

Flyer

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

Since the UN Convention against Corruption was adopted 20 years ago, much has changed for businesses and societies. More and more States have enacted laws on the liability of legal persons with incentives for corporate compliance and criminalized unethical business practices. Bribes that once used to be tax deductible now lead to hefty fines and even the dissolution of companies. The tightening legal framework brought about by the commitment of States to the full implementation of the Convention has created significant momentum for multi sectoral cooperation. In 2004, the establishment of UN Global Compact Tenth Principle began challenging companies to proactively develop strategies and policies that tackle corruption internally, externally and collectively.

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. This Call-to-Action will be developed during the session "Uniting Leaders for Business Integrity" at the UN Global Compact Leaders Summit, on 19 September 2023, in New York, US. Once agreed upon, the Call-to-Action appeals will be published here.

Subsequently, on December 11, 2023, in Atlanta, USA, the **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime** and the **United Nations Global Compact** will host the Private Sector Forum "United Nations Convention against Corruption at 20: Uniting Leaders for Business Integrity," which will take place on the margins of the tenth session of the Conference of the States Parties (CoSP10) to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and will bring together a global audience of relevant stakeholders from the public sector, private sector, civil society and academia with the collective goal of strengthening business integrity. The Call-to-Action signed by companies across the world, will be submitted at the opening of the CoSP10 to serve as the basis for governments discussions and decisions on this matter.

The Call to Action asks Governments to:

1. Effectively implement the tenets of the UN Convention against Corruption to level the playing field, taking into account the diversity of contexts and the challenges faced by the business community worldwide. On that basis, strengthen policies, legal frameworks and mechanisms to incentivize business integrity in companies along the supply chain and to tackle impunity by detecting and sanctioning wrongdoing.
2. In Government decision-making processes, especially for investments and public procurement, increase the use of corporate sustainability criteria in order to advance SDG focused business. In public-private interactions, strive for greater transparency, including in the management of conflicts of interest and through the prevention of undue influence.
3. Foster a Collective Action approach to strengthen governance and anti-corruption by means of public-private partnerships, dialogue and the engagement of all relevant actors to generate inclusive and innovative solutions for the broader benefit of people and the planet.
4. Leverage information and communication technology (ICT) along with artificial intelligence to manage corruption risks and make evidence-based decisions while strengthening oversight and

transparency. To boost accountability, encourage the use of ICT to monitor, evaluate and report governance and anti-corruption efforts undertaken by the public and private sectors.

5. Promote the principles of ethical leadership in education by instilling skills that nurture the minds of future business leaders, ensuring their commitment to standards of fairness and integrity in the workplace of tomorrow.

The Call to Action from Business to Governments on the 20th Anniversary of the United Nations Convention against Corruption was developed during the session Uniting Leaders for Business Integrity at the 2023 UN Global Compact Leaders Summit, in New York. The Call to Action will be presented at the tenth session of the Conference of the States Parties (CoSP10) to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), to be held from 11 to 15 December 2023, in Atlanta, USA.

WHY COMPANIES SHOULD 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.

Signing the Call to Action offers a unique opportunity for businesses to:

- Demonstrate leadership in advancing good governance and anti-corruption;
- Contribute to creating a level playing field for all;
- Seek a competitive advantage by attracting responsible investors, shareholders and consumers;
- Shape the anti-corruption policy agenda and influence future laws and regulations.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER OUR COMPANY SIGNS THE CALL TO ACTION?

The Call-to-Action on the 20th Anniversary of the UNCAC signed by companies across the world, will be submitted at the opening of the tenth session of the 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.