The Business Sector Contribution to the Agenda 2030 in Latin America

Since the United Nations General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in September 2015, Latin America is presented as the region with the most substantial progress towards the Goals. The region represents a quarter of the 55 countries, which have presented their Voluntary National Reviews towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the High-Level Political Forum in New York. Likewise, 19 Latin American countries have aligned their national development programs with the SDGs. These countries have made high-level institutional arrangements to promote the processes of coordination, policy coherence, collaboration and dialogue with other actors to encourage and follow up the achievement of the agenda. Businesses that commit to embed the Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact into strategies and operations play a fundamental role in these processes. At the 2017 High-Level Political Forum in New York, several official delegations had representatives of Global Compact Local Networks, and presented their contribution to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the Voluntary National Reviews.

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) was held in April as part of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development to follow up on progress. The event gathered Government representatives, the United Nations, responsible business sector, civil society and academia. It highlighted the importance of getting every single stakeholder involved in a collaborative public-private partnership built in every territory and within every country in the region. The country teams of the United Nations system become even more relevant by supporting the alignment of the national plans with the 2030 Agenda and favouring policy dialogue spaces for complementarity between the business sector, Governments and relevant multi-stakeholders in identifying common objectives that allow the acceleration towards the achievement of the agenda in local contexts. The UN Global Compact participated at this forum expressing the commitment of the responsible and sustainable private sector to orient its strategies to collaborate to overcome the challenges and contribute to regional transformation. At this forum, it was confirmed that the Agenda 2030 is consolidated in Latin America with clear institutional referents in the region and in every country, both public and private, and encouraging progress is being made.

In this context, the UN Global Compact through each of the 15 Local Networks operating in Latin America is strategically contributing to mobilize responsible business community committed with the Ten Principles to engage in the local implementation of the SDGs regionally.

Global Compact Local Networks have convened high-level representatives of business, Governments, United Nations, academia and civil society to more than 250 events to create awareness and help to localize the 2030 Agenda in the countries of the region and the role of the responsible and sustainable business sector. Among others, the Local Network Regional Meeting in Mexico in December 2016, the Sustainable Development Forum summoned by ECLAC or the High-Level Political Forum in New York.

The Local Networks have facilitated over 300 workshops, capacity building for businesses to integrate the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact and align their business strategies with the SDG, as well as to report upon them. Global Compact Local Networks contribute to the multi-stakeholder public-private policy dialogue engaging through the institutional mechanisms available for such matters. Furthermore, many Networks are part of ongoing discussions with the country teams of the UN to collaborate on national, multi-sectoral plans to advance the SDGs.

The UN Global Compact and the Global Compact Network Ecuador kindly invite you to join us at “The Business Sector Contribution to the Agenda 2030 in Latin America” on 21 November 2017 in Quito, Ecuador. High-level representatives from the Government of the Republic of Ecuador, the UN, the private sector, civil society and academia in the region will gather with representatives from 15 Global Compact Local Networks to explore public-private sustainability leadership. Convened as part of the Latin American Regional Meeting, the event seeks to deepen partnerships and positive business impacts to create the world we all want by 2030.