

Press Release GCNT 1st AGM & Elections 2018

GLOBAL COMPACT NETWORK TANZANIA CHALLENGES COMPANIES TO DISRUPT THE BUSINESS-AS-USUAL MINDSET

Today 18th October 2018, The Global Compact Network Tanzania brought together 100 leaders from business with representatives from government, the UN, Civil society and academia to highlight private sector commitment on responsible business practices and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at its first Annual General Meeting which followed by election of board of directors. Under theme ***“Thought Leadership on “Tanzanian Businesses practices towards a sustainable corporate investment.”***

The UN Global Compact is a United Nations initiative to encourage businesses worldwide to adopt sustainable and socially responsible policies, and to report on their implementation. It is a principle-based framework for businesses, stating ten principles in the areas of **Human rights, Labour, the Environment, Anti-corruption** and **Sustainable development goals** (SDGs).

Global Compact Network Tanzania plays critical role in raising awareness of businesses and non-businesses on the benefits of operating in a responsible way, adhering and reporting on the Ten UN global compact principles. With an emphasis on bringing anti-corruption and good governance / ethics promotion elements together, through supporting engagement (collective action) and dialogue between its participants, government, civil society and other partners.

The UN Global Compact’s tenth principle against corruption underlines the shared responsibility and willingness of the private sector to play its part in reducing corruption. Members of the Global Compact Network Tanzania (GCNT) will use this opportunity to reflect on the theme of the meeting specifically, the state of business practices in Tanzania, ethical business leadership and re- building of trust between public and private sectors.

“The UN Global Compact is uniquely prepared and positioned to lead business in the SDG era,” said UNGCNT Coordinator Emmanuel Nnko. “Achieving the SDGs will require unique cooperation, radical innovation and extraordinary leadership. That means taking personal and corporate responsibility for how we do business and who

we choose as our staff and partners. It means taking stock of our decisions as consumers and investors. It means raising our voices and taking a stand when it matters. The United Nations Global Compact is the forum to make all this happen.

Speaking at the event Dr. Aggrey Mlimuka – GCNT Ag. Chairman said *“It is clear, that with a puzzle (environmental, social, and governance challenges) this large, governments cannot solve it alone. Together with the public sector and civil society, business plays a critical role in achieving sustainable development”.*

Speaking at the event Ernest Salla - UNDP, Program Specialist & Head of Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Livelihood Pillar said *“I count on Tanzanian companies to take lead on GCNT through embracing the ten principles and advancing the sustainable development goals”*

Opening the Meeting, Ludovick J. Nduhiye, deputy permanent secretary at Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment, underscores the urgency of business to act more responsibly engagement on sustainability practices. *“Consumers are increasingly willing to pay more for products and services provided by companies that are committed to positive social and environmental impact”. The private sector is the fuel that can accelerate sustainable development in the county.*

Global Compact Network Tanzania and UNDP subsequently agreed that, while the Network provides momentum to the businesses, Civil society, government and media to discuss and learn their major roles in advancing sustainable practices and implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), but opened further opportunities for collaboration with private sector, government, UN agencies, civil societies and development partners. Through their extensive networks, Private Sector players and Civil Societies they serve as key platforms for sharing knowledge and know-how on integrating sustainability measures into company operations.

From the private sector

Representatives of private sector, civil society presented concrete examples of their company's contribution to advance different areas of sustainable development, from providing a platform for discussing sustainability challenges and identifying best practices, to developing technical guidelines and providing trainings, and engaging in policy advocacy.

UNGCNT and UNDP in Tanzania: Private sector development and economic growth

UNGCNT works on engaging the private sector's resources and expertise in boosting economic development. Its Inclusive Business Solution initiative invites private sector to channel their resources allocated under Corporate Social Responsibility to development projects for impact on shared economic growth.

Under the **UNDP** Country Programme Document for Tanzania 2017 - 2020, UNDP is supporting the establishment and consolidation of UN Global Compact Network Tanzania. One of the outcomes is that the economy is increasingly transformed for greater pro-poor inclusiveness, competitiveness and increased opportunities for decent and productive employment.

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About Global Compact Network Tanzania (GCNT)

The Global Compact Network Tanzania (GCNT) is the local network chapter of the United Nations Global Compact, which supports Tanzanian signatories (both Tanzanian firms and subsidiaries of global signatories) in the implementation of the Ten Principles, while facilitating and creating opportunities for multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder collaboration. The Global Compact Network Tanzania acts in accordance with the UN Global Compact's principles and objectives. The GCNT holds a Memorandum of Understanding with the UN Global Compact and reports regularly on its objectives, activities and initiatives. The GCNT is incorporated as not-for-profit organization. It is self-governing with a Board of Directors, and a Steering Committee.

Evidence

Media news

<http://www.thecitizen.co.tz/News/Creativity--innovation-key-to-achieving-sustainable-/1840340-4811830-v3d85z/index.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/TheCitizenTanzania/photos/a.236138783114984/2064322166963294/?type=3>