

UNITED NATIONS



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THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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REMARKS AT GLOBAL COMPACT BOARD MEETING

As Prepared For Delivery

New York, 19 November 2010

Distinguished members of the Global Compact Board,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to join you for this meeting.

This has been a pivotal year in the evolution of the Global Compact.

The initiative's tenth anniversary showed that we have much to celebrate, but also that much that remains to be done – on climate change ... on poverty ... on women's and children's health ... and across the whole MDG agenda.

What gives me hope is that we, the United Nations, and the private sector have found more common ground than ever before to address these serious challenges.

The September Private Sector Forum on the MDGs showed the depth of business commitment to sustainable development.

It also showed that effective solutions exist.

And the Leaders Summit earlier this year, also in New York, helped chart a course for the Compact's next decade.

Today, I hope we can find ways to build on the momentum these events generated.

After 10 years of experimentation, growth and brand-building, the Global Compact is well positioned to mobilize tangible support from the private sector in support of UN goals.

The Global Compact Office has just outlined its new three-year strategy.

Your experience and wisdom can guide the initiative, help it to grow and scale up our work.

As you know, we have set ourselves an ambitious objective: 20,000 Global Compact participants by the year 2020.

Efforts such as the Blueprint for Corporate Sustainability Leadership and the LEAD activities that will be launched early next year can help us to achieve this.

By focusing on quality we can increase quantity.

It is important that these initiatives are understood, accepted and implemented by the Compact's participants.

We also need to increase our support to the Local Networks, which now number more than 90.

Your role will be critical. We need your leadership as advocates, innovators and partners.

Looking ahead, I hope you will help us mobilize support for key upcoming UN events, such as the fourth United Nations Summit on the Least Developed Countries and the UN Conference on Sustainable Development – Rio + 20 – where we will need private sector involvement in the dialogue.

Thank you again for your dedication to the Global Compact.

I wish you a productive meeting, and I will join you again at lunch.

Thank you.