



SELECT MILESTONES 2000 - 2010

2000

April

"We the peoples: the role of the United Nations in the twenty-first century" – this report of the UN Secretary-General sets the tone for new era of UN collaboration with non-State actors, especially the private sector.

July 26

The Global Compact is launched at a High-Level Meeting held by UN Secretary-General with approximately 40 companies attending, as well as influential civil society, labour and employers organizations.

September

World leaders come together at UN Headquarters to adopt the United Nations Millennium Declaration, committing their nations to a new global partnership to reduce extreme poverty.

2001

February

First World Social Forum takes place in Porto Alegre, Brazil, to voice deep concerns and convictions about the direction in which globalization is taking our world.

July

Release of approximately 30 examples of actions undertaken by the companies that joined at the launch. They form an early version of Communication on Progress (COP).

September

9/11: "The Global Compact is about the values that unite us. The attacks were a direct challenge to these values – they were an attack on fundamental human rights." Mary Robinson, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (1997–2002)

First Policy Dialogue deals with the "Role and Responsibilities of Business Operating in Zones of Conflict".

November

Global Compact and Global Reporting Initiative announce cooperative framework.

2002

February

Policy Dialogue on Sustainable Development explores practical experiences of business in contributing to development and facing related challenges.

June

Academic network is established early, highlighting role of academia in advancing corporate responsibility in research and, eventually, curricula.

August/September

World Summit on Sustainable Development, "Earth Summit 2002", brings together tens of thousands of participants to focus the world's attention and direct action toward meeting critical challenges, including improving people's lives and conserving our natural resources.

December

Annual Learning Forum held in Berlin to discuss good practices of corporate behaviour around the Global Compact.

2003

January

Global Compact stresses that participants should publish examples of work in their annual reports, not only in reports to the UN – a shift in approach that leads to the current "COP" concept.

May

Global Compact Policy Dialogue on HIV/AIDS includes call by employers and labour to their members to make HIV/AIDS a priority.

June

Local Networks gather for the first time in Berne, later to be known

as the "Annual Local Networks Forum". Representatives from over 30 countries call for increased guidance on local operations.

Policy Dialogue explores Supply Chain Management.

October

Global Compact opens NASDAQ: "The Global Compact at its core is about providing an ethical framework to help businesses operate in the global economy and expand market opportunities in a responsible way." – NASDAQ Executive Vice-President

2004

January

Global Compact convenes dialogue on Transparency. The establishment, three months later, of a high-level inquiry into the UN Oil-for-Food programme underscores the urgent need for greater transparency and efforts to tackle corruption by all stakeholders.

June

Global Compact's first Leaders Summit held in New York with more than 400 participants. At the Summit:

- Launch of 10th Principle: "Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery."
- Investment houses endorse Global Compact finance initiative "Who Cares Wins", helping the ESG (environmental, social, and corporate governance) concept to take off globally.
- Communication on Progress (COP) policy is announced requiring annual disclosure by business, with the first reporting deadline set for July 2005.

December

The tsunami of 2004 is one of the worst disasters in history, killing nearly 230,000 people in 14

countries. The generous business response through the Global Compact – donating money and services – leads to coordination of private sector support for relief and re-building with UN partners, notably OCHA and the UN Foundation.

2005

March

Global Compact launches "We Support" logo for participants as a way to promote their commitment to the initiative and raise awareness of the Global Compact.

July

COP policy is enforced for companies in the initiative more than 2 years – 38% submit a COP. This figure rises over time.

UN appoints Special Representative of the Secretary-General on human rights and transnational corporations

September

Global Compact releases "Business Unusual: Facilitating United Nations Reform through Partnerships", an assessment of the partnership agenda across the UN, finding that partnerships play a complementary role to conventional instruments of cooperation and development.

December

UN Convention Against Corruption enters into force.

Global Compact Summit in China: 500 international business leaders and representatives of Government and civil society assembled. It is the largest event ever held in China on the topic of responsible business.

2006

April

UN Secretary-General launches Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) at NYSE with international funds worth USD 2

trillion announcing endorsement. By 2010, PRI includes 700 investor signatories representing more than USD 20 trillion in assets and is the world's largest responsible investment movement.

June

The Global Compact Board – a multi-stakeholder body appointed by the UN Secretary-General to provide strategic and policy advice to the initiative – holds inaugural meeting.

