Global Compact Local Network Report 2015
May 2016

The information and data in this report are based on the Global Compact Local Networks’ activities during 2015 and on information placed in the Knowledge Sharing System.

About the United Nations Global Compact
the United Nations Global Compact is a call to companies everywhere to voluntarily align their operations and strategies with ten universally accepted principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption, and to take action in support of UN goals and issues. The UN Global Compact is a leadership platform for the development, implementation and disclosure of responsible corporate policies and practices. Launched in 2000, it is the largest corporate sustainability initiative in the world, with over 8,000 companies and 4,000 non-business signatories based in 160 countries.
www.unglobalcompact.org

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 Contributing Local Networks

The United Nations Global Compact Headquarters wishes to thank all Local Networks that uploaded their reports, events and activities onto the Knowledge Sharing System (KSS) in 2015, thereby contributing to the production of this report.
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2015 was a year of historic significance. With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September followed by the Paris Climate Agreement in December, the world united at an unprecedented scale to eradicate extreme poverty, protect the planet and promote human rights — ensuring no one is left behind.

The SDGs and the Paris Agreement demonstrate the scale and ambition of this new universal Agenda to create the world we want. They also present new challenges and opportunities for the private sector. The United Nations Global Compact is determined to lead the way in translating the SDGs for business, and we look to our Local Networks as the keys to unlocking the full potential of companies to contribute.

A growing number of networks have the capability to convene, organize and implement massive business-led solutions, engage in multi-stakeholder dialogue and facilitate collaboration and collective action to address sustainability challenges. Local Networks are undertaking a wide range of activities and numerous benefits exist for participating companies.

The cases and good practices in this publication demonstrate the essential role networks play in driving the implementation of the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact, supporting the integration of the SDGs, bridging the gap between global and local perspectives, and rooting global norms, issue platforms and campaigns within a national context. By collaborating and sharing experiences, networks learn from one another and impact global challenges more positively. I congratulate Local Networks around the world on their commitment and encourage them to set even higher aspirations as they move forward.

Together, we can build momentum, share progress and accelerate change to meet the 2030 deadline.

**Walid Nagi**  
*Chief, Local Networks, UN Global Compact*
HOW BUSINESS CONTRIBUTES TO THE SDGS

ACT RESPONSIBLY

UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT
TEN PRINCIPLES

HUMAN RIGHTS  LABOUR  ENVIRONMENT  ANTI-CORRUPTION

+ 

FIND OPPORTUNITIES

1. NO POVERTY
2. ZERO HUNGER
3. GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
4. QUALITY EDUCATION
5. GENDER EQUALITY
6. CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
7. AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY
8. DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
9. INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
10. REDUCED INEQUALITIES
11. SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
12. RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION
13. CLIMATE ACTION
14. LIFE BELOW WATER
15. LIFE ON LAND
16. PEACE AND JUSTICE STRONG INSTITUTIONS
17. PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
OVERVIEW
What is the UN Global Compact?

The United Nations Global Compact is built upon the premise that the private sector plays an important role in improving our world — first and foremost by doing business responsibly, and then by finding opportunities to provide solutions to global challenges.

For more than 15 years, we have seen companies stepping up to the task of aligning their strategies and operations in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption. In fact, the UN Global Compact has become the largest global network of sustainable companies, with 8,800 businesses in 165 countries committed to upholding UN values and principles in how they operate. We have launched—and have close alliances with—the largest responsible investment and responsible management education initiatives in the world, as well as our cities programme. All of our activities are anchored in Local Networks based in more than 80 countries.

To help shape a company’s corporate sustainability approach, the UN Global Compact offers an extensive toolbox, including a principles-based framework, best practices, resources and networking events that revolutionize how companies do business responsibly and keep commitments to society. By catalyzing action, partnerships and collaboration, we make transforming the world possible—and achievable—for organizations large and small around the globe.

Key UN Global Compact Local Network Events and Deliverables

XIII Annual Local Network Forum (ALNF)

The XIII Annual Local Network Forum (ALNF) convened on Wednesday, 24 June 2015, at the Headquarters of the United Nations in New York. The forum was held during the Global Compact +15: Business as a Force for Good event and attended by 58 Local Networks.

Following opening remarks by the Chairman of the Foundation for the Global Compact, Sir Mark Moody-Stuart, and the Chief of Local Networks, Walid Nagi, the ALNF kicked off with a statistical overview of positive growth trends for both the UN Global Compact and its Local Networks. A number of important steps were taken during the forum, including the adoption of the Progression Model and the ensuing memorandums of understanding (MoUs) and the letters of intent (LOI). The Local Network Advisory Group (LNAG) elections were also held.

In addition to the above and in relation to governance, updates were provided from previous members of the LNAG, as well as on fundraising from the Foundation for the Global Compact. The ALNF also featured an important presentation and discussion on SME retention and engagement and how to address this pertinent issue. The UN Global Compact’s new narrative, website and logos were revealed along with other announcements by the Communications team. Finally, with the SDGs adoption fast approaching, a session was dedicated to the role Local Networks can play by aligning their work.
streams and activities with the goals, and showcasing the work they have already accomplished in identifying local priorities.

The third version of the Global Compact Local Networks Management Toolkit was launched during the XIII ALNF. The Toolkit, available on the KSS, aims to support Local Networks in their day-to-day management. It has been designed to walk emerging networks through the process of launching a network while also addressing the questions of more advanced networks seeking to improve their operations.

UN SECRETARY-GENERAL VISITS

With visits to Korea and Spain in 2015, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon inspired and recognized the work of Local Networks as they continued to work towards integrating the Ten Principles into local businesses DNA and communities.

• Seoul, 19 May 2015: UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon Joins Business Leaders in Seoul, Calls for Urgent Action on Poverty, Climate Change and Conflict

Speaking at a gathering of Korean business leaders and other stakeholders, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called on companies to take action on global sustainability challenges. With over 500 participants, the Korea Leaders Summit showcased efforts undertaken by Korean companies to advance two UN priorities—sustainable development and climate change.

Highlighting the need for urgent action on climate change, Mr. Ban urged Korean companies to lead the way: “I have very high expectations for the private sector to contribute to our global goals,” he said. “Businesses will be pivotal to success on ending poverty and rising to the climate challenge.” Noting the enormous potential of the private sector to make a significant impact on global issues, he called on companies “to do much more to respond to the great issues confronting our planet: poverty, climate change and conflict.” The Secretary-General welcomed the Korea launch of Business for Peace (B4P) and the official joining of the Korean Stock Exchange in the Sustainable Stock Exchange Initiative (SSE), a peer-to-peer learning platform launched in 2009 to integrate environmental, social and governance issues into the work of stock exchanges.

• Madrid, 29 October 2015: UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon Encourages Spanish Business Leaders to Take on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

Global Compact Network Spain organized a meeting between several key companies in Spain, the Local Network executive committee and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to present the development agenda to the private sector and inspire them to action. Within the new framework, the private sector “has a fundamental role to play in the success of each global goal,” the Secretary-General said as he addressed more than 30 business leaders willing to commit to the SDGs.

Local Network Governance

LOCAL NETWORK PROGRESSION MODEL

During the ALNF, the UN Global Compact adopted the Local Network Progression model with the objective to recognize efforts by Local Networks better and to reconcile the diversity inherent among the over 80 independently managed and governed groups. The Model was first presented in 2014 during the XII ALNF and consulted on with Local Networks during the Regional Meetings throughout the year. The Model is by no means a ranking mechanism, and instead serves as an enabling environment encouraging networks to continue to progress and develop their capacities. The Model aims to provide a clear trajectory for network development, and outlines levels of general support and capacity building that will be provided by the UN Global Compact Headquarters depending on the Local Networks’ business priorities, governance structure, available resources, number of participants and level of engagement. It will also regulate the relationship between Local Networks and the UN Global Compact Headquarters and strengthen network governance as each stage of development will have
its own memorandum of understanding (MoU)/letter of collaboration (LoC) with relevant criteria and a specified timeframe to evolve to the next category.

**LOCAL NETWORK ADVISORY GROUP (LNAG)**

The second class of the LNAG was elected at the XIII ALNF. The new LNAG is composed as per the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Representative</th>
<th>Alternate Member</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Africa</strong></td>
<td>Dr. Achieng Ojwang, Global Compact Network South Africa</td>
<td>Mr. Kofi Anyemedu, Global Compact Network Ghana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Americas</strong></td>
<td>Mr. Flavio Fuertes, Global Compact Network Argentina</td>
<td>Ms. Adela De Olano, Global Compact Network Costa Rica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Easter Europe</strong></td>
<td>Ms. Nikica Kusinikova, Global Compact Network Macedonia</td>
<td>Ms. Nataša Novaković, Global Compact Network Croatia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Middle East and North Africa</strong></td>
<td>Mr. Mahmoud El Burai, Global Compact Network United Arab Emirates</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>South, Central and North Asia</strong></td>
<td>Mr. Hong-Jae Im, Global Compact Network Korea</td>
<td>Mr. Uddesh Kohli, Global Compact Network India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>South-East Asia and the Pacific</strong></td>
<td>Ms. Alice Cope, Global Compact Network Australia</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Western Europe</strong></td>
<td>Ms. Isabel Garro, Global Compact Network Spain</td>
<td>Mr. Juergen Janssen, Global Compact Germany</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Throughout 2015, the LNAG worked very closely with all Networks around the world to understand their priorities and address any issues that arose.

**Local Network Capacity Building**

**LOCAL NETWORK EXCHANGE PROGRAMME**

Representatives from Global Compact Local Networks in Brazil, Canada, Jordan, Switzerland, Tunisia and Turkey gathered in Istanbul, Turkey, on 21 October 2015 for the 7th Local Network Exchange Programme. The aim of the meeting was to learn and exchange expertise on a variety of topics ranging from management of daily operations to reporting. It also looked to drive business engagement in light of the recently adopted SDGs.

The Local Network Exchange Programme seeks to foster collaboration among Local Networks by providing an opportunity to share experiences and identify best practices across regional boundaries. Newly-appointed contact persons from various Networks gather at a particular Network and participate in practical working sessions, with the goal of developing an in-depth analysis of the challenges and opportunities associated with Global Compact Local Networks’ operations.
LOCAL NETWORK ISSUE ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME

Representatives from Global Compact Local Networks of Colombia, Egypt, Kenya and India participated in the pilot of the Local Network Issue Engagement Programme, held in New York from 16 to 20 November 2015. The newly-introduced capacity building programme was designed to support Networks in bridging the gap between identifying their countries’ sustainability priorities and implementing their strategic work plan, as well as to strengthen Networks’ engagement with UN Global Compact Headquarters Issue Teams.

The week-long programme involved working sessions to explore the latest developments in the UN Global Compact portfolio, opportunities for engagement with the Networks, detailed presentations of the Networks’ priorities and work plans, and individual meetings between the Networks and Issue Teams. Beyond its key objectives, the programme certainly strengthened the integration between global and local teams, with agreed upon next steps for collaboration in the implementation of their work plans, and the measurement of their impact in scaling up business contribution to society through engagement with UN Global Compact Principles and Platforms.

LN WEBINAR SERIES

Throughout 2015, the Global Compact offered a series of 11 webinars exclusively for Local Networks. The themes ranged from preparation for SDG implementation, to the UN Global Compact Partnership Process, to Reporting. The webinars greatly contributed to our Networks’ advancement in a variety of areas.

ISSUE ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

Developed in 2014, the Issue Engagement Framework tool aims to help Local Networks engage companies and broker partnerships on key issues. The Framework includes concept notes and agenda templates Local Networks can use for organizing events around particular issues, as well as a FAQ on the different Global Compact Issue Platforms. The Framework was updated throughout 2015 to included revised PowerPoint slides on each issue platform as well as the addition of speaker and concept notes.

2015 Local Network Launches

The following eight Networks were launched or relaunched in 2015:

**AMERICAS**
Nicaragua: March 2015
Guatemala: December 2015

**EUROPE**
Czech Republic: April 2015
Romania: May 2015

**MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA**
United Arab Emirates: May 2015
Lebanon: September 2015
Tunisia: September 2015
UN Global Compact and Local Networks in Numbers

Number of Global Compact Participants
The number of Global Compact participants worldwide increased to 13,324 in 2015 from 12,808 in 2014, marking a 4 per cent increase.

Who are the Participants?
Business participants make up 63 per cent of the overall Global Compact participant pool with non-business participants making up the remaining 37 per cent.

Of the total number of business signatories (8,381) in 2015, 51 per cent were from Europe (4,235), 26 per cent were from the Americas (2,153), 16 per cent were from Asia and Oceania (1,376), 4 per cent were from Africa (314), and 4 per cent were from the MENA region (303).

*A deeper dive into each region can be found on the respective Regional Profile pages.

Local Networks by Region
The total number of Local Networks dropped from 101 Networks in 2014 to 81 Networks in 2015. 20 networks that had been inactive for over a year, with no activities reported and a failure to meet the criteria listed in the MoU, due to increased governance and accountability measures, were removed from the list of Local Networks. The table to the left depicts the number of Local Networks by region from the year 2000 to 2015.
Top 20 Countries with Local Networks by Number of Participants

In 2015, the growth of Global Compact participants was limited due to the de-listing of Networks who failed to submit their Communications on Progress (COP) on time. A breakdown of the top 20 Local Networks follows: nine are from Europe, of which five are in the top 10; five are from the Americas; five are from Asia & Oceania; and one is from Africa. Spain remained the leading Network in 2015 with 1,564 participants (making up 12 per cent of participants globally), followed by France and Mexico, with 1,116 and 750 participants respectively. Notably, four countries from the Americas region are among the top 10, indicating that the region has a high interest in sustainability and the potential to be a fast growing market.

Local Networks by Category

In 2015, 77 per cent of all Local Networks were Formal, an increase from 2014 while 10 per cent were Established and 14 per cent were Emerging. The most notable change was a shift in Asia & Oceania, from nine Formal Networks in 2014 to 13 in 2015. Non-Formal Networks still account for 23 per cent of the total number, which indicates room for Established and Emerging Networks to develop and evolve to the next category.
Communication on Progress (COP)

In 2015, 5,858 Communications on Progress (COPs) were submitted by business participants. This marks an increase of 8.4 per cent from the previous year’s 5,404 COPs.

