

## **United Nations Global Compact**

### **Message from our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer – 26<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

Unilever has always been committed to doing business with care for the environment, respect for human and labour rights, and with the highest standards of business integrity. That is why we became a founding signatory to the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC). The UNGC sets out principles for business in relation to human rights, labour, the environment and anti-corruption, which we are committed to upholding across our business.

The UNGC provides important leadership in mainstreaming sustainability by setting a global standard and through the exchange of good practice. The 10 Principles of the UNGC serve as a constant reminder of how signatories should be conducting business whilst the annual Communication on Progress (COP) provides an important internal and external yearly evaluation of achievements and tool for transparency. UNGC is a forward-looking forum in which the United Nations, companies and civil society organisations can come together in open and transparent dialogue to define practical ways of working together to create a more prosperous and sustainable world.

In November 2010 we launched the Unilever Sustainable Living Plan. This is our blueprint for sustainable business. Our plan sets out to decouple our growth from our environmental impact while increasing our positive social impact. Since launching the Plan, we have learned that we can make a transformative difference to some of the world's major social, environmental and economic issues if we leverage our scale, influence and resources. However, to achieve change at scale we need to go beyond our own operations and work with our suppliers and other partners. We are continually stepping up our engagement with governments, NGOs and other companies to create transformational change – a fundamental change to whole systems.

The Principles of the Global Compact are as salient as ever as we deepen our efforts to help more than a billion people improve their health and well-being, reduce our environmental impacts, and implement a more substantive and far-reaching Enhancing Livelihoods programme. As a business, we recognise can have a significant impact on people's lives by widening opportunities, increasing skills and including more people in our business growth. We remain committed to respecting and, where necessary, protecting their fundamental human and labour rights.

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. We are playing our part to contribute to these goals by:

- Living out the Compact's principles in our everyday business operations<sup>1</sup>
- Actively increasing our membership of UNGC local networks<sup>2</sup>
- 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 network

**Michael Treschow**  
**Chairman**

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

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<sup>1</sup> See our [UNGC Communication on Progress](#)

<sup>2</sup> See [Working with Others](#)

