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Looking back on 2023, the UN Global Compact Network UK has much to celebrate. Over the course of the year, we welcomed 230 new members, including 110 SMEs seeking to embed sustainability into their strategies and operations; we organised more than 100 events covering a wide range of topics, including human rights, living wage, nature, climate, and the Sustainable Development Goals. These numbers reflect increasing UK business engagement with all aspects of corporate sustainability, and we expect this trend to continue in 2024.

And whilst significant political and economic disruptions affected UK businesses in myriad ways – sadly continuing the trend established in 2020 by the COVID pandemic – addressing environmental, social, and governance (ESG) risks became even more essential for fostering resilience and long-term sustainability for businesses. The UN Global Compact Network UK has been proud to support UK businesses with setting ambitious goals and transforming risks into opportunities for bold action.

A few highlights from 2023:

- Our Sustainability Reporting series (1,700 attendees) helped companies navigate the rapidly evolving world of corporate sustainability disclosures;
- Our Transitioning to a Circular Economy series (2,300 attendees) shared good practice for implementing circular economy principles across seven key sectors;
- Our Climate Transition Plans webinar series, held in partnership with the Transition Plan Taskforce, provided early guidance for companies on creating solid climate transition plans;
- Our first ever webinar series exclusively for SMEs, Environmental Sustainability for SMEs, offered them support in developing comprehensive environmental strategies and making progress towards reaching Net Zero;
- In partnership with Unilever and The Living Wage Foundation, we organised a national roundtable discussion to explore how UK businesses can advance the living wage agenda nationally and globally.
- The high point of the year was our Annual Summit, held at the iconic London Guildhall in October. Over two days, our hybrid event united more than 3,000 business and civil society representatives, fostering inclusive and solutions-based discussions on the most pressing ESG challenges facing companies today.

It was also a year of significant changes for the Network Secretariat. In March 2023, the UN Global Compact Network UK became a registered charity, recognising our contribution to the public good. We also welcomed David Schofield as the new Network Chair. Under his leadership, we look forward to expanding the impact and reach of our Network.

Looking ahead to 2024, we have an exciting programme of work planned in pursuit of our mission to build a world we all want to live and do business in. We look forward to working with you.
Since taking on the role of Chair of the UN Global Compact Network UK in September, I have seen how we continue to grow our community, wrestling together with the challenges and opportunities of sustainability, and what responsible and thriving business looks like in today’s complex world. As we step into 2024, we do so with a renewed commitment to driving impact and maintaining our bold ambition, paired with our trademark focus on pragmatism and helping people with real-world implementation. Our focus remains on our strategic plan to shape a world where we want to live and do business; inspiring business ambition, enabling action, and collaborating to shape the business environment.

In 2023, the Network achieved charity status in the UK, with formal charitable objectives encompassing the promotion of sustainable development, poverty alleviation, environmental preservation, and the advancement of ethical standards and conduct within businesses and the private sector in the UK.

Looking ahead to 2024, our programming will continue to assist our members in responding to current and emerging sustainability issues such as climate, nature, human rights, living wage, reporting, and sustainable finance. Responding to insight from our membership, we will continue to broaden our offering to better serve the needs of our SME participants, as well as increase our presence across the UK with planned in-person events in Scotland, Northern Ireland, and Wales.

In my term as Chair of the UN Global Compact Network UK, I look forward to working with you to grow our community, the values we share, and the real-world impacts we have.
ABOUT US

UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT
As a special initiative of the UN Secretary-General, the United Nations Global Compact is a call to companies to align their operations and strategies with Ten Principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment, and anti-corruption.

23,824 Global participants
167 Countries
62 Country networks

UN GLOBAL COMPACT NETWORK UK
As one of 62 Country Networks, the UN Global Compact Network UK connects UK based organisations that are part of the UN Global Compact in a global movement dedicated to driving sustainable business. Through an extensive programme of activity, we promote sustainability leadership to create a world we want to live and do business in by inspiring ambition, enabling action, and collaborating to shape the business environment.

930 UK participants
788 Business participants
142 Non-business participants
5,407,606 UK employees

For more information, visit unglobalcompact.org.uk

“Signing up to the UN Global Compact should be action number one for businesses seeking to sort their impact on the world. The Ten Principles are just the start, the UN Global Compact is as much a community as a commitment. You will meet executives facing the exact same challenges, finding the same opportunities, and solving sustainability together.”
Solitaire Townsend, Co-Founder & Chief Solutionist, Futerra
The UN Global Compact Network UK is governed by a Board of Trustees who are elected by Network members to oversee the running of the organisation. Trustees also sit on the Network Advisory Group, along with a diverse panel of Network members, providing invaluable guidance to the Network Secretariat on strategy, programmatic activity, and growth ambitions.