In terms of reporting differentiation levels, 82 per cent were Active, 10 per cent Learner and 8 per cent Advanced. Europe submitted 3,146 COPs (309 Learner, 2,588 Active, 249 Advanced) with a significant increase of 18 per cent in Advanced reporting compared to 2014. The Americas reported 1,466 COPs (171 Learner, 1,174 Active, 121 Advanced), a total increase of 7.8 per cent and a 15.2 per cent increase in Advanced COPs from the previous year. The Asia & Oceania region reported 894 COPs (78 Learner, 751 Active, 65 Advanced). The region experienced a total increase of 5.3 per cent and a 20 per cent increase in Advanced COPs compared to 2014. Africa reported 180 COPs (21 Learner, 147 Active, 12 Advanced) with the MENA region reporting 172 COPs (18 Learner, 148 Active, 6 Advanced). The increase in Advanced reporting in a number of regions indicates an improvement in companies’ capacity to report globally.
LOCAL NETWORK ACHIEVEMENTS 2015
REGIONAL OVERVIEW

2015 was a very important year for the UN Global Compact in Africa in several ways. Participation from the private sector increased markedly during the year, signaling a heightened awareness in the region on the importance of corporate sustainability. The year witnessed the highest rate of African CEOs signing on to the UN Global Compact since the initiative was first launched in 2000. Financial contributions from the region increased from US$119,866 in 2014 to US$151,420 in 2015.

In the same breath, there was more sponsorship, strategic/issue contribution and LEAD company fees made by companies from sub-Saharan Africa to the Foundation for the Global Compact. Another progress made in Africa was that a new Board member from Nigeria joined the Board of the UN Global Compact at the invitation of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

In September 2015, UN Member States adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the UN General Assembly. The SDGs replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which expired in 2015. Not only did the adoption of the SDGs usher in a new phase of global development, but it also established the voice of the private sector as a major partner in achieving global development. For Africa, these developments were no less significant.

Global Compact Networks in Ghana, Kenya and South Africa convened meetings to build the capacity of the private sector to implement the SDGs. This initiative drives the agenda in the region for responsible business practices that contribute to sustainable development in tandem with Global Compact goals and its Africa strategy. A strategic next step for the continent is to increase the presence of the Global Compact from 41 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa to more countries where the Global Compact is not present at the moment. In addition, the number of Local Networks will double in the continent over the next years with special attention to involving the larger countries.

KEY STATISTICS

The African Network grew by 18 per cent from 2014 to 2015 by adding 116 new participants (51 business and 65 non-business). Participants in the region were composed of 114 companies (15 per cent), 200 small and medium-sized enterprises (26 per cent), and 450 non-businesses (59 per cent), as depicted in the table to the right.
In 2015, Global Compact presence in Africa was seen in 41 countries as depicted in the table below. The countries with the largest number of participants include Nigeria (167), Kenya (132), South Africa (79) and Ghana (74), with the remaining countries holding less than 30 participants. There exists striking potential for the Global Compact to grow and to make an impact. The next step is to ensure impactful presence in the continent.

* Countries in light blue = countries with no Local Networks
Countries in dark blue = presence of a Local Network.
REGIONAL EVENTS

CEO BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE FORUM (LAGOS, NIGERIA – 19 JANUARY 2015)

Held as a high-level business luncheon, the Forum marked the finale of the Siemens Integrity Project on Collective Action against Corruption in Nigeria. The event was co-hosted by the UN Global Compact, Global Compact Network Nigeria, Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG), and supported by Siemens AG. It was broadcast live on Nigeria’s Channels Television. The event brought together 160 businesses, civil society, government and media from all parts of Africa to share their views on how the private sector should work together with other stakeholders on Africa’s development goals with a focus on collective action to stem the tide of corruption. Collaboration and collective action were the key themes at the event with many CEOs, business leaders and governments calling for all stakeholders to work together on their shared goal of building inclusive economies in Africa.

GLOBAL COMPACT ANNUAL LOCAL NETWORKS AFRICA REGIONAL MEETING 2015 (LAGOS, NIGERIA – 22-24 NOVEMBER 2015)

Global Compact Networks in Africa gathered in Nigeria for the Annual Local Networks Africa Regional Meeting to learn more about the available resources, future events and opportunities for greater private sector engagement and to discuss strategies for collaboration to accelerate corporate sustainability in Africa. Hosted by Global Compact Network Nigeria and the Nigerian Economic Group (NESG) with the support of Zenith Bank Nigeria, the annual regional meeting brought together Networks and organizations from all regions of sub-Saharan Africa. The meeting was also attended by local business participants, representatives of the Global Compact Network Nigeria Steering Committee and other stakeholders. Several UN organizations from Nigeria attended part of the meeting to explore ways to collaborate with the Networks and the private sector. Participants discussed the Network and how to further scale up impact on corporate sustainability in Africa. Participants also discussed the enormous potential, as well as the complex challenges, faced in the African private sector and how networks are working to link local business priorities with the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact to create value. A major part of the meeting focused on the recently adopted SDGs. Networks expressed their enthusiasm in seeing the SDGs as an opportunity to align Global Compact core messages with critical business needs and operations. The event concluded with a look towards the future and growth of the UN Global Compact in sub-Saharan Africa.
**Local Network Initiatives**

**ANTI-CORRUPTION**

**Compliance Management Workshop & High-Level Conference on Business Integrity**

On 19 May 2015, Global Compact Network Ghana, in collaboration with the Alliance for Integrity, organized a training on compliance management in Accra. Fifteen representatives of local enterprises seeking to advance their capabilities in the areas of compliance and anti-corruption participated. The training included modules on the different types of corruption with a focus on bribery and “grey areas.” Presentations focused on developments in compliance. Participants discussed effective measures to enhance business integrity.

On 21 May 2015, Global Compact Network Ghana supported the Alliance for Integrity and GIZ in Ghana to host the high-level panel, “Business Integrity - How to Build an Anti-Corruption Pathway for Ghana,” which convened 130 representatives from the private sector. In addition to the participation of high-ranking individuals from the private sector, representatives from the public sector and civil society organizations also attended. H.E. Rüdiger John, German Ambassador to Ghana, welcomed participants to the event. Key issues discussed during the conference included challenges for anti-corruption efforts in Ghana, feasible measures for reducing corruption risks, how to raise awareness of best practices in enhancing business integrity, and the roles that different stakeholders play in a collective action approach against corruption.

**CROSS-CUTTING**

**Communication on Engagement (COE) Training**

Global Compact Network Ghana, in collaboration with the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), held a half-day training workshop on Communication on Engagement (COE) reporting. The COE is a public disclosure through which non-business participants inform stakeholders of their efforts to support the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact. The primary aim of the workshop was to understand the objectives of the COE, familiarize non-business Global Compact participants with the COE policy, understand how the implementation of the COE policy will affect non-business participants, and help non-business participants communicate their engagement with the Global Compact.

**SDG ACTION IN 2015**

**Social Good Summit**

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Ghana, with support from the Multimedia Group, Global Compact Network Ghana, Unilever and Standard Chartered Bank, held the “Social Good Summit 2015” event to raise awareness around the newly-adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The event featured a panel discussion on the achievement of Ghana’s Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and lessons learned that can guide the implementation of the SDGs. The topic of the Summit was “New Goals, New Power, New Technology.” Held at the Alisa Hotel in Ghana, students, academia, policy analysts, private sector, civil society organizations and government officials interacted and discussed the implications of SDG implementation for the country. The Summit was part of more than 100 Social Good Summits organized around the world to raise awareness on the SDGs.
Local Network Initiatives

ANTI-CORRUPTION

17th Working Group of the 10th Principle Against Corruption and International Anti-Corruption Conference
From 8-9 December 2015, the UN Global Compact, in collaboration with Global Compact Network Kenya and Safaricom Ltd., convened a two-day event to mark International Anti-Corruption Day. The event brought together over 400 high-level representatives from the private sector, government, international organizations, civil society and the media to discuss the importance of conducting business with integrity and transparency. His Excellency, Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta, CGH, President of the Republic of Kenya, opened the conference with welcome remarks, calling the event “important and timely.” He noted the work of the UN Global Compact and its “spirit of partnership between government, business and citizens,” a concept that his own administration has embraced. UN Global Compact Board Member and Safaricom Ltd. CEO Robert Collymore stressed the business imperative for the private sector to be not only a partner but also a leader in the advancement of the SDGs, in particular when it comes to collective action against corruption. The two-day event featured panel discussions on emerging and innovative anti-corruption measures, the role of whistleblowers, beneficial ownership, corruption in the illicit trade of wildlife and poaching, and how businesses can embed good governance and anti-corruption into their operations and policies. Following the conclusion of the conference, the UN Global Compact and Global Compact Network Kenya organized an Anti-Corruption Risk Assessment Training for businesses. The training guides businesses on assessing and calculating their corruption risks and then mitigating such risks through the development of an action plan.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Sensitization on Children’s Rights and Business Principles
Global Compact Network Kenya, Save the Children, Safaricom Ltd., and UNICEF Kenya held a breakfast meeting to sensitize businesses on children’s rights. The meeting was a call to key players in the private sector to commit to adopting business principles in their day-to-day operations. Companies were called upon to adopt the Children’s Rights and Business Principles and to champion the rights of children for sustainable business practices. The Forum highlighted that adopting these principles is crucial to transforming the marketplace. Attendees learned about the rural-urban differentials in child rights malpractices, with the rural areas threatened more than urban areas. A consensus was reached that social audits and the issuance of audit certification could help to curb the problem of child labour, which is rampant in Kenya’s rural areas. Participants called on the Government of Kenya to step in and address the issue jointly with the private sector.
Local Network Initiatives

ANTI-CORRUPTION

Appreciation Course on Corruption Risk Assessment for Government Institutions

From 4-5 March 2015, UN Global Compact Headquarters, Global Compact Network Nigeria, Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG) and the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) organized an appreciation course on Corruption Risk Assessment for Government Institutions in Abuja. The course, based on the UN Global Compact publication A Guide for Anti-Corruption Risk Assessment, was attended by over 60 senior public sector officials, primarily those working in ethics, compliance, legal, internal audit, risk management, procurement, accounting, finance and human resources departments. It marked the first time the Network held a private sector-led initiative to train government officials on this matter. Participants benefited from access to resources on sustainable risk management, enhanced organizational capacity to improve the quality of existing training, and received tools to assist them in their day-to-day work for Corruption Risk Assessment.

Background
Launched in 2006, Global Compact Network Nigeria is hosted by the Nigerian Economic Summit Group, a convener of public private dialogues on development issues in Nigeria. The Network is managed by a Steering Committee of 14 members. The Network serves to support participants in the integration of the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact and to assist companies in embedding the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into their operations.

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Local Network Initiatives

HUMAN RIGHTS

Promoting the Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights
Global Compact Network South Africa held a series of engagements aimed at improving business action and creating a positive impact on human rights. The engagements were guided by the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. The Network also developed a business and human rights toolkit on the voluntary and mandatory human rights landscape that businesses operating in South Africa need to consider. In July 2015, the Network organized a three-day training workshop on the Guiding Principles, with a focus on the intersection between human rights and water, land and remediation, and grievance mechanisms.

Additionally, business signatories and civil society organizations held joint conversations on the business impacts on human rights and possible future collaborations to advance human rights in South Africa.

In October 2015, as part of the series on human rights and the Guiding Principles, a subsequent dialogue led by Oxfam International took place in Johannesburg with Global Compact business participation. Participating civil society organizations requested increased transparency by businesses on their human rights impacts and NGO access to relevant company data and information (i.e., water impacts). Business signatories called for more constructive engagement with civil society and acknowledged the role they play in facilitating human rights, especially in vulnerable communities.

Conference on Corporate role on Child Rights
On 8 September 2015, the Network partnered with the Global Child Forum to deliver an introductory conference on the corporate role in child rights. The high-level Forum called on companies to assess their impacts on children and identify areas of intervention to protect and promote child rights. Through these conversations on human rights, the Network is beginning to be viewed as a platform to broker and facilitate collaboration between business and civil society organizations on human rights issues.
Local Network Initiatives

HUMAN RIGHTS

Launch of Women Empowerment Principles
On 6 October 2015, Global Compact Network Uganda, in partnership with UN Women in Uganda, officially launched the Women’s Empowerment Principles (WEPs) on the occasion of the Federation of Uganda Employer’s (FUE) Fourth Annual Women Leadership Conference. A plenary discussion focused on the challenges and opportunities of being a female leader. Over 20 CEOs were present and signed on to the CEO statement of support after the official launch of the WEPs in Uganda. Ahunna Eziakonwa-Onochie, the UN Resident Representative and UNDP Resident Coordinator in Uganda, emphasized the importance of women’s economic empowerment, noting that an economically independent woman is less susceptible to violence.

Workshop on Children’s Rights and Business Principles
The Network, in partnership with Net Impact Uganda, AfriChild Centre and Ecolife Center for Sustainable Development, organized a Children’s Rights and Business Principles (CRBP) awareness workshop at Makerere University entitled “The Child Rights Academic Fair.” The event brought together over 100 participants from academia (students and scholars), as well as companies and civil society organizations. The pilot event will be replicated in several other universities in the country with an aim to nurture a new generation of child-rights activists who are well-versed on the impact of business on the rights of children and support the integration of the CRBPs into academic research and educational curriculum. Various presentations were made by representatives of the Network, UNICEF Uganda, Uganda Child Rights NGO Network (UCRNN), Net Impact Uganda and the AfriChild Centre at Makerere University.

LABOUR

CEO Breakfast on Child Labour in the Supply Chain
On 25 February 2015, Global Compact Network Uganda, in partnership with FUE and the International Labour Organization (ILO), held a CEO breakfast consultation on Child Labour in the Supply Chain. The Network presented good practice stories on fighting child labour and supply chain requirements. The participants exchanged views on how Uganda can engage in collective action and explored measures for stemming child labour not only in the broader economy, but also throughout the supply chain.

