

Information for prospective participants

Who can join the UN Global Compact?

Participation in the UN Global Compact is open to a wide range of organizations, including companies, small and medium-sized enterprises, subsidiaries, non-governmental organizations, business associations, labour organizations, academic institutions, foundations, public sector organizations, and cities. Please find more information about who can join [here](#).

To ensure the UN Global Compact policies and practices safeguard the integrity and reputation of the United Nations and the values it upholds, we maintain a few exceptions that restrict organizations from joining the initiative.

Organizations that meet the following exclusionary criteria cannot be recognized as participants of the UN Global Compact:

- Subject to a UN sanction
- 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 manufacturing of tobacco

The exclusionary criteria was updated on 12 September 2017. [See here for more information](#).

For more information about our entry process, please refer to the [UN Global Compact Joining Policy](#).

What is the benefit of joining the UN Global Compact?

The UN Global Compact provides a universal language for corporate responsibility and provides a framework to guide all businesses regardless of size, complexity or location. We're your guide every step of the way. We'll help you commit to, assess, define, implement, measure and communicate your sustainability strategy.

Please find more information about the benefits of joining the UN Global Compact in [this brochure](#). For more information, please visit our [website](#) and reach out to the [Participant Engagement Manager](#) in your region.

What is the difference between the 'Participant' and 'Signatory' engagement tiers?

We offer two different engagement levels to suit your company's needs: Participant and Signatory. Participants actively engage with the UN Global Compact at the global level, and at their national or regional level. The Participant level is ideal for leaders, but also for learners looking to accelerate their sustainability efforts and scale up their impact across the globe. Signatories actively engage with the UN Global Compact at their national or regional level. Please find a brochure outlining the difference in benefits for each engagement tier [here](#).

For more information, please visit our [website](#) or reach out to the [Participant Engagement Manager](#) in your region.

What are the requirements of joining the UN Global Compact?

There are two main requirements for companies to remain 'Active' participants of the UN Global Compact:

1. Pay the annual contribution (if applicable). Your company's annual contribution invoice will be issued once your company's application has been approved.
2. Report on your company's sustainability progress. Your company's first Communication on Progress (CoP) is due exactly one year after joining the UN Global Compact and annually thereafter.

What is the reporting requirement?

Companies who join the UN Global Compact commit to reporting annually through the Communication on Progress (CoP). The CoP is due exactly one year after joining the UN Global Compact and annually thereafter.

The overall format of the CoP is flexible. Many companies choose to submit their existing sustainability report. For companies who do not have an existing report, the UN Global Compact can offer templates and guidance.

The CoP must include the following three requirements:

1. A CEO statement of continued support for the UN Global Compact.
2. A description of practical actions the company has taken or plans to take to implement the Ten Principles in each of the four areas (human rights, labour, environment, anti-corruption).
3. A measurement of outcomes.

Further guidance about creating and submitting the CoP can be found [here](#).

Is there a cost associated with participating in the UN Global Compact?

Annual global contribution fees may apply. These contributions support both our global and country-level operations and, by agreement, are split between the global secretariat and Local Networks.

Annual global contribution fees are determined by a company's size and selected engagement tier: Participant or Signatory. Please find our global fee matrix [here](#).

For more information about Local Fees, please reach out to the [Local Network](#) in your country.

There is currently no annual global fee for non-businesses. However, the Local Network in your country may collect a local participation fee.

I operate an organization with less than 10 employees. Can I still participate in the UN Global Compact?

Starting in January 2020, the UN Global Compact has accepted all businesses and organizations that fulfill the criteria for participation, regardless of the number of employees. All participating companies and organizations are still required to have at least one direct employee and active operations.

Can tobacco companies join the UN Global Compact?

On 12 September 2017, the UN Global Compact instituted a new exclusion for tobacco companies. This decision recognizes that tobacco products are in direct conflict with UN goals, particularly with the right to public health, and undermines the achievement of SDG 3. This product-based exclusion is strictly limited to companies that produce and/or manufacture tobacco or are part of a joint venture, have a subsidiary or affiliate stake in a company that produces and/or manufactures tobacco. It does not apply to: sale and distribution of tobacco; production, sale and distribution of tobacco-related products (including filters, packaging, chemicals such as acetate used in tobacco filters); financing of tobacco or tobacco-related products through investment portfolios. See [here](#) for more information.

To see how this exclusionary criterion applies to subsidiaries, please see our [Joining Policy](#).

Can cannabis companies join the UN Global Compact?

Considerations regarding companies involved in the production of cannabis are on hold pending due to internal consultations. We thank you in advance for your understanding and will revert with an update in due course.

Can e-cigarette companies join the UN Global Compact?

Considerations regarding companies involved in the production of e-cigarettes are on hold pending internal consultations. We thank you in advance for your understanding and will revert with an update in due course.

