



CEO Roundtable

Leading the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
through partnerships



Participating Organizations

- ADA
- AIESEC in Austria
- ASFINAG
- Brau Union Österreich
- Bundeskanzleramt
- Erste Group Bank AG
- Der Standard
- GSK - GlaxoSmithKline Pharma GmbH
- Hauska & Partner Corporate Relations
- HELIOZ GmbH | Social Enterprise
- HUMANA Österreich
- Oesterreichische Kontrollbank AG
- PORR AG
- respACT
- Sto Ges.m.b.H.
- Teach For Austria
- UNIDO - United Nations Industrial Development Organization
- UNIS - United Nations Information Service
- UNODC - United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- UNOOSA - United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs
- Vega International Car Transport & Logistic Trading GmbH
- WWF Österreich



Agenda

Welcoming Speeches



Martin Ledolter
Managing Director
Austrian Development Agency (ADA)



Martin Nesirky
Director
United Nations Information Service (UNIS)

CEO Insights: Partnering for the SDGs in Practice



Angelika Sommer-Hemetsberger
Board Member
Oesterreichische Kontrollbank AG



Karin Zipperer
CEO
ASFINAG



Victoria Williams
Vice President and General Manager
GlaxoSmithKline Pharma GmbH

UN Panel: Engagement Opportunities & Partnerships for the SDGs



Philippe Scholtès
Managing Director of Programme Development and Technical Cooperation
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)



Luc St-Pierre
Chief Space Applications Section
United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)



Candice Welsch,
Chief Implementation Support Section Corruption and Economic Crime Branch
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Minutes of Meeting

The CEO Roundtable focused on the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into business strategies with special emphasis on partnerships. The event took place on November 8th 2018 (13:30 – 17:30 CET) and was organized by the Global Compact Network Austria, one of more than 70 Local Networks of the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC). A close cooperation with UNIS Vienna made it possible to use the Vienna International Centre (VIC) as venue for this conference.

Participants were able to take part in a guided tour through the VIC and learn more about the United Nations and their activities concerning the SDGs. The primary objective of the Roundtable was to connect and sow the seeds for new initiatives and cooperation on the journey toward realizing the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact and achieving the Global Goals. Attendees took the opportunity to exchange directly with committed CEOs and board members as well as high-level representatives of Vienna-based UN Organizations. The event was held under the Chatham House Rules, where participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed. Therefore, the present report only names the speakers of the general welcoming remarks but not those of any other point of the agenda.

At the beginning of the event, **Martin Ledolter, Managing Director Austrian Development Agency (ADA)** – the long-standing funding authority and the main supporter of the Global Compact Network Austria – gave some introductory remarks on the SDGs that provide the means for global action and serve as an operational framework for ADA. He thereby emphasized the importance of the UNGC network and its activities – both regarding the achievement of the Agenda 2030 and for ADA itself. Ledolter pointed out, that without the efforts of the UNGC, the SDGs could not be achieved, as the Global Goals can only be reached, if all stakeholders – the private and the public sector as well as civil society – work together. Since the UNGC fosters the creation of new multi-stakeholder partnerships and aims to strengthen sustainable investments of the private sector, ADA supports the work of Global Compact Network Austria.

Martin Nesirky, Director United Nations Information Service (UNIS), highlighted in his welcoming speech that concerning the SDGs, long-term commitment is crucial in order that no one is left behind and he therefore appreciated the engagement of the CEOs present at the Roundtable. He pointed out, that no single nation nor sector can address the global challenges on their own and that the business community, civil society and national governments need to work collaboratively together to hit all targets of the 2030 Agenda.

