Context

- According to the World Bank, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) represent 90% of business and more than 50% of employment worldwide. They also contribute up to 40% of GDP in emerging economies. 58% of all UN Global Compact signatories are SMEs.

- COVID-19 has had a profound impact on SMEs. ITC’s 2020 SME Competitiveness Outlook outlines the importance of SMEs to future growth and the achievement of the Sustainable Global Goals. The report highlights the need to strengthen the resilience of SMEs to withstand future shocks, the need for making supply chains more open and inclusive, and using the crisis to ensure that business across the world become more sustainable and climate-friendly.

- Up to now, the UN Global Compact’s activities, resources and tools have been targeted primarily towards large and multinational companies. The main mechanism for engaging SMEs has been the Local Networks and the impact of these activities has varied greatly depending on capacities and resources available at the local level.

- Underpinning the UN Global Compact’s 2021-2023 Strategy is the understanding that to achieve its mission, the UN Global Compact will need to significantly scale its engagement with SMEs, as part of global supply chains and in the Global South. Designing and implementing a robust and holistic strategy specifically targeted toward SMEs will be a critical factor in the achievement of the SDGs and in the overall success of the initiative.

Under the guidance of Chief of Programmes, the Senior Advisor, SME Strategy, will lead the design of a comprehensive SME strategy and action plan to actively mobilize and significantly scale up the engagement of SMEs in the UN Global Compact. This will entail:

1. Conducting an analysis of the main challenges and opportunities SMEs face in the adoption of sustainability practices including a review of drivers, incentives, and socio-economic gains for the engagement of SMEs in sustainability initiatives in different sectors and regions of the world.

2. Mapping of relevant SME programmes offered by UN agencies and other global organizations and identifying opportunities for collaboration and partnerships with key ecosystem players at the global, regional and local levels.

3. Assessing existing SME oriented engagement in the initiative and reviewing existing tools and resources on the Ten Principles and SDGs as well as engagement channels including through company value chains at both the global level and through local networks.

4. Articulating the unique value proposition for SMEs to participate in the initiative and developing a set of targeted offerings as well as key success criteria at the global, regional and local levels.

5. Providing advice on the application of the UN Global Compact’s revised Communication on Progress to SMEs.

6. Developing a robust and effective funding strategy to support SME-related activities.
7. Designing a monitoring and evaluation process to manage and track performance of the SME strategy overtime and assess its impact.
8. Performs other duties as required.

In performing his/her duties, the consultant will rely on the extensive network of companies participating in the UN Global Compact, the expertise and experience of nearly 70 Local Networks working closely with SMEs as well as a cross functional global team that has been in charge of recruiting and engaging SMEs over the years. Methods of working will include desk research, interviews, consultations and analysis. While the scoping phase to develop the strategy document will take from 3 to 6 months, it is expected that the strategy document will provide a robust action plan for the UN Global Compact to implement in-house in the 2021-2023 timeframe.

Qualifications:

**Education:** Masters Degree, (or international equivalent), preferably in international relations, economics, finance, corporate sustainability, or related field.

**Work Experience:** a minimum of 7-10 years of relevant work experience related to SME programmes and international development, corporate sustainability, multistakeholder collaboration and intergovernmental initiatives.

**IT Experience:** Proficiency in Microsoft PowerPoint, Excel and Salesforce is essential.

**Language:** Proficiency in English is essential (full command of both spoken and written). Knowledge of other UN official languages would be desirable.

RECRUITMENT PROCESS

- Please include the following materials in your e-mail submission to hринquirieς@unglobalcompact.org with the subject heading “Consultant, SME Strategy”:
  1. Cover Letter
  2. Resume/CV

- Applications will be accepted until , 24, February 2021
- Given the anticipated volume of submissions, only highly qualified candidates will be contacted. No phone calls or unsolicited emails outside of the submission process.

The Foundation for the Global Compact is committed to creating a diverse and inclusive environment of mutual respect. The Foundation for the Global Compact recruits and employs staff regardless of gender identity, sexual orientation, race, religious, cultural and ethnic backgrounds or disabilities. Reasonable accommodation for applicants with disabilities may be provided to support participation in the recruitment process when requested.