

## **Policy Overview for the 2023 Communication on Progress**

### **1. OBJECTIVES**

The Communication on Progress (CoP) is a public and annual disclosure by business participants of the UN Global Compact to stakeholders with the following main objectives:

- Foster accountability on corporate sustainability performance to help safeguard the integrity of the UN Global Compact initiative;
- Promote continued learning and help drive corporate sustainability performance; and
- Enhance stakeholder access to information regarding participants' implementation of the Ten Principles and contribution towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**In light of the technical issues experienced, submitting the CoP is voluntary for 2023 and no participant will be considered “Non-communicating” or “Delisted” for failure to report this year. Additionally, all participants will maintain access to the UN Global Compact Academy, Accelerators, and other UN Global Compact programmatic offerings, regardless of their reporting status.**

### **2. ELEMENTS**

To complete the voluntary 2023 CoP, participants **must use the interim digital platform**, available through the participant dashboard, to access:

- a) The CEO Statement of Continued Support**
  - A standardized statement expressing continued support for the UN Global Compact by an organization's highest level executive or appointed representative;<sup>1</sup> *and either*
- b) The CoP questionnaire**
  - A set of questions on corporate actions related to the Ten Principles and the SDGs. All questions are of mandatory disclosure. [In addition to answering the questions of the CoP questionnaire, participating companies can choose to upload a report, e.g. their sustainability report, in PDF format as an annex to their CoP]; *or*

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that, as the **2023 CoP can only be completed by one representative per organization**, the CEO Statement of Continued Support must also be signed by this appointed representative. **The CEO Statement is acknowledged through the completion of the 2023 CoP but will not be published on participants' public profiles.**

**c) A sustainability report**

- A document that best discloses an organization's progress in implementing the Ten Principles. While the overall format of the report is flexible, it is expected that the report will contain a description of practical actions undertaken to implement the Ten Principles and a measurement of key outcomes.

### **3. DUE DATES AND MODES OF SUBMISSION**

- Business participants of the UN Global Compact are encouraged, but not required, to complete their voluntary 2023 CoP using the interim digital platform.
- The CEO Statement and either the a) completed questionnaire or b) sustainability report must be submitted through the interim digital platform before the beginning of the 2024 reporting period.
- Participants with "non-communicating" status who submit the voluntary 2023 CoP will be listed as "Active" on the UN Global Compact website. Participants who do not submit the voluntary 2023 CoP will maintain their current status until the end of the 2024 reporting period.
- *[For new joiners only:]* New joiners are due to submit their first CoP within the submission period of the following calendar year after joining (e.g. if a company joins in 2023, they are due to submit their first CoP within the 2024 reporting period.)
- *[For re-joiners only:]* Delisted companies who wish to rejoin the UN Global Compact must submit the following documents to the Participant Engagement team at [info@unglobalcompact.org](mailto:info@unglobalcompact.org):

**a) A Letter of Recommitment**

- Please note that the Letter of Recommitment should be similar to the Letter of Commitment (LoC) that an organization submits when applying to join the Global Compact. See the [general LoC template here](#).
- The letter must also include a brief explanation of the reasons for delisting and corrective measures adopted.

**b) A completed Excel version of the [Communication on Progress \(COP\) questionnaire](#) or sustainability report alternative**

**c) Payment for any outstanding invoice to the Foundation for the Global Compact**

Any company that has rejoined, or will rejoin, in 2023 is not required to submit a CoP on the interim digital platform this year. Rejoiners will fulfill the 2023 reporting requirements through their submission of an updated COP to the Participant

Engagement team. Please note that CoPs submitted as part of the rejoining process in 2023 will not be visible on the participant's public profile on the UN Global Compact website.

We highly encourage all rejoiners to submit a CoP (questionnaire or sustainability report) on the interim digital platform when it reopens to make their report publicly available.

- *[Amendments to the submitted CoP:]* Once the voluntary 2023 CoP is formally submitted, participants cannot make any amendments to their responses (or attachments) to the CoP questionnaire. The UN Global Compact reserves the right to implement requested edits on a case-by-case basis.

Participants who have already submitted via the original platform can replace their first submission, if they so choose, by completing a new CoP using the interim digital platform.

#### **4. FORMAT AND LANGUAGE**

- The CoP interim digital platform is available in all six official UN languages: Arabic, English, French, Mandarin, Russian, and Spanish. Additionally, the CEO Statement template, CoP questionnaire, and CoP Guidebook can be viewed in select additional languages on the [UN Global Compact CoP webpage](#).
- For parts of the questionnaire where text/narrative input is required, participants are encouraged to use the same language as the one selected for the questionnaire.
- Attachments to the CoP, e.g. a sustainability report, are optional and are welcome in any language. Please note that any attachments submitted with the CoP will also be made publicly available on the respective participant profile.
- The completed CoP questionnaire will be available for download, once submitted, through the interim digital platform.