



Global Compact Network
Sudan



BACKGROUND AND DRAFT AGENDA

“Responsible Investment and Business Practices in Conflict-Affected Countries”

**Burj Elfateh Hotel
Khartoum, Sudan
1-2 March 2010**

Background

Global Compact Local Network Sudan

In December 2008, the Global Compact Network Sudan was launched to support the interest and commitment demonstrated by leading companies and civil society organizations. This followed the May 2006 Forum in Khartoum organized by the UNDP Sudan, Ahfad University for Women and the UN Global Compact Office on “Public – Private Partnerships: shared challenges and opportunities”. At present, the Global Compact Network Sudan has 18 participants.

Expert Group on Responsible Business Practices in Conflict-Affected Countries

In January 2007, the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) and the Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) organized an event on responsible investment and business practices in conflict-affected countries. Following the positive outcomes of this initial meeting, the two organizations decided to invite institutional investors, companies, civil society and UN representatives to take part in an expert group to explore the opportunities and challenges faced by companies operating in high-risk or conflict-affected areas. Since forming this Expert Group there have been a series of consultations including a meeting in Istanbul (June 2009) and a meeting in New York (November 2009) as well as a several virtual meetings. This collaborative work has resulted in the development of guidance for companies and investors on "Implementing the UN Global Compact principles in conflict-affected or high-risk areas". This Guidance aims to provide a common reference point for companies and investors by assisting companies in meeting their commitment to the Global Compact in all areas where they have operations and by aiding investors in developing a more strategic approach to their investment decisions. The guidance addresses the risks faced by both companies and communities from corporate operations in conflict or post conflict-related scenarios and it will be launched at the United Nations Global Compact Leaders Summit on 24-25 June 2010 at UN Headquarters in New York.

Objectives of the Global Compact-PRI Meeting, 1-2 March, 2010

Organized by the Global Compact Network Sudan, in collaboration with the UN Global Compact Office and the Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) this event will bring together business, investors, civil society, academia, UN and Government representatives to:

- Build a common understanding of what is considered “responsible” business practice in the context of Sudan and examine how the private sector can make a positive contribution to sustainable peace and development.
- Provide input to the development of the guidance for companies and investors on "Implementing the UN Global Compact principles in conflict-affected or high-risk areas".
- Support a constructive and long-term dialogue between investors and companies to ensure added value for all stakeholders.

Draft Agenda

The event will begin in the morning of 1 March with an overview of the UN Global Compact in Sudan and the important role of the private sector in contributing to peace and development. The event will be an opportunity to highlight the increasing growth of responsible investment and the role of investors in promoting best business practices in conflict-affected and high-risk areas. During the day, practical experiences will be presented – both from Sudan and from across the globe - to highlight opportunities and challenges of working in conflict affected areas.

Throughout the rest of the day and during the morning session of 2 March, thematic panels and interactive discussions will be organized following the structure of the draft guidance document for companies and investors on "Implementing the UN Global Compact principles in conflict-affected or high-risk areas". These areas include:

1) Core business

- How do companies ensure that their core business activities do not aggravate conflict? What policies do companies have in place related to the Global Compact Ten Principles and how do they measure their progress?

2) Government relations

- What are the ways in which companies are engaging with Governments in conflict- affected and high-risk areas?

3) Local Stakeholder Engagement

- Do companies have mechanisms for stakeholder engagement? How do companies participate in the activities of the UNGC Local Network Sudan?

4) Strategic Social Investment

- How do companies ensure that their socio-economic activities make a meaningful contribution to development and peace?

At the conclusion of the event, participants will agree on next steps and future direction.

	<u>1 March, 2010</u>
08.30-09.00	Arrival & Registration
9.00-9.30	Opening Addresses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sudanese Businessmen Federation as Chair of the UN Global Compact Local Network Sudan • Sudanese Government representative • UN Representative in Sudan • Vice Chair of the UN Global Compact Board
9.30-9.45	Session I: Introduction to the Global Compact and the Global Compact Network Sudan
9.45-10.15	Session II: Responsible Investment and the importance of multistakeholder dialogue
10:15-10:45	Tea Break / Refreshments
10.45-12:00	Session III: Practical Experiences and Lessons Learned Sharing and Comparing: Examples will be showcased from various industries (local & international) and from the NEPAD Initiative How can the Global Compact Network Sudan make a meaningful contribution?
12:00-13:00	Session IV: An Introduction to the Company and Investor Guidance on "Implementing the UN Global Compact principles in conflict-affected or high-risk areas" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Investor Perspective • A corporate perspective • A local community perspective • A UN perspective
13:00 -14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 – 15:00	Interactive Discussion Sessions – Providing Feedback and Input to the Guidance Document 1) Core business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How do companies ensure that their core business activities do not aggravate conflict? What policies do companies have in place related to the Global Compact Ten Principles and how do they measure their progress? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A corporate perspective • An investor perspective

15:00 -15:45	2) Government relations - What are the ways in which companies are engaging with Governments in conflict-affected and high-risk areas? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A corporate perspective • An investor perspective
15:45 – 16:00	Wrap up Day 1
20:00 – 22:00	Evening Program
DAY 2	2 March 2010
9.00 – 10.00	Interactive Discussion Sessions – Providing Feedback and Input to the Guidance Document 3) Local Stakeholder Engagement - Do companies have mechanisms for stakeholder engagement? How do companies participate in the activities of the UNGC Sudan Network? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A corporate perspective • An investor perspective
10.00-11.00	4) Strategic Social Investment - How do companies ensure that their socio-economic activities make a meaningful contribution to development and peace? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A corporate perspective • An investor perspective
11.00-11.20	Tea Break/Refreshments
11.20- 12.15	Recommendations and Next Steps
12.15-12.30	Closing Remarks
18.00- 20.00	Farewell Gathering - Nile Cruise for International Participants