

UN Global Compact Consultative Meeting with Industry and Trade Associations
9 September 2014
New York

Background

Corporate sustainability – defined as a company’s delivery of long-term value in financial, social, environmental and ethical terms – is becoming a mainstream concept globally. Launched in 2000 with 40 companies, the UN Global Compact has now become the world’s largest corporate citizenship initiative with over 8,000 corporate signatories from more than 140 countries. Global Compact corporate participants represent approximately 50 million employees, of nearly every industry sector and size, and hail equally from developed and developing countries. Global Compact participants are aware that they need to earn and maintain a social license to operate, as well as a legal one. Corporations face increasing expectations from stakeholders to manage their societal impacts, including on human rights, labour, the environment and corruption covered by the Global Compact Ten Principles. Businesses across industry sectors that integrate sustainability into their operations are finding themselves in positions of long-term strength. Opportunities for risk management, new markets, and product and service innovation open up. Consumer confidence and loyalty are strengthened.

As business and investors around the world increasingly see the connection between the bottom-line and the health of societies, initiatives and standards related to corporate responsibility are booming at national and global levels. Companies realize that they cannot work in isolation and that they need to collaborate with industry peers and co-invest in solutions to shared, systemic challenges. Industry groups and trade associations are playing an important role in responding to this demand for collective action, and in accelerating numerous positive developments in the field. In recent years, many industrial groups have begun to assess and quantify the aggregate environmental and social impacts of their economic activities, while also developing strategies, guidelines and targets for their members to minimize negative impacts and maximize positive contributions. Leaders within a given industry have been working closely with industry groups and trade associations to advance corporate sustainability as they have an interest in strengthening their respective sector’s reputation and competitiveness. Therefore, a new space for dialogue with these organizations is needed to better understand the industry and sector perspective on corporate sustainability and to identify ways to increase the scale of corporate sustainability globally.

Meeting Objective and Overview

The Global Compact Consultative Meeting with Industry and Trade Associations will provide a venue for global industry associations to come together to review industry progress on the promotion of corporate sustainability and discuss emerging corporate sustainability and responsibility issues that are relevant and material to business and industry sectors. The overall purpose of the Consultative Meeting is to enhance knowledge and understanding of industry and trade associations’ contribution to supporting corporate sustainability, and to provide a platform to discuss trends, perceptions, opportunities and challenges.

Moderated by Prof. Bradley K. Googins, Professor at Boston College’s Carroll School of Management, this invitation-only consultative meeting aims to maximize interaction among the working-level experts representing a wide range of industry associations. Representatives from industry associations are invited to present their associations’ efforts on corporate sustainability.

- **Morning Session:** *How have industry associations advanced corporate sustainability?*
Followed by the overall reflection on corporate sustainability and industry associations, representatives will present the efforts they have undertaken to support their members along the sustainability path.
- **Afternoon Session:** Parallel working group sessions will focus on discussing specific challenges for industry associations in relation to sustainability and ways to address it.

The meeting will start at 9:00am and will conclude at 5:45 pm.

Agenda

09:00 – 09:30	Arrival & Coffee Participants are kindly asked to arrive at the UN Headquarters entrance (47rd Street and 1st Avenue) no later than 9:15 am, due to security clearance. Global Compact staff will be waiting at the entrance to receive and escort meeting participants to the meeting venue. Coffee and snacks will be provided.
09:30 – 09:45	Welcome & Meeting Objectives <u>Venue:</u> South Dining Room, 4 th floor, UN Headquarters Moderator: Prof. Bradley K. Googins, Professor, Boston College's Carroll School of Management <u>Speakers:</u> Georg Kell, Executive Director, UN Global Compact Louise Kantrow, Permanent Representative to the UN, International Chamber of Commerce
09:45 – 10:15	Corporate Sustainability: Latest Trends & Sectoral Analysis This session will present the latest corporate sustainability trends and highlight key findings of sectoral analysis on corporate sustainability implementation based upon the Global Compact 2013 Implementation Survey. <u>Presenter:</u> Sean Cruse, Research & Communication, UN Global Compact
10:15 -11:30	Tour de Table : Global Industry Associations & Corporate Sustainability Participants (one representative from each sectoral organization) are invited to make brief presentations which showcase their organization's engagement with their respective members (i.e. firms or national associations, etc.) on corporate sustainability. During this session, participants are invited to discuss the key actors that drive the corporate sustainability agenda in their organizations/sectors and the most relevant material issues that their members are focusing on. This session offers an opportunity for participants to understand a range of approaches that various global sectoral initiatives have undertaken to advance corporate sustainability. (A guidance note for preparation is attached).
11:30 – 11:45	Coffee Break
11:45 – 1:25	Tour de Table: Global Industry Associations & Corporate Sustainability (continued)
1:30 – 2:45	Lunch <u>Venue:</u> South Dining Room, 4 th floor, UN Headquarters <u>Presenters:</u> Georg Kell, Executive Director, UN Global Compact Kate Maloney, Development and Exempt Organizations (DEO), United Nations Desk, KPMG LLP

2:50 – 3:20	<p>Communicating Good Practices on Corporate Sustainability: Trends & Sectoral Overview</p> <p>Good progress has been made in communicating corporate sustainability practices by companies around the world. This session will present how corporate sustainability is communicated by companies through various means, including non-financial reporting. Specifically, this session will showcase the latest trends and a sectoral overview on corporate sustainability communication and reporting.</p> <p><u>Presenters:</u> Ana Blanco, Manager, Reporting, UN Global Compact Sarah Boswick, Manager, Reporting, UN Global Compact</p> <p><u>Venue:</u> S-2726, 27th floor, UN Headquarters</p>
3:30 – 4:55	<p>Working Group Sessions: Exploring Sector-Specific Contributions</p> <p>Participants will be divided into two working groups to allow for more in-depth and interactive discussion. Within each group, participants will share their experiences and discuss the role of global industry associations in advancing various aspects of corporate sustainability, as well as explore how global industry associations can collaborate to advance the corporate sustainability movement.</p> <p>In order to explore sector-specific contributions to corporate sustainability, participants will discuss a range of examples that illustrate the role of global industry associations in identifying and scaling up sector-specific initiatives. Participants will also explore how global industry associations identify and disseminate sector-specific corporate sustainability best practices. Reflecting on challenges and opportunities to promote corporate sustainability, participants will also consider ways in which global industry associations can further strengthen their efforts, including collaboration with other industry associations and other stakeholders.</p> <p><u>Questions for Discussion:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the three most important contributions of your industry sector to the corporate sustainability movement and what role do your industry associations play in scaling up such efforts? • What are the three most important market drivers for corporate sustainability in your industry, and what role do these market drivers play in supporting the efforts of global industry associations? • What types of collaboration will support the continued efforts of global industry associations in advancing corporate sustainability? <p><u>Venue:</u> S-2726 and S-2722, 27th floor, UN Headquarters</p>
5:00 –5:45	<p>Report Back & Next Step</p> <p>Each working group will share the key issues discussed. The meeting will conclude with participants' reflections on the role of global industry associations in strengthening the corporate sustainability movement and what types of efforts and collaboration could assist their continued efforts.</p> <p><u>Speaker:</u> Thomas Gass, Assistant Secretary-General, Policy Coordination & Inter-Agency Affairs, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations</p> <p><u>Venue:</u> S-2726, 27th floor, UN Headquarters</p>