We believe that an effective Board must be diverse. Our Board is currently gender balanced and represents companies of different sizes from a range of industry sectors. Going forward, our Board have committed to have at least one Trustee from an underrepresented ethnic group and that no gender represents more than 60% of Trustees. They will continue to review these targets as the Network grows and evolves.

**Our board**

**David Schofield**  
Sustainability Director, Aviva

**Charlie Bronks**  
Head of Strategic Partnerships, Marketing & Communications, Crown Agents Bank

**Hiba Khan**  
Civil Engineer & Sustainability & Social Outcomes Lead for International Development Services, Mott MacDonald

**Rachel Moseley**  
Director, Sustainability, London Stock Exchange

**Matthew Sparkes**  
Sustainability Director, Linklaters
2023 AT A GLANCE

The UN Global Compact Network UK Community in 2023...

930 participants, including 788 business participants and 142 non-business participants, with over 5,407,606 UK employees.

142 of our members have signed up to the Science-based Targets Initiative and have made commitments to reduce their GHG emissions in line with the Paris Agreement goals.

56 of our Members have signed up to the Women’s Empowerment Principles and made commitments to advance gender equality and women’s empowerment in the workplace, marketplace, and community.

Our programming in 2023

Over 6,800 employees attended our seven webinar series to build knowledge on topics including Reporting, Inclusion & Occupational Safety and Health, and Transitioning to a Circular Economy, and more.

127 companies participated in our five Accelerator programmes to embed SDG-aligned practices into their business operations and across the value chain.

119 companies joined our five Working Groups on Modern Slavery, Child Labour, SDGs, Climate Disclosures, and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion to discuss with experts and peers challenges and best practices.
The UN Global Compact Network UK’s Environment Programme aims to support businesses in setting net zero targets and implementing transition plans in line with science across climate, nature, and water, as well as connecting environment and climate issues to social, economic, and governance issues.

In 2023, our Environment Programming continued to aid businesses in setting ambitious emissions reductions targets through our successful Climate Ambition Accelerator. We also expanded the scope of our 2022 activities, including through our Environment Q&A Surgeries.

We continued to build our influence and strategic partnerships by joining the Broadway Initiative’s alliance of organisations collaborating to meet net zero. We renewed participation in the European Peer Learning Group on Climate, a forum facilitated by European Global Compact Local Networks to share knowledge on corporate climate management, and in the UK Business Group Alliance for Net Zero (BGA).

**HIGHLIGHTS**

**TRANSITIONING TO A CIRCULAR ECONOMY**

During the Spring, we held a six-part webinar series which dove into the specific challenges and opportunities related to implementing circular economy principles in key issue areas including the built environment, critical metals & minerals, electronics, packaging, food & agriculture, and fashion & textiles. The series attracted over 7,000 registrants and featured 23 expert speakers from leading companies.

**ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY FOR SMEs**

We launched a series of 11 interactive webinars to equip small- and medium-sized enterprises in the Network with the knowledge, tools, and resources to help them develop comprehensive environmental strategies. Supported by mdsustain, the series provided SMEs with a peer-learning forum through which they could engage with experts and learn from one another about how smaller businesses can identify, disclose, and address their various environmental impacts in a manner aligned with stakeholder expectations. The sessions included case studies of how leading SMEs are making progress on the environmental sustainability agenda.

“I can confidently say this training is vital for any SME in the UK that isn’t 100% clear on how to measure, reduce, and report on their environmental impact.”

Mark Roberts, CEO, Conscious Creatives
Recognising the growing need for organisations to embed sustainability and business transformation across their operations and broader value chains, the UN Global Compact Network UK and Impact have designed ‘Dialogue for Growth’, an eight-week programme designed for senior sustainability professionals that are looking to improve how they educate, engage, and influence individuals and stakeholders to support action on sustainability within the business.

The first cohort ran from September to November, receiving extremely positive feedback, and the programme will continue to run through 2024.

**DIALOGUE FOR GROWTH**

In May we hosted a three-part interactive webinar series in collaboration with the Transition Plan Taskforce (TPT) to aid businesses with developing and publishing detailed net zero transition plans as soon as possible.

