

VI Annual Local Networks Forum
- Background Paper -



**BARCELONA CENTER
FOR THE SUPPORT
OF THE GLOBAL COMPACT**

gtz



UN Global Compact's VI Annual Local Networks Forum
Bonn, Germany – 21-22 October 2008
Deutsche Post World Net Headquarters Building

Background Paper

The Fundació Fòrum - Barcelona Center for the Support of the UN Global Compact and the UN Global Compact Office (GCO) with the collaboration of Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development convenes the VI Annual Local Networks Forum (ALNF) to be held on the 21st and 22nd of October 2008 at the Deutsche Post World Net Headquarters, in Bonn / Germany.

Bringing together approximately 150-200 participants representing Global Compact Local Networks (GCLN), Regional Support Centers, the private sector, government and civil society representatives, it provides a unique platform for GCLN representatives to exchange experiences in addressing the challenges and opportunities faced by networks in their efforts to promote the Global Compact locally. More importantly however, the key function of the Local Networks Forum is to seek input from GCLN representatives on key governance issues relating to Local Networks and the Global Compact initiative as a whole.

The intention of this background paper is to provide participants with a detailed description of the topics and issues to be addressed over the course of the two days. This is in an effort to ensure that Focal Points are adequately prepared to actively participate in the various plenary and breakout sessions during the Forum. Please note that the background paper is not a replacement to the official Forum agenda but intended to accompany it.

Monday 20st October

Regional Meetings for Network Focal Points:

2.30pm-4.00pm

Meeting for African Focal Points

Room: Brussels

4.00pm-5.30pm

Meeting for Latin American Focal Points

Room: Brussels

7.00pm-9.00pm

Welcome Cocktail

Host: Mayoress of Bonn, Ms. Barbel Dieckmann

Location: Old Town Hall of the City of Bonn

Tuesday 21st October

Network Presentations:

One of the main purposes of the ALNF is to provide a unique platform for GCLN representatives to exchange experiences in addressing the challenges and opportunities faced by networks in their efforts to promote the Global Compact locally.

Rather than presenting within a geographical context, this year's Forum will have Network presentations structured by theme as outlined below. In the recent Network Activities Survey, Network Focal Points indicated the areas in which they wanted to present. The Network presentations are intended to kick-start an interactive discussion within the break-out groups during which all participants are encouraged to exchange and share their experience in this area.

Please note that slots are still available for more Network presentations. If your Network wishes to share its experience on any of the issues below, please contact Nicole Polster <nicole.polsterer@undp.org> as soon as possible to receive the presentation guidelines and to confirm your presentation topic and timing.

Outreach and awareness-raising

Room: Stockholm

Outreach events can serve multiple purposes. They can raise awareness of the Global Compact, encourage companies and other stakeholders to participate, increase support of the Global Compact in the local context and among local stakeholders, particularly local media. Through the Network presentations during this session, the group will discuss and help to identify the key elements necessary for successful outreach and awareness-raising activities.

Session time and presenters:

11.30am-1.00pm: Mr. Glen Fischer – South Africa, Ms. Sylvania D'Oliveira – Brazil
2.30pm-4.00pm: Ms. Cecilia Campero - Bolivia

Network governance/management models

Room: Helsinki

As questions of accountability and impact increasingly influence the overall credibility of the Global Compact, it is clear that all stakeholders engaged have a common stake in improving the quality of engagement and brand management of the initiative. Network governance aims at improving the quality and quantity of engagement at the local level and achieving greater positive impact on the ground which will in turn serve to protect and build the Global Compact brand overall. Understanding that there is no "one-size-fits-all" approach, and that different models operate equally well in different contexts, this session will attempt to highlight and discuss the diverse ways in which GCLNs have chosen to organize themselves.

Session time and presenters:

11.30am-1.00pm: Mr. Shigeki Yamamoto – Japan, Mr. Uddesh Kohli – India
2.30pm-4.00pm: Ms. Donna Grant – Panama

Networks as a platform for learning

Room: Oslo

Learning is an important mechanism for engaging Global Compact participants and provides an opportunity for companies and other stakeholders to get a better understanding of the conceptual and practical aspects of corporate citizenship and the Global Compact. Networks engage in learning to increase knowledge, create enthusiasm, share information and thereby deepen the commitment of participants. The presentations during this session will outline the benefits that a "learning component" can bring to a Network.

Session time and presenters:

11.30am-1.00pm: Mr. Unni Nair – US, Ms. Constanze Helmchem – Germany,
Ms. Daisy Kambalame – Malawi
2.30pm-4.00pm: Mr. Steve Kenzi – UK, Mr. Thomas Thomas – Singapore,
Mr. Fashil Siddiqui – Pakistan

Mobilising collective action – policy dialogue

Room: London

Engaging in policy dialogues with other stakeholders allows the private sector to make substantive contributions to national discussions. The dialogue process can also help to identify new and emerging issues, promote multi-stakeholder trust and interaction, and support advocacy with policy makers. Network Focal Points presenting during session will describe the benefits and challenges faced when mobilising collective action.