CROSS-CUTTING

Consultation on Business for the Rule of Law
The multi-stakeholder consultation on the Rule of Law Framework was held on 19 March 2015. The meeting was co-hosted by the Chair and Representative of Global Compact Network Uganda and the President of the Uganda Law Society and funded by the Africa division office of LexisNexis in Durban, South Africa. The meeting was attended by representatives from business, academia and government as well as various other stakeholders. Participants gained an understanding of the UN Global Compact and the Rule of Law Framework—and how Uganda’s private sector can contribute to both. Business participants were encouraged to become involved in the promotion of the Rule of Law in line with Sustainable Development Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.
REGIONAL OVERVIEW

The UN Global Compact has experienced steady growth of participants over the last 12 years in the Americas. The region holds the second largest pool of participants after Europe. In 2015, a strategic process was rolled out in the region aimed at rooting the UN Global Compact agenda into local realities and developing strategic frameworks to implement a bottom-up approach tied to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. These initiatives took place in various countries across the region, including Argentina, Panama, Colombia, Nicaragua, Chile, Mexico, Paraguay, Uruguay and Ecuador. After the adoption of the SDGs in September 2015, Local Networks aligned their action plans with the SDGs in a systematic, consistent and strategic way within their local context. The General Assembly Resolution adopted in December 2015 sets a new standard for the key role that Global Compact Local Networks will play in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Local Networks of the Americas are well-prepared to take on this role.

KEY STATISTICS

The Americas grew by 7 per cent from 2014 to 2015 by adding 243 new participants (58 business and 185 non-business). In 2015, participants in the region were composed of 1,024 companies (27 per cent), 1,129 SMEs (30 per cent) and 1,599 non-business (43 per cent) as depicted in the table to the right.
In 2015, Global Compact presence in the Americas was seen in 28 countries as depicted in the table below. The top five countries with the largest number of participants in 2015 include Mexico (750), Brazil (714), USA (569), Colombia (507) and Argentina (344).

Countries in light blue = countries with no Local Networks
Countries in dark blue = presence of a Local Network.

**Regional Events**

**Global Compact Local Networks America Regional Meeting 2015 (Santiago de Chile, Chile – 26-27 October 2015)**

Global Compact Networks in the Americas gathered at the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in Santiago de Chile to attend the 2015 Regional Meeting. Hosted by Global Compact Network Chile, the meeting was attended by 10 Networks—Guatemala, Nicaragua, Peru, Paraguay, Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, Panamá, Colombia and Chile. The meeting was also attended by the Regional Center for the Support of Global Compact in Latin America and the Caribbean and UN Global Compact Headquarters representatives from the Local Network team.

One of the main topics of discussion at the meeting was developing a bottom-up approach for Network strategies rooted in the Post-2015 Business Engagement Architecture. Local Networks participated in a half-day open discussion with presentations from both Global Compact Networks Argentina and Mexico on how they are advancing and scaling up impact. The discussion also focused on how the Networks are shaping and implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in a consistent, systematic and articulated way among Networks using a common methodology and facilitated by the UN Global Compact Headquarters. Both the UN Global Compact and Local Networks shared ideas and experiences on how to foster and leverage this bottom-up approach and the importance of rooting the SDGs in a local context. Resources developed to facilitate business engagement on the SDGs, including the SDG Compass, were also presented.
Local Network Initiatives

ANTI-CORRUPTION

Development of Anti-corruption Compliance Programme
Global Compact Network Argentina partnered in 2014 with AHK, the Argentinean-German Chamber of Commerce. A programme on anti-corruption was launched with the aim to help companies develop a compliance programme aligned with the 10th Principle Against Corruption. In 2015, more than 100 companies, mostly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), were trained. A session was also held with the National Superintendence of Insurance (SSN), the regulatory body of insurance companies in Argentina.

CROSS-CUTTING

Development of Risk Matrix Tool on Human Rights
In 2013, a formal Working Group was established and lead by Group Sancor Seguros involving 17 companies from a variety of sectors. In 2015, a strategic alliance was created with the Argentine Business Council for Sustainable Development (BCSD/CEADS), the local chapter of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), to develop a Risk Matrix Tool on Human Rights. The Group works with experts from academia and NGOs to develop training sessions covering issues including the Children’s Rights and Business Principles (CRBPs), Women’s Empowerment Principles (WEPs) and Access to Remedy. A special session was conducted with representatives from both the Indigenous community and the private sector to promote understanding and implement the ILO Convention 169.

Working Groups on Women’s Empowerment and Climate Change
In 2015, the Business for Equality Working Group promoted the WEPs among the private sector. As a result, eight companies decided to embed the WEPs into their corporate culture and practices. The Caring for Climate Working Group, launched in 2015, is a multi-stakeholder platform with 25 participants ranging from companies, NGOs and academia led by LATAM and Protagonos. Their work resulted in the launch of an e-book to facilitate the access and the comprehension of the Caring for Climate and CEO Water Mandate platforms in Argentina.

SDG ACTION IN 2015

During Global Compact Network Argentina’s National Assembly in October 2015, participants were introduced to the SDG Action Plan approach, which is based on the bottom-up strategy. The plan has identified a number of SDGs as strategic for both society and the private sector. The plan also outlines the activities necessary to achieve the SDGs as well as to form potential partnerships. More than 200 network participants expressed their views through a voting mechanism, and, following the vote, a panel of CEOs together with the UN Resident Coordinator identified the SDGs as an opportunity for business and discussed the challenges to achieving them. Finally, an interactive session with an expert on innovation provided participants with recommendations on how to contribute to the SDGs in Argentina.
Local Network Initiatives

HUMAN RIGHTS

Empowering Female Refugees
On 4 November 2015, in São Paulo, 20 refugee women, participated in the project “Empowering Female Refugees,” launched by Global Compact Network Brazil in collaboration with the Thematic Group on Human Rights and Labor, the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), UN Women, Caritas, the Support Program for Relocating Refugees (PARR) and Fox Time’s human resources consultancy. The meeting’s goal was to discuss issues related to gender equality, violence against women and the inclusion of refugee women into the labour market.

ENVIRONMENT

Movement for the Reduction of Water Losses in the Distribution Systems in Brazil
Global Compact Network Brazil launched the “Movement for the Reduction of Water Losses in the Distribution Systems in Brazil” on 25 November 2015 alongside the “Less Waste, More Water” campaign. The movement aims at increasing the efficiency of water distribution in alignment with SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation. Global Compact Network Brazil articulated the design of the campaign with members of the private sector, civil society and public companies. Leading up to 2030, the Brazilian Network will focus on promoting dialogues on the issue, calculating targets, understanding the situation of municipalities and building capacity to deal with water concerns.

ANTI-CORRUPTION

Workshop “Corruption Risk Assessment”
A “Corruption Risk Assessment” workshop took place on 28-29 October in São Paulo to raise awareness among corporate leaders on the importance of creating compliance programmes and adopting anti-corruption measures in the corporate environment. One of the main goals was to explain to stakeholders the enforcement of the Corruption Risk Assessment Guide, a UN Global Compact publication translated into Portuguese. Organizations, civil society, public authorities’ representatives and international entities also participated.

SDG ACTION IN 2015

Representatives from Global Compact Network Brazil, alongside representatives from civil society and the Federal and District Governments, officially launched the SDG Action Plan in Brazil. In order to ensure effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda by the private sector in Brazil, the Brazilian Network created the “SDGs Commission” in August. In partnership with the Brazilian Business Council for Sustainable Development (CEBDS) and the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), the Network also launched the SDG Compass in Portuguese.
Local Network Initiatives

ANTI-CORRUPTION

ESG Forum for Responsible Investment Week in Canada — “Investing for the Future”
Global Compact Network Canada, in partnership with CBSR, RIA, and TMX, hosted an Environmental, Social And Governance (ESG) Forum for Responsible Investment Week in Canada. The theme of the forum was “Investing for the Future.” The half-day programme featured highlights from the RIA Conference 2015, global trends and responsible investing as well as presentations by a number of financial institutions.

ENVIRONMENT

Webinar: Putting a Price on Carbon
The “Putting a Price on Carbon” webinar organized by the Network helped Canadian participants understand the international climate momentum in the lead up to COP21. It also explored why companies are increasingly becoming “Carbon Pricing Champions” and the benefits they are experiencing as a result. Some of the areas covered in this webinar include: how to set a meaningful internal carbon price; how to publicly advocate the importance of carbon pricing; and how to communicate on progress over time. Speakers for the webinar included the UN Global Compact, PRI, WRI Business Center, NEI Investments, and Global Compact Network Canada.

SDG ACTION IN 2015

In 2015, Global Compact Network Canada embarked on a new social media project—podcasts featuring discussions on issues related to the Ten Principles of the Global Compact and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The podcasts are short interviews on sustainability-related issues from a range of perspectives, including private sector, civil society, government, the UN, and industry associations. These podcasts are an excellent way to learn about topics such as SDGs, Human Rights, Transparency, Anti-Corruption, and Rule of Law, among others, from impactful industry leaders and renowned organizations. All the podcasts are housed on the Network’s website under the Blogs section.

Background
Launched in 2013, Global Compact Network Canada offers the Canadian business and non-business sectors a unique opportunity to learn and exchange best practices in corporate responsibility. The Network is dedicated to building the capacity of the Canadian corporate sector to embrace sustainable business practices by facilitating dialogue, sharing best practices, and creating peer-to-peer learning experiences between companies and other interested national and global stakeholders.

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Local Network Initiatives

HUMAN RIGHTS

Implementing the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights

Global Compact Network Chile supported a series of activities by the Human Rights Directorate of Chile’s Foreign Affairs Ministry. The country promotes the national implementation of the Framework and Guiding Principles, “Protect, Respect and Remedy.” In January 2015, the Ministry co-organized a debate on the subject with the Committee on Legal Affairs of the Organization of American States. Chile is developing a National Action Plan for Human Rights and Business to implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights at the local level. In April, the Ministry organized a seminar to analyze the importance of the Guiding Principles on respecting human rights and the prevention of social conflicts by the private sector. Attendees included representatives from government, business and civil society.

Workshops on Prior Consultation, Governance and Private Sector

Within the agreement made between the Regional Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean in support of the UN Global Compact and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), the Chilean Network conducted two workshops on “Prior Consultation, Governance and Private Sector.” The workshops were part of a project to facilitate consultation and dialogue between states, Indigenous Peoples and corporations (ILO Convention 169). A series of workshops were conducted in seven other countries across the region, where prior consultation was discussed within the framework of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the building of trust between actors. The workshops included a presentation and consultation on the National Action Plan on Human Rights and Business.

LABOUR

Webinar on the Eradication of Child Labour

Global Compact Network Chile offered a webinar workshop based on the UN Global Compact’s 5th Principle calling for the effective abolition of child labour and on the initiative “Aquí estoy y actúo.” This programme builds company capabilities to diagnose their risks and generate strategies towards child labour prevention.

SDG ACTION PLAN

Since 2014, the Global Compact Network Chile has been developing its strategy and annual planning based on Architects of a Better World: Building the Post-2015 Business Engagement Architecture, a publication produced by the UN Global Compact in alliance with GRI and WBCSD and the UNGC bottom up approach methodology. This strategic planning has transcended into introducing new elements to participants, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Network’s purpose is to accelerate the contribution of the private sector toward achieving these goals while taking into consideration local realities.
**Local Network Initiatives**

**ANTI-CORRUPTION**

Trainee for Trainers Program
Global Compact Network Colombia is the local partner for the Alliance for Integrity Project, implemented by the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ) in Latin America. The objective of the project, entitled “De Empresas para Empresas,” is to train leading companies to use the “Trainee for Trainers” methodology to lead workshops for SMEs on value chains and corruption risk management. By 2015, more than six companies and over 50 SMEs benefited from the programme.

**ENVIRONMENT**

CEO Water Mandate’s Water Forum: An Insight from the Business Sector
In April 2015, Global Compact Network Colombia held a CEO Water Mandate forum in collaboration with the World Business Council For Sustainable Development (WBCSD), WWF Colombia and the Swiss Embassy through its SuizAgua Colombia programme. More than 300 people participated and explored good practices in addressing water challenges. Partnerships for the “Collaboration Lab: Together by Water” development were launched as well as a course on how to measure water footprints, which received support from the COSUDE Swiss Embassy.

**HUMAN RIGHTS**

Capacity Building Workshops on Human Rights
Global Compact Network Colombia has actively engaged organizations to raise awareness on human rights building capacities of employees, contractors and suppliers through a workshop series. The workshops educate people—largely employees—on their rights, and provides them with tools to access those rights along with a “Guardian of Human Rights” diploma.

Launch of National Action on Business and Human Rights
At the end of 2015, the Colombian government officially launched the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights (NAP). As a result of its expertise on human rights issues as well as peace building, Global Compact Network Colombia was invited to contribute to the development of the plan and provide feedback on the final draft.
Fighting Child Labour in Colombia

The Colombian Network Against Child Labour was developed to form strategic alliances to abolish child labour in supply chains. The Network emerges from the UN Global Compact 5th Principle’s Working Group, Child Labour Abolition, and works within the framework of a public-private alliance led by the Colombian Labour Ministry, and with the support of the Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Colombian National Business Association (ANDI), Global Compact Network Colombia and 19 Global Compact participants.

SDG ACTION IN 2015

In collaboration with its Steering Committee members, the Colombian Network organized a bottom-up planning workshop with the objective of updating their local analysis to determine priority issues on the SDGs in the local context for the following two years. Priorities included promoting the CEO Water Mandate, Caring for Climate, WEPs, PRME, and Business for Peace platforms, as well as tackling child labour.
Local Network Initiatives

HUMAN RIGHTS

Global Compact Network Guatemala supports the Regional Center for Latin America and the Caribbean’s efforts to convene the private sector in workshops on Indigenous Peoples’ rights (ILO Convention 169).

SDG ACTION IN 2015

Global Compact Network Guatemala conducted a strategic planning bottom-up workshop to identify local engagement opportunities related to the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in December 2015, used as basis to develop the SDG Action Plan.
Local Network Initiatives

HUMAN RIGHTS

Workshop on Corporate Respect for Human Rights
As a joint initiative between Oxfam America, Oxfam Novib, Shift, Global Compact Network Netherlands and Global Compact Network Mexico, a workshop was organized on the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Oxfam America and Shift took the lead on conducting the workshops, which included case studies and expert insights.

Workshop: Child Rights and Business Principles
Mexican companies participating in the UN Global Compact and UNICEF Mexico collaborated to identify the direct and indirect impact of corporate sustainability principles designed by UNICEF, Save the Children and the UN Global Compact in three key business areas: workplace, marketing practices and supply chain. The workshop featured various experts in the field of children’s rights and CSR.

