



## *The Compact Newsletter*

### *A Message from the Executive Director*

In our previous edition of The Compact Newsletter, we highlighted several ways and case studies on how South African companies were beginning to respond to Covid-19 and efforts by business to support the national response led by government. At Level 3 of the national lockdown from 1 June, the imperative to continue with measures that limit the spread of the virus while reopening a wide range of economic activities should be viewed as mutually supportive and not competing priorities.

Through a series of Special UN Global Compact Webinars, we have convened business with other stakeholders to share thought leadership and critical perspectives on Covid-19 at a global, continental, and national levels. It is through national and international coordinated action and shared knowledge that the world will be successful in responding to the Covid-19 crisis.

GCNSA commends the many businesses in South Africa that have demonstrated leadership and the power of collaboration in response to Covid-19. Many companies have responded directly and while also coming together under the umbrella *Business for South Africa*, to support the national response and *The Solidarity Fund* to minimise the catastrophic negative impacts on the economy, on lives and livelihoods. [Read more](#)

**-Dr Achieng Ojwang,  
Executive Director  
Global Compact Network SA**

## COMPANY UPDATES

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### [Investec's response to the Covid-19 crisis](#)



The Covid-19 pandemic is, first and foremost a public health crisis. But the virus and the measures necessary to contain it have also had a direct impact on millions of people's livelihoods and their ability to access necessities including food, medicine, and education. Investec has always held firm to the belief that we live in society, not off it. We are therefore determined to mount an urgent and constructive response to the Covid-19 crisis, making use of our own resources and our well-established network of partners and beneficiaries.

[Read more »](#)

### [Sappi donates essential items and products for COVID-19 relief](#)

In an effort to provide some relief during the COVID-19 Coronavirus global pandemic, Sappi Southern Africa has made available several donations of scarce items such as; hand sanitiser, face masks, nutritional porridge and paper products, to reduce pressure on the National Government's resources as well as to support the most vulnerable during these extraordinary times.

[Read more »](#)



### [Johannesburg Stock Exchange announces relief measures for market participants](#)



The relief measures will be offered to businesses that are affected by the pandemic and in financial distress. The JSE will grant distressed companies extended payment terms of between three and six months, with no interest charged. The JSE will engage with companies and review requests on a case-by-case basis. "The JSE is extending a helping hand to our valued clients and suppliers that are affected by the pandemic. We value our

relationships with our market partners, and we will endeavour to play our part in making sure they remain sustainable” says JSE Group CEO Leila Fourie. [Read more »](#)

### [SAB TAKES A HANDS-ON APPROACH TO ASSIST WITH SANITISER PRODUCTION](#)

With the South African government putting in every effort to protect the nation against COVID-19, now more than ever it is time for the private sector to step up and help flatten the curve in the fight against this pandemic. The demand for alcohol-based sanitiser has continued to skyrocket in the face of this pandemic. The South African Breweries (SAB) has adapted its operations to address the shortage of hand sanitiser. [Read more »](#)



[CLICK HERE FOR MORE COMPANY RESPONSES TO COVID-19>>](#)

## LOCAL NETWORK NEWS



### [Global Compact Network South Africa Hosts a Virtual Social & Ethics Committee Roundtable](#)

**Johannesburg, 29 May 2020** — The Global Compact Network South Africa hosted a virtual roundtable on Social & Ethics committees from company boards. The roundtable involved a discussion on priority issues that various Social & Ethics Committees of Company Boards are dealing with during Covid-19. Leadership Insights, lessons and ideas for



### [Local Network Innovators to Speak at the UNGC Virtual Leaders Summit](#)

**Johannesburg, 03 June 2020** — Some of the young professionals participating in the UN Global Compact Young SDG Innovators Programme in South Africa have been selected to speak at the upcoming UNGC Virtual Leaders' Summit & the YSIP Global Celebration Event. The selected Innovators are from the following companies,



### [2020 SDG Pioneers Application deadline extended](#)

**Johannesburg, 18 March 2020** — As part of our [Making Global Goals Local Business](#) work, each year the United Nations Global Compact celebrates a group of SDG Pioneers — business leaders who are doing an exceptional job

business continuity and long-term sustainability.

[Access the meeting recording »](#)

AngloGold Ashanti, De Beers, Distell, and Investec. Other Innovator teams will get a chance to showcase their team solutions through breakout sessions at the Summit.

