



A news update from the NBI on its programmes, business leadership and issues on sustainable development.

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## GLOBAL COMPACT NETWORK SOUTH AFRICA RECOGNISED IN NEW YORK FOR BEST PERFORMANCE ON THE 15<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE UN GLOBAL COMPACT

*2015 Top Ten Best Performance Global Compact in the World*

As United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) celebrated its 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in New York in the last week of June 2015, the Global Compact Network South Africa (GCNSA) was recognized in the 2015 Top Ten Best Performance Global Compact. South Africa received the award for engaging in meaningful collaboration, for innovation and overall good performance in advancing the UNGC 10 Principles.

The 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations of the UNGC reflected on past achievements and the growth of the UNGC as the largest corporate sustainability platform in the world, but also emphasised the urgency for more corporations to take responsibility in finding sustainable solutions to the world's development challenges.

Speaking at the UN General Assembly, the UN Secretary General Mr Ban Ki Moon urged business to find lasting solutions to global sustainability noting that "we can be the first generation to stamp out poverty from the planet". One way of doing this, he said, would be for corporations to respond to the call by UN member states, and support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the next 15 years.

President of the UN General Assembly, H.E. Sam Kutesa acknowledged the strides that business is making in integrating Environmental, Social and Governance issues but opined that what is now needed are "innovative ways of scaling up whether through financing, investments in energy, infrastructure, information and communication technologies and other priority areas". He also called on participants to find "innovative ways of maximising the Global Compact especially by supporting the Local Networks".

During the events, Mr Ban Ki Moon paid tribute to Mr Georg Kell, the outgoing Executive Director. Mr Kell is the founding Executive Director of the UNGC and has steered its growth and success in over 150 countries. The Secretary General also announced the new Executive Director of the UNGC as Ms Lise Kingo, formerly of Novo Nordisk in Denmark. Ms Kingo will take over from 1 September 2015, when Mr Kell retires. For more information on this, please read here.

One of the highlights at the UN General Assembly was the launch of a new report, *Impact: Transforming Business, Changing the World*. The report analyses the impact of corporate sustainability globally and the role of the Global Compact. As reported by Dr Henrik Madsen, CEO of DNV GL Group that carried out the research, the Global Compact has had a significant impact in advancing corporate sustainability but more action is still required.

The report also presents a spotlight on Local Networks, acknowledging their role in advancing sustainable and inclusive economies from the ground up.

Following the award to GCNSA as being in the 2015 Best Top Ten globally, the ante is up for signatories to scale up implementation of the 10 Principles and for more South Africa based companies to join the initiative and work collectively through the Local Network, and in collaboration with other sectors for transformative impact on society. As Erika Karp, CEO of Cornerstone Capital said at the UN General Assembly, when this transformation happens, "corporate responsibility will simply be called corporate excellence".

*For more information, please contact Achieng Ojwang at the NBI on +27-11-544-6000.*

To join the UN Global Compact, click here or email Achieng Ojwang at the NBI.

Access our Toolkit on Business & Human Rights in South Africa and our collection of case studies on Business and Anti-Corruption

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