

With over 6,000 companies in 135 countries and 100 country networks, the Global Compact is the world's largest corporate sustainability initiative. Our corporate participants are putting key policies in place and increasingly taking actions to diffuse responsible practices throughout their organizations. And a small portion of signatories are developing truly innovative approaches and embedding sustainability into their core.

Despite this progress, a quantum leap in corporate sustainability action is needed. The vast majority of the estimated 70,000 multinationals and millions of small businesses have yet to embrace our agenda. Nor have we seen the depth of action required to successfully shift markets and economies towards sustainability.

The Global Compact will intensify work to underscore how environmental, social and governance issues affect the bottom-line, and support companies to align strategies and operations accordingly. The Blueprint for Corporate Sustainability Leadership provides a roadmap for companies to achieve higher levels of sustainability performance. As well, concerted efforts are underway to strengthen the capacity of our 100 Local Networks, and we are continuing to develop and disseminate issue-specific guidance for business.

Looking ahead, next year's UN Conference on Sustainable Development – Rio+20 aims to set the world's sustainability course for the critical decades ahead. The Global Compact will mobilize a coordinated contribution by business. It is our hope that Rio+20 will result in a strong call for corporate sustainability, spurring more companies to focus on delivery of long-term value in financial, social, environmental and ethical terms. A range of opportunities to join us in this endeavor will be forthcoming.

For a single company, sustainability practices are an essential element for protecting and building its long-term value. When undertaken by a critical mass, corporate responsibility can help deliver a more sustainable, peaceful and prosperous future to all corners of our planet. We rely on your active engagement and partnership towards this goal. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Georg Kell', written in a cursive style.

Georg Kell
Executive Director
UN Global Compact Office