Session time and presenters:

11.30am-1.00pm: Mr. Stefan Engels – Kenya, Mr. Y.W. Junardy – Indonesia

2.30pm-4.00pm: Ms. Diana Chavez – Mexico, Ms. Katy Sarre – Senegal

Promotion and facilitation of partnership projects

Room: Vienna

According to the “2007 Global Compact Implementation Survey” the vast majority of respondents engage in cross-sectoral partnerships. GCNLs have an important role to play in providing a platform for cross-sectoral partnerships and can become important vehicles for promoting partnerships to advance development and the MDGs. The presenters in this session will describe role they played in facilitating partnerships outlining the lessons learned. The discussions after this presentation will attempt to inspire other GCLNs to encourage action that goes beyond the internal boundaries of the company sphere.

Session time and presenters:

11.30am-1.00pm: Ms. Aurelie Braguta – Moldova,

2.30pm-4.00pm: Mr. Muhammad A. Agha - Syria

Facilitation of Communication on Progress for participants

Room: Bonn

With the steady increase in Global Compact participation over the years, it is crucial that GCLNs play an active role in relation to the COP. Many GCLNs have found that the COP delivers benefits to them as well because it can be an important tool to motivate participants and help them improve their social and environmental performance and deepen their engagement in the Global Compact. During this session, the presenters will describe the various ways Networks have approached/supported the COP process.

Session time and presenters:

11.30am-1.00pm: Mr. Conrad Eckenschwiler – France, Ms. Alessia Sabattino – Italy,
Mr. Flavio Fuertes – Argentina

2.30pm-4.00pm: Ms. Isabel Garro – Spain, Ms. Elfriede van Galen – Netherlands

Multi-stakeholder engagement

Room: Brussels

It is recognized that for the private sector to be as effective as possible in contributing to sustainable development, it need to work in close collaboration and in complementary ways with other social actors, including governments, civil society and the UN system. The Global Compact and its GCLNs can serve as an important engagement platform that brings together these various actors for the main purpose of exploring the private sector’s role in sustainable development.

Session time and presenters:

11.30am-1.00pm: Ms. Yumari Torres – Dominican Republic

2.30pm-4.00pm: Ms. Gemma Crijins – Netherlands

Awards and recognition schemes

Room: Berlin

In order to encourage continuous quality improvement and to provide recognition to those participants who demonstrate leadership, the value of establishing awards and recognition systems by Local Networks is becoming increasingly apparent. In addition to rewarding companies that have taken their commitment to the Global Compact seriously, it can also act as an effective measure to raise awareness around the Global Compact and to communicate to the broader stakeholder group on a particular issue. Local Networks may wish to establish their own awards system, or as demonstrated by some of the Network presentations, they may wish to create one in partnership with another organization.

Session time and presenters:

11.30am-1.00pm: Ms. Amanthi Perera – Sri Lanka, Ms. Ieva Burneikaite - Lithuania

2.30pm-4.00pm: Ms. Maya Nyagolova – Bulgaria

Wednesday 22nd October

9.00am-9.30am - "Shaping New Standards: Corporate Responsibility Leadership - Awards"

Aiko Bode, Global Head CSR and Sustainability of TUEV Rheinland, has been working for Gerling Insurance Group, a former UN GC member before joining TUV Rheinland. At Gerling he was Managing Director of a Project Company called "Gerling Sustainable Development Project" and developed and implemented sustainability criteria into the insurance core business. He also developed a sustainability fund, known as Gerling Select 21. Before joining the industry, Aiko worked for the UN Environment Programme in Nairobi, New York and Geneva before. He holds a Master's degree in biology and history. Now Aiko oversees and implements the CSR activities of TUV Rheinland and also holds the position of the Chief Compliance Officer of the Group.

Knowledge Fair Sessions

9.30am-11.00am and 11.30am-1.00pm

The Knowledge Fair represents an opportunity for Local Network Forum participants to learn about the latest additions to the Global Compact toolbox, and more importantly, it represents an opportunity for participants to explore subjects through dialogue with other participants and session presenters. Ultimately, the goal is to provide orientation and inspiration to Focal Points and business participants as they work to address the challenges of building their Local Network, implementing the principles and engaging in collective action.

Methodology:

Each of the seven knowledge fair sessions will be repeated (the first break-out session begins at 9.30am the second at 11.30am). Each break-out session will run for 1.5 hours. It is not necessary to pre-register for the sessions. Rather, participants will attend the sessions on a "walk-in" basis, according to their interests and seating availability. Participants unable to attend a session during the first break-out can always come back for the second session of the corresponding group.

