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# BUSINESS FOR PEACE

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# A STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

## by Business Leaders and Global Compact Local Networks

### **WE, BUSINESS LEADERS AND GLOBAL COMPACT LOCAL NETWORK REPRESENTATIVES RECOGNIZE THAT:**

In an interconnected world where the private sector, Governments and society have differentiated responsibilities but a shared interest in stability and prosperity, peace and development – business can be a powerful agent of change.

Conducting responsible business operations in all areas of the world and taking action to advance peace is in everyone's interest, including business. Conflict and instability not only impact people and the environment; they also pose risk to all parts of the business sector. Responsible behaviour requires proactive action to ensure business not only does no harm, but, where possible, contributes to development and assists society to overcome challenges to stability.

As business leaders, we welcome the recommendations outlined in the *Guidance on Responsible Business in Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas*. This voluntary guidance joins a range of tools and initiatives to support companies in developing policies and implementing responsible business practices aligned with the UN Global Compact Ten Principles in conflict-affected/high-risk areas – with a view to advancing peace.

We recognize that special attention needs to be given when operating in high-risk areas to ensure that the rights of stakeholders and vulnerable groups are respected and supported. Further, we believe that conflict-sensitive supply-chain management, responsible labour practices, combating corruption, responsible water management and caring for the climate all operate as foundational pillars of peace and stability. We are committed to play a constructive role in fostering peace, stability and development.

**Companies:** We, as business leaders from across the globe, express our willingness to engage in learning, dialogue and collective action, to advance peace in the workplace, marketplace and local communities by:

- 1.** Paying Heightened Attention to UN Global Compact Implementation in Conflict-Affected/High-Risk Areas
- 2.** Taking Action to Advance Peace - Individually, and in Collaboration with Others
- 3.** Annually Communicating on Progress

**Global Compact Local Networks:** We, as Global Compact Local Networks, express our willingness to engage in learning, dialogue and collective action to advance peace in the workplace, marketplace and local communities. We will support companies in implementing the Ten Principles when operating in high-risk or conflict-affected areas and, where possible, help to facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogue to enhance corporate engagement in priority areas.

Together with other stakeholders, we are beginning a new stage in an ongoing journey. A journey that aims to uncover the most effective ways the private sector can contribute to peace and to scale-up action towards it. We encourage business leaders, Global Compact Local Networks and others from around the world to join us on this journey, helping to achieve the foundational goal of humanity – peace.

**To join, a Senior-level Executive/Representative of a Global Compact Local Network should sign a copy of the Statement of Support and send it to the UN Global Compact Office Business for Peace Team via email at: [business4peace@unglobalcompact.org](mailto:business4peace@unglobalcompact.org)  
View list of current signatories at: [business4peace.org](http://business4peace.org)**

## OVERVIEW

Business for Peace (B4P) is a business leadership platform launched by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, which aims to expand and deepen private sector action in support of peace - in the workplace, marketplace and local communities. The platform will assist companies in implementing responsible business practices aligned with the UN Global Compact Ten Principles in conflict-affected and high-risk areas and catalyze action to advance peace.

## WHY PARTICIPATE

Participants will be able to:

- Better identify and manage business risks and opportunities while reducing operational costs;
- Engage in public-private dialogue to establish local priorities and implement projects;
- Align business strategies and operations with good practice from across the globe;
- Share best and emerging practices and learn from the experiences of peers; and
- Demonstrate leadership and receive recognition for advancing practical solutions.

### WHAT IS A CONFLICT-AFFECTED OR HIGH-RISK AREA?

There is no single definition; however, companies and other stakeholders can expect B4P to be relevant in a wide range of areas, including those experiencing:

- violent conflict including war or insurrection;
- elevated political & social risk or instability;
- concerns about human rights abuses; or
- a transition out of conflict.





# HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Companies and Global Compact Local Networks can join B4P by signing the Statement of Support. Civil society organizations, investors, academics, Governments and other stakeholders are also invited to support the platform.

## Companies

Any company committed to advancing peace – from large multinationals with operations and supply chains spanning the globe to small- and medium-sized enterprises operating in one country – can join B4P. Although it is expected that companies will be UN Global Compact participants, any who are not will have one year to become a UN Global Compact participant.

To join, a senior-level executive will sign the Statement of Support, agreeing to take action to advance peace in the workplace, marketplace and local communities by:

### 1. Paying Heightened Attention to UN Global Compact Implementation in Conflict-Affected/High-Risk Areas

Companies should take action to ensure their activities -- throughout their operations and supply chains, with a special focus on conflict-affected and high-risk environments -- are consistent with the Ten Principles and international standards. Doing no harm and implementing responsible business practices in these environments may be more challenging, but the consequences of a company's action or in-action are likely to be much greater--both for the business and for society. *The Guidance on Responsible Business in Conflict-Affected & High-Risk Areas: A Resource for Companies & Investors* provides a useful reference.

