



THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
NEW YORK, NY 10007

## REMARKS OF THE MAYOR

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### MAYOR MICHAEL R. BLOOMBERG SPEAKS AT UN GLOBAL COMPACT LEADERS SUMMIT

*The following are the Mayor's remarks as delivered:*

"Welcome, one and all, to the host city of the United Nations, the world's most global city – and also America's greenest city, New York City.

"We are pleased that so many of you are here as visitors to our city. We also would be delighted, needless to say, if your companies chose to locate or expand operations here. As a matter of fact on a personal basis, I will check with our Commissioner for the Department of Finance to make sure that while you were here you spent a lot of money. We need the sales tax revenues.

"Seriously, we're a city that welcomes innovation and immigration; in fact just this morning we're helping to launch a national coalition of mayors and business leaders in our country just like you to push for comprehensive national immigration reform in our Congress.

"We're also a city that strives to advance the principles of the UN Global Compact every single day. Take, for example, the Compact's commitment to achieving environmental sustainability. Because New Yorkers rely so much on mass transit, and because of the relative energy efficiency of our homes and businesses, we create a carbon footprint one-third that of the size of the average American. We're now taking steps to shrink it even further. Our Administration's goal is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in our city by another 30% by the year 2030. To help accomplish that, last December I signed a pioneering 'green building' law – the most comprehensive of its kind in any American city.

"The efficiencies it will require in existing buildings will lead to reductions in greenhouse gas production equal to making a city the size of Oakland, California completely carbon-neutral. You should also know that not only are we calling on the private sector here to reduce their emissions by 30 percent by the year 2030, we have made a commitment that the City itself – City government with City buildings and City trucks and City cars – will do exactly the same thing by

the year 2017. So we're not asking anybody to do anything that we're not going to do ourselves, and we want to be the leaders and set the example.

"I think it's fair to say that New Yorkers realize that the responsibility to create a sustainable planet for future generations is one that we all share. We can't and we won't wait for others to take the lead. At the same time, we're also acutely aware that we can't achieve the goals of the UN Global Compact alone.

"More than ever, our fortunes and our future are inter-connected – and so we really do have to act together. Governments must be more cooperative and collaborative. And civil society and the private sector must find common ground and make common cause with them, and with one another.

"Such innovative public-private partnerships are more vital now than ever. The more we work together, the more we can share ideas and strategies, the more successful we will be in meeting the challenges we face.

"In New York, we've created a mechanism for just such international cooperation among cities. Our 'New York City Global Partners,' which operates under the auspices of the City's Commission for the United Nations, Consular Corps & Protocol, headed by my sister, Commissioner Marjorie Tiven. In recent years, it has brought municipal leaders from around the world to New York for important conferences on global climate change and public health, and workforce development. In November of this year, they will convene a similar international conference on the most fundamental of human rights, and the key to our shared futures, and that is education.

"While we still have much to do before all of New York schools are as good as they need to be, you should know that here in New York we've made undeniably great progress in improving a school system that was – only a few short years ago – considered to be one of the most dysfunctional in any major city in America. We're honored that our President, President Obama, has called us an example for big-city school systems that have improved in the rest of the nation. Support from our business community has been absolutely critical to all we've achieved in education. I hope you'll urge your city leaders to send representatives to our educational summit in November so that we can continue to learn from one another about how to improve public schools everywhere.

"Your leadership is vital as well on the issues that are at the heart of the UN Global Compact: Encouraging businesses worldwide to integrate the principles of sustainability, human rights, and transparency into their corporate agendas. I think those are sound business policies as well. Sustainable environmental practices are the only viable long-term strategy for reducing business energy costs, increasing productivity, and fostering economic growth. Today businesses around the world increasingly recognize that.

"Good corporate citizens also appreciate that respect for human rights is in their enlightened self-interest. It earns the consumer respect and support that no marketing or

advertising campaign can buy. And in a world where talented and valuable workers can and do move ever more freely from country to country, and from company to company, the future truly belongs to companies committed to ensuring dignity and diversity in the workplace. The global economic upheavals of recent years also clearly illustrate how essential openness and transparency are in the operations of free markets.

“Little wonder, then, that the number of companies subscribing to the UN Global Compact has grown dramatically during these past ten years, and I applaud your participation. And now let me momentarily sort of step out of my role as New York City’s mayor, and speak as someone whose career in business has made me a concerned citizen of our planet. One of the ten Global Compact principles urges precautionary action to prevent environmental disaster. That should, I believe, include protecting the health of the social environment that we create as well as the natural environment that we inhabit.

“There are today two major social environmental causes of death and suffering that, while on the decline in major industrial nations, are rising alarmingly in many developing nations. Consumption of tobacco – which, if unchecked, will lead to one billion pre-mature deaths globally this century, that’s correct. One billion pre-mature deaths this century. And the mounting casualties caused by highway crashes in societies where auto ownership is increasing as more and more countries move away from bicycles...

“In both instances, the toll being taken is eminently preventable through the concerted actions of government, the organizations of civil society, and the private sector too. And in that spirit, I urge you to join efforts already underway in many nations – efforts which I am pleased to provide support for as a private citizen – to prevent these social environmental calamities.

“New York is truly the right city for this summit. Here’s why. After 9/11, some might have expected New Yorkers to become suspicious of and withdrawn from the rest of the world. But that would have been completely out of our character as a confident, internationally minded city. So despite that murderous terrorist attack, we continue to embrace the values that this summit will foster: A confident belief that our progress and prosperity will grow as the fortunes of people everywhere improve too. By encouraging responsible business practices globally, we can achieve the goal we all share, no matter who we are or where in the world we live: Leaving our children a home that is cleaner, freer, and more secure than the one we found.

“So thank you once again for joining us here, and best wishes for a successful summit in our city.”

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