[Get to know YSIP participants in South Africa »](#)

to advance the Global Goals through the implementation of our Ten Principles on human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption. Selected national-level Pioneers will be locally recognized and advance to the global round which will open on **11 January 2021**.

[Read more »](#)

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

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### [Secretary-General appoints Sanda Ojiambo of Kenya as United Nations Global Compact Executive Director](#)

**UNITED NATIONS, New York, 22 May 2020** — United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres today announced the appointment of Sanda Ojiambo of Kenya as Executive Director of the United Nations Global Compact. As the second woman to be appointed in the role, she will succeed Lise Kingo of Denmark to whom the Secretary-General is deeply grateful for her dedication and strategic leadership in steering the work of the Global Compact and broadening its contribution to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals.

[Read more »](#)



### [VIRTUAL LEADERS SUMMIT 15–16 June 2020](#)

**NEW YORK, 18 May 2020** — Our 20th anniversary Leaders Summit will virtually convene leading voices from Business, Government, the United Nations, Civil Society and Academia for a 26-hour conversation about how we can rebuild more inclusive economies and societies to set a new course for a socially just, low-carbon and climate resilient world, where no one is left behind.

[Read more »](#)

[Read more news from Around the World>>](#)

## ACTIONS COMPANIES CAN TAKE

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### CEOs Taking Action: Call for Video Submissions

The UN Global Compact invites CEOs to record and submit a video sharing what your company is doing in response to COVID-19 giving examples of efforts to recover from, and support resiliency in the face of this global crisis. We invite you to share your ideas, advice and experience with our global community of more than 10,000 businesses and 68 Local Networks.

[Join the movement »](#)



### Managing Your Impacts on the SDGs and the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact

According to a recent survey of companies participating in the UN Global Compact, 77% of businesses say that the UN Global Compact should provide guidance for companies on how to implement sustainability into business strategies and operations.

[Join today »](#)



### How to Understand and Take Action on the Global Goals

How to Understand and Take Action on the Global Goals' is an interactive, 30-minute e-learning course designed for professionals interested in learning how they can integrate the Global Goals into their business strategy and operations.

[Enrol here »](#)

[More Actions You Can Take>>](#)

## Issue Area Briefs



### Sustainable Finance

In the wake of the economic volatility created by the COVID-19 pandemic, environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues are material factors that businesses must manage appropriately. From immediate relief efforts to long-term recovery strategies, sustainable finance is a key part of the solution.

[Read more »](#)



### Decent Work

The COVID-19 crisis has uncovered the huge decent work deficits that still prevail in 2020. In particular, the crisis highlights the vulnerability of millions of working people and the lack of social protection coverage. At the same time, many small businesses are operating in precarious situations and global supply chains are often too weak to be sustainable.

[Read more »](#)



### Gender Equality

Across every sphere — from health to the economy, security to social protection — the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis are disproportionately affecting women. The UN Secretary-General alerted the world that the crisis could even reverse the limited progress that has been made on gender equality and women's rights in the past decades; however, the current crisis could also provide a rare chance to disrupt gender stereotypes, show that

leadership and decision-making should be shared responsibilities and build back better and more gender-inclusive world.

[Read more »](#)

[More COVID-19 Impact Briefs>>](#)

## LEARN WITH THE UN GLOBAL COMPACT ACADEMY

Available to UN Global Compact Participants, the [Academy](#) is designed to give you the knowledge and skills you need to meet your company's sustainability objectives.

### Explore Sessions:

- **Virtual Sessions:** Expert-led and interactive how-to sessions designed to help your company take action for a more sustainable future
- **E-Learning Courses:** E-learning tools and resources will help you learn key concepts anytime, anywhere
- **New Influencer Series:** Designed to provide your business with intimate access to some of the most prominent leaders from the United Nations and companies shaping the sustainability agenda

[GET STARTED >>](#)

## ACCESS PREVIOUS ACADEMY SESSIONS ON COVID-19



### Covid-19 & Supporting the World of Work

The UN Global Compact invites CEOs to record and submit a video sharing what your company is doing in response to COVID-19 giving



### Covid-19: Sustainable Finance and the Future of the Global Economy

According to a recent survey of companies participating in the UN



### Covid-19 and Human Rights: Protecting the Most Vulnerable

How to Understand and Take Action on the Global Goals' is an interactive, 30-minute e-learning course designed for

examples of efforts to recover from, and support resiliency in the face of this global crisis. We invite you to share your ideas, advice and experience with our global community of more than 10,000 businesses and 68 Local Networks.

[Watch now »](#)

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