SDG ACTION IN 2015

A consultative meeting was convened at the IPADE Business School to identify priority areas of the Post-2015 agenda for Mexico using the bottom-up approach methodology. Participants discussed the Network’s nine priority issues for the private sector from the future sustainable development agenda and laid the foundation for defining strategies, objectives and goals to advance its implementation. Companies that participated in the consultations agreed that peace and security were crucial for sustainable development and for building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.
Local Network Initiatives

HUMAN RIGHTS

Workshop: CSR and Children's Rights
A "CSR and Children's Rights" workshop was organized in October by Global Compact Network Panamá and UNICEF to help companies understand the business role in upholding the rights of children. The workshop highlighted the importance of integrating Children's Rights and Business Principles (CRBPs) into company strategies and strengthening existing operations to protect children, all essential social responsibility initiatives.

Forum- Gender Equality is Good Business: Principles Every Company Should Know
The Network, together with UN Women, UNICEF and Sumarse member companies, held a Gender Equality Forum in November 2015. The forum outlined how embedding gender equality and the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) into internal structures is a key strategic step that both strengthens existing company policies while making businesses more competitive.

LABOUR

Business Awareness Campaign Informate+ Prevention and Non-Discrimination on HIV
To drive awareness around the importance of the private sector adopting HIV prevention and non-discrimination policies, Global Compact Network Panamá launched a business awareness campaign. The campaign reached approximately 50,000 employees across 97 Panamanian organizations. To supplement this campaign, a new workshop was created in partnership with USAID/PASCA LMG, PRO-BIDSIDA, UNAIDS and the Health Ministry. The workshop aims to provide updated information to companies for the development and management of HIV policies within their organization.

SDG ACTION IN 2015

In 2015, the Network implemented the bottom-up approach related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which helped formulate the strategic direction of the global-local relationship between UN Global Compact Headquarters and the Local Network. 45 people from 42 organizations participated in the workshop, including representatives from business, NGOs, unions, academia, government, cooperation agencies, CSR organizations, public institutions and UN agencies.
Global Compact Network
PARAGUAY

Local Network Initiatives

ENVIRONMENT

Development of Efficient Water Use Guide
A guide to Efficient Water Use was prepared by Global Compact Network Paraguay’s Environment Working Group to improve water management in the business sector. The preservation of water as a source of life and an essential element for development is a major concern in Paraguay, due to water shortage in certain areas. The protection of water resources requires the participation of multiple actors, particularly, business and industry, due to their role as major economic players in society and their high water expenditure. The guide aims to facilitate information on best practices for better water management and to deliver measurement indicators that allow for optimization of water usage.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Presentation of Business Costs of Violence Against Women in Paraguay Study
In 2015, Global Compact Network Paraguay collaborated with the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ) to present results from the study “The Business Costs of Violence Against Women in Paraguay.” The study was implemented by GIZ through its regional programme, Combating Violence Against Women in Latin America, ComVoMujer. The study provided evidence of the costs to businesses as a result of violence against women (VAW), inflicted by a woman’s partner or former partner, expressed in lost labour productivity and its subsequent impact on the economy of Paraguay.

CROSS-CUTTING

Guide on Shared Value: Discovering Opportunities Through Social Problems
Global Compact Network Paraguay developed the guide entitled Shared Value: Discovering Opportunities Through Social Problems through its Working Group on Equity and Prosperity. The guide provides organizations with a baseline and conceptual framework for generating strategies capable of promoting wellness through social innovation and by creating shared value. Through the Shared Value tool, companies can increase their understanding of different business opportunities, including accessing new markets and serving customers that often have been ignored.

SDG ACTION IN 2015

In 2015, Global Compact Network Paraguay, along with the United Nations Organization in Paraguay and two Global Compact participants (Syngenta and Unilever), organized an SDG awareness-raising event entitled “SDGs: How Do States Respond to These Challenges and How Can Companies Collaborate on Global Action?” Representatives from companies, government and civil society attended the event. Cecilia Ugaz, UN Resident Coordinator in Paraguay, presented the 17 SDGs, while the Minister of the Ministry of Planning, José Molinas, discussed the challenges of making these Goals a reality in the country. Unilever and Syngenta each shared concrete examples of how companies can contribute to achieving the SDGs through sustainability action plans.
Local Network Initiatives

ENVIRONMENT

Contribution to COP21 Agenda
Following the 20th yearly session of the Conference of the Parties (COP20), the UN’s Climate Change Conference, held in Lima, Global Compact Network Peru and the Ministry of Environment submitted a letter to the COP21 organizing committee requesting an inclusion of the informal economy and its environmental consequences in the Conference’s agenda.

HUMAN RIGHTS

United to Help Campaign
Global Compact Network Peru partnered with La Confederación Nacional de Instituciones Empresariales Privadas (CONFIEP), the Peruvian Malls Association, and Caritas Peru to help families affected by landslides and rainfalls in Eastern Lima. Over 30 tonnes of food, clothing and other essential goods were collected.

Regional Consultation with the Private Sector for Latin America and the Caribbean for the World Humanitarian Summit
Global Compact Network Peru is a member of a Working Group that organized a Regional Consultation where participants expanded an effective and inclusive humanitarian programme to improve business responses to natural disasters.

SDG ACTION IN 2015

Throughout 2015, Global Compact Network Peru worked to promote the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) among the business sector. More than 20 newsletters were sent to all Peruvian participants, raising awareness and introducing tools to help align business practices with the SDGs. The Network also leverages social media to post updates on the Global Goals and related activities of the United Nations, as well as projects and programmes initiated by Network participants.
Local Network Initiatives

ENVIRONMENT

Webinar on Leadership in Carbon Pricing
In October 2015, Global Compact Network USA held a webinar entitled “Leadership in Carbon Pricing: COP21 and Beyond.” Speakers included representatives from the Caring for Climate platform, the World Resources Institute, Microsoft and CalSTRS.

SDGS ACTION IN 2015

In 2015, the Global Compact Network USA focused much of its resources on participant engagement, specifically interviewing dozens of participants to inform the Network’s four-year strategic plan. In addition, the Network USA spent the latter half of the year planning its flagship symposium, held in March 2016, to address the question: How can the private sector engage with and advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?

Background
Launched in 2007, Global Compact Network USA provides a platform to bring signatory companies based in the United States (and U.S.-based units of foreign companies) together with stakeholders from the public sector, civil society, labour, academia and other spheres to advance the values and the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact. With respect to programming, the U.S. Network convenes at least one theme-based working symposium each year. These multi-stakeholder forums bring together leading corporate sustainability practitioners, NGOs and other issue experts for deep discussion and the sharing of best and emerging practices.

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Local Network Initiatives

ANTI-CORRUPTION

The Regional Center annually produces an analysis of the accomplishment of the 10th Principle of the UN Global Compact in the extractive and electric industries in Latin America. The documents include a sound report on how companies disclose their actions based on The Reporting Guidance on the 10th Principle Against Corruption, developed by the UN Global Compact and Transparency International.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue Exchange on Indigenous Peoples

The Regional Center coordinates with the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation, AECID. This is a multi-stakeholder programme on the International Labour Organization’s (ILO) Convention 169 and governance and businesses. Its aim is to facilitate dialogue exchange among States, Indigenous Peoples and companies with operations in Latin America that contribute to the implementation of the right to free, prior and informed consultation. Outcomes include seven capacity-building workshops designed for Local Networks as well as a web platform featuring good practices for the business and Indigenous communities.

CROSS-CUTTING

Regional Business Forum on Responsibility and Sustainability

In 2015, the Regional Center held a “Business Forum of the Global Compact in Latin America and the Caribbean: Responsibility and Sustainability” in Chile, providing a platform for benchmarking and the exchange of regional business practices. Previous forums have taken place in Mexico, Peru, Colombia and Argentina.

SDG ACTION IN 2015

In 2015, the Regional Center conducted research on initiatives undertaken by Local Networks and governments in Latin America related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Findings were collated and featured on a dedicated website serving to elaborate on the 17 SDGs, highlight the role of the private sector in the new agenda, and showcase the work of Local Networks and governments across the region. The platform also serves to emphasize global-regional-local synergies on the SDGs.
REGIONAL OVERVIEW

Local Networks in Asia & Oceania continue to influence the corporate sustainability movement within different national, cultural and language contexts. They accomplish this by facilitating multi-stakeholder engagements and creating open spaces for participants to communicate and discuss ways to address global issues in a national and local context.

The Asia & Oceania Networks are active in internetwork collaboration and discuss opportunities and solutions to common issues as well as promote regional and sub-regional synergies to generate and scale up regional impact in the corporate sustainability movement. Some examples of this include an annual sub-regional roundtable conference by the Eastern Asian Networks and the launch of a joint publication that highlights best practices of networks in the region.

To create an enabling environment for responsible business conduct, various Local Networks, particularly in South Asia, play a prominent role as a facilitator to engage in multi-stakeholder dialogues with policy makers to embed corporate sustainability in national agendas.

KEY STATISTICS

In 2015, Networks in Asia & Oceania grew by 7 per cent in contrast to the 6 per cent increase of 2014. The region gained 141 new participants (89 business and 52 non-business). Of the total 2,196 regional participants, the region is composed of 722 companies (33 per cent), 654 SMEs (30 per cent) and 820 non-business organizations (37 per cent) as depicted in the table to the right.

In 2015, Global Compact presence in Asia & Oceania was seen in 26 countries as depicted in the table to the right. The top five countries with the largest number of participants in 2015 include India (320), Myanmar (294), China (279), Republic of Korea (277) and Japan (227).
The 2015 Asia & Oceania Regional Meeting was held on 3-4 December 2015 in Yangon, Myanmar, hosted by Global Compact Network Myanmar. The meeting was attended by 12 Local Networks from Australia, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam. On Day 1, the meeting focused on the SME Engagement Project and developing closer collaboration between LEAD companies and Local Networks. The LNAG also presented updated information on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

On Day 2, a panel discussion on the corporate sustainability landscape in Myanmar and the ASEAN region was held, opening the floor to government agencies, businesses, NGOs and UN agencies. In addition, as part of Day 2, Local Networks shared good practices on engaging participants to respect and support the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact, human rights, environment and other issue areas. The 2015 Regional Meeting attracted participation from several UN agencies in the region and resulted in consensus to explore regional collaboration. Given the importance of the inter-agency collaboration within the UN system, representatives from UNODC, UNOPS, UNESCAP, OCHA and UNV from the region participated in a session entitled “Exploring Collaboration Opportunities with UN Partners.” This reassured participants of the great potential of such collaborations. As for regional collaboration, participating Local Networks agreed to brainstorm possible areas of common interest and work on them in the coming year.
Local Network Initiatives

ENVIRONMENT

Road to Paris and the Science Based Targets Initiative
Ahead of COP21, in May 2015, Global Compact Network Australia, the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Australia launched its Road to Paris and the Science Based Targets initiative, which aim to encourage businesses to set new, ambitious greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets consistent with climate science. The event highlighted the central role businesses must play in responding to climate concerns through the reduction of GHG emissions. An extensive debate was held on the changing global political context in the lead up to COP21 as the world shifts towards carbon regulations and renewable energy, and how some companies are already adopting a long-term approach to climate change in their operations.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Multi-stakeholder Dialogue on Business and Human Rights
Global Compact Network Australia has been working on business and human rights from the beginning. Building on its inaugural "Australian Dialogue on Business and Human Rights“ event in 2014, Global Compact Network Australia, in partnership with the Australian Human Rights Commission, conducted a second national multi-stakeholder dialogue in August 2016 with over 100 representatives from business, government, civil society and academia.

Followed by a keynote address from the Executive Director for the Institute for Human Rights and Business, participants explored challenges and successes in the practical implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. They further identified areas where policy and practice can be strengthened and how this can be achieved through stronger collaboration between business, government and civil society.

CROSS-CUTTING

Business for the Rule of Law Consultation
In March 2015, senior legal practitioners, primarily the General Australian Counsel, convened at the Business for the Rule of Law Consultation Workshop and provided input to draft the B4ROL framework, launched in June 2015.

SDG ACTION IN 2015

In February 2015, Global Compact Network Australia co-convened a multi-stakeholder workshop on the SDGs with the Sustainable Development Solutions Network to bring companies up to speed on the global agenda and highlight engagement opportunities.

Also in 2015, Global Compact Network Australia announced its two-year partnership with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, which lead to the establishment of the Sustainable Development Leadership Group (SDLG). SDLG provides a platform for businesses and stakeholders to engage in learning, dialogue and action around sustainable development and the SDGs.
Local Network Initiatives

HUMAN RIGHTS

Launch of the Women’s Empowerment Principles
In January 2015, Global Compact Network Bangladesh launched the Women’s Empowerment Principles (WEPs) in Bangladesh and a “Women in Need” (WIN) directory. Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Honourable Speaker of Parliament in the government of Bangladesh, graced the inaugural ceremony as Chief Guest with 150 participants in attendance. Following this, the Network developed a project, “Safe Workplace through Gender Equality and Anti-Sexual Harassment in Bangladesh RMG Factories” (Shomotha), and organized five workshops on “Gender Sensitization for Factory Managers” throughout the year.

CROSS-CUTTING

Developing National CSR Guidelines
In 2015, the National CSR Guideline for Bangladesh was developed based on the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact and through a partnership between Global Compact Network Bangladesh and the Bangladesh Ministry of Planning. The Network also collaborated with the Bangladesh Ministry of Labour to form the National CSR Policy for Children, based on the Ten Principles and the Children’s Rights and Business Principles (CRBPs).
Local Network Initiatives

ENVIRONMENT

Ecological Civilization & Beautiful Home 2015 China Summit

In July, the “Ecological Civilization & Beautiful Home” 2015 China Summit (Caring for Climate) was held in Beijing. In preparation for COP21 in December 2015, the Summit gathered 350 participants from relevant government departments, companies, experts and academia. The Chinese government’s ambitious goal, as outlined in the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC), is to peak its CO2 emissions by 2030 or earlier, cut CO2 emission per unit of GDP by 60-65 per cent from the 2005 level, and increase the share of non-fossil fuels in primary energy consumption to around 20 per cent. With the INDC in mind, the Summit highlighted efforts and achievements made in green low-carbon development by Chinese enterprises and showcased solid actions and successful experiences in Caring for Climate. The Summit also featured discussions on promoting ecological civilization and realizing sustainable development through international dialogue, expert discussion and idea-sharing.
Local Network Initiatives

**HUMAN RIGHTS**

**Equality Means Business: Women’s Empowerment Principles in Practice Event**

In September 2015, Global Compact Network India organized a major event, “Equality Means Business: Women’s Empowerment Principles (WEPs) in Practice.” Over 150 representatives from business, government, the UN, civil society and academia participated in the event to advance gender equality in India. Organized by the UN Global Compact and the Global Compact Network India, and driven by four business supporters of the WEPs (BNP Paribas, Deloitte, HCL Technologies and Sodexo), the event highlighted the essential role that businesses can and must play to realize gender equality and achieve sustainable development. Guided by the WEPs, participants reflected on the persistent barriers to advancing gender equality, showcased promising solutions and approaches, and highlighted how companies throughout India are scaling up diversity, inclusion and sustainability strategies to mitigate risks and maximize positive impact. The event also showcased how WEPs signatories can come together to inspire further gender equality action in India.

