



Business Call to Action:

Governments called on to integrate Good Governance in the Post-2015 Development Agenda

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Thank you Mr. President

The United Nations Global Compact would like to commend the Government of Panama for organizing this Conference and would like to confirm to our UNODC colleagues, the UN Global Compact's continuing collaboration and friendship.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is indeed an honour and a great privilege to share with you today, business' call to governments for the inclusion of Good Governance, and in particular the fight against corruption, in the Post 2015 Development Agenda.

As you may be aware, the United Nations Global Compact is now the world's largest corporate sustainability initiative with over 8,000 business participants from more than 140 countries. The main purpose of the Initiative is to give practical meaning to United Nations values and universal principles – in the areas of human rights, labour, the environment and anti-corruption -- by establishing the business case for responsible behaviour. The 10<sup>th</sup> Principle of the UN Global Compact asks companies to work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

Mr. President, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, business led development is becoming very important all over the world.

As the Millennium Development Goals 2015 deadline approaches, business has demonstrated it is ready to play a critical role in supporting Governments to both shape and implement the post-2015 development agenda. Recent worldwide consultations between the UN Global Compact, businesses and the general public have revealed a strong desire for Governments to emphasize good governance as a goal in the post-2015 agenda. In fact, good governance is among ten proposed post-2015 goals, as advocated by business, that the UN Global Compact has presented to the UN Secretary-General.

At the UN Global Compact Leaders' Summit held in New York in September 2013, more than 1000 business leaders from all over the world gathered to welcome the Architecture for Post 2015 business engagement launched by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. The Architecture illustrates the main building blocks necessary to enhance corporate sustainability

as an effective contribution to sustainable development, creating value for both business and society. In the Architecture, business identified good governance, transparency and anti-corruption as a critical pillar for the global development agenda.

Business is also increasingly willing to prevent and fight corruption. Corruption has considerable and costly impacts on the private sector, including on both companies and people. Corruption is one of the greatest obstacles to economic and social development around the world; it impedes long term foreign and domestic investment and has a corrosive effect on social solidarity.

Business increasingly wants to see progress in this area.

The UN Global Compact with its Local Networks all over the world is pleased to support these measures to prevent and counter corruption. Currently, the UN Global Compact is implementing high-impact collective action projects in five countries. The projects seek to scale up existing anti-corruption efforts – and provide participants with knowledge, skills, strategies and resources to promote ethical practices and transparency in business operations, within each country, as well as internationally. For example, in one country, business has joined forces with Governments and other stakeholders to integrate transparency mechanisms in the procurement of infrastructure projects for major international sporting events and development of sustainable public transportation systems. The UN Global Compact has and will continue to play a critical role in establishing corruption firmly on the international business agenda, and providing a platform for an extraordinary coalition of business, labour, civil society and governments to prevent and counter corruption.

After over a decade of experience, we have found that corporate efforts to fight corruption can only be effective with the participation of a critical mass of companies and the full commitment of Governments.

In addition to business efforts as enumerated above, members of the UN Global Compact 10<sup>th</sup> Principle Working Group on transparency and anti-corruption, based on consultations with companies and other stakeholders, have identified clear goals that could have catalytic impact towards preventing and countering/fighting corruption.

The Business Call to Action, which seeks corporate support to impress on governments worldwide to do what is necessary to support business in the fight against corruption, has five specific appeals.

It calls on Governments to:

First, fully implement and enforce the UN Convention against Corruption. This means strengthening anticorruption policies, laws and enforcement mechanisms to create a level playing field and incentivize good behaviour;

Second, make a commitment to reduce corruption risks from procurement and contract processes of large-scale projects that are designed to support sustainable development;

Third, commit to engaging in competitive and transparent procurement processes through public advertising of all Government procurement cases; in short, make public procurement public

Fourth, work towards the disclosure of payments made by companies, especially those related to public procurements. Public disclosure of payments made by companies to governments is an important method to enhance transparency;

Finally, support corporate efforts to disclose anti-corruption implementation, enhance corporate governance, innovative collective action and public-private partnership initiatives.

Business leaders, are determined to join forces with Governments in their endeavour to reduce corruption. A strong reference to anti-corruption in the future development agenda will send a positive message to international business.

The Global Compact invites other business leaders to join us to advocate for the integration good governance, and indeed anti-corruption into the post-2015 agenda.

The UN Global Compact together with our partners, Transparency International and the World Bank Institute Open Contracting will collaborate to secure the widest possible business support of the Business Call to Action with a view to impress on governments to do what is arguably the biggest contribution to advance development everywhere; reducing and eliminating corruption.

We hope that governments will hear this call and act upon it.