This series provided early guidance on the TPT’s framework and a platform for companies to share their challenges, solutions, and good practices in developing transition plans. Participants heard from early adopters of the TPT’s guidance discussing their approach to the transition, the importance of starting early, and actions they are taking to achieve their goals.

“I have noticed that I engage better with my peers at work, I am more confident and make impactful contributions in official meetings. In a nutshell, this works!”

*Dialogue for Growth participant, Mills & Reeve*
The UN Global Compact Network UK’s Social Sustainability Programme supports businesses to understand, apply, and uphold human rights and social sustainability standards in their operations and across their value chains.

This year, our successful Target Gender Equality Accelerator continued to offer Members the opportunity to deepen implementation of the Women’s Empowerment Principles. Our three working groups on Child Labour, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), and Modern Slavery provided space for members to explore relevant challenges and the strategies businesses are developing on these issues.

We published our LGBTIQ+ Inclusion in the Workplace report in 2023. The brief builds on our 2022 Pride Plus: Building LGBTIQ+ Inclusive Business webinar series and provides useful recommendations and guidelines to help companies accelerate LGBTIQ+ acceptance and inclusion in their workplaces.

“Fighting for Gender Equality is an absolute must have mission that all companies need to honestly address. The Target Gender Equality Accelerator programme provides invaluable insights into gender equality and diversity, which has enabled dialogue and direction.”

Kusum Prabhakar, Partner, Chief Operating Officer, RedCompass Labs
INCLUSION AND OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY & HEALTH: NEW APPROACHES FOR BUSINESS

The UK Network presented a four-part webinar series on inclusive approaches to occupational safety and health (OSH) to support businesses to level up their OSH agendas and seize the opportunity by emphasising the importance of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). The series built upon existing approaches to OSH and delved into issues relating to mental health, gender, and disabilities and neurodiversity in the workplace. Participants developed a nuanced understanding of OSH through a DEI lens and the knowledge and practical tools to address gaps in existing OSH policies and programmes within business.

CONSORTIUM CONTRE L’ESCLAVAGE MODERNE

The ‘Consortium Contre l’Esclavage Moderne’ (CCEM) is a collaboration between international human rights experts and data scientists from Trilateral Research and the UN Global Compact Network UK, in strategic partnership with the largest business association in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) – the Fédération des Entreprises du Congo (FEC) – and the Labour Inspectorates of North and South Kivu.

The UK Network and these strategic partners will support the strengthening of social norms around non-use of modern slavery in Eastern DRC and implement training and capacity building to operationalise global frameworks and legislation. The CCEM will explore and develop methodologies for businesses to conduct human rights assessments and understand their supply chain risks against modern slavery issues in compliance with international standards and legislation.

“On 3 October 2023, the UK Network, together with living wage ambassadors Unilever and The Living Wage Foundation, organised a national roundtable discussion to explore how UK businesses can advance the living wage agenda nationally and globally. The discussion was multi-stakeholder and included representatives from companies, investment groups, worker organisations, and civil society groups actively working on living wage issues. The objective of the roundtable was to identify challenges and best practices with selected stakeholders, particularly focusing on the role of the private sector in delivering living wages within their own operations and supply chains.

With support from the other European Local Networks, the UK Network co-hosted the 2023 UN Global Compact European Peer Learning Meeting on Business and Human Rights in Copenhagen. The meetings are an opportunity for leading European companies in human rights to share knowledge, experiences, and challenges on specific areas of business and human rights. The focus of the meeting in November 2023 was on living wages across supply chains and UK Network members Unilever, Lloyds Baking Group, and Lego joined us.

We look forward to expanding our Living Wage Programming in 2024.

“The programme took a complex subject and broke it down into a manageable and understandable process. As a result of this learning, I feel more confident to implement an HR due diligence framework that is pragmatic, considered, and effective.”

BHR Accelerator participant
The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) outline a collective vision of the world we want. Strengthening the institutional arrangements used to deliver on the SDGs is essential to achieve these ambitions. The SDGs and good governance principles are integrated into all our programming, and we encourage our members to use the SDGs as a comprehensive roadmap to responsible business.

The Governance Programme was introduced this year as an independent workstream to support our members in driving more accountable, ethical, inclusive, and transparent business, and becoming industry leaders on transformational governance, anti-corruption, sustainability reporting, and sustainable finance.