**CROSS-CUTTING**

**India Sustainability Dialogue 2.0 Conference**

In December 2015, Global Compact Network India, in collaboration with BMW Group India, hosted the “India Sustainability Dialogue 2.0” to exchange ideas on practices adopted by businesses that focus on the social aspect of sustainability. The conference provided a platform for businesses to present their practices, frameworks and innovations demonstrating social commitments. The event also provided an opportunity for engaging of key stakeholders in constructive deliberations on the social aspect of sustainability, which helped clarify the social investment of businesses, their engagement with implementation partners, their perspective of implementation partners as well as learning and recommendations to solve the challenges faced by various stakeholders.

**SDG ACTION IN 2015**

In November 2015, Global Compact Network India organized a “High-Level Panel on Sustainable Development and Voluntary Standards,” convening 300 participants to stimulate discussions and exchange of ideas on the indispensable role of businesses in achieving the SDGs by leveraging voluntary sustainability standards. Partnering with governmental ministries and UN agencies, the event received high visibility. The session started with an orientation for business on the new SDGs and their implications for Indian businesses, while the discussion focused on how companies were approaching the SDGs and the benefits and challenges of using voluntary standards in the context of these Goals.
Local Network Initiatives

HUMAN RIGHTS

Workshop on Business and Human Rights
In February 2016, Global Compact Network Indonesia co-organized a two-day seminar and workshop on Business and Human Rights with Oxfam Indonesia. The seminar was held as part of the “Global Perspectives on Putting the Responsibility to Respect into Practice” project initiated by Oxfam America, Oxfam Novib, Shift and Global Compact Network Netherlands. The project explores perspectives from companies and civil society on the challenges of and the effective approaches to implementation of corporate responsibility to respect human rights in four key emerging economies: Indonesia, Mexico, South Africa and Turkey. Indonesia was the first country to host the project. While the first half-day was designed solely for business executives, the workshop invited more than 60 participants from companies, civil society organizations, academia and embassies. As a follow-up action, a Business and Human Rights Working Group was formed in May 2015 with two areas of focus: 1) to integrate the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights into corporate values; and 2) to actively contribute to the drafting of the National Action Plan on Business & Human Rights, coordinated by the Human Rights National Commission.

CROSS-CUTTING

Mass Wedding
A Mass Wedding for underprivileged families attended by more than 10,000 people has been an ongoing Global Compact Network Indonesia Business for Peace programme. In 2015, a Mass Wedding was conducted for underprivileged Indonesian families as an enforcement and protection of their civil rights. This programme allowed 5,115 families to obtain marriage licenses and more than 10,000 birth certificates in process, which provides recipients with access to education, healthcare, security, microcredits and formal job opportunities. The process—from outreach, identification, registration, wedding and the final reception—began several months before and involved workers and volunteers from government, military, business, and humanitarian organizations. The reception took place in Jakarta.

SDG ACTION IN 2015

Business Forums on the SDGs
In order to raise awareness on the SDGs in Indonesia, Global Compact Network Indonesia organized the Business Sustainability Forum, “Growing with Nation,” in collaboration with Atma Jaya Catholic University and the Bhumikara Foundation. Attended by 125 participants from business, academia, civil society organizations and government, the objective of the forum was to increase the understanding of business sustainability and its importance as well as to identify priority issues and challenges. Finally, the Forum looked to find solutions and actions that can be achieved in a collaborative manner. Three sessions covered economic growth, environmental sustainability and social equity. The Forum raised the importance of governance and law enforcement as key factors in business sustainability.

In November 2015, the second business forum, entitled “Smart City for Mega City—Actions for a Better World,” was organized with the focus on SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities. Attended by 75 participants, the Forum explored the notion of “smart cities” from the following eight aspects: governance, energy, building, mobility, infrastructure, technology, healthcare and citizens.
Local Network Initiatives

HUMAN RIGHTS

Panel on Diversity and Inclusion
In August 2015, Global Compact Network Japan helped the ILO Office in Japan organize a panel for their symposium, entitled “New Trends of Diversity and Inclusion in the Office — Gender, Disabilities and Global Human Resources.” The panel presented the gender-related challenges faced by companies and how they are addressing them in the workplace. The Forum was attended by more than 110 participants from the private sector, NGOs, media and UN agencies.

CROSS-CUTTING

Learning Forum

Workshop on Business and Innovation
In November 2015, in collaboration with Japan Platform (JPF) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Japan, Global Compact Network Japan held a workshop to discuss business and innovation to support NGOs and humanitarian aid organizations, especially those in disaster-stricken areas and refugee camps. Tsukasa Hirota, Director of the Humanitarian Assistance and Emergency Relief Division of the MOFA, gave a briefing on current humanitarian aid and issues, followed by the JPF’s showcase of water businesses at Zaatari camp, Jordan. Attended by 40 participants from business and NGOs, the Forum provided insights on possible business applications utilizing communications technology, among others.

SDG ACTION IN 2015

In order to swiftly move forward with the SDGs, a Post-2015 Working Group was set up in 2014 and continued throughout 2015 with 20 participants. In addition to regular meetings, the Working Group organized an open seminar in October, attracting more than 100 participants, to celebrate the adoption of the SDGs and to explore opportunities of the new agenda in the Japanese context.

In addition, the SDGs Taskforce developed a survey on the SDGs for UN Global Compact signatories and presented results at the Network’s annual symposium in December. According to the survey, more than 50 per cent of 134 respondents had already begun working on each of the 17 Goals at some level, with the exception of Goal 14: Life below Water. The most extensively tackled SDG was identified as Goal 5: Gender Equality. However, only 20 per cent responded that top management was aware of the SDGs. As a way to disseminate the SDGs, Global Compact Network Japan translated the Guide to Corporate Sustainability: Shaping a Sustainable Future (published by the UN Global Compact) into Japanese.
Local Network Initiatives

ANTI-CORRUPTION

Launch of Fair Player Club
In May 2015, Global Compact Network Korea and the Global Competitiveness Empowerment Forum (GCEF) launched a new anti-corruption project called Fair Player Club, funded by the Siemens Integrity Initiative. The launching ceremony was held at Conrad Seoul on 19 May 2015 and attended by various representatives from the private sector, government and the UN Global Compact. Fair Player Club aims to raise awareness on the importance of fair and just competition to all market players and the rule of law through compliance and business ethics. Fair Player Club will provide education, training, research and other anti-corruption awareness raising programs in consideration of industry, region and country context.

CROSS-CUTTING

Overseas Forums on Corporate Social Responsibility
Global Compact Network Korea organized three overseas forums, entitled “CSR Forum for Korean Companies Operating Overseas,” in Indonesia, Myanmar and Cambodia. Each Forum convened 50 corporate representatives from Korean companies operating in the respective country, and brought the Network together with embassies and other Global Compact Local Networks.

SDG ACTION IN 2015

In May 2015, Global Compact Network Korea and the UN Global Compact Headquarters co-hosted the “UN Global Compact Korea Leaders Summit 2015: Business Engagement for Achieving Sustainable Development.” The Summit convened approximately 600 domestic and foreign participants from government, business, the UN and academia. The breakout sessions focused on business and human rights, anti-corruption, environment and Business for Peace, the latter of which was launched during the morning session of the Summit. The Summit culminated with the adoption of the Seoul Declaration 2015 that includes an action plan for achieving sustainable development.

In November, a forum on “Korean Business Engagement in the SDGs” was convened with 70 participants to introduce the outcome of the UN Sustainable Development Summit 2015 and the UN Private Sector Forum 2015. The Korean translation of the SDG Compass was also introduced.
Local Network Initiatives

CROSS-CUTTING

Doing Well by Doing Good Workshop
In April 2015, Global Compact Network Myanmar held a workshop, entitled “Doing Well by Doing Good: 3 Days Workshop.” Attended by 30 people, mostly non-Global Compact signatories, the course laid out in full what responsible business means, both in a general and country-specific context. Each session reviewed how various functions should be designed to integrate responsible business principles in the areas of governance, CSR, branding and public relations, sales and marketing, and planning a future.

Background
Launched in 2013, Global Compact Network Myanmar has been recruiting new Global Compact signatories at one of the fastest paces among other Local Networks. It is hosted by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

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Local Network Initiatives

CROSS-CUTTING

Convening of Annual General Meeting
Global Compact Network Pakistan's annual general meeting was held in January 2015 and included the 47th Business Talk CSR meeting on the theme of Business for Peace. The chief guest, Dr. Ishrat Husain, former Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan and Dean and Director of the Institute of Business Administration, called upon business to engage in economic and social cooperation to nurture sustainable peace by creating mutually beneficial interest conditions. The business session was followed by a panel discussion on the role business can play to promote peace in Pakistan in the context of the current phase of conflict and violence. Dr. Ishrat Husain presented the “Living Global Compact Excellence Award 2013-14” to select companies.

SDG ACTION IN 2015
Given the adoption of the SDGs in September, Global Compact Network Pakistan renamed its monthly Steering Committee meeting to a “Business Talk Sustainability” meeting. In September, 50 participants from business, academia and civil society attended the meeting and called for a collective platform for knowledge sharing. As a result, the following three task forces were formed: Anti-corruption, skilled labour and education, and water scarcity and climate change. In October, the focus of the meeting was “Thematic Areas of Business Sustainability Challenges in Pakistan,” with various task forces presenting the progress of their work.
Local Network Initiatives

CROSS-CUTTING

Recognizing Organizations for CSR Integration
In August 2015, the Singapore Apex CSR Awards recognized organizations for integrating sustainability into their businesses. The awards were co-presented by Global Compact Network Singapore, the Singapore Business Federation and the Business Times, and supported by the Ministry of Environment and Water Resources, with KPMG as the knowledge partner. The awards were presented at Global Compact Network Singapore’s 10th anniversary gala dinner, celebrating 10 years of CSR in Singapore. The guests of honour included the Minister, Prime Minister’s Office and the Secretary-General of the National Trades Union Congress (NTUC).

ENVIRONMENT

Panel on Sustainable Forest Management for a Greener Future
In November 2015, Global Compact Network Singapore, together with PEFC International and the Singapore Furniture Industries Council, organized a panel discussion entitled “Sustainable Forest Management for a Greener Future” to address ongoing issues of haze from neighbouring countries. The panel was well represented by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification International (PEFC International), the Singapore Environment Council (SEC), the Singapore Furniture Industries Council (SFIC) and Spicers Singapore. It explored responsible forestry, the effectiveness of forest certification, methods of stakeholder engagement and the impact of raising awareness among consumers. The event was attended by 80 people from business, government and civil society.

SDG ACTION IN 2015

In December 2015, Global Compact Network Singapore co-organized the event “Collective Action Against Corruption in the Context of the New Sustainable Development Goals: What Role Businesses, Youth and Anti-Corruption Agencies Could Play?” in partnership with UNDP Global Anti-Corruption Initiative (GAIN) and ASEAN CSR Network (ACN). The event was attended by approximately 100 people. Within the opening remarks, the CEO of ACN discussed corruption as a crucial problem and serious challenge to growth—as well as one that disproportionately hurts the most vulnerable, such as the poor, women and minorities. The panelists included a partner from the Fraud Investigation & Dispute Services in EY Singapore, who introduced the results of the EY Asia-Pacific Fraud Survey 2015. According to the survey, two-thirds of the respondents think that having a good reputation for ethical behavior provides a commercial advantage, such as talent retention. He concluded that “clean business keeps you in business and clean business is everyone’s business.”
Local Network Initiatives

HUMAN RIGHTS

In March 2015, Global Compact Network Sri Lanka partnered with the Habitat For Humanity Youth BUILD 2015 under the theme "PLAY a part, ACT today, SHARE with friends." It brought together youth from across the island and overseas to assist in the building of homes for internally displaced people in Trincomalee District, Sri Lanka. As many as 570 volunteers and 100 Global Compact participants joined the project.

CROSS-CUTTING

Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) joins the UN Sustainable Stock Exchange

In September, Global Compact Network Sri Lanka supported Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) to join the UN Sustainable Stock Exchange. The announcement was made public in New York, coinciding with the adoption of the SDGs. CSE Chairman was invited to the SSE's meeting, which was hosted by the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE), and joined the delegation to ring the NYSE Closing Bell on 24 September 2015.

Support on Reporting

Global Compact Network Sri Lanka co-organized a two-day workshop to enhance sustainability reporting for UN Global Compact signatories with ACCA and DNV-GL in April 2015. 30 UN Global Compact participants and 10 non-participants attended. Later in October, another two-day workshop on reporting to the G4-GRI guidelines was organized and attended by 40 participants.

SDG ACTION IN 2015

In September, Global Compact Network Sri Lanka partnered with UNDP to host the Social Good Summit (SGS) 2015, which was attended by 120 participants. The event focused on engaging the private sector and civil society organizations to implement the Global Goals for Sustainable Development in Sri Lanka under the theme "New Goals, New Tech, New Power." The UNDP Country Director for Sri Lanka provided an inaugural speech.
Local Network Initiatives

HUMAN RIGHTS

CEO Workshops on Women’s Empowerment

In November 2015, two CEO workshops on “Enhancing Corporate Competitiveness through Women’s Empowerment in the Workplace” were co-organized in Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi by the Vietnam Business Council for Sustainable Development (VBCSD) and the Vietnam Women Entrepreneur Council (VWEC) under the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) and in collaboration with UN Women. These events aimed to strengthen business leaders’ awareness and commitment of the WEPs. More than 80 CEOs and equivalent officers participated in the workshops, which also facilitated experience-sharing and discussions on how to effectively apply the WEPs in business. During these events, 15 business leaders signed the WEPs CEO Statement of Support.

