

# Overview Local Networks in SSA

## Ghana

**Focal Point:** UNDP

**Network Launch:** 2002

**Network Structure:** Formal network structure with Advisory Council, Coordinating Committee and three thematic sub-committees

**Number of Participants:** 33 (according to focal point, as of September 2007)

Ghana was the focus of attention throughout 2006 and especially during the International Learning

Forum Meeting in November 2006 in Accra. The Regional Learning Forum and the UNDP supported the local network in its outreach activities and in the establishment of a steering committee for the International Learning Forum meeting. During the preparation of the meeting and due to outreach efforts of the existing participants, the network experienced a remarkable growth from seven to more than thirty participants.

With the help of the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), the Ghanaian Business Code as based on the ten principles of the Global Compact was developed and launched during the International Learning Forum Meeting.

In 2007, the RLF supported the Ghanaian Steering Committee financially with US\$10 000. Since 2006, the network has developed a number of activities which have attracted the interest of companies, thereby also raising awareness in order to increase the number of Global Compact signatories in Ghana. The network organises outreach activities (e.g. through radio discussions and seminars), promotes learning and dialogue among network members (e.g. CEO's lunch) and tries to motivate companies to compile Communications on Progress reports (e.g. with a CEO workshop).

## Madagascar

**Focal Point:** UNDP

**Network Launch:** A formal Global Compact launch has not taken place yet

**Network Structure:** Quasi-formal network structure with a coordinating group, geared towards the Growing Sustainable Business (GSB) initiative of the UNDP

**Number of Participants:** 11 (according to focal point, as of September 2007)

As part of the GSB initiative the UNDP implemented sixteen projects in the fields of energy, environment, water and sanitation, health, tourism; it also focused on job opportunities and market expansion. In future, the Madagascar focal point from the UNDP will promote the GC in the country and try to broaden its own membership base. To this end, it plans to focus on local branches of multinational corporations, and intends an exchange with other African Networks to learn from their outreach experiences. With assistance of the

Regional Learning Forum, it has drawn up plans to officially launch a Global Compact local network in Madagascar.

## **Kenya**

**Focal Point:** UNDP

**Network Launch:** 2005 / Re-launch in 2007

**Network Structure:** Formal network structure with an advisory board, a steering committee, and additional working groups

**Number of Participants:** 27 (according to focal point, as of September 2007)

The Regional Learning Forum supported the UNDP focal point in organising a re-launch event in

February 2007 after the Kenyan network was first launched in 2005. Before the re-launch, no focal point was appointed and no formal network structure was in place. Attracting more than 70 participants, the re-launch event was well received and the number of Global Compact participants has since risen to 27. In addition to companies, representatives from business associations, government, civil society, labour as well as other UN agencies participated in network meetings.

A policy dialogue between the government and the private sector, which have in the past only rarely cooperated, has been established. Participants committed themselves to meet every three months with the Kenyan President committed to chair this meeting twice a year. Based on exchanges at the Regional Learning Forum Planning Meeting in May 2007, the Kenyan network will engage in a corporate responsibility knowledge workshop as well as the implementation of a workshop on HIV-Aids and possibly on climate change or anti-corruption, which is financially supported by the Regional Learning Forum to the amount of €8 000.

## **Zambia**

**Focal Point:** Private Consultant

**Network Launch:** 2002

**Network Structure:** Formal network structure with board of advisors and secretariat

**Number of Participants:** 33 (according to focal point)

In the first years three pilot projects on investment/export, tourism & environment as well as partnerships fighting HIV/Aids in the workplace were launched. The HIV/AIDS workplace program has increased awareness in the private sector, where more than 30 000 workers have been reached since October 2004. In addition, as the network is a member of the MDG taskforce it has organised

workshops on “The Role of The Private Sector in Achieving the Millennium Development Goals” on the behalf of the UNDP. This network has also developed its own newsletter, a Global Compact Bulletin, which is well received. For instance, the Bulletin features companies which are involved in CSR activities, and showcases positive company examples so that these may be transferred to peer companies.

This initiative has been taken up in the Planning Meeting organised by the Regional Learning Forum and will be introduced as a best practice in other SSA countries. The Zambian local network will be financially supported by the Regional Learning Forum to the amount of €15 000, starting in December 2007, in support of a collective action in human rights.

### **Malawi**

**Focal Point:** African Institute of Corporate Citizenship (AICC) Malawi

**Network Launch:** December 2003

**Network Structure:** Formal network structure with two patrons and a steering committee

**Number of Participants:** 13 (according to the focal point)

The Global Compact was launched in 2003, while the African Institute of Corporate Citizenship simultaneously became the focal point. The AICC Malawi is a very well-established civil society organisation which works around CSR issues. More than thirty companies have been involved in GC activities. The Malawi Global Compact network has succeeded in initiating and implementing two major collective action projects. The first initiative is the “Business Action against Corruption” initiative which has drawn up a Business Code of Conduct for Combating Corruption with high-level political support.

The second project is the Growing Sustainable Agri-Business Initiative (SABI) which aims at developing an economically robust and sustainable agricultural sector in Malawi, and has been implemented as a public-private partnership with the GTZ. The Malawian local network is financially supported by the Regional Learning Forum to the amount of US\$15 000.

### **Mozambique**

**Focal Point:** Forum Empresarial para o Meio Ambiente (FEMA) since 2006

**Network Launch:** June 2003

**Network Structure:** Formal network structure with steering committee

**Number of Participants:** 23 (according to the focal point)

In Mozambique a network launch took place in June 2003; with more than 250

participants from several business, government and civil society and UN agencies. However, the launch did not lead to any activities until the Regional Learning Forum and UNDP jointly reactivated the network. FEMA, a non-governmental organisation working around environmental issues, took over as a focal point in 2006. The network currently consists of more than 20 members, of which more than half are small- and medium-sized companies.

Network activities focus mainly on broadening the membership base as well as awareness-raising activities. A training and information session on developing a "Communication on Progress" was organised. For 2007, the focal point intends to offer seminars on CSR and intends to initiate activities on climate change. The Mozambican local network is financially supported by the Regional Learning Forum to the amount of US\$20 000.

## **South Africa**

**Focal Point:** National Business Initiative (NBI)

**Network Launch:** 2003 / Re-launch in 2005

**Network Structure:** Advisory Committee

**Number of Participants:** 23 (according to focal point, as of September 2007)

In 2003 the United Nations Information Centre, the Global Compact office in New York and the African Institute of Corporate Citizenship (AICC) launched the South African local network. Until the re-launch at the end of 2005 and the transfer of the focal point to UNISA's Centre for Corporate Citizenship (CCC) only a few activities were carried out and the Global Compact overall received only scant attention within South African CSR debates. After the CCC reactivated the network and engaged in consolidating the participant base, the NBI was introduced as the new focal local point in 2007.

The network organised learning fora on anti-corruption and responsible investment, co-organised the academic symposium at the Global Compact Learning Forum in Ghana and its participants actively engaged in a number of international Global Compact events, such as the Leader Summit, Annual Global Compact Network Forum etc.