### 2. Taking Action to Advance Peace – Individually or in Collaboration with Others

Companies should engage in projects and initiatives to advance peace, and B4P will support a range of related activities. Given the importance of local context, companies are encouraged to participate in multi-stakeholder dialogue to identify and prioritize local issues where the private sector can make a positive contribution. By working collaboratively with other stakeholders, including Global Compact Local Networks, companies can develop and expand projects and initiatives

to make progress on local issues that will contribute to peace, stability and development. Companies should also consider how they can become an advocate for peace among their peers, employees, customers, investors and the public. *Responsible Business Advancing Peace - Examples from Companies, Investors & Global Compact Local Networks* provides a useful reference.

### 3. Annually Communicate on Progress

To demonstrate ongoing engagement and progress, companies are encouraged to use their annual Communication on Progress (COP) to make public their actions in this area. Examples of company action that go beyond “do no harm” to assist societies in building peace will be the vanguard component of this platform.

**B4P ACTION AREAS:** Recognizing that sources of instability vary according to the context and that companies in different contexts will have vastly different roles to play in different situations, B4P will support a range of private sector actions to advance peace around the globe. Some of the issue areas identified include:

- Infrastructure development projects;
- Providing for basic needs, including water, shelter and food;
- Training programmes to increase human capital, especially for ex-combatants and youth;
- Promoting fair land rights and acquisition;
- Natural resource management, including water;
- Encouraging entrepreneurship and job creation; and
- Helping to foster inter-religious and inter-cultural understanding.



## Global Compact Local Networks

All Global Compact Local Networks from around the world are encouraged to pledge their support for B4P. To join, the Local Network Representative should sign the Statement of Support, demonstrating a willingness to engage in learning, dialogue and collective action to advance peace in the workplace, marketplace and local communities. Local Network B4P participants will support companies in implementing the Ten Principles in high-risk or conflict-affected areas and help to facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogue to identify priority areas for greater corporate engagement.

## Other Stakeholders

Peace relies upon multiple actors working in concert. B4P welcomes other stakeholders, including civil society organizations, investors, academics, Governments, international organizations and other stakeholders to support the platform.

**Governments:** By shaping public policy, Governments and policymakers can contribute to create enabling environments in which development, stability and peace can be advanced. For business and Governments to bring coherent and comprehensive solutions in high-risk areas, dialogue and collaboration are required. Governments are encouraged to engage in public-private dialogues at the global and at the country-level and to identify priority areas where greater collaboration with the private sector could contribute to peace.

**Investors:** Investors have a critical role to play in driving improved corporate performance in

conflict-affected and high-risk areas. Investors are invited to integrate conflict-related issues in their engagement with investee companies; review annual Communications on Progress and provide constructive feedback about a company's implementation efforts in conflict-affected/high-risk areas; and act collectively with other investors.

**Civil Society:** Civil society organizations are invited to support B4P through awareness-raising activities; contributing to multi-stakeholder dialogue to identify relevant global issues and local priorities; and helping to identify good practice examples and opportunities for progress.

**United Nations:** Building on the core mandate of the United Nations, UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes have the legitimacy, expertise, know-how and experience to support the goals of B4P. UN entities are invited to leverage B4P to advance the implementation of their mandate by helping to facilitate dialogue among various stakeholders and engaging in partnerships with the private sector that can have a significant positive impact on the ground.

**Academia:** Preparing and training future business leaders to work successfully and in a sustainable manner in a global and multi-cultural climate, requires in-depth immersion into the role of the private sector in contributing to peace. Academia is invited to support B4P by integrating business and peace issues and awareness into management education, business school curricula and related research.

More information: [business4peace.org](https://business4peace.org)  
Contact: [b4p@unglobalcompact.org](mailto:b4p@unglobalcompact.org)

# The Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact

The UN Global Compact asks companies to embrace, support and enact, within their sphere of influence, a set of core values in the areas of human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption:

## HUMAN RIGHTS

- Principle 1 Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and  
Principle 2 make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.

## LABOUR

- Principle 3 Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;  
Principle 4 the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;  
Principle 5 the effective abolition of child labour; and  
Principle 6 the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

## ENVIRONMENT

- Principle 7 Businesses are asked to support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;  
Principle 8 undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and  
Principle 9 encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

## ANTI-CORRUPTION

- Principle 10 Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.



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