

**From the Vice-Chancellor
Professor Colin Riordan**
Telephone: 01206 872000
Confidential Fax: 01206 869493
E-mail: vc@essex.ac.uk

Colchester Campus
Wivenhoe Park
Colchester CO4 3SQ
United Kingdom
Telephone: 01206 873333
Fax: 01206 873598
Web: www.essex.ac.uk

H E Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General
United Nations
New York, NY 10017
USA

7 October 2010

Dear Mr Secretary-General

University of Essex Letter of Commitment to United Nations Global Compact

I am writing on behalf of the University of Essex to express our commitment to the UN Global Compact programme and to its ten principles.

It is our belief that the University's Vision and Strategy and our academic expertise, both in terms of teaching and research, align perfectly with the principles of the Global Compact programme and that we could both bring value to the programme and derive benefits from participation as an academic participant.

The University of Essex is the UK's leading University in Social Sciences with Politics and Sociology ranked first in the country in the most recent national Research Assessment Exercise. Our Business School (Essex Business School) is ranked second in the UK with regard to research in the areas of accounting and finance. Our internationally-renowned Human Rights Centre recently celebrated its 25th anniversary and earlier in the year received the Queens Anniversary Prize in recognition of its pioneering role in advancing the legal and broader practice of international human rights across the globe. The University's strength in human rights research and practice, and in areas of democracy and governance, has prompted the establishment of a new flagship Institute for Democracy and Conflict Resolution, which will extend the University's engagement with organisations working on the achievement of rights for all people both in the UK and internationally.

I am therefore pleased to confirm that the University of Essex supports the ten principles of the UN Global Compact with respect to human rights, labour, environment, and anti-corruption. With this commitment, we express our intent to advance these principles within our sphere of influence, and will make a clear statement of this commitment to our stakeholders and the general public. We also pledge to take part in the activities of the UN Global Compact where appropriate and feasible – through, for instance, participation in Country/Local Networks; involvement in specialized initiatives and workstreams; engagement in partnership projects; and reviewing and providing commentary to participating companies on their Communications on Progress.

Yours sincerely



Professor Colin Riordan
Vice-Chancellor