In order to dive into the topic of the CEO Roundtable and to illustrate the urgency for action a short [video](#) about the Global Goals was shown. As demonstrated in the video, every single day is important in order to leave no one behind - and now is the time to turn promises into reality. We need committed business leaders that incorporate the SDGs into their business strategies and use the SDGs as a lens through which to translate global needs and ambitions into sustainable business solutions. These solutions will enable companies to better manage their risks, anticipate consumer demand, build positions in growth markets, secure access to needed resources and strengthen their supply chains, while moving the world towards a holistic delivery on the SDGs. The Global Goals have the potential to unleash innovation, economic growth and development at an unprecedented scale. They could be worth at least 12 trillion USD in market opportunities a year and generate up to 380 million new jobs by 2030 [Source: WBCSD].

Although significant progress is underway, it remains as important as ever that all sectors in society collaborate to create real and lasting impact at the local level. In this spirit, in an exclusive circle of committed business leaders and high-ranking UN representatives, new ways of working together for sustainable and inclusive growth were discussed.

CEO Insights: Partnering for the SDGs in Practice

The first main point on the Roundtable's agenda was an exploration of how business action is key to mobilizing a global movement of sustainable companies and stakeholders to create the world we want. Three committed executives, who had already taken the opportunity to incorporate the SDGs into their business, introduced their activities. In short presentations real-life examples on how the respective company managed to implement the SDGs within the organization was given. The slides can be found in the Intranet of the Global Compact Network Austria, which is easily accessible for all Global Compact participants.



- **Angelika Sommer-Hemetsberger, Board Member, Oesterreichische Kontrollbank AG**
Angelika Sommer-Hemetsberger has been a member of the executive board of Oesterreichische Kontrollbank AG since 2014. Furthermore, she is chairwoman of the supervisory board of Acredia Versicherung AG, OeKB CSD GmbH and CCP.A as well as deputy chairwoman of the supervisory board of Wiener Börse AG. OeKB joined the UN Global Compact in 2007 and is a member of the Steering Committee of the Global Compact Network Austria.
- **Karin Zipperer, CEO, ASFINAG**
In 2017, Karin Zipperer was appointed ASFINAG CEO, being particularly responsible for planning, construction, operation and communication sectors. She is also chairwoman of the supervisory board of ARWAG Holding Aktiengesellschaft as well as member of the supervisory board of Kärntner Flughafen Betriebsgesellschaft mbH. ASFINAG is participating in the UN Global Compact since 2012.
- **Victoria Williams, Vice President and General Manager, GlaxoSmithKline Pharma GmbH**
Victoria Williams is General Manager of GlaxoSmithKline Austria since 2017 and is responsible for the entire pharmaceutical business of GSK Austria. In addition to the local function, Ms. Williams is also part of the CE Cluster Leadership Team, representing the largest market in the Central Europe Cluster. GlaxoSmithKline is partaking in the UN Global Compact since 2007.

After the brief company presentations the discussion was opened up. The speakers introduced collaborations that were established in order to make progress on the Global Goals and to achieve objectives that couldn't be managed alone. During the discourse, challenges in the internal communication of the SDGs and in the incorporation of the SDGs into business strategies were addressed. A visionary CEO, top down commitment and a clear understanding of where the SDGs fit into the strategy and core business, were identified as the key features for a successful integration of the SDGs. Furthermore, topics such as partnerships with the start-up scene were reviewed, as they may help to foster innovation by incorporating new ways of working. The general importance of monitoring a company's impacts on customers as well as meeting customer demands were also addressed. In this regard, it was pointed out that on the client side, the interest in sustainability issues is currently increasing considerably. Sustainability is "turning mainstream" not because it might be fashionable but because there is demand for it, as more and more people are aware of sustainability performances of companies.

This was followed by a discussion on the political framework and support from politics which would be needed in order to establish favourable conditions for businesses to integrate the SDGs into their strategies. It was concluded that the respective political efforts need to be better coordinated and the communication of strategies and measures needs to be enhanced. It is essential for political decision-makers to show openness for business partnerships and thoroughly understand how companies work and how innovation can be promoted together.

