

UN GLOBAL COMPACT POLICY ON COMMUNICATING ENGAGEMENT FOR NON-BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS



United Nations
Global Compact

BACKGROUND

The Communication on Engagement (COE) is a public disclosure through which non-business participants inform stakeholders about their efforts to support the principles of the Global Compact and their engagement in the initiative. As a publicly available document uploaded to the Global Compact website, the COE demonstrates an organization's commitment to the Global Compact and its promotion of the Ten Principles among businesses.

When joining the Global Compact, non-business participants are required to identify specific activities that support the initiative. The COE outlines these activities and must be uploaded to the Global Compact website every two years. Participants are also encouraged to share the COE widely through their primary stakeholder communication channels.

Failure to submit a COE within the required timeframe will result in a change in participant status and may eventually lead to expulsion from the initiative. While the format of the COE is flexible, it must meet specific requirements to ensure transparency and alignment with the Global Compact's objectives.

COE REQUIREMENTS

Non-business participants are required to communicate their engagement efforts every two years to stakeholders through a COE (*annual reports are encouraged, but not required from non-business participants*). Each COE must include all of the following elements:

- a. A statement by the chief executive or equivalent expressing continued support for the Global Compact and renewing the participant's ongoing commitment to the initiative and its principles.
- b. A description of the practical actions that the organization has taken to support the Global Compact principles and to engage with the initiative. Practical actions should relate to one or more of the suggested activities suggested to [each type of non-business participant](#) in support of the initiative.
- c. Measurement of outcomes (i.e. qualitative or quantitative measurements of results).

Non-business participants must submit their COE on the Global Compact website

- Non-business participants must submit their first COE within two years from the date of joining the Global Compact (e.g. if a non-business participant joins on 31 October 2022, the first CoE is due by 31 October 2024). All subsequent COEs are due within two years following the previous submission. Non-business participants are encouraged – but not required – to submit annual COEs for increased transparency and disclosure.

- Non-business participants are required to submit to the Global Compact website an electronic version of their COE (PDF file) and, if available, a link (URL) to the web page that contains their COE. Additionally, participants must complete a brief questionnaire on the content of their COE.

Consequences of Failure to Submit a Timely COE

Non-Communicating Status

- A non-business participant will be designated as “non-communicating” on the Global Compact website if it fails to submit a COE by the required deadline.

Expulsion from the Global Compact

- If a non-communicating participant fails to submit a COE within six months of becoming non-communicating, it will be expelled from the Global Compact. The name of expelled participants is publicly available on the Global Compact website.
- All organizations that have been expelled need to reapply if interested in rejoining the initiative.

Format and Language

- To make the COE widely available to all stakeholders it should be fully integrated in the participant’s main medium of stakeholder communications, for example an annual report.
- In the event that a participant does not prepare formal reports, a COE can be created as a stand-alone document.
- COEs should be written in the language(s) of the organization’s predominant stakeholder group. The Global Compact Office welcomes COEs in all languages.

Modification of COE Deadlines

Modifications to COE deadlines (grace letters and report timeline adjustments) are no longer possible.

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