

REPORTING ON THE SDGS



BREAKTHROUGH INNOVATION FOR THE SDGS



FINANCIAL INNOVATION FOR THE SDGS



PATHWAYS TO LOW - CARBON & RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT



HEALTH IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS



BUSINESS FOR HUMANITARIAN ACTION AND PEACE



DECENT WORK IN GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS



WATER SECURITY THROUGH STEWARDSHIP



ANTI-CORRUPTION & GOOD GOVERNANCE



Action Platforms

- Our Action Platforms help companies take a deep dive on a wide range of critical sustainability issues
- These platforms establish multi-sectoral partnerships to solve complex challenges and fill emerging gaps in meeting the Goals
- They represent leading initiatives for exploring sustainable innovations through the lens of our Ten Principles

Action Platform

Breakthrough Innovation for the SDGs

Rationale

While incremental innovation has its place, it is insufficient to meet the ambitious goals presented by the Sustainable Development Goals. Corporate innovation efforts need to evolve to incorporate new mindsets, develop new business models and deploy disruptive technologies in a principled manner to accelerate progress on the SDGs, radically improve lives and reverse environmental degradation.

The Action Platform aims to introduce participants to a methodology that will enhance current and future sustainability and innovation initiatives through the integration of disruptive technology and new business models.

Overview

Companies will interact with thought-leaders, experts, start-ups, policy-makers and technologists in an online learning series and 2 in-person workshops.

Activities are designed for corporate directors of Innovation, Product Management, R&D and Sustainability.

Outcomes

Companies will connect to a global community of innovators, be inspired by new approaches to sustainability and innovation and will contribute to a Breakthrough Innovation Methodology that will shape the future of corporate sustainability practice.



Reporting on the SDGs



Rationale

In order to identify and manage related risks and opportunities, to meet increasing stakeholder demands for transparency and data, and to help advance the global societal agenda of our time, business need to measure and disclose their actions and impacts on the SDGs. But no uniform mechanism exists that helps businesses report on their contribution and progress on the SDGs in an effective and comparable way.

Overview

The UN Global Compact and GRI have formed a ground-breaking initiative, Reporting on the SDGs, to address this challenge. Leading businesses are invited to join this Action Platform to help influence a greater multi-stakeholder movement that will play a pivotal role shaping the future of corporate reporting on the SDGs. A set of expert webinars on relevant aspects related to corporate SDG reporting is also offered to participants.

Outcomes

- Increased number of businesses systematically reporting on the SDGs in a more comparable way and in a way that is increasingly useful to governments, investors and other stakeholders.
- Improved understanding on how to better link SDG reporting processes with business strategies.
- Increased understanding on how corporate SDG data can be effectively mined, aggregated and assessed at the national and global level.



Financial Innovation for the SDGs



Rationale

Achieving the SDGs will cost between \$3-5 trillion annually in developing countries alone, according to UNCTAD. At today's level of investment – public and private – this implies an annual shortfall of USD \$2.5 trillion. As the SDGs are estimated to open trillions of dollars of market opportunities, it is widely acknowledged in the international community that private capital markets can and must play a major role in financing the SDG funding gap.

Yet, today there is a lack of investment opportunities for institutional investors as SDG-related investments are either too small, risky or illiquid, or simply too few. In this context, it is critical to develop new business and financing models for the SDGs and create a pipeline of investment products that can attract institutional investors.

Overview

As a unique UN initiative (in partnership with UN PRI and UNEPFI), the platform will bring together a multidisciplinary group finance practitioners and experts (covering the entire investment value chain) to develop innovative financial instruments that have the potential to direct private finance towards the SDGs, at scale.

Outcomes

- Guidance for mainstream investment strategies that support sustainable development
- Mapping of current and emerging financial instruments
- Laboratory for the development of innovative new instruments (e.g. SDG bonds)



Pathways to Low-Carbon and Resilient Development

Rationale

The Paris Climate Agreement represents a watershed moment that solidifies international cooperation for climate action and sends a powerful market signal to business. It recognizes for the first time the role of non-state actors to deliver ambitious climate action and to make progress over time. Today, there are more than 12,500 public commitments from business, investors, civil society, and cities and regions to take climate action. **The challenge now is to bring all sectors of society and economies into alignment with the Paris Agreement's ambition to limit global average temperature to well below 2°C, aiming for 1.5°C, and ensure in parallel, the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).**

Leading up to key global milestones including the UN Secretary-General's 2019 Climate Summit, this Action Platform will create a unique space for business to scale and deepen their commitments on climate change in line with enhancing countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and SDG action plans.

