United Nations Global Compact

UNGC Board Meeting Report | 29 November 2016



MEETING SUMMARY

The UN Global Compact held the second of its bi-annual Board meetings on 28-29 November, 2016 in New York. The focus of the 28 November gathering was a dinner to honor Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his extraordinary vision and for his leadership in chairing the UN Global Compact Board for over 10 years. The UN Global Compact Board thanked the Secretary-General for his guidance and tireless efforts in helping the Global Compact grow into the world's largest voluntary sustainability initiative. The dinner also included a panel discussion on leveraging the SDGs as a driver for innovation, featuring panelists from business, government, and civil society.

The Board meeting on 29 November, held for the first time at UN Global Compact headquarters, served as a follow-up to the 7 October 2016 tele-conference. Board Members were updated on progress made related to the UNGC 2020 Global Strategy, with particular focus on the updated programme portfolio, partnerships, and integrity. Sir Mark Moody-Stuart, Vice-Chair of the Board and Chair of the Foundation for the Global Compact, presided over the meeting.

The next meeting of the UN Global Compact Board will take place during the second quarter of 2017 in New York with the selection of a date currently pending on the new Secretary-General's availability.

1 BUSINESS SINCE LAST

Lise Kingo provided a short refresher on the UNGC 2020 Strategy consultation process and highlighted several key outputs from the strategy process, including the unique role that the UN Global Compact has in mobilizing a global movement of sustainable companies and stakeholders to create the world we want. Ms. Kingo also touched on the importance of having the initiative operate as "One Global Compact" with the New York office and Local Networks spread across more than 80 Member States working together under a common set of values and towards a shared set of goals. To help achieve this global mindset, the UN Global Compact has engaged LRN, a leading advisor on principled and values based organizational cultures, to help the initiative develop a global values framework. The overview concluded with a review of the 2017 Plan of Action, including key goals that were identified in the recently finalized UNGC 2020 Strategy.

Feedback from Board Members further reinforced overall support of the recently concluded strategy process. Three areas of consensus also emerged from the dialogue:

- In communicating the future strategy and focus areas of the Global Compact, it should be clear that the 10 Principles have, and will remain, the foundational elements of the initiative's work
- While the number of participants and associated employee populations are impressive, the Global Compact should strive to further integrate itself into the supply/value chains and "ecosystems" of participating businesses to truly scale its influence and impact
- Expanding the resources and in-house expertise within Local Networks on topics such as labour will also help the Global Compact scale its reach and impact

UPDATED PROGRAMME PORTFOLIO

Lise Kingo updated Board Members on the Global Compact's new approach to thematic work areas, including a short overview of the nine new action platforms that the initiative will focus on in 2017. These action platforms represent a consistent, time-bound, and output oriented approach to issues work and provide a more clear opportunity for collaboration between the New York office, Local Networks, and with diverse UN and external partners. Gavin Power and Ursula Wynhoven then provided high-level overviews of the "Catalyzing Financial Innovation for the SDGs" and "Driving Diversity and Inclusion" platforms respectively.

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Board Members voiced support for this new approach while providing the following key suggestions:

- It should be made clear that each platform has a UN partner so as to avoid any perceived duplication of efforts within the UN ecosystem
- The platforms should ideally address all of the major SDGs
- The target audience and the participants to be engaged should be made more explicit governments and other stakeholders will play roles, but the drivers of the platforms will be business participants

In closing, Board Members also aligned on the importance of the messaging related to the action platforms. Amidst all of the political uncertainty and social upheaval across the world, the role and principled work of the Global Compact is more important than ever and should be pursued with vigor.

ACTION ITEM: UNGC to revise action platform briefings to incorporate feedback from the Board

3 THE ROLE OF UNGC ON PARTNERSHIPS

Melissa Powell reviewed the Global Compact's progress to date on supporting partnerships between the UN and business. With a mandate from the UN General Assembly, the Global Compact has already made significant progress in advancing substantive partnerships, but recognizes the need for allocating more resources in order to enhance impact. The Global Compact's partnerships team has recently expanded to include a new focal point for the UN-Business Action Hub technology platform, as well as senior level support with the former Chief of Local Networks joining the team to help drive the local coordination and impact. A key focus moving forward will be to develop a systematic approach to assessing this impact, particularly with the resource-intensive nature of many UN-Business partnerships.

Feedback from Board Members centered on two key points:

- There must be greater coordination between UN agencies some Local Networks have been playing this role effectively, but the Global Compact should further leverage UN Resident Coordinators to help drive coordinated local action
- A key continued goal should be to have all business partners of the UN as participants of the Global Compact

4 STATUS ON INTEGRITY MEASURES

Ursula Wynhoven presented a status update on key integrity metrics and received Board approval for the delisting of a business participant from the United Kingdom. As part of the UNGC 2020 Strategy, a key area of focus will be to further strengthen integrity measures and a series of initial high-level enhancement proposals were reviewed. Board Members were also informed that the Global Compact has received several inquiries related to the inclusion of tobacco companies and this topic will be discussed in greater detail at the next Board meeting.

ACTION ITEM: UNGC to consult with Board Members in the coming months to solicit ideas for, and provide feedback on, enhanced integrity measures

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MEETING ATTENDANCE

Attendees:

- 1. Frederic Sicre [on behalf of Arif Naqvi]
- 2. Fu Chengyu
- 3. Gustavo Perez Berlanga
- 4. Henrik Madsen
- 5. Inger Andersen
- 6. Isabel Garro
- 7. Jorge Abrahão
- 8. Linda Kromjong

- 9. Mads Øvlisen
- 10. Monica de Greiff
- 11. Paul Polman
- 12. Philip Jennings
- 13. Pierre Sané
- 14. Tony Burdon
- 15. Toshio Arima
- 16. Y. W. Junardy

Regrets:

- 1. Bob Collymore
- 2. Bola Adesola
- 3. Cobus De Swardt
- 4. Dinesh Sarraf
- 5. Francesco Starace
- 6. Güler Sabanci

- 7. John Danilovich
- 8. Jyrki Raina
- 9. Kurt Bock
- 10. Li Decheng
- 11. Martin Skancke
- 12. Sam Di Piazza