



1 December 2007

Dear Global Compact participants,

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) will be 60 years old on 10 December 2008. The anniversary provides us with an opportunity to celebrate the enduring relevance of this historic document, the first-ever solemn and global recognition that all human beings, regardless of colour, gender, language, religion, political or other opinion, are inherently entitled to a life of dignity and freedom.

On 10 December of this year, Human Rights Day, the United Nations under the leadership of the Secretary-General will launch a year-long campaign to heighten awareness of the rights and aspirations embodied in the UDHR. These rights continue to be important, in times of conflict and in societies suffering repression, but also in established democracies.

As signatories to the United Nations Global Compact you have pledged your support for the universal principles contained in the Universal Declaration, which are referenced in the first two principles of the Global Compact. Thus, we hereby invite you to join in the celebrations over the coming year by raising awareness among your employees, subsidiaries, business partners and other stakeholders of the UDHR.

In addition to raising awareness, you as members of the private sector have the potential to contribute to marking the 60th Anniversary in any number of ways best suited to your particular operations. Allow us to make some concrete suggestions:


- **Policy statements** - Global Compact participants could commit to including more explicit statements on human rights and the Universal Declaration in their policies and post them on the Internet to share them more widely.
- **Case studies, learning and good practices** – Global Compact participants could commit to trialing a business and human rights tool and sharing their experience in the context of their Local Network. They could also volunteer to be the subject of a case study on their efforts to tackle human rights from a management perspective.
- **Participate in Global Compact Local Networks** – Global Compact Local Networks could reference the UDHR's 60th on their web pages and encourage their participants to do the same on their websites. They could also put human rights on their network agenda during 2008
- **Engage in other networks** - Global Compact participants could raise awareness of the UDHR at the national level through their industry associations and other entities that they are involved in.
- **Communicate progress** - Companies are encouraged to include their human rights activities, including as they relate to celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the UDHR, in their next Communication of Progress.

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We look forward to working with you to promote and support the human rights embodied in the UDHR as we celebrate this important anniversary. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the UN Global Compact Office and Global Compact Human Rights Working Group stand ready to help you and your Local Network. Please contact Ursula Wynhoven (wynhoven@un.org) for further information.

Yours sincerely,

Georg Kell
Executive Director
UN Global Compact Office



Louise Arbour,
High Commissioner for Human Rights