

UN Global Compact  
801 Second Avenue (Second Floor)  
New York, NY 10017  
United States

5 May 2016

**Global Office:**

Alliance Coopérative  
Internationale – AISBL  
Avenue Milcamps 105  
1030 Brussels  
Belgium  
VAT: BE 535 539 869  
T: +32.2.743.10.30  
F: +32.2.743.10.39  
ica@ica.coop  
www.ica.coop

**Regional Offices:**

Africa  
Nairobi – Kenya  
www.icaafrica.coop

Americas  
San José – Costa Rica  
www.aciamericas.coop

Asia and Pacific  
New Delhi – India  
www.icaap.coop

Europe  
Brussels – Belgium  
www.coopseurope.coop

**Sectoral  
Organisations:**

Agriculture (ICAO)  
www.icaao.org

Banking (ICBA)  
www.icba.coop

Consumers (CCW)  
www.ccw.coop

Fisheries (ICFO)  
www.icfo.coop

Health (IHCO)  
www.ihco.coop

Housing  
www.icahousing.coop

Insurance (ICMIF)  
www.icmif.org

Industry and Services  
(CICOPA)  
www.cicopa.coop

Dear Global Compact stakeholders,

The International Co-operative Alliance reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles dealing with human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption.

As a part of our continued membership in the Global Compact, the following is our Commitment of Engagement, which details how we have supported the work of the Global Compact since joining on 30 May 2014.

Our main activities in support of the Global Compact include:

- Attracting new participants to the UN Global Compact through our outreach efforts and awareness raising;
- Organizing learning and dialogue events, workshops and training for our members on specific topics related to corporate sustainability;
- Providing expertise and/or the voice of our members to Global Compact initiatives; and
- Engaging our members on collective action efforts on issues related to Global Compact priorities.

We commit to sharing this information with our members and stakeholders, and welcome feedback and questions on the contents of this document.

Sincerely,



Charles Gould  
Director-General

# Description of actions

---

## Attracting new participants to the UN Global Compact

The Alliance currently has nearly 300 member organisations from 100 countries. Members include co-operative enterprises, national apex organisations of co-operative enterprises and other stakeholders, including government agencies.

The Alliance has promoted its participation in the Global Compact within this wide network. Several of our members, including Unimed in Brazil and Consum in Spain, are members of the Global Compact in their own right. Our regional office in the Americas also supports and promotes the Global Compact: <http://www.aciamericas.coop/Co-operatives-of-the-Americas-5628>.

## Organizing learning and dialogue events, workshops and training

Since 2014, the Alliance has organized many events for its members related to the Global Compact's focus areas.

**Food and agriculture.** In coordination with the co-operative movements in Japan and Italy, the Alliance organized a [three-day conference in July 2015 at the Milan Expo](#), to illustrate how agriculture and retail co-operatives combat hunger and contribute to sustainable development. The Alliance also collaborated with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to host a workshop in November 2015 in Antalya, Turkey on the Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests. The workshop served to educate agriculture co-operatives about their rights as producers.

**Gender equality.** The Alliance and the International Labour Organization (ILO) published in 2015 a [report that examines how co-operatives promote gender equality](#). The report compiled the results of an online survey and interviews with key informants. One of the Alliance's thematic committees focuses exclusively on gender equality, enabling members to discuss how co-operatives can better empower women. The Alliance Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific [launched a Resource Guide](#) for advanced training of co-operatives on entrepreneurship development of women and gender equality.

**Environmental sustainability.** During its global conference in Antalya, Turkey in November 2015, the Alliance had a specific conference stream on environmental sustainability. Topics included sustainability reporting, implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and regional approaches to sustainability issues. The Alliance's Sustainability Advisory Group developed and published [a guidebook for co-operatives to explore sustainability reporting tools](#) and develop their reporting skills.

## Providing expertise and the voice of our members to Global Compact initiatives

The Alliance participated in the launch of the Global Compact's Food and Agriculture Principles at the UN in September 2014 and [gave a statement](#) on our members' behalf.

## Engaging our members on collective action efforts

The Alliance's chief contribution has been to engage co-operatives in the discussion and subsequent implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. To this end, we jointly published with the ILO in September 2014 a policy brief and report '[Cooperatives and the Sustainable Goals: A contribution to the post-2015 development debate](#)', and shared with our members the Global Compact's SDG Compass.

The Alliance is also preparing to launch in July 2016 the platform 'Co-ops for 2030', which will serve to educate co-operatives about the SDGs, provide them with co-operative specific pledges to achieve the SDGs, network with other co-operatives undertaking similar initiatives and help them track their progress through tools like the SDG Compass.

The Alliance provided statements to COP21 in 2015 and has applied to participate in COP22 in December 2016.

We also coordinate co-operative participation in the B20 to discuss issues related to employment, sustainable SME development, financing growth, trade and investment, infrastructure and anti-corruption. Through the B20, the Alliance and its members provide feedback to the world's largest governments on how to build a more sustainable future.

## Measurement of outcomes

---

The Alliance has distributed information about the UN Global Compact and its work to our network of nearly 5,500 contacts. Participants in our events related to Global Compact issues totaled more than 1,500 people. Engagement and feedback from our members on sustainability issues, in particular on the Sustainable Development Goals, have increased dramatically since joining the Global Compact in 2014.