1. Update on the Caring for Climate initiative

Room: Helsinki

"Caring for Climate: The Global Business Leadership Platform on Climate Change" is a voluntary and complementary action platform for Global Compact participants who want to demonstrate leadership on climate change. Caring for Climate is designed to show how committed business leaders can advance practical solutions, shape public opinion and government attitudes.

The Caring for Climate session will review the development of this business leadership platform and seek input from Forum participants on the next steps. Items to be covered during this session are the following:

1. The context of the current scientific and climate policy agenda
2. The role of business and terms of engagement in the programme
3. Progress and priorities of the Caring for Climate programme
4. The outcomes of the first signatories meeting of October 20/21
5. The contribution of regions and focal points
6. The 2009 action plan

The session will leave ample time for discussion and creative ideas from session participants to move Caring for Climate forward.

Facilitator: Mr. Claude Fussler, Director of the Caring for Climate programme

2. The Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) Room: Oslo

The Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) initiative is the first organized relationship between the United Nations and business schools. Launched at the 2007 UN Global Compact Leaders Summit in Geneva the principles provide an engagement framework specifically for academic institutions to advance social responsibility through the incorporation of universal values into curricula and research.

To date, over 150 business schools and management-related academic institutions from around the world have adopted PRME.

In some GC Local Networks efforts are under way to use PRME as a framework to integrate the work of the academic sector into the Local Network by:

- Creating a platform for academic participants in the Local Network, and
- Adding research capacity and expertise to Global Compact activities.

The aim of this Knowledge Fair session is to introduce participants to the PRME initiative and to discuss good examples of collaboration between academic institutions and the business sector on a country level.

Facilitator: TBC

3. Human Rights Working Group Session

Room: Stockholm

Surveys have shown that the Global Compact's human rights principles are among the most difficult of the Global Compact principles for many companies to implement. Many companies are not quite sure how human rights may be an issue for their business or what they can do to better manage the risks and opportunities that human rights pose. The human rights sessions of the knowledge fair will be an opportunity for Local Networks to share experience with other Local Networks and the Global Compact Human Rights Working Group on what a Local Network can do to provide value to their members in this area as well as make an effective contribution to the advancement of the UN Global Compact's human rights principles. It aims to provide concrete and practical inspiration as well as support to Local Networks.

The Global Compact Office is aware of 17 Local Networks that have undertaken or plan to undertake activities on business and human rights this year in the lead up to the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, the instrument from which the first two Global Compact principles are derived. These and other networks are invited to contact Sunok Lee (lee21@un.org) in the Global Compact Office to join the speakers list for one of these sessions to share challenges, lessons learned, what has worked, what hasn't worked as well, plans, requests for help etc. Participating in the session will be members of the Global Compact Human Rights Working Group who stand ready to support Local Networks with speakers, tools, guidance materials and issue expertise.

Session Chair: H.E. Dr. Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland and former High Commissioner for Human Rights, Chair of the Global Compact Human Rights Working Group.

4. Implementing the 10 principles through GLN: the GC GLN pilot in Brazil

Room: Berlin

For the last year, the Global Compact and the Global Leadership Network (GLN) have worked to support participants by developing a common approach and online tool to implement the 10 principles. The session will present this approach and share the learnings from the integrated sessions and Progress and Values workshops in Mexico, Spain, India and Brazil, with special focus on

- the benefits to and the feedback from participants, with particular emphasis on India
- an innovative approach that is being piloted in Brazil and integrates the Ethos Indicators, the GLN framework and the GRI as a way to understand, implement and report on the 10 Principles- this part of the session will be co-delivered with the President of the Brazilian GC Committee and one of the pilot companies.

Facilitators: Mr. Aris Vrettos, Senior Advisor, AccountAbility and Mr. Vitor Seravalli, GC Network Brazil

5. Implementing Anti-Corruption Mechanisms that Deliver: Collective Action Tools for Companies and Organizations

Room: London

How can my company/organization stand up to corruption? What are effective anti-corruption mechanisms that work in high risk industries or countries? Where can I find practical anti-corruption tools

and resources? These are crucial questions that many companies and organizations confront in their daily operations and which will be addressed in depth in this session. Building on examples from countries with challenging governance environments, such as Russia, South Africa, Colombia and Pakistan (see www.fightingcorruption.org for details), we will examine how companies and organizations can utilize collective action to counter corruption and introduce new collective action resources that participants will be able to employ in their operations.

Facilitator: Mr. Djordjija Petkoski, Head of the Business, Competitiveness and Development Team World Bank Institute

6. UNDP private sector global initiatives

Room: Vienna

This session will present recent UNDP private sector global initiatives and discuss options of how the GC Networks can use the content at the country level with benefit to both the UN and the business community.