October

Policy Dialogue on Discrimination and Equality in the Workplace hosted with ILO.

GRI releases next version of reporting guidelines, "G3", with clear links to Global Compact principles.

The "Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change" is released, making the case for strong, early action on climate change and bringing new momentum to the agenda.

2007

January

On 1 January 2007, Ban Ki-moon becomes the eighth Secretary-General of the United Nations. Mr. Ban commits to carry forward the Global Compact in his first public address outside the UN, proclaiming: *The United Nations and business need each other.*

July

Second Global Compact Leaders Summit is held in Geneva with more than 1,000 participants. Chaired by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, numerous platforms for future action on climate, water, and business education are launched at the Summit: Caring for Climate, the CEO Water Mandate and the Principles for Responsible Management Education.

September

Global Compact launches new visual identity.

December

General Assembly resolution (A/RES/62/211) renews and strengthens Global Compact mandate: *"encourages the activities of the UN Global Compact as an innovative public-private partnership to advance United Nations values and responsible business practices within the United Nations system and among the global business community"*.

2008

January

For the first time, companies are removed from the Global Compact for failure to meet annual COP disclosure requirements – totaling more than 1,000 by 2010.

September

Global financial crisis: While the "Great Recession" is estimated to have begun in 2007, the bankruptcy of investment firm Lehman Brothers is seen as a key event of the financial crisis of the late 2000s. The crisis, and subsequent economic downturn, puts a spotlight on the tenets of responsible business and investment.

First UN Private Sector Forum seeks long-term response to global food crisis, endemic poverty – bringing together more than 100 heads of business and civil society with Government leaders.

October

Global investors write to CEOs of 9,000 listed companies urging them to join the Global Compact.

December

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) turns 60 on 10 December 2008 – marked by a year-long campaign by the Global Compact to raise awareness of human rights by business globally.

Local Network launches in Sudan following two years of outreach and events to build local engagement by all stakeholders – highlighting role as a neutral platform

for advancing conflict-sensitive business practices.

2009

January

UN Secretary-General declares 2009 the year of climate and calls for business to help lead the way to a low-carbon future. The Global Compact takes a number of steps throughout the year to show the ways that business can be part of the solution to climate challenges and to harness private sector support for a fair, balanced and effective global agreement.

June

Largest ever Annual Local Networks Forum is held in Istanbul with representatives from 77 networks discussing their work to advance the Global Compact locally.

Human Rights and Business Dilemmas Forum is launched, providing a multi-stakeholder platform to discuss dilemmas confronting companies and identify related good practices. The forum is one of a number of human rights resources launched during the year.

September

Second UN Private Sector Forum on climate change convenes business and civil society leaders with Government to convey support for a global climate agreement.

G20 leaders meet in Pittsburgh, USA to focus on generating sustainable and balanced global growth following the financial crisis. The outcome statement includes a section on Core Values for Sustainable Economic Recovery and calls for "businesses to support the efficient allocation of resources for sustainable economic performance", underscoring the complementary role of voluntary corporate responsibility efforts to regulatory measures.

December

COP15: United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Copenhagen. Results in last-minute political agreement, with future work aiming to turn this Copenhagen Accord into an effective agreement by COP16 in Mexico.

2010

January

UN introduces business.un.org, a one-stop gateway to broker UN-business partnerships, facilitate donations and highlight success stories. The site is released just days after a devastating earthquake hits Haiti resulting in unimaginable suffering and loss. Companies around the world use the new site to support UN efforts by pledging cash and in-kind contributions, including medical supplies, logistics support, food and water, shelter and communications equipment.

March

The Women's Empowerment Principles are launched, providing key elements for promoting gender equality in the workplace, marketplace and community.

June

Building a New Era of Sustainability – Third Global Compact Leaders Summit in New York convenes 1,000+ leaders from business, civil society and Government to elevate the role of responsible business in achieving more sustainable and inclusive markets. A wide range of new resources and projects are launched, including a Blueprint for Corporate Sustainability Leadership, the world's largest study on CEO views on sustainability, an updated Global Compact management model, the Principles for Social Investment, guidance on responsible business practices in conflict-affected areas, and ground-breaking guidance on anti-corruption disclosure.