Vicky Brackett, Group Chief Commercial Officer at Irwin Mitchell, launched the SDG Playbook for SMEs at our Annual Summit in October. With over 1,200 downloads, the SME Playbook has become the UK Network’s most downloaded resource.

SDG PLAYBOOK FOR SMEs

The UN Global Compact Network UK, in partnership with the law firm Irwin Mitchell, has developed the SDG Playbook for SMEs: a step-by-step guide to help smaller companies unlock the competitive advantages associated with embracing the SDGs.

In 2015, the UK Government joined every other country worldwide and committed to Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and through it the 17 SDGs. We have now reached the halfway point and if we are to achieve the Goals by 2030, we need to raise our ambitions.

The SDGs provide a unique chance for all sectors to rally around a common global agenda. The private sector was at the table in 2015 and remains a vital catalyst for global action. Companies – no matter how big or small – need to engage with the SDGs, not just for society and the planet, but because future success will only be the reward of those who place sustainability at the core of their business model.

By integrating the SDGs into their business strategy and operations, SMEs can lower costs and risk, strengthen customer loyalty, unlock new revenue streams, and improve relations with employees, suppliers, and other stakeholders. Research shows that sustainability strategies offer SMEs a competitive advantage; however, they consistently report difficulties taking action in this area. The SDG Playbook for SMEs provides the building blocks for small- and medium-sized enterprises to integrate the SDGs into core business functions.
Our Sustainability Reporting Week, hosted in partnership with ERM, was the first activity of the new programme and dived into the European Green Deal finance package and the specifics of the new reporting regulations, and discussed how they will impact businesses. The series drew in more than 1,790 attendees.

The UN Global Compact Network UK’s Sustainable Development Goals Programme supports businesses in comprehending and applying the goals and setting ambitious targets in line with priority SDGs. This year, the programme continued to support members through our Global Goals Working Group and two successful accelerators, SDG Innovation Accelerator for Young Professionals and SDG Ambition.

HIGHLIGHTS

SDG FLAG CAMPAIGN

25 September marked the eighth anniversary since the world adopted the UN Sustainable Development Goals. For our second annual SDG Flag Day, organisations displayed their commitment to the Global Goals and the action that they’re already taking to combat major global challenges, including climate change, gender inequality, and poverty by raising an SDG flag. This year, over 650 SDG flags were raised across the UK by businesses, charities, civil society organisations, and schools in our global movement working #TogetherForTheSDGs.

The Rt Hon Andrew Mitchell MP, Minister for Development, announced the UK Government’s support for our 2023 SDG Flag Campaign at the APPG for the UN Global Goals’ Annual Private Sector Conference, and the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office was lit up in the colours of the SDGs to mark the occasion.

SDG PIONEERS

Each year the UN Global Compact recognises a class of SDG Pioneers — business leaders working at any level of their company who are using business as a force for good to advance the 17 SDGs. In 2023, the UK Network identified two leaders who are advancing the Sustainable Development Goals through a principles-based approach.

Solitaire Townsend, Co-founder & Chief Solutionist at Futerra, was our 2023 SDG Pioneer representing an SME. At Futerra, Solitaire advises the world’s most influential organisations to activate the Sustainable Development Goals. Solitaire was named a Sustainability Leader of 2023 by Ad Week, and Positive News calls her one of the leading voices changing the climate narrative. Her popular TED talk, Forbes column, and most recent book – The Solutionists: How Businesses Can Fix the Future – are available online.

Uzma Hamid-Dizier, Director of Responsible Business and Inclusion at Slaughter and May, was our 2023 SDG Pioneer representing a large company. Uzma leads the firm’s Responsible Business Committee and the implementation of the responsible business strategy. She also spearheaded a collaboration with seven other founding firms to launch Legal CORE and co-chairs the leadership-led, cross-firm collective, which is aimed at tackling the underrepresentation of ethnic minority groups in the UK legal sector.

As the winner of the UK Round, Uzma competed in the Global Round and was named the SDG Pioneer for Large National and Multinational companies in the Western Europe and North America region at the UN Global Compact Leaders’ Summit in September.

“Taking part in the SDG Ambition Accelerator provided us with a concrete toolkit and detailed understanding of how to set and embed ambitious sustainability goals in a business – including best practices across sectors. This has informed our own journey and also links back to our services on how boards and senior management should provide direction, oversight, and control over sustainability issues.”

