

THE GLOBAL COMPACT: AN INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY

The Global Compact was launched in July 2000 at the initiative of the United Nations Secretary General as a way of encouraging dialogue between companies, UN agencies, labour, and civil society. The Global Compact is grounded in nine universal principles relating to human rights, labour and the environment.

By joining the Global Compact, companies commit to promote and respect these principles, and to contribute alongside other stakeholders to seeking out solutions for a more humane and acceptable form of globalisation. 1,200 companies worldwide had adhered to the Global Compact, including over 200 French companies. In 2003, EDF proved an active partner of the Global Compact as we upheld the commitments made by Chairman and CEO François Roussely in July 2001. For instance, representatives from the EDF Group participated systematically in UN conferences on AIDS, partnerships and health and safety.

In November, as part of an initiative launched by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan at the Johannesburg Earth Summit, EDF participated in a UNDP⁽¹⁾ seminar organised in Madagascar and presided by the Malagasy President. The seminar was held in view of launching a rural electrification project using renewable energies to benefit the poorest populations and associating local stakeholders.

In December we participated in the annual Belo Horizonte forum on apprenticeship held in Brazil, where we presented a case study of our Sustainable Development Awards programme (available on www.unglobalcompact.org).

> THE NINE PRINCIPLES OF THE GLOBAL COMPACT

Companies are encouraged to respect and apply the following principles, concrete examples of which are indicated throughout the report by a .

Human rights:

Principle 1: Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights within their sphere of influence; and

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

Labour standards:

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

Principle 4: the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;

Principle 5: the effective abolition of child labour; and

Principle 6: eliminate discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

Environment:

Principle 7: Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;

Principle 8: undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility;

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

(1) United Nations Development Programme.