

2007 Annual Report for GC Kenya Network



After the Global Compact had been launched in February 2005 in Kenya, the official Global Compact Kenya Network (GCKN) has been launched in February 2007 with a multi-stakeholder launch event in Nairobi, Kenya.

Currently, around 30 companies (multi-national, domestic and SMEs) are members of the GCKN.

Network objectives and priorities

- After a successful launch of the Global Compact Kenya Network, the GCKN organized the first Publi-Private-Policy (PPP) Dialogue with the Government of Kenya (GoK). This high-level, interactive dialogue forum took place at State House, under the chairmanship of H.E. President Mwai Kibaki. The starting point of this dialogue was a comprehensive list of 10 issues that inhibit the development of the business community in Kenya, e.g. security, infrastructure, taxes & licences. The list was established under leadership of the Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA) and builds the basis of further discussions to monitor progress. A subsequent meeting was held on July 20th, 2007 and some of the issues discussed also found its way into the recently launched Private Sector Development Strategy (PSDS) of the GoK. The GCKN steering committee was in the process of organizing the 3rd PPP dialogue for mid-October but due to political realities and the upcoming general election in December, the decision was taken to wait for the new Government to be in place in January 2008.
- The year 2007 saw an increase from 12 members to 26. Partly, the new members joined at or after the February launch event. Ongoing promotion activities of UNDP, FKE, KAM and KEPSA are also responsible for the growing membership. Hence, one priority in 2007 was the integration of new members, assistance in implementation/strengthening of the 10 GC principles and the launch of a newsletter to keep all members informed of CSR trends and GCKN activities

Organization

- Currently, the GCKN focal point is Mr. Stefan Engels at UNDP Kenya.
- The GCKN steering committee is comprised of a strong coalition of all three major business associations in Kenya
 - Federation of Kenya Employers (FKE)
 - Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM)
 - Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA)and is chaired by UNDP's Deputy Resident Representative.

Participation

- The network has approximately 30 participants, representing MNCs, e.g. Standard Chartered Bank, Tetra Pak and Vestergaard Frandsen, large domestic companies, e.g. Safaricom, Eveready and Kenya Power & Lighting Company, sector representatives, e.g. Kenya National Federation of Agricultural Producers (KENFAP) and has a strong and committed working relationship with the Government of Kenya (Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ministry of Finance etc.)

Activities

- The Global Compact is mainly promoted at the local level, through the combined activities of FKE, KAM, KEPSA and UNDP. Some active members serve as ambassadors.
- The GCKN has recently launched its local website with contact information of GCKN members. Calendar of events and success stories are to be added later. (see html address below)
- The biggest focus and activity of the GCKN has been on policy dialogue as described above. The Government of Kenya has accepted the GCKN as adequate partner for discussions that involve the key issues for the private-sector under the GC banner
- So far, no local member had to submit a “Communications on Progress” but the first company is due in November 2007. The GC secretariat will actively support that company in developing and communicating its Cop and will use this as a n example for other members whose Cop will be due in 2008
- The GCKN sees one of its major activities in providing a networking platform for deeper engagement of its participants through dialogue with their several stakeholders. The GC focal point has also participated in regional learning events and has forged active collaboration with other sub-saharan networks, e.g. with Malawi on Anti-Corruption tools, with Zambia on a GC newsletter and with Sudan on launching of the book “Africa leads”
- The network has recently launched a website and will establish a GCKN newsletter later this year.
- The GCKN has increased its membership from 12 companies in 2006 to 26 ytd (October 2007)
- In 2008, the GCKN envisions a continued growth of members and regular learning workshops on cross-cutting issues such as
 - Human Rights
 - Labor Rights
 - Anti-Corruption
 - Global Warming
 - Energy-efficient companies and waste management

Progress

- The objectives of GCKN regarding membership have already been surpassed for 2007. However, as the network is still very young and it had to integrate the new members, there is currently a lack of strategic planning.

- Very limited resources in funding and focused HR, have made 2007 a rather ad-hoc year of activities
- Despite the formidable alliance at steering committee level, the GCKN lacks a comprehensive strategic direction and membership strategy.
- At this point the GCKN is looking for best practices and learnings from other networks to leverage experiences and to forge stronger partnerships.
- However, the surge in membership and the establishment of the PPP dialogues with the Government of Kenya are strong successes.

Attachment: Network Fact Sheet for 2007:

Network Management								
Annual Network Meeting (yes/no)	COP facilitation (yes/no)	Helped to facilitate other integrity measures (e.g. complaint mechanism) (yes/no)	Website (if yes, URL)	Name Focal Point	Steering Committee (yes/no)	Steering Committee has non-business participants (yes/no)	Secretariat hosted by	Member fees (if yes, amount for Company/ SME/ other)
No	N/A	No	Yes: www.ke.undp.org/Globalcompact.htm	Stefan Engels, UNDP Kenya	Yes	No	Currently: UNDP Kenya	No

Number Local Network Participants										Government participation in Network
TOTAL	MNCs	SMEs	Micro-enterprises (<10 employees)	Business Organization	CSR Organization	Labour Organization	Civil Society organizations	Academic Institution	Other Stakeholders	Yes/ no
26	7	13	4	2						No

Number of Activities					
Outreach Events	Learning Events	Policy Dialogues	Partnership projects	Cooperation with other Local Networks	Other activities
1	2	3		2	