

Call-to-Action from Business to Governments on the 20th Anniversary of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)

Frequently Asked Questions

On the 20th anniversary of the [UN Convention against Corruption](#) (UNCAC), the United Nations Global Compact will deliver a Call-to-Action from the private sector, urging Governments to intensify efforts to tackle corruption affecting the business communities around the world and to join forces in this endeavor. The global business community is invited to sign the Call-to-Action and to be publicly listed as signatories.

The following FAQs are intended to provide general information to assist businesses in signing on to the statement. Please note that this is not legal guidance. If you require further explanation, you should seek competent legal advice from a licensed professional attorney in your jurisdiction.

WHAT IS THE CALL TO ACTION?

The Call to Action is an appeal by the private sector to Governments, urging them to promote anti-corruption measures and to implement related policies to establish systems of good governance. All companies are invited to add their names to this statement. In signing the Call to Action, companies commit to pursuing transparency and fighting corruption.

The Call-to-Action on the 20th anniversary of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), is put forth as an appeal by companies to governments to intensify efforts to tackle corruption affecting the business communities around the world, and to join forces in this endeavor. The Call-to-Action urges governments to underscore anti-corruption and good governance as fundamental pillars of a sustainable and inclusive global economy and embrace them as important tenets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

WHY IS THIS APPEAL IMPORTANT FOR THE GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT AGENDA?

A good system of governance is a key enabling factor in maintaining a fair and supportive environment for business activity and for establishing incentives for corporate sustainability. Within the sphere of governance, corruption is one of the greatest obstacles to economic and social development around the world. Corruption has considerable and costly impacts on the private sector, including on both companies and people. It raises transaction costs, undermines fair competition, distorts development priorities, impedes long-term foreign and domestic investment, and has a corrosive effect on social solidarity. Worldwide consultations between the UN Global Compact and its partners, businesses, civil society and the general public have revealed a strong desire for Governments to upgrade governance systems as a goal in the post-2015 development agenda to follow the Millennium Development Goals.

WHAT CAN COMPANIES DO TO BRING THESE APPEALS INTO THE GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT AGENDA?

By signing the Call to Action, your company is taking part in a collective action initiative to publicly support the pursuit of transparency in international legal frameworks. This makes clear that the appeals related to anti-corruption and governance are important to your company and should be included as relevant areas as UN Member States agree embrace them as important tenets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Moreover, your company's participation in this initiative promotes your efforts to integrate the UN Global Compact 10th Principle against Corruption into your strategies and operations. Integration of the 10th Principle not only brings about change in

your organization but also inspires your industry peers to make an effort to do the same. It is important that UN Global Compact participants share progress on implementing the 10th Principle through corporate sustainability reporting to inform stakeholders, shareholders and peers of the commitments and concrete efforts to promote anti-corruption compliance, including the public commitment made to the Call to Action.

WHAT IS THE BUSINESS-LED APPEAL TO GOVERNMENTS IN THE CALL-TO-ACTION?

The Call-to-Action was developed during the session “Uniting Leaders for Business Integrity” at the UN Global Compact [Leaders Summit](#), on 19 September 2023, in New York, US. The Call-to-Action has since been published [here](#).

WHY SHOULD COMPANIES SIGN THE CALL TO ACTION?

Business leaders around the world are invited to sign the Call-to-Action, amongst others, to:

- Demonstrate ethical leadership and commitment to sustainability, transformational governance, business integrity and the fight against corruption.
- Gain a competitive advantage in attracting sustainability-minded investors, employees, partners and consumers who value business integrity.
- Contribute to level a playing field that translates into greater certainty for long term investment, fair competition, and thus better quality of products and services.
- Amplify the voice of the private sector toward the adoption and effective implementation of anti-corruption resolutions, policies and legal frameworks.

Tackling corruption requires a Collective Action approach. By signing this Call-to-Action, companies not only encourage governments to strengthen efforts, but they also show their willingness to join forces and inspire other companies to follow their lead.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER OUR COMPANY SIGNS THE CALL TO ACTION?

The Call-to-Action from Business to Governments on the 20th Anniversary of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) will be submitted at the opening of the tenth session of the Conference of the States Parties (CoSP10) to serve as the basis for governments discussions and decisions on this matter.

In addition, a company signing the Call to Action can also take action to continuously improve and increase its anti-corruption efforts by:

- Integrating anti-corruption efforts into its business and operational strategy, as well as its organizational culture;
- Setting the tone from the top-management of the organization towards zero-tolerance of bribery and corruption;
- Sharing good practices in the fight against corruption;
- Collectively engaging with businesses and other stakeholders through the UN Global Compact and its Local Networks, as well as other relevant initiatives;
- Engaging in policy dialogue to encourage more robust disclosure, transparency and enforcement mechanisms.

HOW TO SIGN THE CALL TO ACTION?

All companies – from learners to leaders committed to advancing anti-corruption efforts – are invited to sign the Call to Action. A company wishing to become a signatory to the Call to Action should:

1. Read and sign the Call-to-Action at the following [LINK](#).

Please note that only C-Suite functions are eligible to sign the Call-to-Action on behalf of their company.