

MEETING SUMMARY

The United Nations Global Compact Board held a special Board Session on 9 June 2020 as a videoconference. The Board Session was Chaired by UN Secretary-General António Guterres, with all Board Members in attendance, including both Lise Kingo, outgoing CEO & Executive Director of the UN Global Compact, and Sanda Ojiambo, incoming CEO & Executive Director of the UN Global Compact.

The Secretary-General's remarks addressed the COVID-19 pandemic and the need for greater ambition to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as exemplified in the Compact's new SDG Ambition programme. After farewell remarks from Ms. Kingo and introductory remarks from Ms. Ojiambo, UN Global Compact Board Vice-Chair, Bola Adesola, led a brief discussion around SDG Ambition and what Board Members are doing to support the Compact's initiative at both the global and local levels. The Secretary-General closed the meeting with a call for solidarity, and for Board Members to put particular focus on developing countries, where the economic impacts of the pandemic will be most pronounced.

The next meeting of the UN Global Compact Board will take place during UN General Assembly Week in September.

1 WELCOMING REMARKS & TOUR DE TABLE

UN Global Compact Board Vice-Chair, Paul Polman, opened the meeting by leading Board Members in a tour de table to welcome Sanda Ojiambo, incoming CEO & Executive Director of the UN Global Compact. Board Members introduced themselves and expressed their eagerness to work closely with Ms. Ojiambo in the coming years. Mr. Polman then welcomed the Secretary-General and thanked him for his efforts on both COVID-19 and the current context of racial inequalities. In his welcoming remarks, Mr. Polman impressed upon Board Members the importance of addressing COVID-19 as part of their work and as part of the Compact's work. He stressed the links between climate change, biodiversity, and health, saying, "we cannot have healthy people on an unhealthy planet." He also encouraged all Board Members to stand up against racial inequality in any way that they can.

2 OPENING REMARKS FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

UN Secretary-General António Guterres then provided opening remarks for the meeting. He began by congratulating the UN Global Compact on 20 years of very important contributions. He stressed that although climate change, COVID-19, and systemic racism may seem to be different things, in the end, everything is interlinked, and sustainable development efforts must be holistic. He called on the public and private sectors to come together to work towards the same goal, stating that the only way we can win the battles we are fighting now is if we do it together.

The Secretary-General commended the Compact for mobilizing the business community to support the SDGs and recognized the Compact's new initiative on SDG Ambition as an excellent example of that mobilization. Acknowledging the difficulties that COVID-19 has brought to businesses everywhere, the Secretary-General encouraged the private sector to focus on poverty reduction. He noted that there is an expectation in society that companies will take care of their own employees and their own communities, stating that people are looking to business leaders in this time of crisis, and business leaders must play an important role in the recovery. The Secretary-General stressed the importance of building back better with more sustainable supply chains, reduced inequalities, and universal access to health care. He called for a global paradigm shift — for all actors to focus on building back better, with these goals in mind.

On the issue of climate change, the Secretary-General called on all actors to solidify their plans to be net-zero by 2050 if not before, and stressed the importance of disclosure of climate risk. On the issue of social cohesion, he called on the business community to push Governments to do the right thing to reduce inequalities and build trust. As an example, he suggested that shifting taxation from payroll taxes to carbon taxes would reduce the cost of labour, benefiting companies and workers, and hold polluters accountable. He stressed that private sector contributions to sustainable development are two-fold: the individual actions that



companies take to make their own business more sustainable, and the ways in which they influence Governments to act. He emphasized the importance of the second point, especially in the context of the post-COVID-19 recovery.

The Secretary-General expressed his confidence in businesses understanding that recovery must be made jointly by the public and private sectors, and that it is an opportunity to do things better. To conclude, he called on the private sector to be the "fundamental engine" of the new and different recovery that the world needs.

In closing, the Secretary-General thanked outgoing CEO & Executive Director, Lise Kingo, for her stewardship of the Compact and wished incoming CEO & Executive Director, Sanda Ojiambo the best success going forward.

3 REFLECTIONS ON THE UN GLOBAL COMPACT 2015-2020

Lise Kingo, outgoing CEO & Executive Director of the UN Global Compact, provided her reflections on the five years that she spent at the helm of the organization, and on the significant progress that the Compact made during that time.

After thanking the Secretary-General for giving the Compact the confidence and the courage to continue, Ms. Kingo summarized the Compact's operational and programmatic achievements over the past five years. Those achievements include but are not limited to:

- Development and implementation of the business model, providing a sustainable funding source for the initiative
- A Governance structure that reflects the Compact's multi-stakeholder nature
- A "One Global Compact" organizational culture that views UNGC NY and the Global Compact Networks on equal footing as part of one unified organization
- A robust programmatic portfolio that mobilizes business to help deliver the Sustainable Development Goals
- Programmes that connect companies to the UN at the country-level through Global Compact Networks
- The campaign on "Business Ambition for 1.5°C — Our Only Future," which now has 249 corporate signatories setting targets aligned with a 1.5°C carbon future

To close her remarks, Ms. Kingo called on the Compact to go forward into the future and create the new normal under the leadership of incoming CEO & Executive Director, Sanda Ojiambo.