CROSS-CUTTING

Global Compact Network Vietnam organizes “CSR Calendar Forum” to provide learning opportunities for UN Global Compact participants. In 2015, seven forums were held on the topics of labour, fair operations and environment in Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh City. Each event attracted between 80 to 120 people. In addition, the 8th and last CSR Calendar Forum of the year was a special edition entitled “Change of Size—Transformation of Entrepreneurship—Vietnam Joining AEC: A Stepping Stone to a Deeper Integration” to explore business opportunities within the ASEAN economic community.

Background

Global Compact Network Vietnam launched in 2007 and is hosted by the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI). The goal of Global Compact Network Vietnam is to serve as the national corporate social responsibility (CSR) centre of excellence.

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Regional Overview

Global Compact Networks in Europe continue to advance sustainability in every sphere of business operations. From East to West, the implementation of the UN Global Compact Principles is evident through partnerships, inter-network collaboration and public-private dialogues. Though the national contexts vary, the Networks in the region concentrate their action plans around social, governance and environmental trends, with a focus on compliance systems and social innovation. Hosted by Global Compact Network Germany, Networks from the region and their stakeholders worked together at the “Global Compact +15 Europe” to tackle relevant themes for the region and to plot the way forward with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as their guide. Aiming towards impact creation and true transformational change, the European networks utilize their unique diversity, leverage one another’s expertise, and work together to establish partnerships, mentorships and collaboration.

Key Statistics

Europe saw no growth from 2014 to 2015, losing 118 business participants and adding 137 non-business participants for a net growth of 19 participants. (The large number of de-listings is due to the conclusion of the SME moratorium which was in effect until 2015.) In 2015, participants in the region were comprised of 1,877 companies (31 per cent), 2,358 SMEs (38 per cent) and 1,898 non-businesses (31 per cent).

In 2015, UN Global Compact presence in Europe was seen in 46 countries as depicted in the table to the right. The top five countries with the largest number of participants in 2015 include Spain (1564), France (1116), Nordic Countries (701), Germany (387) and the United Kingdom (322).

Regional Events

Europe - Local Networks Regional Meeting (Berlin – 15-16 October 2015)

More than 20 Global Compact Networks from Europe gathered in Berlin for the Local Networks Regional Meeting on 15-16 October. European networks learned about current initiatives, available resources and future events, as well as explored opportunities for greater engagement between Local Networks and Global Compact LEAD. Companies also spent time identifying challenges and possible solutions for increasing engagement among small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The two-day meeting included a working session where Local Network representatives, members of the Local Networks Advisory Group (LNAG) and
the UN Global Compact Headquarters Local Network team worked collaboratively to identify common regional challenges and elaborate on mutually-beneficial solutions.

Attendees shared expertise on the latest sustainability trends and best practices, and discussed the role of Local Networks as key facilitators of business engagement in the implementation of the SDGs, as well as how to effectively leverage UN Global Compact resources such as the SDG Compass.

GLOBAL COMPACT+15 EUROPE (BERLIN – 13-14 OCTOBER 2015)

Global Compact Network Germany held a Business Forum on 13-14 October with the theme of the conference as the “Future of Corporate Sustainability and the UN Global Compact in Europe.” The two-day event featured the following panels: “Business as a Force for Good: The Role of Companies in Sustainable Development in Europe and Worldwide and The Future of the UN Global Compact” and “The Alliance for Integrity — Collective Action for Principle 10.” 20 discussion sessions covered various topics on CSR and corporate sustainability, such as supply chain sustainability, children’s rights, climate change and reporting. Over 400 participants attended the event with guests including UN Global Compact Executive Director Lise Kingo, Chairman of Global Compact Foundation Sir Mark Moody-Stuart, representatives from European local networks, business representatives, UN agencies and other international organizations.

**EUROPE - COUNTRY PRESENCE**

![Graph showing country presence in Europe]

* Countries in light blue = countries with no Local Networks
  Countries in dark blue = presence of a Local Network.
Local Network Initiatives

CROSS-CUTTING

Innovation and Sustainability
In 2015, Global Compact Network Austria, in collaboration with and held by respACT, held an event with 31 participants featuring two Working Groups on innovation and sustainability. The first Working Group showcased good examples of innovation through sustainable management, and the second Working Group focused on how to move from idea to action. The events were aimed at encouraging business to innovate through sustainable practices and collaboration.

Workshops on Reporting
In 2015, Global Compact Network Austria’s Steering Committee continued to support participants in COP reporting by holding a series of workshops. The primary purpose of these workshops was to improve the quality of the COPs developed by participants and to reduce non-communicating status. At the same time, they provided a platform for experience exchange as well as an opportunity to learn.

Background
Global Compact Network Austria was launched in 2006 and is hosted by respACT, the Austrian business council for sustainable development. A Network Steering Committee of six to 10 representatives ensures the vision and mission of the Network is carried out. In 2015, the theme of the Network was “Innovation +,” focusing on the connection between innovation and sustainability.

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Local Network Initiatives

CROSS-CUTTING

Global Compact Network Azerbaijan spent 2015 promoting the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact, holding roundtables and trainings throughout the year to discuss core values and impact. Alongside meetings, the Network published 10 informative articles on the Ten Principles and CSR. The articles covered a range of topics, including environmental safety, human rights protection, labour rights, gender equality and women empowerment, and anti-corruption.

The Network also introduced the Azeri/English Local Network website for participants to explore the latest Global Compact activities and other useful resources. Lastly, the Network held a summer school for young business students to educate future entrepreneurs on the Global Compact Ten Principles.
Local Network Initiatives

SDG ACTION IN 2015

Global Compact Network Belarus partnered with the Government of Belarus, the UN Office in Belarus, and a wide range of partners and stakeholders to hold the event, UN-70 Express, to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the United Nations. With over 400 participants in attendance, UN-70 Express presented an excellent opportunity to mobilize traditional and emerging development partners (private sector and international foundations), offering a space for engaging with regional and local authorities, beneficiaries, local media, business representatives, youth, grassroots organizations, and vulnerable groups, as well as religious and faith-based organizations. This initiative facilitated learning, raised awareness on the new UN SDG Agenda, and generated new ideas and innovative approaches to foster sustainable development. Simultaneously, the Network provided workshops on CSR in several cities, encouraging companies to join the Global Compact and support the global initiative.
Local Network Initiatives

ENVIRONMENT

Roundtable Discussion on COP21 Engagement
In the frame of the Network’s Alliance with The Shift, Global Compact Network Belgium co-organized a CEO roundtable discussion on COP21 engagement. 76 companies, NGOs and academics signed an open letter calling for action against global warming. Via this letter, business leaders and civil society organizations committed to taking the necessary measures to bring about a 70 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The signatories made a commitment not only to take action themselves but also to put the issue of climate change high on the political agenda. The aim of this unprecedented coalition was to urge the Belgian government to be as ambitious as possible in its climate policy and support its negotiating position at the COP21 climate summit in Paris.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Conference on Social Economy
Joined by Global Compact Network Poland, Global Compact Network Belgium organized an event entitled “Future of Europe: Social Economy First?” The conference invited 2006 Nobel Peace Prize winner, Dr. Muhammad Yunus, as the keynote speaker. Two discussion sessions were organized with a focus on the main challenges faced by the EU, as well opportunities within the social economy.

SDG ACTION IN 2015

In collaboration with the International Chamber of Commerce in Belgium (ICC Belgium), Global Compact Network Belgium organized a “Sustainable Development Goals & Private Sector Lunch- Debate” to discuss the role of the private sector in the implementation of the proposed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The event covered topics such as the relevance of SDGs to Belgian businesses, including both the risks and opportunities. Approximately 40 representatives from business, government, UN Agencies, civil society, as well as academics joined the event.
Local Network Initiatives

ENVIRONMENT

Responsible Consumption and Sustainable Lifestyles—Collective Project
Every year, Global Compact Network Bulgaria organizes a collective project that falls on World Environment Day. The focus of 2015 was responsible consumption and sustainable lifestyles, with the theme of “Seven Million Dreams. One planet. Consume with Care”. The Network organized and filmed a social experiment involving more than 15 children who developed a reality show on the following four stages of food: buying, cooking, consuming and recycling of food waste.

LABOUR

Project Catered to Youth in Bulgaria
Global Compact Network Bulgaria once again held the event, “Proud of My Parents’ Work”, to help children understand the role of labour and creativity as a basis of satisfaction, self-esteem and fulfillment. The project aimed to provide young people with the opportunity to make responsible professional choices on which to dedicate themselves. Nearly 800 people, including more than 600 children, participated. The event included a series of activities, including: An “Open-Doors Day” where children of employees visit the workplace and participate in a contest by submitting an essay, a drawing, or a presentation of the company’s core business and various professions involved; and an introduction to other important topics such as money and its role, safety at work, healthcare, and environmental protection. The project shines a light on employees’ work and value and provides opportunities for children to receive early professional guidance.

CROSS CUTTING

Project on Responsible Consumption
Global Compact Network Bulgaria launched the Responsible Choice 2015 Project to promote responsible consumption and smart resource management skills. The initiative aimed to show consumers that through their actions and purchases they have the power to change production practices, to manage “fashion” imposed by advertisers, and to nurture an anti-consumerism culture in themselves and young people. Approximately 80 participants joined the event.
Local Network Initiatives

HUMAN RIGHTS

Event on Women Empowerment
Global Compact Network Croatia, in partnership with the CEA and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), organized an event around the elimination of discrimination in the labour market and the promotion of women’s entrepreneurship. More than 120 representatives from business, government and civil society attended the event and highlighted various ways to empower women economically. Gordan Maras, Minister of Entrepreneurship and Craft, presented the “Strategy of Women Entrepreneurship Development” for the period of 2014 - 2020. The event also featured two panel discussions on the challenges and opportunities faced by women entrepreneurs.

CROSS-CUTTING

Workshops on Non-Financial Reporting
Global Compact Network Croatia held two workshops on non-financial reporting, including one entitled “How Much are CSR Practices Already Present in Your Daily Operations?” The workshops were open to both members and non-members and provided a learning experience for participants on reporting obligations and guidelines. More than 70 participants attend both events.
Local Network Initiatives

LAUNCH EVENT

Marking the one-year anniversary of the adoption of the National Action Plan for Corporate Responsibility, Global Compact Network Czech Republic was launched in Prague at an event hosted by the Ministry of Industry and Trade. The occasion convened UN Global Compact representatives and participants, delegates of the Ministry and the Quality Council of the Czech Republic as well as other stakeholders in support of advancing corporate sustainability in the country. The launch of the Network was followed by the International Conference of Social Responsibility, “Think Globally, Act Locally,” which covered various topics including the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact, Local Networks and sustainability reporting.

ENVIRONMENT

World Environment Day Seminar

Global Compact Network Czech Republic celebrated World Environment Day with a special seminar. The aim of the seminar was to increase competences of Czech companies and organizations in the field of CSR and to identify opportunities for the implementation of the UN Global Compact’s environment principles. It was hosted by IKEA Czech Republic, one of the Network’s founding members.

SDG ACTION IN 2015

At the close of 2015, in cooperation with partners including the UN Information Centre (UNIC) in Prague, the Network Czech Republic introduced a guide on the new SDGs as well as development plans for the next 15 years towards the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The publication integrates pictures and games to depict the 17 SDGs and is available online and in print.
Local Network Initiatives

ENVIRONMENT

In preparation for COP21, Global Compact Network France mobilized the French private sector in the fight against climate change. The Network demonstrated the business case for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, shared engagement and visibility opportunities, and hosted best practice exchanges, working closely with key French stakeholders and Local Networks around the world. In collaboration with Entreprises pour l’Environnement (EpE) and 25 international organizations, the Network organized the first Business & Climate Summit, which brought 2,000 international business leaders, policymakers and investors to Paris 200 days before COP21. The Summit was an unprecedented mobilization convening 25 business networks representing over 6 million companies from more than 130 countries. Together, they called for an alliance of all actors to lead the global transition to a low-carbon, climate resilient economy.
Local Network Initiatives

ANTI-CORRUPTION

Raising Awareness on Anti-Corruption Initiatives
Global Compact Network Germany held a series of events on anti-corruption in 2015. These activities included a conference on sponsoring and compliance, welcoming 50 business participants to learn about compliance-related risks in the field of sponsoring. The Network also hosted two webinars on anti-corruption and risk management, which were joined by 31 participants.

LABOUR

Business Coaching Event on Children’s Rights
Global Compact Network Germany joined UNICEF Germany in organizing the pilot business coaching event, “How to Do Business with Respect for Children’s Rights,” which took place in Cologne. The event presented a series of four modules over two days exploring how to identify and manage business impacts on children and to integrate children’s rights into business processes. Participants learned how to integrate a children’s rights perspective into specific corporate management processes and were provided with examples and exercises based on real-life case studies. A discussion was held on practical steps, implementation challenges and strategies for success. The event provided an opportunity to reflect on participants’ own businesses through a children’s rights lens and was attended by 12 representatives from companies and SMEs.

Background
Global Compact Network Germany was among the very first Local Networks, launched in 2000. It is registered as an independent entity. The ultimate goal for Global Compact Network Germany is to encourage meaningful change and establish sustainability standards along the entire value and supply chain.

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Local Network Initiatives

HUMAN RIGHTS

Human Trafficking and the Business Approach Event
In collaboration with the Office of the National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings and the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Global Compact Network Greece actively participated and supported the anti-trafficking campaign and festival "Break the Chain." Hosted in Athens in October 2015, the two-day festival included exhibitions, music events and thematic workshops aimed at public sensitization concerning human trafficking. The Network organized a specific workshop entitled “Human Trafficking and the Business Approach” and encouraged its members to attend the event, which saw over 500 people join.

UNICEF 2015 Awards for Children’s Rights
On the occasion of the International Day of Children’s Rights, hosted by Global Compact Network Greece, UNICEF Greece introduced the report For Every Child, A Fair Chance: The Promise of Equality. The report reveals the unjust treatment globally of the poorest and most disadvantaged children, despite significant progress since the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989. UNICEF presented a UNICEF 2015 award to Greek Coast Guard Marie Kyriakou for her excellence in protecting refugee children. The Special "Nick Analyst Award" was awarded to Special Elementary School Thebes by Maria Alexiou, President of Global Compact Network Greece.

