

# **Launch of the UN Global Compact Network Namibia**

*Protea Hotel Fürstenhof - Windhoek*

*April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2008*

*16.00hrs*

## **Summary of speeches**

### **Welcome and General Introduction**

Mr. Tim Parkhouse

Secretary-General of the Namibian Employers' Federation (NEF)

Mr. Parkhouse welcomed the audience and thanked the German Development service as well as the Pupkewitz Group and FBN Namibia for their financial in setting up this initiative in Namibia. After clarifying the role of the Namibian Employers' Federation as Focal Point of the Global Compact Network Namibia, Mr. Parkhouse utilized a definition on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) by the European Commission to emphasize three key characteristics of the UN Global Compact...(a) The Global Compact is about integrating social and environmental concerns in business operations...(b) the Global Compact is about learning from and interacting with stakeholders...and (c) the Global Compact is a voluntary initiative where companies can engage collectively as well as individually.

### **The Pupkewitz Group's commitment to the Global Compact**

Mr. Mike Hill

Director of HR & external affairs of the Pupkewitz Group of Companies

Mr. Hill emphasized the importance of Global Compact to achieve the country's developmental objectives as set out in the government's VISION 2030. According to Mr. Hill, Namibia would have an ideal environment for its peaceful and sustainable socio-economic growth and development if the practical set of core values provided by the Global Compact would be followed by everyone. In the second part of his speech, Mr. Hill expressed his wish to see a new free trade union movement in Namibia which would observe the values contained in the ILO Conventions and the Global Compact. Mr. Hill further stated his company's interest and will to further engage in activities promoting Anti-Corruption measures (GC Principle 10) in their sphere of influence.



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## **The Global Compact and Corporate Social Responsibility**

Mr. Junus Mungunda

Managing Partner of Deloitte & Touche Namibia

Mr. Mungunda put emphasis on the universal presence and legitimacy of the Global Compact which has become an applaudable initiative in many different parts of the world. In his words, Deloitte & Touche aims to make a significant contribution to the sustainable development of the communities they serve in Namibia. This will be achieved by addressing socio-economic challenges, such as community development and addressing the skills shortage, particularly in the financial field. According to Mr. Mungunda, firms who support the Global Compact continue to position themselves as leaders and elevate the narrative to a deeper and broader discourse for all participating members.

## **Bank Windhoek – social investments & the Global Compact**

Mr. van Rooyen (Head of Corporate Communication; Bank Windhoek)

- on behalf of Mr. James Hill (Managing Director; Bank Windhoek)

Mr. Hill started his speech by introducing his firm's Social Investment Fund. The fund's vision it is to create an environment that is conducive and to the growth and development of Namibia's people. He further listed some of the fund's community and SME development programmes which seek to deliver on its mission of social upliftment. Mr. Hill concluded his speech by stating his firm's intent to support and advance the principles of the Global Compact in its sphere of influence and therefore go further than the common practice of financing of philanthropic projects.

## **Global Compact Network Namibia – projected activities**

Mr. Tim Parkhouse

Secretary-General of the Namibian Employers' Federation (NEF)

Mr. Parkhouse announced the Global Compact pillars of Human Rights (Principle 1&2) and Environment (particularly Principle 8) as the focus areas for Collective of the Namibian network. While assessments on electricity consumption and waste management (especially hazardous waste) will be carried out to identify common challenges and opportunities in the field of environmental protection, a similar assessment will be carried out in the field of Human Rights. Both assessments will look at the companies themselves as well as their supply-chain in order to identify the most promising fields of future engagement. Mr. Parkhouse further announced a week-long workshop on Anti-Corruption/Ethics Officers training for all member companies. The workshop will be sponsored by the German development agency GTZ and carried out by the reputable Ethics Institute South Africa. Mr. Parkhouse ended his speech by encouraging all member companies to also pro-actively engage individually in areas of the Global Compact which are of particular interest to one or a group of companies.



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## **Keynote address – Government supporting the Global Compact**

Honourable Nahas Angula

Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia

The Hon. Prime Minister highlighted the importance of the Global Compact Networks to make this universal initiative work in their unique local contexts. The Namibian Government believes that the Global Compact will contribute positively to the Government's own objectives on sustainable private sector development. According to the Hon. Prime Minister, he is further pleased to see that the Global Compact does not intend to override legal boundaries but rather provide a practical, private sector perspective on how business can become part of the solution. The Namibian Government expressed further content with the Global Compact, as the initiative is embedded in the same international agreements and conventions that guide many public policies in Namibia. The Hon. Prime Minister encouraged all Namibian companies to use the Global Compact Network Namibia for linkages with governmental as well as non-governmental institutions and programmes that aim at advancing one or more of the Global Compact Principles. Before closing, he further asked Namibia's most prominent private sectors, such as mining, fishing and tourism to join the existing group of corporate leaders by signing up to the Global Compact.

### **Closure**

Mr. Tim Parkhouse

Secretary-General of the Namibian Employers' Federation (NEF)

Mr. Parkhouse concluded the event by thanking all Global Compact member companies as well as the cooperating partners of the Global Compact Network Namibia for their strong support.

*Copies of the original speeches will be provided by our office on request.*



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