Overview

- The Action Platform has three pillars: (a) scaling and deepening *Caring for Climate* commitments – e.g. science based targets, carbon pricing, adaptation and responsible policy engagement – by companies of all types and sizes, (b) providing tools, analysis, and policy dialogues for greater uptake of climate action and collaboration; and (c) helping businesses engage with policymakers to push forward NDC and SDG ambition and implementation.
- Work will focus on advancing the arc of ambition on climate change globally and locally across sectors – and putting into practice recommendations from the *Guide to Responsible Engagement in Climate Policy*. It will involve the development of knowledge products combined with targeted actions and policy dialogues with Global Compact Local Networks.

Outcomes

- Increased uptake of climate commitments and country engagements in a number of key geographies by companies through use of the platform's tools and resources.
- Uptake of science based targets and carbon pricing commitments in line with enhancing NDCs and supporting the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action.
- Strategic understanding and uptake of integrating climate and sustainable development considerations from headquarters throughout the value chain.
- Facilitate policy dialogues at the country level on NDC and SDG enhancement to support fast implementation of the Paris Agreement.



Health is Everyone's Business

Rationale

Ensuring healthy lives for all at all ages is essential to sustainable development. Significant strides have been made in increasing life expectancy. However, many more efforts are needed to fully eradicate a wide range of diseases and address many different persistent and emerging health issues. Achieving SDG 3 requires that we embrace the complexity and interconnectedness of the challenges facing the planet and its people. Equitable access to clean water, clean air, safe, healthy and nutritious food, and affordable quality healthcare are underlying drivers for long term health and well-being, as is the opportunity to live in health-promoting communities – in cities, schools and workplaces. With the vision of making health everyone's business, the UNGC is convening a broad coalition of leading businesses, UN, academic and civil society partners to set a global business agenda for Goal 3 and make good health for all a corporate goal.

Overview

The coalition will advance cutting edge thinking and multi-stakeholder collective action for health resilient communities, and will create tools and resources that offer practical solutions for companies of all shapes and sizes to take action, adopt leading practices, and demonstrate real impact.

- In collaboration with a.o. the Economist Intelligence Unit, we will create a simple framework and benchmark that allows business to assess, prioritise and take action on their health impacts (raise the floor)
- In collaboration with a.o. the UNGC Cities Network, we will drive collective impact, partnerships and local implementation opportunities to promote health resilient communities (raise the ceiling)
- In collaboration with the Global Fashion Agenda and Copenhagen School of Design and Technology, we will engage 100 top fashion & design students in showcasing how the fashion industry can lead in the effort of delivering on Goals 3 & 5
- Collectively, we will drive a global movement of leading businesses who walk the talk, demonstrate and showcase why good health in the workplace, market place, community and supply chain is good business

Outcomes

- A universally adopted principled approach for how to integrate Goal 3 as a corporate responsibility goal, and a benchmark business can evolve from in their efforts to advance Goal 3 leadership
- A growing number of cross-sector partnerships and solutions that contribute to health resilient communities facilitated by UNGC Local Networks and their stakeholders
- Increased understanding among businesses across all sectors and stakeholders about why health is everyone's business, including a clear understanding of the business case for health



Action Platform

Decent Work in Global Supply Chains

Rationale

Supply Chains continue to be one of the most important levers for business to create positive impact in the world, with an estimated 80% of global trade passing through supply chains. Failures at all levels within global supply chains have contributed to decent work deficits and the undermining of fundamental labour rights and human rights. There are today 151.6 million children in child labour; every day 6,500 die from occupational accident or disease; and 780 million of working men and women are not earning enough to lift themselves and their families out of poverty.

Decent Work in Global Supply Chains will provide a forum for open dialogue and a launching pad for action to address one of the most urgent challenges facing companies, workers and their communities. Through the facilitation of continuous learning and collaboration at the global and local level, the platform aims to help build a human-rights based approach to the 2030 Agenda and develop thought leadership on the role of business in promoting decent work in global supply chains.

Overview

- The action platform has 3 key objectives: 1) Mobilizing business effort to support the international effort to eradicate forced labour, modern slavery and child labour; 2) Identifying and addressing some of the systemic root causes to human rights violations and decent work deficits in global supply chains by going beyond the workplace, and 3) Drive innovation and new business models as cross-cutting solutions to strengthen accountability.
- Activities to achieve these objectives include: 1) Engage with business through dialogue and workshops to cultivate cross-sector learning, 2) capturing business stories of good practice, 3) development of practical recommendations for business on cross-issue solutions including social dialogue and human rights due diligence, 4) Targeted pilot projects to raise awareness at the local level and to assess new solutions and 5) Business-led advocacy effort to promote greater transparency and worker empowerment
- Partners include the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), with patron sponsorship from the UK Department of Development (DfID) and SAP Ariba

Outcomes

- Uptake of the action platform tools and resources at a global and local level
- Better understanding of the company's responsibility to respect human rights in global supply chains
- Increase in number of companies conducting human rights impact assessments
- 7 Enhanced worker and community awareness of their rights and of their participation in decisions that affect them



Business for Humanitarian Action

Rationale

Due to the scale, complexity, duration and recurring nature of today's humanitarian crises, the scale of humanitarian needs is fast outpacing the ability of traditional actors to respond. Companies have the resources, knowledge and experience to address the needs of people living in conflict/post-conflict areas and those in recipient countries who have been forced to flee their homes. Business for Humanitarian Action will help define and drive business leadership in support of conflict-affected people by developing guidance and supporting global advocacy.

