

# **The Nigeria Network of Global Compact**

## **Activities Report for 2007**

### **1. The Network**

The Nigeria Local Network of the UN Global Compact was officially launched during the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Nigerian Economic Summit in Abuja on June 7, 2006. The launched was performed by Mr. George Kell, the Executive Head of the UN Global Compact Office in New York, and was attended by the former President of Nigeria, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo. At the occasion, fifteen Nigerian businesses officially joined the Network.

The Network currently has 38 members (see the list below) which include MNCs, local big companies, SMEs, NGOs, CSOs, academia, etc, and the secretariat is being hosted by the Nigerian Economic Summit Group in Lagos. The Network has a Steering Committee which was put in place few months after its inauguration to provide leadership and manage the affairs of the Network. The Steering Committee was expected to meet quarterly while the Network general meeting was expected to hold twice a year or as the need arises. The Secretariat facilitates regular communications with the members of the Network and the Global Compact Office in New York.

### **2. Network Objectives and Priorities**

Since its launch, 38 reputable organizations of different sizes have joined the Network and committed to promote the adoption of the ten principles of the Global Compact in Nigeria. The Network is a voluntary corporate citizenship initiative charged with the pursuit of making the Global Compact and its principles part of business strategy and operations among businesses in Nigeria. It also aims at facilitating cooperation among members by promoting partnership in support of the UN goals and ISO 26000. Some of the Network priorities include:

- Sharing good practices and learning
- Multi-stakeholder dialogue and problem solving
- Accessing the UN's global reach and engaging government, business, labour, civil society and other stakeholders on the ten principles of the Global Compact and ISO 26000
- Addressing issues before crisis (Human Rights and related Issues)
- Contributing to national development through corporate citizenship
- Good Corporate governance
- Trust building in business

The Network programmes and activities are driven by these objectives and priorities.

### **3. Activities of the Network**

Since its inauguration, the Network has held several meetings and worked towards:

- Creating awareness and sensitization of the GC in Nigeria
- Broadening participation and increasing membership

The Network in March 5-7, 2007 organized an international CSR conference with the theme: Corporate Social Responsibility in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Nigeria in Abuja. The Conference which was declared opened by the former President of Nigeria, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo attracted more than 300 participants among whom were top level chief executives from the private sector, civil society and development partners, and very senior government officials including some key members of President Obasanjo's administration. Also two representatives of the Global Compact Head office in New York were in attendance. The objectives of the conference were to explore the following:

- The practice of CSR in the Nigerian business environment. What are the basic problems encountered and how are they dealt with? What are the lessons learned? What are the opportunities/possibilities?
- What is the business case for CSR?
- Best practices: How does a company incorporate its CSR commitment into its operations?
- The importance of corporate governance as a key element of CSR.

Also the conference was designed to facilitate an increase in information bank on CSR practice and encourage companies operating in Nigeria business environment to learn and share their CSR expertise/experience with others. Besides, it was designed to offer a blue-print or action plan to encourage socially responsible business practice in Nigeria. The conference was very successful.

The Network hopes to organize the conference every year on difference themes and issues as a way of promoting the 10 principles of the Global Compact and encouraging deeper engagement of stakeholders including government. It is also envisaged that through such conferences partnership and cooperation among members of the Network will be strengthened and deepened.

#### **4. Major Challenges of the Network**

The major challenges of the Network include:

- Lack of commitment by many of the members
- Few membership
- Irregular attendance of meeting
- Lack of fund
- Lack of strong and committed Steering Committee

These challenges may be traced to the newness of the Network and it is hoped that in the coming months and years they will be overcome by the Network.

#### **5. Members of the Network as at September, 2007 (38)**

- Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG)
- African Leadership Forum (ALF)

- Nigerian Institute of International Affairs (NIIA)
- MTN Nigeria Communications Ltd
- National Agency for Food Drugs Administration and Control (NAFDAC)
- Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC)
- Standard Organization of Nigeria (SON)
- Bank PHB
- Nigergold Ventures Ltd
- Rasaries Ltd
- UAC of Nigeria Plc
- BHI Holdings Nig. Ltd
- Coca-Cola Nigeria and Equatorial Africa Ltd
- Dreamaker Ltd
- Equity Life Insurance Company Ltd
- Falkberg Company Ltd
- Neimeth International Pharmaceuticals Plc
- Nestle Nigeria Plc
- Santon Nigeria
- SAP Nigeria
- Sijuwade Holdings Ltd
- Summa Guaranty Trust Co. Plc
- Superpower Nigeria Ltd
- Shell Petroleum Development Co. of Nigeria Ltd
- BusinessDay Media Nigeria Ltd
- Java International Ltd
- Nigerian Insurers Association
- Chemical and Allied Products Plc – CAP Plc
- Frenchies Ltd
- Dunlop Nigeria Plc
- LE Global Oilfield Services Ltd
- African Petroleum Plc
- Goldengate Group of Companies
- Renewed Hope
- World Waters Council
- UTC Nigeria Plc
- New Nigeria Foundation
- Safe Water African Community Initiative