



**Terms of Reference
for the
“United Nations Global Compact Inter-Agency Team”**

Purpose of the Inter-Agency Team

The United Nations Global Compact Inter-Agency Team (hereafter “the *Team*”) is a group of UN entities with a strong interest in:

- (1) ensuring coherent support for the internalization of the 10 principles of the UN Global Compact both within the United Nations System and among all Global Compact participants,
- (2) encouraging and supporting constructive UN-business relationships in support of UN goals, including the UN Global Compact.

More specifically, the purpose of the *Team* is to:

- Assure a high degree of coherence within the UN on activities involving the UN and business, especially as they relate to the topics addressed by the Global Compact principles;
- Ensure that actions and activities undertaken by the Global Compact Office and the UN participating *Team* members are complementary;
- Explore opportunities to collaborate on matters involving the UN and business and the Global Compact in particular;
- Review the respective roles and contributions of individual *Team* members to ensure maximum effectiveness of the Global Compact as a network-based initiative;
- Encourage internalization within the UN of the Global Compact principles;
- In the case of agencies that are the guardians of the Global Compact principles, play a guiding role with respect to the Global Compact integrity measures and the undertaking of activities related to implementation of the ten principles.

Functions of the Inter-Agency Team

The *Team* has the following main functions:

- Provide advice and guidance to the Global Compact Office on matters relating to the mandates of its members as they concern business;
- Give input to the agenda of the annual UN System Private Sector Focal Points Meeting;
- Keep its members updated on activities relating to the UN and business.

- In appropriate cases, undertake joint resource mobilization efforts for activities and projects developed in support of the UN Global Compact;
- Share the experience of individual *Team* members concerning the activities undertaken in support of the UN Global Compact – for example major projects, initiatives, partnerships, events and communications - and on improved integration of the Global Compact principles in UN operations; and
- Give advice and input to the Global Compact Office and where possible handle matters raised under the UN Global Compact’s integrity measures.

Organizational matters

The *Team* will consist of one senior representative/focal point from each participating UN entity, along with representatives of the UN Global Compact Office.

The Executive Director of the Global Compact Office will chair meetings of the *Team*.

The *Team* will meet at least twice annually at the working-level, ideally alternating between New York and Europe. Where possible, the meetings will coincide with other events to which its members are invited, such as the annual UN System Private Sector Focal Points Meeting and the Global Compact Annual Local Networks Forum.

To ensure coherence and consistency, the Global Compact Office and all participating UN entities will make every effort to communicate and consult on urgent matters with other *Team* members in between *Team* meetings.

The *Team* may establish time-bound working groups on specific issues and activities. Such working groups would not necessarily include representatives of each *Team* member and may include representatives of other UN agencies (who are not members of the *Team*) as appropriate. The outputs of such working groups will be subject to review and agreement by the *Team* as a whole.

The “Guardians” of the Principles

The UN Agencies most closely associated with the ten principles have an important advisory role with respect to the management of the Global Compact integrity measures dialogue facilitation procedure. These are: the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). When matters are raised under the integrity measures, where appropriate, the Global Compact Office will seek the advice and guidance of the relevant guardian agency. Where the agency has the mandate and capacity, it may also refer such matters to the agency for handling.

Membership of the Inter-Agency Team

Any UN Fund, Agency or Programme is welcome to become part of the *Team* if it fulfills the following criteria:

1. The senior leadership of the UN entity should make a formal commitment to supporting the implementation of the Global Compact and its 10 principles and send a letter to the Executive Director of the UN Global Compact Office indicating this support.
2. The ongoing activities of the UN entity are of direct relevance to the implementation of the UN Global Compact and good corporate citizenship.
3. The agency agrees to these Terms of Reference.

Current Members of the Inter-Agency Team

- Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- International Labour Organization (ILO)
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

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