Overview

In partnership with UNOCHA and UNDP and with the support of ICRC, Business for Humanitarian Action brings together the private sector, experts, civil society, Governments and the UN for a series of in-person meetings, webinars, policy briefings and in-country workshops from September 2017 to December 2018. The platform is an opportunity for companies to learn and to lead through:

- Developing guidance on the private sector's important role in supporting conflict-affected people;
- Contributing to the implementation of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants; and
- Engaging in local level multi-stakeholder dialogues to create measurable impact.

Outcomes

Participating companies will identify concrete ways to support vulnerable populations in conflict/post-conflict countries and displaced people in recipient countries, while further integrating sustainable development into their business operations. Platform deliverables include the definition of a leadership framework for company action in complex emergencies and the production of white papers on the global compacts on refugees and migration to be adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2018.



Water Security through Stewardship

Rationale

Water insecurity poses significant challenges to businesses and society by negatively impacting health, impeding sustainable economic growth, exacerbating inequalities, and contributing to conflict. The challenge is great; for the past five years, business leaders have identified water as one of the top three global risks in terms of impact. Today, 2.5 billion people are without access to safely managed water and another 4.5 are without access to safely managed sanitation. By 2025, two-thirds of the world's population will be living in water stressed areas. Now is the time for action.

Overview

- The Action Platform has three pillars focusing on improving stewardship in operations by companies of all types and sizes, facilitating collective action projects, and helping businesses to set meaningful targets and measure impact.
- Work will focus on thematic issues including water stewardship in support of SDG6, sustainable agriculture, water and climate, and water access, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH). It will involve the development of online tools and resources combined with targeted action in key regions including South Africa, India, Brazil, and the United States
- It will be jointly administered with the Pacific Institute as an Action Platform of the CEO Water Mandate

Outcomes

- Increased uptake of water stewardship in a number of key geographies by companies new to stewardship through use of the platform's tools and resources
- Uptake of context based water metrics and targets through pilots and adoption of the methodology helping companies to set meaningful context based water targets
- Better understanding of how to measure the impacts of local water stewardship initiatives
- Increased uptake of WASH, climate, and water activities including documentation around the evidence for business interventions on the themes
- Facilitate increase public sector understanding of the benefits of stewardship for advancement of SDG6 and other water policy priorities



Justice and Strong Institutions

(working title)

Rationale

The elimination of bribery in all its forms and protection of fundamental rights under the law is critical for economic and social development. According to the World Bank corruption accounts for 10% to the total **cost of doing business globally** and up to 25% to the **cost of procurement contracts** in developing countries. Moreover it is estimated that around 4 billion people globally live outside the protection of the law.

A growing number of business leaders who see the interdependence of their business' commercial success with the stability of the societies in which they operate are also recognising they have a vitally important role to play in advancing justice and strong institutions – as a complement not substitute for, government action.

Overview

- The Action Platform will seek to harness commitments by businesses in respecting and supporting anti-corruption, human rights and rule of law efforts. It will also seek to leverage strong interest expressed by businesses in advancing Goal 16 of the SDGs to “promote peaceful, just and inclusive societies”
- Recognizing that concerted efforts by various actors are required to combat corruption, protect human rights and strengthen rule of law and ultimately create a level playing field for responsible businesses to operate

Outcomes

- Setting a standard for how businesses can engage in Goal 16 **anchored in principled-based practices**
- Lend a business voice to UN processes including advocacy efforts regarding the economic and social imperative of governments creating an enabling environment and offering business support to such realizing such efforts e.g. through the intergovernmental review process on Goal 16 (2019)
- Focus on **transformational change** by inviting businesses to join a group of engaged thought leaders to develop a normative business framework and disseminate to UNGC participants in order to raise the bar and level the playing field



Annual contributions

	SIGNATORY	PARTICIPANT	ACTION PLATFORMS (each)
COMPANY REVENUE TIERS BY ANNUAL GROSS SALES/REVENUE	REQUIRED ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION		
> USD 5 billion	USD 10,000	USD 20,000	USD 20,000
USD 1 – 5 billion	USD 7,500	USD 15,000	USD 15,000
USD 250 million – 1 billion	USD 5,000	USD 10,000	USD 10,000
USD 50 – 250 million	USD 2,500	USD 5,000	USD 5,000
USD 25 – 50 million	Local Network fee may apply*	USD 2,500	USD 2,500
< USD 25 million	Local Network fee may apply*	USD 1,250	USD 1,250