

Summary of the Second Committee 3 November 2011, 32nd meeting

Agenda item 26: Towards global partnerships

1. The Committee considered agenda item 26 on Thursday, 3 November at its 32nd meeting. Introductory statements were made by the Executive Director of the United Nations Global Compact Office and the Inspector of the Joint Inspection Unit.¹
2. The Executive Director of the United Nations Global Compact Office and the Inspector of the Joint Inspection Unit responded to the comments made and questions posed by the representatives of Senegal, Bangladesh, the Comoros and Belarus.
3. Statements were made by five Member States and one observer.²

Highlights of the debate

4. Several affirmative statements were made by the representatives of UN Member States, including Indonesia (on behalf of ASEAN), the European Union, Switzerland, Brazil, Senegal and the China.
5. Indonesia on behalf of ASEAN attaches great importance to the role and functioning of the Global Compact. In particular, the Association appreciates a number Global Compact activities including the Private Sector Track organized at the Fourth UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries in Istanbul, the annual UN system private sector focal points meeting, the UN-business website, and the Blueprint for Corporate Sustainability Leadership. ASEAN also expressed its support of the Secretary-General's recommendations for strengthening the enabling environment for UN-business partnerships.
6. The European Union welcomed the Secretary-General's report noting that the Global Compact and other partnerships involving UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes continue to play an important role in promoting dialogue and cooperation between the UN and business. The European Union also highlighted the successes of the Private Sector Track in Istanbul, the annual UN Private Sector Forum and the Global Compact Local Networks.
7. Switzerland noted that "in its 10 years of existence the UN Global Compact has become the most successful and strategic policy initiative for businesses that are committed to align their operations and strategies with core UN principles and values." Looking forward, Switzerland expects the Global Compact to deepen and widen its engagement at Rio+20; in issue areas like the Women's

¹ Global Compact Office – Report of the Secretary-General on enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, in particular the private sector (A/66/320); and Note by the Secretary-General containing the comments by the Secretary-General on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit (A/66/137/Add.1); Joint Inspection Unit – Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the JIU entitled "United Nations corporate partnerships: the role and functioning of the Global Compact".

² Representatives of Indonesia (on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations), the European Union (also on behalf of the candidate countries Croatia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Iceland; the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia; as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Georgia), Switzerland, Brazil, Senegal and China.

Empowerment Principles and Global Compact LEAD; and through expanding its membership in a meaningful way.

8. Brazil thanked the Secretary-General for the reports presented. Brazil expressed that it “attributes great importance to the mandate of the Global Compact as a facilitator for engagement with the private sector and as a promoter of principles inspired by the overall objectives of the United Nations in the areas of human rights, labour, the environment and combating corruption.”

9. Noting the growing importance of companies in contributing to sustainable development, Senegal welcomed the Secretary-General’s report and also recognized the Global Compact’s ability to mobilize high-level leaders through both the Private Sector Track in Istanbul and annual Private Sector Forum. Senegal also welcomed the recommendations of the JIU.

10. China welcomed the Secretary-General’s report noting that “the UN should play a greater role in prompting enterprises to implement the Global Compact. Fulfilling social responsibilities by enterprises brings win-win results for both enterprises and the society.”