**SELECT MILESTONES 2000 - 2010**

**2000**

**April**

“The we peoples: the role of the United Nations in the twenty-first century” – this report of the UN Secretary-General sets the tone for new era of UN collaboration with non-State actors, especially the private sector.

**July 26**

The Global Compact is launched at a High-level Meeting held by UN Secretary-General with approximately 40 companies attending, as well as influential civil society, labour and employers organizations.

**September**

World leaders come together at UN Headquarters to adopt the United Nations Millennium Declaration, committing their nations to a new global partnership to reduce extreme poverty.

**2001**

**February**

First World Social Forum takes place in Porto Alegre, Brazil, to voice deep concerns and convictions about the direction in which globalization is taking our world.

**July**

Release of approximately 30 examples of actions undertaken by the companies that joined at the launch. They form an early version of Communication on Progress (COP).

**September**

9/11: “The Global Compact is about the values that unite us. The attacks were a direct challenge to these values – they were an attack on fundamental human rights.” Mary Robinson, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (1997–2002)

First Policy Dialogue deals with the “Role and Responsibilities of Business Operating in Zones of Conflict”.

**2002**

**November**

Global Compact and Global Reporting Initiative announce cooperative framework.

**February**

Policy Dialogue on Sustainable Development explores practical experiences of business in contributing to development and facing related challenges.

**June**

Academic network is established early, highlighting role of academia in advancing corporate responsibility in research and, eventually, curricula.

**August/September**

World Summit on Sustainable Development, “Earth Summit 2002”, brings together tens of thousands of participants to focus the world’s attention and direct action toward meeting critical challenges, including improving people’s lives and conserving our natural resources.

**December**

Annual Learning Forum held in Berlin to discuss good practices of corporate behaviour around the Global Compact.

**2003**

**January**

Global Compact stresses that participants should publish examples of work in their annual reports, not only in reports to the UN – a shift in approach that leads to the current “COP” concept.

**May**

Global Compact Policy Dialogue on HIV/AIDS includes call by employers and labour to their members to make HIV/AIDS a priority.

**June**

Local Networks gather for the first time in Berne, later to be known as the “Annual Local Networks Forum”. Representatives from over 30 countries call for increased guidance on local operations.

**October**

Global Compact opens NASDAQ: “The Global Compact at its core is about providing an ethical framework to help businesses operate in the global economy and expand market opportunities in a responsible way.” — NASDAQ Executive Vice-President

**2004**

**January**

Global Compact convenes dialogue on Transparency. The establishment, three months later, of a high-level inquiry into the UN Oil-for-Food programme underscores the urgent need for greater transparency and efforts to tackle corruption by all stakeholders.

**June**

Global Compact’s first Leaders Summit held in New York with more than 400 participants. At the Summit:

- Launch of 10th Principle: “Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.”
- Investment houses endorse Global Compact finance initiative “Who Cares Wins”, helping the ESG (environmental, social, and corporate governance) concept to take off globally.
- Communication on Progress (COP) policy is announced requiring annual disclosure by business, with the first reporting deadline set for July 2005.

**December**

The tsunami of 2004 is one of the worst disasters in history, killing nearly 230,000 people in 14 countries. The generous business response through the Global Compact – donating money and services – leads to coordination of private sector support for relief and rebuilding with UN partners, notably OCHA and the UN Foundation.

**2005**

**March**

Global Compact launches “We Support” logo for participants as a way to promote their commitment to the initiative and raise awareness of the Global Compact.

**July**

COP policy is enforced for companies in the initiative more than 2 years – 38% submit a COP. This figure rises over time.

UN appoints Special Representative of the Secretary-General on human rights and transnational corporations

**September**

Global Compact releases “Business UNusual: Facilitating United Nations Reform through Partnerships”, an assessment of the partnerships agenda across the UN, finding that partnerships play a complementary role to conventional instruments of cooperation and development.

**December**

UN Convention Against Corruption enters into force.

Global Compact Summit in China: 500 international business leaders and representatives of Government and civil society assembled. It is the largest event ever held in China on the topic of responsible business.

**2006**

**April**

UN Secretary-General launches Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) at NYSE with international funds worth USD 2
trillion announcing endorsement. By 2010, PRI includes 700 inves-
tor signatories representing more than US$ 20 trillion in assets and
is the world’s largest responsible investment movement.

**June**
The Global Compact Board – a multi-stakeholder body appointed
by the UN Secretary-General to provide strategic and policy advice
for the initiative – holds inaugural meeting.

**October**
Policy Dialogue on Discrimination
and Equality in the Workplace
hosted with ILO.

**GRI** releases next version of re-
porting guidelines, “G3”, with clear
links to Global Compact principles.

The “Stern Review on the Econom-
ics of Climate Change” is released,
making the case for strong, early
action on climate change and
bringing new momentum to the
agenda.

