



Fundació
Fòrum
Universal
de les
Cultures



Barcelona Center
for the Support of the Global Compact

**Global Compact
Local Networks Forum**
Context and Objective

Barcelona, 26 - 27 September 2006

Context

Global Compact Local Networks - spanning over 50 countries around the world – play an increasingly important role in rooting the Global Compact within different national, cultural and linguistic contexts. They also help manage the organizational impact of the Compact’s rapid expansion. Global Compact Networks act as a convening platform for companies and other stakeholders at the local level. Through learning and dialogue, they support the implementation of the principles and promote collective action in support of broader UN goals.

The Annual Local Networks Forum is *the* global platform for representatives of Local Networks to share their experiences, review and compare progress and adopt recommendations for enhancing the effectiveness of the Local Networks. Given the growing importance of the Networks, the Annual Forum has become a key component of the Global Compact’s governance framework.

Objective

The Forum is designed as a unique networking and learning platform for Network representatives, including focal points, representatives of participating companies, UN agencies, donor governments and other GC stakeholders.

At the III Annual Local Networks Forum in 2005, a basic Network governance document¹ was adopted, which stipulates fundamental functional Network requirements, including mission, composition, activities, quality management and annual reporting.

The agenda of the IV Annual Local Networks Forum has been developed in consultation with all Local Networks. Addressing a wide range of issues and themes, it is meant to give substance, inspiration and support for collective action of Local Networks. The Forum’s specific objectives are:

- To report on the progress of the Global Compact Networks in different regions.
- To exchange experiences, identify good practices and build momentum for collective action.
- To discuss and identify the future challenges for Local Networks.
- To define the strategic framework for the advancement of Local Networks for the next year and their contribution to the 2007 Leaders Summit.

The working group format will enable participants to engage in stimulating peer-to-peer discussions and learning exercises on issues of particular relevance. Participants will be expected to actively contribute during the working groups.

The Forum will conclude with the open conference “Corporate Citizenship at a Crossroads”.

¹ “What is a Local Network?” http://www.unglobalcompact.org/docs/news_events/9.1_news_archives/2005_10_31/network_gov.pdf