



Business Symposium

25 April, 2016

“Living Together In Inclusive Societies: The Role and Responsibility of the Private Sector“

The UN Alliance of Civilizations will host its seventh Global Forum in Baku, Azerbaijan on 25-27 April with the overarching theme “Living Together in Inclusive Societies: A Challenge and a Goal”. More than 2000 prominent leaders from Governments, civil society, academics, youth, media, private sector and religious organizations will convene in the presence of UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and Heads of State.

The Business Symposium – part of the official programme of the UNAOC Global Forum - will bring together private sector representatives to discuss and demonstrate their commitment to helping to build inclusive societies, promoting cultural diversity, enhancing intercultural understanding and preventing radicalization.

Objective

With a view to highlighting private sector contributions to inclusive societies, the Business Symposium will advance the following objectives:

- Raise awareness of the business case for private sector action;
- Showcase good practices to demonstrate how the private sector can help foster social cohesion;
- Serve as a platform for business leaders to exchange innovative experiences and corporate initiatives to promote inclusive societies and combat radicalization, thereby addressing issues such as the refugee crisis;
- Mobilize business action to support interfaith understanding and peace;
- Support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular SDG16, which states the need to “Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development”, SDG8 on decent work and SDG10 on inequality; therefore elevating diversity and inclusion as a corporate sustainability issue of strategic business importance.



Participants

Registration is open to private sector representatives and their stakeholders, including Governments, civil society, media and other groups. As space is limited, priority is given to company representatives.

Participants are encouraged to work closely with UNAOC and UN Global Compact to promote intercultural dialogue and cooperation, to promote inclusive societies and cultural diversity. By joining the UN Global Compact and its Business for Peace initiative, participants can take action to advance peaceful, inclusive societies in conflict affected and high-risk regions. Furthermore, participants can engage with the UN Global Compact on how to integrate diversity and promote inclusion in their workplace, marketplace and community.

Format

Segment 1: Private sector representatives will discuss the business case for inclusive societies and how companies can take action.

Segment 2: Looking at inclusive societies, participants will explore how the private sector can accelerate progress through a discussion on one of the following themes:

- 1) Private sector engagement to address the refugee crisis
- 2) Private sector contributions to interfaith understanding and peace
- 3) Linking corporate diversity & inclusion programmes with corporate sustainability

Registration

Participants are kindly requested to register for the Business Symposium by emailing Mr. Jean-Christophe Bas, jcbas@theglobalcompass.net

For mandatory accreditation, participants are also requested to register for the broader UNAOC Global Forum through this link: <http://registerbaku.unaoc.org/expression-of-interest/>. Once registered, participants will receive an email confirmation that will also serve as the official invitation.

For further details on logistics, please refer to the [Logistics Note](#).



Draft Program

14:00 – 14:30 Welcome and Opening

H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary-General

H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, UN High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations, United Nations Alliance of Civilizations

H.E. Shahin Mustafayev, Minister of Economic Development, Republic of Azerbaijan

H.E. Abulfas Garayev, Minister of Culture and Tourism, Republic of Azerbaijan

Ms. Ursula Wynhoven, Chief Legal Officer/Chief, Governance & Social Sustainability, UN Global Compact

14:30 – 15:15 Panel Discussion

Felix Bikpo, CEO, African Guarantee Fund (tbc)

Sebastien Crozier, Senior Vice President, Orange and CEO, Orange Horizons

Bill McAndrews, Vice President, BMW Group

Michael Peters, CEO, Euronews

Stephanie Winston Wolkoff, President and CEO, SWW Creative

15:15 – 15:45 Coffee Break

15:45 – 16:45 Roundtable Discussions

- 1) Private sector engagement to address the refugee crisis

Facilitator: **Vanessa Celano Tarantini**, Partnerships and Engagement, Global Compact Network Brazil

Lead Discussant: tbc

- 2) Private sector contributions to interfaith understanding and peace

Facilitator: **Brian Grim**, President, Religious Freedom & Business Foundation

Lead Discussant: tbc

- 3) Linking corporate diversity & inclusion programmes with corporate sustainability

Facilitator: **Ursula Wynhoven**, Chief Legal Officer/Chief, Governance & Social Sustainability, UN Global Compact

Lead Discussant: **Orhan Kemal Alver**, CEO, Russell Reynolds Associates Turkey

16:45 – 17:30 Panel Discussion

Holger Heims, CEO, Falcon Equity Group

Vladimir Iakounin, former CEO of Russian Railways

Karen Mahlab, Founder and CEO, Pro Bono Australia

Jonathan Schen, CEO, Shinework

Denis Lemarchal, Managing Director & Chief Representative, TOTAL Azerbaijan

17:30 – 18:00 Report Back and Next Steps

18:00 Business Symposium concludes