Is there a Global Compact Local Network in my country?

Please visit our [website](#) to see if there is a Local Network in your country.

Joining the UN Global Compact

Business Application: How to Join

In order to join the UN Global Compact, we ask that you please refer to our [Online Application Portal](#).

There are three steps for businesses to join:

1. Review the [Application Guidelines](#) for a detailed step-by-step guide to the Business Application joining process.
2. Prepare a Letter of Commitment addressed to the UN Secretary-General and signed by your company's highest level executive (or equivalent) committing to implement 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). Please find template letters [here](#).
3. Complete the [Online Application Form](#).

Please find more information [here](#).

Non-Business Application: How to Join

In order to join the UN Global Compact, we ask that you please refer to our [Online Application Portal](#).

There are three steps for non-businesses to join:

1. Review the [Application Guidelines](#) for a detailed step-by-step guide to the Non-Business Application joining process.
2. Prepare a Letter of Commitment addressed to the UN Secretary-General and signed by your organization's highest level executive (or equivalent) committing to implement the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact, participation in the activities of the initiative where feasible and submit a biennial submission of a Communication on Engagement (CoE). Please find template letters [here](#).
3. Complete the [Online Application Form](#).

Please find more information [here](#).

Subsidiaries: How to Join

The application link for subsidiaries is the same one for all business applications: <https://www.unglobalcompact.org/participation/join/application/business>.

If your parent company is already participating in the UN Global Compact, we ask you to click "Yes" under the question on the first page of the [application form](#): *"Is your company a subsidiary or country office of a UN Global Compact Participant or Signatory?"* Once "yes" is clicked, one additional question will appear *"Please select your parent company:"* Please insert and select the name of your parent company from the dropdown list. To see if your parent company is participating in the UN Global Compact, you may search our list of participants [here](#).

Subsidiaries may choose to submit their parent company's Letter of Commitment (if it is available). Letters of Commitment may be downloaded from the parent company's [public profile](#). Alternatively, subsidiaries may produce their own Letter of Commitment, and have it signed by the highest level executive of the local office.

I'm unable to disclose my company's annual revenue in the application form. What can I do?

Please note that any financial or contact information submitted herein is strictly private, confidential and personal to the UN Global Compact and will not be shared or reproduced in whole or in part, with any third party without prior written permission of an authorized agent of the company or organization.

How long will it take for the UN Global Compact Office to review my application?

In general, our current application review time is as follows:

- 2-3 weeks for companies with more than 10 employees
- 4-6 months for companies with less than 10 employees
- 6-12 months for non-businesses

I applied to join the UN Global Compact. What is the status of my application?

You may login to the [Participant Dashboard](#) at any time to view your application's review status.

Information for UN Global Compact participants

I'm unable to access my UN Global Compact account. How can I reset my password?

You may reset your password [here](#) using the email address associated with the UN Global Compact account. Please be sure to also check your Spam Folder for the message from info@unglobalcompact.org.

I'm leaving my company. How can I update our company's UN Global Compact contact point?

Please find guidance about updating your company's contact point in our [Participant Dashboard User's Guide](#).

How can I add additional contact points to my company's UN Global Compact dashboard?

Please find guidance about adding additional contact points in our [Participant Dashboard User's Guide](#).

My company has a new CEO. How can I update my UN Global Compact profile?

Please find guidance about updating your company's highest level executive in our [Participant Dashboard User's Guide](#).

The name of my company has changed. How can I update my UN Global Compact profile?

To change the name of your company on your UN Global Compact profile, we require two documents:

1. An updated [Letter of Commitment](#) with the new company name and company letterhead.
2. Any document confirming the name change (e.g. legal document, press release, announcement from your company's Board of Directors, etc.)

Please send both documents to info@unglobalcompact.org. Upon receipt, our Support Team will attach the new Letter of Commitment to your company's original Letter of Commitment and upload them to your public profile, and update the name of your company on your UN Global Compact profile.

My company wants to withdraw from the UN Global Compact. What should I do?

The UN Global Compact is a voluntary initiative, and participants are free to end their participation at any time. Participants may decide to withdraw if they determine they are not in a position to continue their participation in the initiative or if they are unable to uphold their commitment to the Ten Principles. The intention to withdraw should be communicated in writing by an authorized representative of the participating company/organization and specify the reasons for ending the commitment. Please communicate your company's intention to withdraw to info@unglobalcompact.org.

As a result of the request to withdraw, the participant's status on the UN Global Compact website will be updated to "Delisted" and the reason for delisting will indicate "Participant requested withdrawal".

My company was delisted from the UN Global Compact. How can I rejoin the UN Global Compact?