“Creating Value for All: Strategies for doing Business with the Poor”

This UNDP report responds to a need for better understanding of how the private sector can contribute to the Millennium Development Goals. It is part of a broader initiative, Growing Inclusive Markets, which aims to:

- Raise awareness by demonstrating how doing business with the poor can be good for poor people and good for business;
- Clarify the ways that businesses, governments and civil society organizations can create value for all;
- Inspire the private sector to take action.

The initiative and the report emphasize core business that is, the initiative promotes business models that create value by providing products and services to or sourcing from the poor, including the earned income strategies of nongovernmental organizations. It does not consider activities that are purely philanthropic or that cannot prove to be or become commercially sustainable, even though they have their own business rationales and are important for development.

Business Call to Action (BCTA)

The Business Call to Action, officially launched during the UN Private Sector Forum during the General Assembly in September, challenges companies to find new business opportunities for the 21st century — using companies’ core business in a way that both contributes to the MDGs and to their success. The Global Partnership for the Business Call to Action with UNDP, the UN Global Compact, The Clinton Global Initiative and the International Business Leaders Forum, alongside the UK Government, will take forward and extend the reach of the Business Call to Action towards 2015. The Partnership will track commitments companies make and share learning on what works well for both businesses and poor communities that can be replicated globally.

Facilitator: Ms. Karolina Mzyk, Programme Analyst, Private Sector Division, UNDP

7. Progress and Value Workshop Planning Guide

Room: Brussels

Launched by Barcelona Center for the Support of the Global Compact – Forum Foundation in September 2006, the Progress and Value Workshop Series has now trained more than 700 people from more than 50 countries. Seminars have taken place in more than 15 countries around the world, thanks in large part to the efforts of many Global Compact Local Networks.

The Progress and Value workshop seeks to familiarize participants with the main elements of a change management process geared towards excellence in terms of economic, social and environmental performance. From the perspective of a Global Compact Local Network, a Progress and Value workshop can help to inspire new or non-communicating participants to actively implement their Global Compact commitment and effectively communicate this effort to stakeholders by means of an annual Communication on Progress (COP).

This session will introduce participants to the Progress and Value Workshop goals, structure and methodology. Additionally, the **Progress and Value Workshop Planning Guide** and accompanying **digital resource package** (CD) will be presented.

Facilitator: Mr. Angel Saz, Fundació Fòrum Universal de les Cultures

**8. Strengthening the role of Civil society organizations (CSOs) in the LN:
Moving engagement to the “meta level”** **Room: Bonn**

Civil society organizations (CSOs) add a critical dimension to the Global Compact’s operation. They offer not just their competencies and substantive knowledge but their problem-solving capacity and practical reach. Also, they can help to provide checks and balances and lend credibility and social legitimacy to the initiative. In addition to CSOs contributing to the processes of relationship building, information-sharing, problem solving and consensus building, civil society further advances the Compact’s goals by:

- advocating the ten principles to larger audiences
- challenging business to take a stand on the principles
- taking concrete action through partnership projects
- participating in Network activities as part of the open multistakeholder dialogue

This session will assess the role of civil society organization in the Global Compact and Local Networks to date. It will explore the potential of CSOs, building upon their diverse competencies, to increase cooperation in the future and will attempt to chart the next steps for CSOs within Local Network moving forward.

Facilitator: Ms. Olajobi Makinwa, Senior Civil Society Coordinator; Manager, Transparency and Anti-Corruption, UN Global Compact

Call for Network interviews to feed into research

Prof. Donald Schepers will be joining the ALNF as a researcher. As you know, we are introducing a new knowledge sharing system for the Global Compact Local Networks, and Prof. Schepers will be helping us understand how this system is working to enable the Global Compact and your networks achieve their goals. Prof. Schepers would like to conduct brief (10-15 minute) interviews with as many participants as possible in order to get information on the current position of your networks, and how you foresee this system aiding your work. He would also like to contact you at some future time to see how the system is actually working. We want to emphasize that your participation is voluntary, and Prof. Schepers will maintain confidentiality of who participates. Prof. Schepers is an Associate Professor of Business and Society at Baruch College, City University of New York, and serves also as an Associate Director for the Robert Zicklin Center for Corporate Integrity at Baruch College. His teaching and research interests include business and society, socially responsible investing, codes of conduct, and networks. If you have questions, please contact Prof. Schepers directly at **Donald.Schepers@baruch.cuny.edu**.

Contact details: Donald H. Schepers, Associate Director, Robert Zicklin Center for Corporate Integrity, Baruch College, One Bernard Baruch Way, Box B9-240, New York, NY 10010, USA; Phone +1-646.312.3651, Fax: +1 646.312.3621

Thursday 23rd October

Regional Meetings for Network Focal Points:

9.00am-5.00pm

Workshop for the Asian GCLNs Focal Points

Location: Room 1916, UN CAMPUS - Langer Eugen, Bonn, Germany