

UNITED NATIONS



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THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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REMARKS AT GLOBAL COMPACT AMBASSADORIAL LUNCH

As Prepared For Delivery

New York, 19 November 2010

Excellencies,
Distinguished Board Members,
Dear guests,

I am glad we are spending this time together today.

From climate change to poverty reduction, the challenges we face are too great for any one actor alone.

I look forward to hearing about the Board meeting and the strategic plans for the Global Compact for years to come.

The Compact has come a long way. Participation has grown and the concepts of corporate responsibility and sustainability are now broadly embraced.

You are all aware how strongly I feel about the contributions that the private sector can make across the UN agenda.

The synergy between government and business was advanced this year at the Global Compact Leaders Summit, at the UN Private Sector Forum on the MDGs, and through day-to-day partnerships in many fields.

For my part, I continue to urge Governments to create the conditions for the private sector to scale up our work for sustainable development and inclusive markets.

Many Governments represented here have shown consistent support to the Global Compact. We will count on your continued good will.

At the same time, I am urging the Global Compact Board to mobilize private sector involvement in key UN events such as the fourth UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries and the Rio +20 Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012.

The Board can also offer valuable guidance to Governments on what they can do to maximize private sector contributions to the UN agenda.

I thank all of you here today for your role in enabling the Global Compact to come so far in its 10 years of existence.

Let us, together, make it a force for change in the years to come.

Thank you.