

UNITED NATIONS



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THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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**MESSAGE TO THE SECOND GLOBAL CORPORATE SOCIAL
RESPONSIBILITY CONFERENCE 2013
Seoul, 12-13 November 2013**

I am pleased to send greetings to all participants at the Second Global Corporate Social Responsibility Conference 2013. I thank the Global Compact Korea Network, the Ethics and Compliance Officer Association and KMAC for hosting this timely discussion of the role of ethical and sustainable business practices in advancing the goals of the United Nations.

I applaud your efforts to raise awareness about the importance of corporate sustainability. Businesses can play a crucial role in addressing the many challenges facing our world by providing viable solutions to alleviate poverty, create jobs and accelerate green growth. Responsible business will play a key role in the definition and implementation of the new development agenda after the Millennium Development Goals deadline of 2015.

A vibrant corporate movement is under way. More than 8,000 companies in 140 countries participate in the United Nations Global Compact initiative. Companies are joining our call to action because they see the importance of sustainability in today's globalized world. They understand that ignoring environmental, social and governance issues can negatively affect their bottom lines and reputations. Just as important, they recognize the enormous benefits and opportunities driving the corporate sustainability movement.

At the recent Global Compact Leaders Summit, I unveiled a Business Engagement Architecture designed to scale up corporate actions to advance UN goals. It connects the dots in the ever-growing field of responsible business initiatives, standards and certifications. And it calls on corporate leaders to work together on a new scale, collaborating and co-investing to share risks and realize opportunities.

I hope and trust that you, as business leaders, will join our cause. When you commit to the Global Compact and become active in the Korea Local Network, we can join forces to achieve a sustainable future.

I wish you a most productive meeting.