4 REMARKS FROM THE INCOMING CEO & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sanda Ojiambo, incoming CEO & Executive Director of the UN Global Compact, introduced herself to the Board, and spoke about her background working in the development sector in Sub-Saharan Africa, and then at the Kenyan company Safaricom, leading the company's sustainability work. She then reflected on the COVID-19 crisis and the opportunity that it provides to re-imagine how we do business with innovative solutions and new public-private partnerships. Ms. Ojiambo stressed that the business of business must be societal transformation and uniting a better world. She then listed a few key areas of action that she sees for the Compact in the coming years:

- Consolidating the gains from the past five years and building on the 2020 Global Strategy
- Developing a robust post-2020 strategy
- Growing the Compact's participant base to include more SMEs
- Demonstrating key metrics in terms of the impact of the Compact's work on principle-led sustainable business
- Building on the strength of the Global Compact Networks



- Partnering more with the UN, Governments, and the private sector

Ms. Ojiambo concluded by saying that she looks forward to working closely with the Board and with the Secretary-General to fulfill his vision for the "Decade of Action."

5 DISCUSSION: SDG AMBITION

Bola Adesola, Vice-Chair of the UN Global Compact Board, moderated a discussion among Board Members on the topic of SDG Ambition. She commended the Compact for its work responding to the pandemic, and stressed the importance of the new SDG Ambition initiative, which challenges and supports companies to set ambitious targets for recovery, aligned with the SDGs. Ms. Adesola called on two Board Members whose companies are closely involved in the initiative:

- Manny Chirico, Chairman & CEO of PVH Corp., spoke about how PVH Corp. is using the pandemic as an opportunity to make their business more sustainable and to set more ambitious targets through SDG Ambition and their Fashion Forward initiative. Mr. Chirico noted that PVH Corp. has become a patron of the Compact's Target Gender Equality initiative (TGE), which is closely tied to SDG Ambition, and that through TGE, PVH Corp. is setting even more ambitious goals on gender equality and women's representation. Mr. Chirico stressed that companies must be transparent about the challenges that they have and the progress that they are making, and called on companies to hold themselves accountable through reporting.
- Patrick Chalhoub, CEO of Chalhoub Group, spoke about the efforts of Global Compact Network UAE, which will be delivering the SDG Ambition initiative to its participants. He emphasized partnerships between the Network and the UAE Government to promote impact on the SDGs, and spoke about how the UAE Network not only supports companies on their sustainability journey, but also creates opportunities for companies to support each other. He commended the work that the UAE Network has done in that regard.

Bola Adesola then provided her reflections on the discussion, noting that SDG Ambition provides a clear framework for companies that may feel lost in the effort to build back better.

6 CONCLUDING REMARKS FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

To conclude the meeting, UN Secretary-General António Guterres provided his own reflections on the discussion. He noted that it is clear that the Board is aligned on what is happening - that the pandemic is a huge challenge and a huge opportunity to put the SDGs at the center of the recovery. He called for solidarity with developing countries and for the private and public sectors to put pressure on international systems and financiers to create an environment where companies in the developing world can not only just survive, but gain resilience and build back better. In a final call to action, the Secretary-General stressed that Agenda 2030 must be a global agenda, stating that it is in the developing world where our efforts are most necessary and where solidarity is needed.

MEETING ATTENDANCE

BOARD MEMBERS:

1. **H.E. Mr. António Guterres** | Secretary-General, United Nations
2. **Ms. Bola Adesola** | Vice-Chair of the Board, UN Global Compact
3. **Ms. Clara Arpa Azofra** | CEO, ARPA Equipos Móviles de Campaña
4. **Ms. Sharan Burrow** | General Secretary, International Trade Union Confederation
5. **Mr. Patrick Chalhoub** | CEO, Chalhoub Group
6. **Mr. Emanuel Chirico** | Chairman & CEO, PVH Corp.
7. **Mr. John W.H. Denton** | Secretary General, International Chamber of Commerce
8. **Ms. Natasha Fröjd** | Chair, UNGC Government Group; Program Manager, SDC
9. **Mr. Philip Jennings** | Former General Secretary, UNI Global Union
10. **Dr. Musimbi Kanyoro** | Former President & CEO, Global Fund for Women
11. **Ms. Lise Kingo** | CEO & Executive Director, UN Global Compact
12. **Mr. Guilherme Peirão Leal** | Founder & Co-Chairman of the Board, Natura Cosméticos
13. **Mr. Anand Mahindra** | Chairman, Mahindra Group
14. **Sir Mark Moody-Stuart** | Chairman, Foundation for the Global Compact
15. **Ms. Flora Mutahi** | CEO, Melvin Marsh International
16. **Mr. Carlo Pereira** | Co-Chair, Global Network Council; Exec. Secretary, GCN Brazil
17. **Mr. Paul Polman** | Vice-Chair of the Board, UN Global Compact
18. **Ms. Sanda Ojiambo** | Incoming CEO & Executive Director, UN Global Compact
19. **Mr. Ren Hongbin** | Former Chairman, China National Machinery Industry Corporation
20. **Ms. Fiona Reynolds** | CEO, Principles for Responsible Investment
21. **Mr. Francesco Starace** | CEO & General Manager, Enel SpA
22. **Mr. Roberto Suarez-Santos** | Secretary General, Int'l Organisation of Employers
23. **Mr. Jean-Pascal Tricoire** | CEO, Schneider Electric
24. **Ms. Sandra Wu, Wen-Hsiu** | Chairperson and CEO, Kokusai Kogyo Co. Limited