with other stakeholders, notably civil society and Governments. In this realm, we welcome the Principles for Social Investment and their guidance on increasing scale and impact of philanthropic contributions.
5. We commit to strengthen engagement through Global Compact Local Networks, and will seek to mobilize local participation by subsidiaries and business units around the world in order to bring scale to responsible business practices globally.
6. We call on more companies to commit to the UN Global Compact – with the goal of reaching 20,000 participants by 2020. We will encourage our customers, suppliers and peers to adopt responsible corporate practices and join the initiative.
7. We commit to increase transparency and dialogue, as well as engagement, with civil society and labour organizations in our work to advance the ten principles and support development goals. More collaboration will be required to find practical solutions to shared objectives.
8. We are committed to making the global economy more sustainable and inclusive through implementation of responsible practices. However, market success and political leadership go hand in hand. We are willing to do our part and we call on Governments to do theirs, specifically:
 - a. We call on Governments to cultivate enabling environments for entrepreneurship and innovation, with effective economic institutions and supportive policy to provide long-term stability and promote transparency.
 - b. We call on Governments to support an open international trading system and discourage discrimination in trade, without which business cannot reach its full potential to create and deliver value.
 - c. We recognize that markets require effective regulation to thrive. Governments are called upon to set clear signals, especially in critical areas such as climate change. Governments are urged to set goals and incentives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, strengthen climate resilience, and support a clean energy pathway globally, and especially in developing countries, that enables development.
 - d. We urge Governments, as a complement to regulation, to encourage private sector engagement in voluntary initiatives that promote universal values, such as the UN Global Compact, and ask Governments to provide support through actions such as raising awareness, developing tools and incentives, and providing funding.
 - e. We believe that achievement of the MDGs is a global priority and are committed to supporting these goals through our business operations, as well as in partnership with Governments. We call on Governments to bring new intensity and scale to promising partnership efforts.
9. We will instil the tenets of corporate responsibility in tomorrow's business leaders, and encourage the work of the UN-backed Principles for Responsible Management Education to advance curricula and research in this regard.
10. We recognize the rapid growth of the responsible investment movement – led by the UN-backed Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) and its 700 investor signatories – and encourage even greater linkages between PRI and the UN Global Compact in the future to help drive implementation of the ten principles by business.
11. We recognize that the UN Global Compact is an innovative public-private partnership with a governance, support and funding structure specifically tailored to the diversity of its stakeholders and its mission to advance UN values among the global business community. We recognize the leadership of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in advancing the UN Global Compact, and encourage the Member States of the United Nations to continue to support the initiative and strengthen its position within the Organization.