**2007**

**January**
On 1 January 2007, Ban Ki-moon
becomes the eighth Secretary-
General of the United Nations. Mr.
Ban commits to carry forward the
Global Compact in his first public
address outside the UN, proclaim-
ing: The United Nations and busi-
ness need each other.

**July**
Second Global Compact Leaders
Summit is held in Geneva with
more than 1,000 participants.
Chairied by UN Secretary-General
Ban Ki-moon, numerous plat-
forms for future action on climate,
water, and business education
are launched at the Summit: Car-
ing for Climate, the CEO Water
Mandate and the Principles for Re-
sponsible Management Education.

**September**
Global Compact launches new
visual identity.

**December**
General Assembly resolution (A/
RES/62/211) renews and strengthens
Global Compact mandate:
“encourages the activities of the
UN Global Compact as an innova-
tive public-private partnership to
advance United Nations values
and responsible business practices
within the United Nations system
and among the global business
community”.

**2008**

**January**
For the first time, companies are
removed from the Global Compact
for failure to meet annual COP
disclosure requirements – totaling
more than 1,000 by 2010.

**September**
Global financial crisis:
While the “Great Recession” is
estimated to have begun in 2007,
the bankruptcy of investment firm
Lehman Brothers is seen as a key
event of the financial crisis of the
late 2000s. The crisis, and subse-
quent economic downturn, puts a
spotlight on the tenets of respon-
sible business and investment.

First UN Private Sector Forum
seeks long-term response to
global food crisis, endemic poverty
– bringing together more than 100
heads of business and civil society
with Government leaders.

**October**
Global investors write to CEOs
of 9,000 listed companies urging
them to join the Global Compact.

**December**
The Universal Declaration of Hu-
man Rights (UDHR) turns 60 on
10 December 2008 – marked by a
year-long campaign by the Global
Compact to raise awareness of hu-
man rights by business globally.

Local Network launches in Sudan
following two years of outreach
and events to build local engage-
ment by all stakeholders – high-
lighting role as a neutral platform
for advancing conflict-sensitive
business practices.

**2009**

**January**
UN Secretary-General declares
2009 the year of climate and calls
for business to help lead the way
to a low-carbon future. The Global
Compact takes a number of steps
throughout the year to show the
ways that business can be part of
the solution to climate challenges
and to harness private sector
support for a fair, balanced and
effective global agreement.

**June**
Largest ever Annual Local Net-
works Forum is held in Istanbul
with representatives from 77
networks discussing their work
to advance the Global Compact
locally.

Human Rights and Business
Dilemmas Forum is launched,
providing a multi-stakeholder
platform to discuss dilemmas con-
fronting companies and identify
related good practices. The forum
is one of a number of human rights
resources launched during the
year.

**September**
Second UN Private Sector Forum
on climate change convenes busi-
ness and civil society leaders with
Government to convey support for
a global climate agreement.

G20 leaders meet in Pittsburgh,
USA to focus on generating
sustainable and balanced global
growth following the financial
crisis. The outcome statement
includes a section on Core Values
for Sustainable Economic Recov-
ery and calls for “businesses to
support the efficient allocation of
resources for sustainable econom-
ic performance”, underscoring the
complementary role of voluntary
corporate responsibility efforts to
regulatory measures.

**December**
COP15: United Nations Climate
Change Conference held in Co-
penhagen. Results in last-minute
political agreement, with future
work aiming to turn this Copen-
hagen Accord into an effective
agreement by COP16 in Mexico.

**2010**

**January**
UN introduces business.un.org, a
one-stop gateway to broker UN–
business partnerships, facilitate
donations and highlight success
stories. The site is released just
days after a devastating earth-
quake hits Haiti resulting in
unimaginable suffering and loss.
Companies around the world use
the new site to support UN efforts
by pledging cash and in-kind
contributions, including medical
supplies, logistics support, food
and water, shelter and communi-
cations equipment.

**March**
The Women’s Empowerment
Principles are launched, provid-
ing key elements for promoting
gender equality in the workplace,
marketplace and community.

**June**
Building a New Era of Sustainabil-
ity – Third Global Compact Lead-
ers Summit in New York convenes
1,000+ leaders from business, civil
society and Government to elevate
the role of responsible business
in achieving more sustainable and
inclusive markets. A wide range
of new resources and projects are
launched, including a Blueprint for
Corporate Sustainability Leader-
ship, the world’s largest study on
CEO views on sustainability, an
updated Global Compact manage-
ment model, the Principles for
Social Investment, guidance on
responsible business practices in
conflict-affected areas, and
ground-breaking guidance on anti-
corruption disclosure.