

UN-BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP SERVICES:

ACCELERATING AND SCALING TRANSFORMATIONAL IMPACT



Global Compact

LEAD

UN-Business partnership services: Accelerating and Scaling Transformational Impact

Executive Summary

Enhancing the impact of UN-Business partnerships is critical to addressing global development challenges. Over one billion people currently lack access to sufficient food or safe drinking water. Eight million women and children die every year of preventable causes. The world's ecosystems are in decline and climate change and global population growth will exacerbate these challenges. There has never been greater urgency to secure a better economic, social, and environmental future for all. Motivated by these global challenges and key outcomes of the 2012 World Economic Forum in Davos, a Steering Committee of UN and private sector partners was formed to guide the initial design of UN-Business partnership services.

The objective of UN-Business partnership services is to enhance existing partnership capacities and build new capacities to support transformational partnerships as well as other projects and initiatives and to increase the scale and impact of these efforts. The Rio +20 Corporate Sustainability Forum session *"Transformational Partnerships for Food, Nutrition and Development"* provides an opportunity to present the outcomes and key decisions of the first phase of the UN-Business partnership services project. Within this first phase of work, the Steering Committee, in collaboration with the Global Compact LEAD Task Force on UN-Business Partnerships, has defined the mission, objectives, guiding principles, and overall design of UN-Business partnership services and validated the need for support related to due diligence, partnerships lifecycle management, knowledge management, and capacity building. These services will be further defined and launched in subsequent project phases.

Background

In January 2012, senior leaders from the UN and private sector were convened by the UN Global Compact Office as part of the GC LEAD platform on the margins of the World Economic Forum in Davos. Co-chaired by United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Mr. Paul Polman, Chief Executive Officer of Unilever, the meeting brought together a group of Global Compact LEAD C-Level executives and Heads of UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes to discuss the need for support to catalyze more transformational partnerships – resulting in greater systemic impact. Building on the Global Compact LEAD Task Force report *"Catalyzing Transformational Partnerships between the United Nations and Business"* and Government support, participants:

- Outlined some of the key support services needed to overcome partnership challenges;
- Agreed that GC LEAD Task Force members and UN representatives would jointly develop an Action Plan that will culminate at Rio +20 in June;
- Identified partnerships that could benefit from enhanced partnership support services.

As the first major component of the Secretary-General's proposed partnership capability, UN-Business partnership services focuses on strengthening partnership capacities for UN and private sector partners.

UN-Business partnership services Overview

The mission of UN-Business partnership services is to build on the UN's catalyzing role to strengthen, scale, and accelerate impact that the UN, businesses, and other sectors can create by working together

to contribute to societal progress. Supporting this mission, the three high level objectives of UN-Business partnership services are to create shared value, build partnering capacity, and strengthen coherence and integrity. To achieve these objectives, UN-Business partnership services would provide support in the following areas: integrity and due diligence; partnership lifecycle management including strategic matchmaking, partnership and project design and delivery, and monitoring and evaluation; knowledge management; and capacity building.

- **Integrity and Due Diligence** – Support cost-efficient access to due diligence resources to expand usage in the UN system with the view to ensuring integrity of UN brand; increase transparency and consistency in approach when evaluating potential business partners;
- **Partnership Lifecycle Management** – Support strategic matchmaking, partnership and project design and delivery, and monitoring and evaluation to improve existing partnerships and support opportunities for new partnerships that create shared value and societal progress;
- **Knowledge Management** – Continuously update a collaborative learning platform that enables knowledge sharing between stakeholders and actively creates insights from information accessible through virtual resources and interactive events;
- **Capacity Building** – Design and deliver foundational and project-specific capacity building on integrity and due diligence, partnership lifecycle management, knowledge management, and targeted technical information for industry and UN topics.

All activities of UN-Business partnership services are underpinned by guiding principles that uphold the values of transparency, integrity, quality, sustainability and accountability while also promoting leading practices to achieve demonstrable long-term results.

High priority UN-Business partnership support services will be operational in early 2013 and will act as a catalyst to propel both the UN and the private sector to greater success in creating and scaling the impact of partnerships.

Recognition

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's vision for fostering more transformational impact through partnership has been the driving force behind the UN-Business partnership services design effort. This effort would not have been possible without the leadership of Mr. Robert Orr, Assistant Secretary-General for Strategic Planning and Policy Coordination, Executive Office of the Secretary-General and Mr. Georg Kell, Executive Director of the UN Global Compact Office. Working jointly with Mr. Paul Polman, CEO of Unilever, this team guided the design process of UN-Business partnership services.

The design of UN-Business partnership services was also directly supported by a Steering Committee comprised of both UN and private sector members, including: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), United Nations Foundation (UNF), United Nations Global Compact (UNGC), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UN Women, World Food Program (WFP), Unilever, Accenture, KPMG, Novo Nordisk, DSM, and Teck Resources. Lastly, special recognition must be given to the following companies for their ongoing contributions and support in developing the UN-Business partnership services concept through the UN Global Compact LEAD Task Force on UN-Business Partnerships: Accenture, Acciona, BASF, DSM, ENI, GSK, Intel, KPMG, Nestle, Netafim, Novo Nordisk, Shell, Teck Resources, Telefonica, The Coca-Cola Company, and Unilever.