

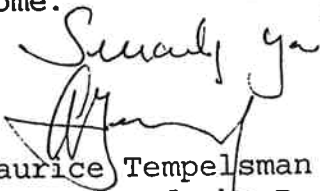
LAZARE KAPLAN INTERNATIONAL
April 20, 2001

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

It was a great pleasure for me to represent the Corporate Council on Africa at the Global Compact's first Issues Forum held at the United Nations in New York on March 21. I applaud this initiative and commend you for the challenge you have put to the drivers of globalization to ensure that none of the world's stakeholders are left behind.

As a first step, I am happy to inform you that the public United States company which I also chair, Lazare Kaplan International Inc., is proud to announce its support of the nine principles of the Global Compact and the integration of those principles into our business development program.

We at Lazare Kaplan agree with you that the success of this initiative will depend on whether and how the participants in this noble initiative translate their stated commitment into meaningful action and concrete demonstration of good faith. I look forward to sharing with you very specific examples of our company's dedication and support of the Global Compact in the months to come.


Maurice Tempelsman
Chairman of the Board

H.E. Kofi Annan
Secretary General of the
United Nations
Room S-3800
New York, NY 10017