CROSS-CUTTING

Growing on Ethics Conference
In September 2015, Global Compact Network Greece organized a conference entitled “Growing on Ethics — Last Call to Action for Europe 2020,” which took place in Athens. More than 220 attendees participated, engaging in a dialogue with 24 prominent speakers over four discussion panels. The panels focused on four thematic areas: 1) Human Rights and Transparency; 2) Leadership and Business Ethics; 3) Innovation and Sustainable Development; and 4) Employability, Skills and Qualifications. The conference involved various stakeholders, including policy makers, and representatives of CSR Europe, the UN Global Compact and the European Commission.
Local Network Initiatives

CROSS-CUTTING

Social Responsibility Day
On 9 June 2015, Global Compact Network Israel hosted the second national Social Responsibility Day in Israel. The Social Responsibility Day aims to raise awareness on corporate social responsibility among Israeli businesses of all sizes, employees and the general public. The main event of the day was held at the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange where 250 attendees, including CEOs of leading participating companies, gathered for the unveiling of the Maala 2015 CSR Index results and the announcement of the Diversity in Business awards. The Maala CSR Index showcases standards of improvement by the Israeli business community and is important for developing a relationship between businesses and the Israeli public.

SDG ACTION IN 2015

Joined by Unilever Israel, Global Compact Network Israel held a conference on Sustainability Strategy and the SDGs. 100 participants engaged around Unilever’s Sustainable Living Plan and the Global Goals in Israel. The stakeholders’ dialogue event focused on the need for collaboration and transformational partnerships and engaged close to 100 participants in the country around the SDGs. Key thought leaders from all sectors including government, municipalities, NGOs, businesses, academia and consumer representatives attended the event. The event included three round table discussions on “Tackling Food Waste,” “Driving Behavior Change for a Healthier Lifestyle,” and “Employee Well-Being.” Dialogue between participants contributed to an understanding of significant issues in each area, forming the basis for future collaborations.
Local Network Initiatives

CROSS-CUTTING

Initiatives on Non-Financial Disclosure
Global Compact Network Italy organized an international conference entitled “The European Directive on Non-Financial Information” in collaboration with auditors, academia, NGOs and other international organizations. It aimed to inform professionals and practitioners of non-financial reporting. In particular, the event provided an opportunity to discuss central aspects related to the introduction and implementation of the European Directive, specifically on context and perspectives, internal processes, skills and opportunities. 30 people from companies and SMEs attended the event.

Supply Chain Self-Assessment Platform
Initiated in 2014, The TenP - Sustainable Supply Chain Self-Assessment Platform is a tool to support members of Global Compact Network Italy in collecting and sharing information on their supplier's sustainability performance. In October 2015, the Network presented the TenP project during the Supply Chain Conference, which also provided an opportunity to explore sustainable supply chains approaches and identify the challenges to implementation.
Local Network Initiatives

CROSS-CUTTING

Conference on Transparency in Business
In November 2015, the “Transparency in Business—Opportunity or Risk?” conference was jointly organized by Global Compact Network Latvia, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia and the Institute of Corporate Sustainability. The conference focused on transparency and the development of a CSR policy in Latvia, and additionally featured inspiring case studies of responsible market practices from local companies. Conference participants were briefed on international policy positions, UN Global Compact initiatives and the implementation of CSR principles within business strategies. The conference invited representatives from government and business to share their vision and experience.

Business Week Event
A Business Week event was held in collaboration with the Institute of Corporate Sustainability and Responsibility, Employers’ Confederation of Latvia (LDDK) and Free Trade Union Confederation of Latvia (LBAS). The event aimed to discuss sustainable state and business development as well as encourage the Latvian community to pay more attention to responsible business practices and sustainability principles, emphasizing personal responsibility.

During the week, the Responsible Business Market conference attracted more than 500 specialists from different companies to share good practices in the field of CSR. Participants had an opportunity to learn through 25 examples of good practice and explored topics related to public procurement, supplier audits, measures to promote a healthy-lifestyle company, employee training and company values. As a result, the conference inspired and encouraged more companies to implement strategic and responsible initiatives.
Local Network Initiatives

ENVIRONMENT

Debriefing Policy Dialogue on COP21
Global Compact Network Macedonia took part in a debriefing on the results of COP21 at the Information Centre of the European Union in Skopje on 15 December 2015. The event was organized by the Embassy of France in Skopje in partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning of the Republic of Macedonia, UNDP Skopje and Go Green. The outcomes of COP21 were discussed among representatives from business, Macedonian institutions and international organizations. This event helped to identify areas for mutual action and reviewed the implementation arrangements envisioned in the national programme on climate change for Macedonia.

CROSS-CUTTING

Annual Meeting on Corporate Social Responsibility
Global Compact Network Macedonia held its annual CSR meeting in December 2015. The meeting was attended by 20 Network participants. The Network presented on the importance and benefits of CSR practices and new corporate sustainability developments on a local and global scale. The event also highlighted the connection between the SDGs and the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact, laying out future network activities related to advancing the SDGs. The Network and its participants reached consensus on new activities and guidelines for Network development.

Background
Global Compact Network Macedonia was launched in 2004 by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and is hosted by the Association Konekt. In 2015, the Network prioritized the promotion of the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact, supporting members on their CSR strategy and reporting, and translating global developments for the local context.

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Local Network Initiatives

SDGS ACTION IN 2015

Together with Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited (DTTL), Global Compact Network Netherlands held the annual event “SDGs in Amsterdam & 2016-2018 Strategy Plan” on 24 November 2015. During the event, the Network discussed its strategic plan in a roundtable format. A representative from Deloitte highlighted the company’s efforts regarding COP21 in Paris.

The Director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, negotiating on behalf of the Dutch government, shared his experiences during the event. In celebrating the 15th anniversary of the UN Global Compact, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Network drafted their “2016-2018 Strategy” to align future projects to the Post-2015 Agenda and the SDGs. The strategy connects the mission with the SDGs, marks the priorities and focuses of the network, and fulfills the need for evolution for the Dutch network.
Local Network Initiatives

ENVIRONMENT

Webinar on Carbon Pricing and the Role of Business
Global Compact Network Nordic Countries held a webinar entitled “Climate—Understanding Carbon Pricing & the Role of Business.” 50 participants from companies, SMEs, civil society and academia attended the meeting. The webinar provided an opportunity to hear about UN Global Compact climate initiatives, specifically carbon pricing, as well as learn from related business experiences and organizational impacts. Experts in the field gave talks on the significance and importance of carbon pricing including a representative from the UN Global Compact Headquarters and the Vice President of Sustainability for Statoil, among others.

CROSS-CUTTING

Conference on Global Goals and Local Realities
The second biannual meeting of Global Compact Network Nordic Countries was held in Helsinki in 2015 and was attended by approximately 150 participants. The conference focused on sustainability-related issues with the theme “Global Goals & Local Realities — Responsible Business.” On the first day, after providing updates on the UN Global Compact and the Nordic Network, the conference held five panels: 1) “Think Big, Act Sustainable — Global Goals in Business Strategy;” 2) “Good Money Never Sleeps — New Trends of Investors;” 3) “Effective Compliance — Supply Chain, Human Rights & Corruption;” 4) “Business Contracts & CSR — Whose Terms & Codes of Conduct;” and 5) “License to Operate — New Stakeholder Demands for Business.” On the second day of the event, five panels focused on responsible business. The conference closed with a preview of the Network’s activities in 2016.
Local Network Initiatives

HUMAN RIGHTS

United Nations Day Gala in Warsaw
Global Compact Network Poland held the “United Nations Day Gala” on 29 October 2015 in Warsaw, marking the inauguration of the Innovations for Development Initiative. Representatives from the UN, business and the scientific community met to exchange opinions as part of an international panel. The event included a debate entitled “Art Patronage — Patronage in the Innovative Economy.” The discussion posed questions about how the intellectual construct of cost-effectiveness can be applied to art, whether it’s possible to cultivate the ability to notice artistic value in a profit-oriented organization, and if patronage is a public concept. At the end of the discussion, the Lost Museum (Muzeum Utracone) project was presented as an example of a commitment to culture by business. The project aims to restore the memory of Polish works of art and culture robbed over the course of the Second World War.

Establishment of Ethics Defenders Coalition
The Ethics Defenders Coalition was established by Global Compact Network Poland on 10 December 2014, International Human Rights Day, at a conference inaugurating the Human Rights and Business 2014-2020 Programme. The principal aim of this Coalition is the development and promotion of ethical standards in businesses rooted in the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

The Coalition consists of representatives from business displaying the highest standard of practice in the field of business ethics, providing opportunities to share experiences, deepen understandings and systematize knowledge on the protection of human rights by business. Coalition members are expected to become guides and role models for other businesses. Meetings of the Coalition are open to all interested businesses and institutions. Emphasis is placed on real-life scenarios and proven solutions for inspiring new ethics management programmes within organizations.

SDG ACTION IN 2015

In order to draw attention to the problem and change the alarming statistics, the Network established an SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities programme focused on addressing the worsening of air quality. The Network intends to contribute to a decline in the low-stack emission’s effect, which is largely caused by obsolete, low-performance coal-fired boilers in use in most households. The strategy involved air quality analysis of the biggest Polish cities, promotion of innovative and modern technologies, and increasing awareness of local communities. Addressing SDG 11, Network Poland aims to explore the main cause of low-stack emission, particularly in Polish cities.
Local Network Initiatives

HUMAN RIGHTS

Global Compact Network Portugal organized a conference on the Women’s Empowerment Principles (WEPs) and explored the benefits of implementing the Principles in the workplace, marketplace and community.

SDG ACTION IN 2015

Global Compact Network Portugal organized the conference entitled “Is the Sustainable Development Agenda Accomplishable?” The conference celebrated the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the associated SDGs and featured discussions on whether the globalization of well-being is feasible and achievable. The conference also analyzed the European Promotion of Development in consideration of the human rights policy. The Network’s representative organized the panel “What is Development? A Conversation about Happiness, Ethics and Culture in Development.” Over 150 participants from diverse fields attended the event.

CROSS-CUTTING

Global Compact Network Portugal was one of the Social Responsibility Week co-organizers during the event’s 10th Edition on the topic of “Sustainability and Corporate Governance.” The Network presented on Social Responsibility in the Post-2015 era. 80 people from business, civil society and academia attended the event.
Local Network Initiatives

CROSS-CUTTING

The Network established online and offline communication channels to promote the newly-established Network as well as the activities of the UN Global Compact. The Network also held various meetings with the French-Romanian Chamber of Commerce and the German-Romanian Chamber of Commerce to build partnerships within the corporate sustainability space.
Local Network Initiatives

ANTI-CORRUPTION

Event on Development of Anti-Corruption Policy
In April 2015, at the UN House in Moscow, Global Compact Network Russia hosted a conference entitled “Consolidation of Efforts by Government, Business and Society in Implementing the Anti-Corruption Policy.” 38 representatives from government, academia, business and the media convened to discuss the practical involvement of business and society in implementing the State anti-corruption policy. During the event, stakeholders were defined, results of collaborative work were announced and unique projects aimed at fighting corruption were presented. Particular attention was paid to ensure broad support for the efforts of the business community and public authorities in fighting corruption, the role of media in shaping public rejection of corruption, the promotion of individual and collective actions to reduce corruption, and the participation of educational institutions in shaping anti-corruption standards of conduct.

Special Session on Anti-Corruption
Global Compact Network Russia and the UN Global Compact hosted a special session as part of the “Sixth Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption” in Saint Petersburg, Russia. The priority topic of the Conference in 2015 was “Public-Private Partnership in Preventing and Fighting Against Corruption.” The UN Global Compact special session discussed how to promote integrity and transparency in the public procurement system. Representatives of business, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, members of the Anti-Corruption Working Group of the UN Global Compact, Network Russia participants, journalists and international experts explored various aspects of public-private cooperation. The St. Petersburg Declaration promoting “Public-Private Partnership in Preventing of and Fighting Against Corruption” was adopted and representatives of more than 25 states became co-authors of the document.
Local Network Initiatives

HUMAN RIGHTS

Panel Discussion on the Refugee Crisis
On 20 October 2015, Global Compact Network Serbia in cooperation with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Serbia organized a panel discussion on the refugee crisis and the response of the public, private and civil sectors. Held on the premises of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia, the event was organized to provide clear information on the refugee crisis in Serbia and to find better solutions for coordination in the process of delivering aid. Speeches and presentations were given by representatives from government, industry and UN agencies.

ENVIRONMENT

Conference on Climate Change and Emergency Response
One year after catastrophic flooding in Serbia, Global Compact Network Serbia organized a conference dedicated to tackling the topic of climate change and support in emergency situations. 18 representatives from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Coca-Cola Hellenic, Delta Holding, UNDP and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia participated.

SDG ACTION IN 2015

The Network, with support from the UN Resident Coordinator in Serbia and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, organized a presentation on SDGs. The new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was presented to companies which were asked to vote for two to three SDGs they deemed of high importance in the Serbian context. Representatives from government and UN agencies gave speeches to an audience that also included government and UN ambassadors in addition to business and civil society members.
Local Network Initiatives

ANTI-CORRUPTION

Conference on Compliance and Anti-Corruption
Global Compact Network Slovenia collaborated with the European Institute for Compliance and Ethics (EICE), and IEDC-Bled School of Management to organize the first multi-sector compliance and ethics conference in Slovenia. The conference intended to provide a communication platform and educational experience for companies and other organizations from a range of departments, including compliance and operations. It was attended by 66 participants who deepened their knowledge of emerging compliance and ethics disciplines as well as good practices in internal governance.

ENVIRONMENT

International Symposium Focused on Water
Global Compact Network Slovenia co-organized an international symposium alongside the Bled International Film Festival, which aims to inspire a better and more sustainable world through film. The conference brought together distinguished keynote speakers from academia and business to discuss the most essential life-sustaining resource: water. The agenda of the symposium included the following topics: 1) “Water as a Human Right;” 2) “Water as a Strategic Issue;” 3) “Water as Business;” 4) “Water as Inspiration;” and 5) “Water As Business: Dilemmas & Solutions.”
Local Network Initiatives

ANTI-CORRUPTION

Transparency Week
To mark International Anti-Corruption Day on 9 December, the Spanish Network organized several activities to raise awareness with participants on the importance of transparency. There were two roundtables. The first was entitled "Transparency Law: Advances and New Implications to Organizations." The second roundtable was based on a discussion from different perspectives of the private sector: business, auditors and business schools.

CROSS-CUTTING

Business for the Rule of Law Workshop
On 26 March 2015, Global Compact Network Spain presented the Business for the Rule of Law (B4ROL) framework in collaboration with the Pombo Foundation. The event was attended by 100 participants representing both companies and law firms. A workshop with specialists in law and management was developed by the Network. Ángel Pes, the Network’s President, highlighted in his speech that the rule of law is essential for companies concerned with long-term decisions.