The UN Global Compact is a voluntary initiative, and organizations are free to rejoin at any time. In order to rejoin the UN Global Compact, please review our Rejoining Policy [here](#) and contact the UN Global Compact Support Team at info@unglobalcompact.org.

Reporting

How can I request a deadline extension to submit my CoP/CoE?

There are two options to request a deadline modification before the CoP/CoE deadline expires. To request either option, you will need to [login](#) to your participant profile and follow the instructions below.

- Grace Period Letter: grants an additional 90 days. See the [Guide to Submit Grace Letter](#).
- Adjustment Request: grants a one-time only deferral of up to 11 months to adjust the reporting cycle. See the [Guide to Request an Adjustment](#).

How do I submit a CoP?

For your CoP to be considered an official submission, it must be directly uploaded to our system. To do so, you will need to log in to your [participant profile](#). CoPs will not be accepted if they are emailed or mailed to the UN Global Compact.

GC Active CoP

- [Access step-by-step guides](#) and videos in our library.

GC Active CoP Using the Basic CoP Template

The Basic CoP Template is an easy-to-use web-based template with examples. If you do not create your CoP as a separate document, the template allows you to create your CoP during the submission process.

- [Access a step-by-step guide](#) and download a preview of the Basic CoP Template.

GC Advanced CoP

- [View a step-by-step](#) submission guide, criteria and questionnaire on how to create an advanced CoP.

How do I submit a CoE?

For a CoE to be considered an official submission, it must be directly uploaded to our system. To do so, you will need to login to your [participant profile](#). CoEs will not be accepted if they are emailed or mailed to the UN Global Compact.

For guidance on how to login and submit your CoE, see the following resource in our library:

- [Step-by-step submission guide](#)

When is my CoP/CoE due date?

Your organization has your own unique deadline based on the date you joined the UN Global Compact or your previous CoP/CoE submission. It is displayed on your organization's public profile. [Search for your profile.](#)

Logo requests

How do I request use of the UN Global Compact “We Support” Endorser logo?

We ask all participants to utilize an online logo request system available on our [Participant Dashboard](#). This is to facilitate both our record-keeping and to make providing the logo easier and more efficient. Please remember that you will also have to upload a sample of your proposed use. You may use the placeholder logo available [here](#) in your sample.

To seek approval for use of a UN Global Compact Endorser logo:

1. Login to the [Participant Dashboard](#) using your username and password.
2. Select 'Logo Requests' and click on 'New Logo Request.'
3. Complete the request form and upload a sample of desired use.
4. Await response from the UN Global Compact.

Please find more information in our Logo Policy [here](#).

I want to use the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) icons. Where can I download the SDGs icons?

The SDGs icons "for use by non-UN entities (without UN emblem)" are downloadable [here](#).

The guidelines indicate that the icons do not need to be credited to anyone. They only ask the following:

The following sentence must be included below or in the proximity of the entity's logo: “[the name of the entity] supports the Sustainable Development Goals” or: “[the name of the entity] supports the SDGs.”

My company participates in the UN Global Compact. A consolidated subsidiary wants to use the UN Global Compact “We Support” Endorser logo. How can the consolidated subsidiary request use of the logo?

A consolidated subsidiary may request use of the UN Global Compact “We Support” Endorser logo to demonstrate their commitment to the Ten Principles. This request must be made from the parent company, and the consolidated subsidiary is required to use the following disclaimer language in the context of wherever they are displaying the logo:

We acknowledge that our parent company [or company name] participates in the UN Global Compact, and we support the Ten Principles and advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals as well as broader UN goals. We consolidate our support for this initiative fully under our parent's commitment. Therefore, we do not participate in UN Global Compact activities nor do we participate in activities of a Global Compact Local Network.

UN Global Compact Academy

Who has access to the UN Global Compact Academy?

All employees of companies participating in UN Global Compact at the Participant-level have unlimited access to Academy e-learning resources.

My company is participating in the UN Global Compact at the Signatory-level. How can I upgrade my company's participation to the Participant-level?

You can easily upgrade your participation with the UN Global Compact by contacting your [Participant Engagement Manager](#).

How can I request access to the UN Global Compact Academy?

If you already have a UN Global Compact Dashboard account, you may [sign-in](#) directly using your UN Global Compact account. If you do not already have a UN Global Compact Dashboard account, you may request access to the UN Global Compact Academy [here](#). Please use your corporate email address to ensure a swift approval process.

I received an approval email to access the UN Global Compact Academy, but I am receiving a message that my account is not activated. What should I do?

Academy users only have access to the UN Global Compact Academy E-Learning Platform. Academy users do not have access to the [Participant Dashboard](#). Please try logging in to your account at the following link:
<https://academy.unglobalcompact.org/learn>

I have additional questions about the UN Global Compact Academy. Who can I contact?

Please reach out to our Academy Team at academy@unglobalcompact.org.