Angelina Magal, Manager, Nestor Advisors
The UN Global Compact Network UK Annual Summit 2023, held at the iconic Guildhall in the City of London, and online, brought together leaders from business, government, and civil society for solutions-based discussions on the most pressing ESG challenges. Over the two days of the Summit, more than 3,000 attendees heard fascinating insights on how advancing sustainable business practices can shape a more inclusive, equitable future, and how businesses – both large and small – can benefit by fully integrating sustainability into their operations.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

*Driving a Just and Green Transition* saw a panel of industry experts focus on the challenges and opportunities of achieving a sustainable, resilient, and inclusive zero-carbon economy. They talked of the need to remove tribal rifts and depoliticise the transition, emphasising the importance of integrating carbon, environment, and people, and tackling all three together.

In *Addressing the Barriers to Diversifying Senior Leadership Roles*, attendees heard first-hand experiences of leading diverse teams and the benefits of having a range of perspectives in decision-making positions. The panellists spoke about effective strategies, such as setting targets and accountability measures, and integrating diversity into broader business plans, and the need to build environments that provide people from disadvantaged backgrounds the chance of an equal shot at success.

*Advancing Culture Change for Transformational Governance* discussed the importance of foresight and horizon scanning in transformational governance and the need to harness both innovation and long-term thinking. Anticipatory governance, which involves looking at signals of change and multiple plausible futures, was presented as a way to navigate the complex challenges of the future.

*Raising Ambitions for Sustainable Development* discussed the transformation process businesses need to go through to effectively integrate the SDGs into their strategy. This will involve normalising the conversation around sustainability and embedding it into company culture, decision-making processes, and governance. It also requires a strong business case, building a coalition of stakeholders, choosing which SDGs align with their business, measuring progress, and embedding sustainability into reward and recognition programmes.
ACCELERATING MEMBERS’ PROGRESS

The UN Global Compact Network UK empowers its members to accelerate action towards the Ten Principles and the SDGs. In addition to our programming, we provide tailored support and guidance to advance our members’ sustainability goals as well as networking opportunities independent of our core thematic programme streams.

HIGHLIGHTS

COMMUNICATION ON PROGRESS SUPPORT

One of the key requirements of being a UN Global Compact business participant is to submit an annual Communication on Progress (CoP). This annual report serves multiple purposes including promoting learning, driving improved sustainability performance, and fostering accountability.

In 2023, the UN Global Compact launched a new enhanced CoP format to streamline reporting on the Ten Principles and the SDGs and to align with the evolving reporting landscape. In addition to communicating updates about the new changes, the UK Network hosted biweekly drop-in sessions to answer member queries and better support them during this transition. These sessions will continue in 2024.

2023 KICK-OFF EVENT

Navigating the wide range of engagement opportunities offered by the Network can be challenging. To support members in identifying relevant programmes and maximising their membership value, the Network hosted its very first kick-off event at the beginning of the year. The event featured a presentation of upcoming programming across Environment, Social, and Governance themes and provided an opportunity for members to ask questions and meet the UK Network team. This event will be repeated annually.

UN GLOBAL COMPACT NETWORK UK MEMBERS’ AND SME BREAKFASTS

We continued to host our monthly Members’ Breakfasts – informal, interactive morning sessions offering members a forum to share ideas, challenges, and experiences with peers. Our SME Members’ Breakfasts offered a space for smaller companies to discuss the particular challenges they face when tackling sustainability issues.

We hosted 18 breakfasts in total, bringing together over 120 individuals.

“The UNGC offers a safe space for having the challenging, yet courageous conversations needed to make a real difference. It’s given us access to a network of sustainability professionals and industry experts from different backgrounds to learn from through the SDG Ambition Accelerator Programme. This year, thanks to their Climate Accelerator Programme, we’ve gained the knowledge we needed to accelerate our journey towards net-zero. We know they’ll be there to support us every step of the way.”

Kathryn McConnell, Head of Brand Marketing & Community, Monica Vinader Limited
INSPIRING UK BUSINESSES TO TAKE ACTION

In line with its vision for all UK businesses to take ambitious actions to create the world we want to live and do business in, this year the UN Global Compact Network UK increased its efforts to reach more businesses and stakeholders in the UK.

We hosted 21 open events to engage with the wider UK business community on how to identify business solutions to tackle challenges on climate, nature, circular economy, reporting, governance, and social impacts.