SDG ACTION IN 2015

On October 2015, the Network held a meeting between the largest companies in the country and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to engage the private sector with the 2030 Agenda and inspire them to action. The main themes explored were the environment and the refugees crisis.

In November 2015, Global Compact Network Spain presented the publication Spain as a Boost of Agenda 2030. The agenda was prepared by the Spanish Network in collaboration with 18 other institutions. The publication identifies opportunities in the Spanish context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the associated 17 SDGs, seeking collaboration between the private sector, academia, social entities and the public sector. Some of the most important priorities for the Spanish private sector are education, health, women's empowerment, water and sanitation, energy, governance, human rights and accountability. Approximately 50 people attended the launch event. Attendees stressed the importance of the UN Global Compact to facilitate the understanding of the SGS by the private sector and made a recommendation for engaging on sectoral approaches.

The Network also arranged a workshop with more than 70 experts and stakeholders building the global-local linkage between SDGs and business priorities. The opportunities and benefits to addressing the Post-2015 Business Engagement Architecture were presented.
Local Network Initiatives

HUMAN RIGHTS

Responsible Business Initiative Event
Global Compact Network Switzerland organized the Responsible Business Initiative Event, inviting founders from Alliance Sud and Bread for All to explain how legally binding frameworks must be enacted to make CSR successful. The presentation started with a brief overview of the content of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights along with a historical abstract of CSR developments at the international level as well as in specific countries such as the United States and France. Participants reached the consensus that it may be very valuable to put Switzerland at the forefront of CSR trends.

CROSS-CUTTING

Sharing and Learning Business Lunch
Global Compact Network Switzerland held its first “Sharing & Learning Business Lunch” concerning COP reporting and other CSR reporting schemes. The event was attended by 30 participants, demonstrating that reporting is a crucial issue for companies and an important part of implementing responsible corporate behaviour. The event found that SMEs face unique challenges when handling the requirements. The Network will continue to pursue the topic and look for support and possible solutions for SMEs and new participants.

SDG ACTION IN 2015

Joined by ICC Switzerland, the Network organized a public event in Zurich on 27 November 2015 to illustrate the new SDGs in the business context. Representatives from business and the Network made presentations. Participants reached consensus that while the SDGs will be difficult to attain by 2030, they provide unique business opportunities. Global Compact Network Switzerland aims to work alongside the comprehensive 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the coming years.
Local Network Initiatives

HUMAN RIGHTS

Ring the Bell for Equality
To raise awareness on gender equality and empower women economically, UN Women, the Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative (SSE) and the Network Turkey jointly organized an event under the title “Ring the Bell for Equality” during the first week of March 2015, prior to International Women’s Day. The activities are part of the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, defining a roadmap for ensuring social gender equality and empowerment of women, which was approved by 189 states in 1995. At the ceremony, it was announced that the Women’s Empowerment Principles (WEPs) were adopted by a number of companies. Over 200 people attended the event.

ENVIRONMENT

Sustainable Finance Forum
Global Compact Network Turkey held the Third Sustainable Finance Forum on 5 May 2015 at Bogazici University in collaboration with BCSD Turkey and UNEP-FI. The forum focused on the upcoming COP21 meeting in Paris, financing the new climate strategy, and water and environmental opportunities. 120 people attended, including participants and non-participants of the UN Global Compact. The forum ended with a pledge from current UN Global Compact banking and finance signatories, calling on the non-signatory companies to join the Global Compact and become part of the world’s largest corporate sustainability initiative.

SDG ACTION IN 2015

Global Compact Network Turkey invited its members and partners for an informative session on the SDGs and their relevance for the Turkish business community. UNDP-IICPSD Director, Marcos Neto, joined the meeting and shared his experience on the development of the MDGs and provided participants with an overview of how the SDGs bring a new strategy for development efforts worldwide. Following Neto’s speech, a presentation was delivered on the report “Sustainable Development Goals: Are the Rich Countries Ready?” Lastly, Turkey’s current position with regards to SDGs was showcased.
Local Network Initiatives

HUMAN RIGHTS

Empowering Women Across Business
Global Compact Network UK and the UK National Committee of UN Women convened a meeting, “Empowering Women Across Business,” on 14 May 2015. The meeting brought together representatives from companies working to support women’s advancement and gender equality in their operations as well as government and civil society representatives tasked with advancing women’s and children’s rights.

The meeting was divided into three sessions led by representatives from business and the UK network, exploring advancing women’s economic empowerment and the preliminary findings from a UN Global Compact-UK research project on the Women’s Empowerment Principles (WEPs). The final session consisted of three parallel roundtable discussions where attendees shared their views on a range of issues related to women’s empowerment and gender equality.

SDG ACTION IN 2015

Global Compact Network UK organized a workshop, “Embedding the Global Goals into Business: Practical Insights and Tools for Success,” in collaboration with Business Fights Poverty, BITC, the Fairtrade Foundation, and the Partnering Initiative to help companies embed the Global Goals into core business and social investment activities. The emphasis of the workshop was on enabling action by sharing insights, approaches and practical tools for leading businesses, as well as civil society organizations and initiatives. The workshop was divided into three main sessions: making the business case for supporting the global goals; embedding the Global Goals into the business and value chain: tools and approaches to maximize opportunities and minimize risks; and building effective partnerships to enhance and scale impact. 80 people attended.

The Network also held a webinar, “An Introduction to the SDGs for Business,” to answer the following questions: “What does this mean for business? Why should business be interested

Background
Global Compact Network UK was launched by local businesses in June 2003 and has since grown and evolved in significant ways. In 2006, the Network moved from informal governance to a fee-paying mode modeled by a Chair with support from a Steering Committee, Working Groups, and a professional Secretariat. In 2013, after continuous membership growth, the Network became an independent legal entity.

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While corporate sustainability is gaining momentum in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), the UN Global Compact remains underrepresented in the region. Local Networks are uniquely positioned to serve as a platform to bring together multi-stakeholders, including businesses, civil society, the UN and government, in order to raise awareness on the role the private sector can play in sustainable development. Countries with Local Network representation witnessed a growth in Global Compact participation. In 2015, three Local Networks—namely UAE, Lebanon and Tunisia—were launched with the objective to raise awareness on the business case for responsible practices and recruit participants. Throughout the year, Networks in the MENA region continued to direct its resources towards supporting SMEs, which constitute the majority of the region’s participants, to run trainings on non-financial reporting and corporate social responsibility and develop action plans that meet the respective countries’ national priorities.

### Key Statistics

The MENA region decreased by -1 per cent from 2014 to 2015, losing 30 business participants and adding 27 non-business participants for a net loss of three participants. In 2015, participants in the region were composed of 126 companies (26 per cent), 177 SMEs (37 per cent), and 176 non-business (37 per cent).

In 2015, Global Compact presence in the MENA region was seen in 17 countries as depicted in the table to the right. The countries with the largest number of participants in 2015 included Egypt (110), Iraq (81), UAE (75) and Lebanon (49) with the remaining countries holding under 30 participants.

*Countries in light blue = countries with no Local Networks
Countries in dark blue = presence of a Local Network.*
Local Network Initiatives

ANTI-CORRUPTION

In-Focus Session on Anti-Corruption

In 2015, Global Compact Network Egypt held an in-focus session on “Anti-Corruption from the Business Perspective” for its members. The event began with a briefing on anti-corruption themes and terms by a Local Network representative. This was followed by presentations delivered by guest speakers from local businesses on the following topics: Anti-Corruption & Ethical Behaviours; Corruption from a Legal Perspective to Social Diagnosis; and Corporate Corruption Crimes. The event concluded with an active group discussion on anti-corruption actions in business organizations.

SDG ACTION IN 2015

Global Compact Network Egypt participated in the 2015 Egypt Exchange (EGX) Sustainability Conference. The conference addressed the importance of sustainability globally, as well as the need for companies to execute strategic actions so that their business activity adds value not only to the bottom line, but also to the environment, economy and society at large. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were clarified in connection with the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact. The conference was convened with the aim of recruiting 50 of the participating businesses to join the Global Compact and start integrating the Principles in their business practices. During the conference, members of the Global Compact Network Egypt discussed the challenges faced and the overall benefits of joining the initiative.
Local Network Initiatives

LOCAL NETWORK LAUNCH

In the presence of over 250 high-level representatives from business, Government, academia, civil society and other stakeholders, Global Compact Network Lebanon was launched on 3 September at AUB. At the launch, keynote speeches were delivered by representatives from business and academia expressing support for the network and the promotion of the UN Global Compact in Lebanon. The launch culminated with a high-level panel on how companies and organizations are aligning their operations with the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact and the role corporate sustainability will play in tackling the country’s most pressing issues.

Background
Global Compact Network Lebanon launched on 3 September 2015 and is hosted at the American University of Beirut (AUB). The Network provides opportunities for learning, policy dialogue and partnership on the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact and broader UN goals in Lebanon. The Network also works to create opportunities for multi-stakeholder engagement and collective action as well as the expansion of Lebanese-based signatories to the UN Global Compact. The Network’s Steering Committee is composed of 10 organizations spanning various industries and sectors across Lebanon.

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Local Network Initiatives

LOCAL NETWORK LAUNCH

In the presence of over 150 participants from business, government, business associations, academia and civil society, Global Compact Network Tunisia was launched on 8 September 2015 at IRSET. At the launch, keynote speeches stressing the importance of responsible business practices in the country were delivered by Mohamed Ennaceur, President of the Tunisian Parliament and former Minister of Social Affairs. Discussions highlighted national priorities in Tunisia which included three main issues: job creation, governance and anti-corruption. The launch culminated with an exchange of good practices illustrated by select examples from companies operating in Tunisia and a dialogue on the role responsible business will play in addressing key priorities.

Background
Global Compact Network Tunisia was relaunched in 2015 and is currently hosted by the Centre International des Technologies de l'Environnement de Tunis (IRSET). The Network is supported by a multi-stakeholder Steering Committee representing a diverse range of sectors. The Network’s objective is to provide a platform for the exchange of best practices in corporate responsibility within the Network and among peers internationally.

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Local Network Initiatives

LOCAL NETWORK LAUNCH

In the presence of over 150 representatives from business, government, business associations, academia, civil society and other stakeholders, the Global Compact Network UAE was launched in Dubai on 21 May. The Director General of Dubai Land Department gave the keynote speech and expressed support for the UN Global Compact on a national level. A commitment was also made to growing the Network and putting a strong activity plan in place that meets the needs of participants and supports their efforts in integrating corporate sustainability into operations and strategies. The launch culminated with a roundtable discussion facilitated by Network Steering Committee members who engaged participants and other stakeholders in a dialogue around the role the Network will play in shaping and advancing responsible business in the UAE.

Background
Global Compact Network United Arab Emirates (UAE) was launched on 21 May 2015 and is hosted by the Dubai Real Estate Institute, which is the official training arm of the Land Department. The Network is working towards building the capacity of participants in adopting socially responsible practices in relation with their stakeholders and partners, and assisting them in the implementation of the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact in their business operations and strategies. The Network is supported by a multi-stakeholder Steering Committee whose members each lead different taskforces to roll out their activity plans.

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INTERNETWORK COLLABORATION
THE 7TH CHINA-JAPAN-KOREA ROUNDTABLE CONFERENCE (SEOUL, 29-30 OCTOBER 2015)

Since 2009, Global Compact Networks China, Japan and Korea have convened the China-Japan-Korea (CJK) Rountable Conference annually to promote and advance the discussion on the values of the UN Global Compact and CSR issues among East Asia. At the height of the adoption of the SDGs and the expected launching of the new climate change regime as a result of COP21, a roundtable was held under the theme of "Prospects for the Post-2015: Business Engagement and Challenges for CJK." The event was attended by approximately 150 participants from Global Compact Networks, business, academia, and youth groups. In his keynote speech, Sir Mark Moody, Chair of the Foundation for the Global Compact, introduced the work and activities of the UN Global Compact and its Ten Principles, as well as its various platforms such as Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI), Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) and Business for Peace. He also shared the vision for future corporate sustainability through the dissemination of the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact.

LEARNING WORKSHOP - GLOBAL COMPACT NETWORK TURKEY AND FRANCE (PARIS, 1-3 JUNE 2015)

Global Compact Network Turkey, the French Development Agency (AFD) and Global Compact Network France organized a learning workshop between Turkish banking and finance sector representatives and their French counterparts from 1-3 June 2015 in Paris. Over the course of two and a half days of meetings with the organizations, the Turkish delegation shared experiences on their approach to sustainability, their relationships with stakeholders, financing climate change projects, and the Equator Principles’ effect on their business practices.

WORKSHOP ON CORPORATE RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS - GLOBAL COMPACT NETWORK NETHERLANDS AND GLOBAL COMPACT MEXICO (NAUCALPAN, 7-8 OCTOBER 2015)

As a joint initiative between Oxfam America, Oxfam Novib, Shift, Global Compact Network Netherlands and Global Compact Network Mexico, a workshop was organized on the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. The workshops were conducted by Oxfam America and Shift. Case studies and expert insights were leveraged throughout.

OVERSEAS FORUMS ON CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY - GLOBAL COMPACT NETWORK KOREA, INDONESIA, AND MYANMAR (JAKARTA, 7 SEPTEMBER 2015; YANGON, 1 DECEMBER 2015)

Global Compact Network Korea organized three overseas forums entitled, “CSR Forum for Korean Companies Operating Overseas,” in Indonesia, Myanmar and Cambodia. Each Forum convened 50 corporate representatives from Korean companies operating in the respective country. In Indonesia, the Representative of Global Compact Network Indonesia presented on the Network’s activities and encouraged Korean companies’ active involvement in Global Compact Network Indonesia. In Myanmar, the forum was held jointly by Global Compact Network Korea and the Embassy of the Republic of Korea to Myanmar. The Representative of Global Compact Network Myanmar participated and held that any foreign company investing through the Myanmar Investment Commission was required to become a participant of Global Compact Network Myanmar and to invest 1-5 per cent of sales in CSR activities.
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THE TEN PRINCIPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT

HUMAN RIGHTS

1. Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and

2. make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.

ENVIRONMENT

7. Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;

8. undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and

9. encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

LABOUR

3. Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;

4. the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;

5. the effective abolition of child labour; and

6. the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

10. Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

The UN Global Compact’s Ten Principles are derived from: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Labour Organization’s Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and the United Nations Convention Against Corruption.