



UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT GUIDE



WHAT IS THE UNITED NATIONS (UN) GLOBAL COMPACT?

The UN Global Compact is a non-binding initiative that encourages businesses and organisations worldwide to adopt sustainable and socially responsible policies, and to report on their implementation. It's the world's largest global corporate sustainability initiative, providing a universal language for corporate responsibility and a framework to guide all businesses regardless of size, location or industry.

Since its launch in 2000, the UN Global Compact has attracted over 23,000 companies and 3,000 non-business signatories in over 167 countries.

 [Click here](#) to see *who's involved*.

THE TEN PRINCIPLES

[The Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact](#) are derived from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Labour Organization's Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and the United Nations Convention Against Corruption.

The Principles are categorised into: **Human Rights, Labour, Environment, and Anti-Corruption.**

The objectives of the Global Compact are twofold:

1. To mainstream the Ten Principles in business activities around the world.
2. To catalyse actions in support of broader UN goals, including the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs).

WHO CAN JOIN?

Becoming a signatory of the UN Global Compact is open to any organisation that is serious about its commitment to working towards the Ten Principles and communicating on its progress. However, if companies meet any of the following exclusionary criteria, they cannot join:

- Are subject to a UN sanction.
- Are listed on the UN Ineligible Vendors List for ethical reasons.
- Derive revenue from the production, sale and/or transfer of antipersonnel landmines or cluster bombs.
- Derive revenue from the production and/or manufacture of tobacco.



HOW DO COMPANIES PARTICIPATE IN THE UN GLOBAL COMPACT?

As a voluntary initiative, the Global Compact seeks wide participation from a diverse group of businesses. Committed organisations must pledge to:

- Take actions that support society
- Operate responsibly, in alignment with universal sustainability principles
- Make a commitment at the organisation's highest level
- Report annually on ongoing efforts
- Engage locally where you have a presence

 [Click here](#) for engagement examples and ideas.

COMMITMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY

The UN Global Compact requires a Letter of Commitment addressed to the UN Secretary-General and signed by your organisation's highest-level executive committing to operationalise the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact; take action in support of the Sustainable Development Goals; and, submit an annual Communication on Progress (COP).

The annual [Communication on Progress \(CoP\)](#) outlines your efforts to operate responsibly and support society. This was previously required in the form of a written progress report, but is now in online questionnaire format.

Becoming a signatory of the Global Compact provides a visible expression of your commitment to sustainability, which can be communicated to your stakeholders. This could be part of your annual or sustainability report, or another publicly-available document. Organisations that fail to report over time may be removed from the UN Global Compact.

ENGAGEMENT TIERS & JOINING FEES

Membership of the UN Global Compact is subject to an annual fee.

Annual financial contributions from business participants of the UN Global Compact are made to the Foundation for the Global Compact and used to deliver programmes and participant services in collaboration with Global Compact Local Networks.

 [Click here](#) for more information on membership fees.



HOW DOES THE UN GLOBAL COMPACT DIFFER FROM FUTUREPLUS?

We recommend that all companies set an ambition to become a signatory of the UN Global Compact.

The Global Compact aims to mobilise a global network of companies to contribute to the universally recognised language and achievements of the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (UN SDGs) and emphasises principles-based action and reporting.

The Global Compact focuses on ten key principles which cover Human Rights, Labour, Environment, and Anti-Corruption.

FuturePlus is designed to help businesses measure, manage, and improve their sustainability performance.

We provide specific, measurable data to guide company-level sustainability improvements, and a scoring system across broad sustainability pillars (Environment, Social, Climate, Economic, and Diversity & Inclusion).

We also provide each of our clients with dedicated support from sustainability experts alongside actionable insights and support to help companies in making incremental improvements.

NEED MORE HELP?

Please let us know if you would like more information on the UN Global Compact – we would be happy to help: info@future-plus.co.uk.

