



GLOBAL COMPACT ⁺ | 5

BUSINESS AS A FORCE FOR GOOD

GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

25 JUNE, 11:30AM – 1:00PM

With the United Nations preparing to launch a new set of global sustainable development goals (SDGs) in September, the business community will gather with Governments in the UN General Assembly Hall to demonstrate the critical role that the private sector plays in solving our world's greatest challenges. Corporate leaders will review major progress made and show the enormous potential for business to help advance sustainable development goals.

This gathering takes place fifteen years after the launch of the UN Global Compact, which marked a major shift within the United Nations to invite new actors to the table, especially business, in the quest to address global challenges. Today, the UN Global Compact is the main UN initiative for engaging with the private sector, bringing the commitment of over 12,000 companies and other stakeholders from around the world to help achieve UN goals through responsible business practices and partnerships.

The event will demonstrate how the corporate sustainability movement has evolved significantly over the past 15 years, and why business is moving beyond basic responsibilities and increasingly approaching sustainable development challenges from a strategic opportunities perspective. Showing the enormous potential of responsible business practices to advance societal priorities, business will put forward policy recommendations on how Governments can support private-sector action and implementation of the SDGs.

Set in the historic UN General Assembly Hall, the session will convene Government representatives with stakeholders spanning business, civil society, labour, academia and the investment community – symbolizing the need for cooperation and collaboration to meet the challenges of our world today and tomorrow.

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PROGRAMME

11.30 – 11.45

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

- H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, *Secretary-General*, **United Nations**
- H.E. Mr. Sam K. Kutesa, *President*, **United Nations General Assembly**

11.45 – 12.15

ADVANCING THE SDGs THROUGH CORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY

Companies around the world are recognizing the growing relevance and urgency of environmental, social and economic challenges to their long-term business viability and are responding by moving beyond their basic responsibilities and going further into a strategic opportunity space. Speakers will show how private sector efforts to address these challenges will contribute to the achievement of the SDGs and provide recommendations for government actions that can bolster business efforts.

- Dr. Henrik O. Madsen, *Group President and CEO*, **DNV GL**
- Mr. Paul Bulcke, *Chief Executive Officer*, **Nestlé SA**
- Mrs. Mary Robinson, *President*, **Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice**
- Ms. Monica de Grief, *President*, **Chamber of Commerce of Bogota**

12.15 – 12.45

MAXIMIZING THE BUSINESS CONTRIBUTION TO THE SDGs

What will it take for responsible business practices to become a transformative force for good? Speakers will delve into critical pathways: reaching critical mass, deepening sustainability practices, increasing local action and greater collaboration.

- Mr. Paul Polman, *Chief Executive Officer*, **Unilever**
- Mr. Fu Chengyu, *Chairman*, **Global Compact Local Network China**
- Ms. Erika Karp, *Founder & Chief Executive Officer*, **Cornerstone Capital Inc.**
- Dr. Julia Christensen Hughes, *Dean*, *College of Business and Economics*, **University of Guelph, Canada**

12.45 – 12.55

INSPIRATIONAL KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Why do we need a shift in mind-set and thinking – within companies and society – on the role of business in achieving sustainable development?

- Mr. Dov Seidman, *Founder and Chief Executive Officer*, **LRN**

12.55 – 13.00

CLOSING

- Mr. Georg Kell, *Executive Director*, **UN Global Compact**