UN Global Compact Integrity Policy Update

Updated 13 October 2017

Following a comprehensive integrity review as part of its new 2030 strategy and vision, the United Nations Global Compact has enhanced its policies and procedures to more closely align with the broader UN system. A number of updates have been agreed with the UN Global Compact Board.

As part of its integrity review, the UN Global Compact will increase scrutiny of companies upon entry into the initiative, review engagement with existing participants, and to expand product-based exclusions to include tobacco.

As of 15 October 2017, the UN Global Compact will de-list participating companies which fall under the tobacco exclusion. This new exclusionary criterion is strictly limited to companies that produce and/or manufacture tobacco or are part of a joint venture, have a subsidiary or affiliate stake in a company that produces and/or manufactures tobacco. It does not apply to: sale and distribution of tobacco; production, sale and distribution of tobacco-related products (including filters, packaging, chemicals such as acetate used in tobacco filters); financing of tobacco or tobacco-related products through investment portfolios.

The new exclusion does not fundamentally change the nature of UN Global Compact. However, as the UN Global Compact implements its new 2020 strategy, enhancing the integrity of the initiative is critical to maintaining its trusted role in defining corporate sustainability leadership in support of the Sustainable Development Goals.

For more information on the new integrity policy, please see here.

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Revised as of 31 October 2017.