UN Panel: Engagement Opportunities & Partnerships for the SDGs

With less than 4500 days remaining to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, business, governments and civil society stand at a critical moment in the history of global development: one that demands collective effort to address the world's most pressing social, economic and environmental challenges. At this time, strong and visionary leadership is essential to achieving the transformation needed to initiate the inclusive and sustainable economic growth that the SDGs represent. As the UN Secretary-General calls for enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and the private sector, SDG related activities of in Vienna based UN organizations were illustrated and three high-ranking UN officials were welcomed at the panel of the Roundtable.

- **Philippe Scholtès, Managing Director of Programme Development and Technical Cooperation, UNIDO - United Nations Industrial Development Organization**
Philippe Scholtès is Managing Director of Programme Development and Technical Cooperation at UNIDO. The Directorate promotes through technical assistance UNIDO's mandate of Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID).



- **Luc St-Pierre, Chief Space Applications Section, UNOOSA - United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs**
He joined the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) in 2012 to supervise the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) and is Chief of the Space Applications Section of UNOOSA since April 2016.
- **Candice Welsch, Chief Implementation Support Section Corruption and Economic Crime Branch, UNODC - United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime**
Candice Welsch is the Chief of the Implementation Support Section of the Corruption and Economic Crime Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). She leads a team of experts that is responsible for providing technical assistance to countries in preventing and combating corruption under the United Nations Convention against Corruption.
Furthermore as a “Guardian of UNGC’s Ten Principles” she has been appointed as **Co-Chair of the Expert Network** at the UN Global Compact.

The VIC is home to very diverse UN offices and organizations with a wide variety of remits. The common denominator that brings all of them together is each organization’s respective contribution to achieve the SDGs. After a short description of the three present UN organizations, examples of SDG initiatives in which partnerships take on a vital role were given. Engagement opportunities for companies as well as organizations participating in the Global Compact Network Austria were discussed. In that respect, the Business Partnerships of UNIDO were of special interest to the Austrian participants. UNIDO has been collaborating with the private sector since the 1990s - not due to CSR or philanthropy, but because of the benefits that cooperating with enterprises in OECD as well as developing countries offers in order to promote inclusive and sustainable development. In the recent past, UNIDO increasingly worked with small and medium sized companies in OECD countries and further developed their interaction with companies in developing countries.

Furthermore, partnerships in the peaceful use of outer spacer technologies, for example the use of GPS systems, capacity building, disaster management and the preparation of flood protection maps, were exemplified. Another major focus of the discussion was put on the collaborative fight against corruption. One could say that if all efforts spent on the achievement of the SDGs are lost due to corruption, no single goal will be achieved. Therefore, the cooperation between governments, the private sector and civil society is key to detecting and combating corruption.

After a short summary of the Roundtable, the participants were invited to discover opportunities for partnerships on the SDGs in a more informal setting - while networking and enjoying finger food.

Important Notes

For participants of the Global Compact Network Austria the presentation as well as selected pictures of the event are available in the [Intranet](#). Non-participants can contact office@globalcompact.at for further information. Please be aware that photographs will be used for promotional usage. Visit www.globalcompact.at/en/privacypolicy for more information on our privacy policy.

Related Links

- Find more information on the following topics on the Website of the Global Compact Network Austria: [SDGs in Austria](#), [tools on the SDGs](#) as well as the [SDG-strategy and SDG-teams](#) – process on the implementation of the SDGs by Austrian companies launched by the Global Compact Network Austria.
- Read Lise Kingo’s (CEO & Executive Director, UNGC) [Executive Update: Getting Our Priorities Right](#). The time is now for all businesses to step up and join those who are already leading the way.
- Recall the urgency for action by watching the short [video](#) shown at the Roundtable focusing on the Global Goals.
- Further information on the [UNIDO Business Partnerships](#) and engagement possibilities can also be found online.
- View [documents, publications and tool](#) for the prevention and fight against corruption as well as an [Anti-corruption eLearning Course](#) on the website of UNODC.