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News & Updates

1. UN Global Compact Letter to Pope Francis Opens Dialogue on Business as a Force for Good
The UN Global Compact has written an Open Letter to His Holiness Pope Francis Responding to Laudato Si’. It offers the UN Global Compact’s network-based infrastructure as “a bridge, connecting the encyclical’s vision of integral ecology with practical efforts underway to mobilize responsible business.” The letter highlights the critical role business and investors play in advancing sustainable business practices and being catalysts “for a just, inclusive and low-carbon economy.” Learn more.

2. Reminder: Feedback Needed on Local Networks Logos
As a reminder, Local Networks that would like their new Local Network logo and endorser logo translated to their language are asked to send us the exact language in order to avoid any mistakes. UN Global Compact HQ will create all logos and share them with the networks.

Please send your feedback to Ms. Natalia Uliana (uliana@unglobalcompact.org) by 20 August so that we may develop the logos and the logo design manual on time.

Upcoming Events

1. Panel Discussion on Promoting Integrity and Transparency in the Banking and Financial Sectors (26 September, 3-5pm, New York)
Local Networks are encouraged to mobilize their members in relevant sectors to attend a panel discussion organized by the UN Global Compact Anti-Corruption team on promoting integrity and transparency in the banking and financial sectors. In light of recent scandals, ranging from money laundering, rate rigging to facilitating tax evasion, the moderated panel will discuss:

- The importance of promoting a culture of transparency and integrity in the banking and financial
sectors;
- How these institutions can improve standards and restore trust and confidence in the sectors;
- How regulators can change behaviours in these institutions with regard to conduct and customer risks;
- The role of civil society in working with these sectors to restore trust and promote integrity.

Confirmed panelists include speakers from Citibank, Credit Suisse, Transparency International and the UN Global Compact.

*Compliance officers, anti-bribery and corruption officers and legal counsels of banks and financial institutions are encouraged to attend. For further information and to participate, please contact Ms. Neha Das ([das@unglobalcompact.org](mailto:das@unglobalcompact.org)).*

### 2. Caring for Climate Business Forum at COP21 (7-8 December, Paris)

- Hosted by the UN Global Compact, UNEP and the UNFCCC secretariat in cooperation with the French COP21/CMP11 incoming-Presidency, the [Caring for Climate Business Forum](http://www.caring4climate.org) will take place on 7-8 December at Paris-Le Bourget. The Forum will provide a venue for business and investors to meet with governments, civil society and the UN to advance the climate agenda. With plenary and thematic sessions and a high-level meeting, the Forum will serve as a platform for companies to demonstrate progress and announce new commitments to action. Local Networks play an important role in mobilizing business around climate change ahead of this milestone meeting. [Learn more about how your network can engage companies on climate in the lead-up to and at COP 21.](http://www.caring4climate.org)

- **Participants Asked to Demonstrate Climate Leadership ahead of COP21**

  The UN Global Compact is calling on companies around the world to commit to taking action on critical climate change issues: 1) [Become a Carbon Pricing Champion](http://www.bcpchampion.org); 2) [Share leading practices on climate adaptation](http://www.climateadaptationchampion.org); 3) [Align with climate science](http://www.climatealignmentchampion.org); and 4) [Engage responsibly in climate policy.](http://www.climatepolicychampion.org) The [Caring for Climate Business Forum at COP21](http://www.caring4climate.org) (7-8 December, Paris) will provide a platform to showcase and feature private sector commitments to action. Local networks are kindly asked to encourage participants to make commitments to climate action.

*For more information, please visit the [website](http://www.caring4climate.org). Contact [caring4climate@un.org](mailto:caring4climate@un.org) with questions.*

### Engagement Opportunities

#### 1. Mobilize Participants to Take the SME Survey

As part of the Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SME) Engagement Project led by a Task Force of Local Networks, we are asking SMEs directly about their views on engaging with the Global Compact. Local Networks are invited to support this effort by distributing a short survey to SMEs in your country. Survey respondents should be representatives from SMEs based in your country that are currently UN Global Compact participants (you can find the list of SMEs through the KSS). The survey will take no more than 10 minutes to complete and it is available in a number of languages – thanks to the support of many networks who volunteered to translate it.

*The survey can be completed here until Thursday, 3 September.* Each network is encouraged to collect at least three completed surveys and is invited to share the survey with as many SMEs as you consider appropriate. We will share specific country data, as well as the aggregated results, with interested Local Networks; thus, a higher number of responses from each country would add more value. To complete survey, click [here](http://www.caring4climate.org).

*If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Ana Blanco ([blanco@unglobalcompact.org](mailto:blanco@unglobalcompact.org)).*

#### 2. Call for Input: Terms of Reference and Participants for a Children's Rights and Business Principles Champions Group

The UN Global Compact Children's Rights team is planning to establish a champions group of companies and other stakeholders to play a key role in providing guidance to the UN Global Compact and its participants on issues relating to child rights and business.

*Local Networks are invited to share input on the [draft Terms of Reference](http://www.caring4climate.org) for the group or suggest...*
potential participants to Ms. Elena Bombis (bombis@unglobalcompact.org).

3. Call for Participation: Implementation of Business for the Rule of Law
All Local Networks are invited to participate in regional conference calls to help determine the best way to launch and implement Business for the Rule of Law (B4ROL) locally in alignment with local priorities. B4ROL highlights the foundational and mutually beneficial relationship between advancing the rule of law and sustainable development; and in particular, highlights how businesses are able to lend their support to advancing Sustainable Development Goal 16. Launched at GC+15, the Business for the Rule of Law Framework serves as practical guidance for companies around the world in taking proactive, voluntary actions to support the rule of law in their everyday operations and relationships as a complement to respecting the rule of law. The Framework was developed with input from 19 consultation workshops held around the world.

To register your interest in participating on a call, contact rol@unglobalcompact.org. For more information on B4ROL, please visit the website.

You are receiving this newsletter as a designated Contact Point for your Local Network. If you would like to contact any Global Compact staff with comments about this newsletter, please click here.