

PEACE

Systematic human rights abuses, inhumane working conditions, environmental scarcity and corruption can each be an outcome or trigger of conflicts. By following specific processes for doing business responsibly in difficult settings, all companies – regardless of size or sector – can work to ensure that their practices do not contribute to violence.

In recent years, the Global Compact has intensified work to advance conflict-sensitive practices in business, notably through the development of guidance in collaboration with the UN-backed Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI). Released in June 2010, “Responsible Business in Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas: Guidance for Companies and Investors” helps to clarify what constitutes responsible business, as well as identifying and mitigating risks.

At the local level, the Global Compact has provided opportunities for stakeholders to enhance capacity in this realm, including in Japan, Nepal, Pakistan, Sudan and Turkey. A key development was the strengthening of the Global Compact Network Sudan, with an international event held in Khartoum that served to highlight the network’s role as a neutral platform for advancing conflict-sensitive business practices in the country.

Looking ahead, the Global Compact plans to enhance collaboration with PRI and our Local Networks to enable far-reaching dialogue among concerned stakeholders and support widespread implementation of the new responsible business guidance by companies and investors.

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