In September we launched our external newsletter to update external stakeholders on upcoming events and activities and share the latest sustainability developments, initiatives, resources, and tools. Our external newsletter is also an opportunity for the UK Network to spotlight our members’ achievements.
Our commitment to sustainability is aligned with the dedication and standards we expect from our members. By integrating social and environmental sustainability into our organisation, we embody and action our values, demonstrating our own commitment to creating a more sustainable world.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

We are committed to promoting and respecting diversity, equity, and inclusion in our workforce and our external stakeholder community. We believe that having a diverse workforce and fostering an inclusive culture where everyone feels valued and able to fully express themselves is a key element of a successful business. The UK Network has a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy that outlines our commitments.

INCLUSIVE COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

We prioritise inclusive and accessible digital marketing and communication materials. For example, our website uses EqualWeb, an accessibility widget that allows users to adapt web content to their individual accessibility needs.

SPEAKER DIVERSITY

The UK Network organises over 100 events every year, each providing a platform for our speakers to inspire and share their knowledge with hundreds of people. To ensure that we provide equal opportunities for speaking roles and share a wide range of perspectives at our events, we send an annual anonymous Speaker Diversity Monitoring Survey to our presenters. We track a range of diversity indicators including ethnicity, gender, sexuality, disability, and socio-economic background.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION GROUP

The UK Network is a member of the Diversity and Inclusion Group on the UN Global Compact Local Network Hub. This allows us to communicate our practices with other Local Networks around the world, as well as share national and company examples, spark conversation, and share outcomes with others.

LIVING WAGE EMPLOYER

The UN Global Compact Network UK has been Living Wage accredited employer since 2019. All Secretariat staff are paid at least the London Living Wage. We recognise that paid internships are key to enabling decent work, equal opportunity for employment, and growth within the organisation for young people, particularly for candidates of varying socio-economic backgrounds.

RECRUITMENT VIA APPLIED

Since 2019, we have used Applied’s blind hiring platform to eliminate bias from our staff recruitment process. Using anonymised applications and predictive, skill-based assessments, we identify talent that might have been overlooked by reviewing CVs alone. Each job posting includes diversity disclaimers and, where possible, we use gender and ethnically diverse interview panels.

NET ZERO TARGET

In line with the UK Government’s ambitions laid out in the Net Zero Strategy, the UN Global Compact Network UK has made a commitment through the SME Climate Hub to:

- Halve our carbon emissions before 2030;
- Cut emissions to zero before 2050; and
- Share our progress on a yearly basis.

We published our first Net Zero Progress Report this year to understand the source and magnitude of our carbon emissions. We will be forming a cross-functional net-zero team to conduct quarterly monitoring and risk assessments and to oversee the completion of our annual Net Zero Progress Report moving forwards.
We are entering 2024 with a renewed focus on our strategic goals. We are committed to evolving our current initiatives to provide continuing support and inspiration to our members on key sustainability issues. We will also increase our efforts to shape the business environment through a new advocacy strategy.

Our new programming will respond to emerging sustainability trends and the evolving demands of the global business landscape. In the spring, we will launch the Collecting Scope 3 Data Webinar Series, which will support businesses to efficiently collect Scope 3 emissions data from across their value chain. Under our Environment Programme, three new groups — the Circular Economy Working Group, the Climate-Peer Learning Group, and the Nature Working Group — are set to be introduced to support members in these challenging areas. Additionally, we are developing innovative programming for 2024 focusing on Climate and Human Rights, Male Allyship, and SDG Storytelling.

We encourage our SME participants to download our SDG Playbook for SMEs, a step-by-step guide to help smaller companies unlock the competitive advantages associated with embracing the SDGs. Recognising the unique challenges faced by smaller companies, we will continue to provide tailored support for SMEs in 2024. Our upcoming Sustainable Suppliers project will deliver training and education to SMEs in the supply chains of larger enterprises.

We would like to conclude by extending our heartfelt thanks to all our members, sponsors, collaborators, Trustees, and our Advisory Group for helping to make 2023 impactful and for supporting the development and growth of the UK Network.

We look forward to continuing to work with our community to create a world we want to live and do business in.
ABOUT THE UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT

As a special initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General, the UN Global Compact is a call to companies worldwide to align their operations and strategies with Ten Principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment, and anti-corruption.

Its ambition is to accelerate and scale the global collective impact of business by upholding the Ten Principles and delivering the Sustainable Development Goals through ambitious, accountable companies, and environments that enable change. With more than 21,000 companies and 3,300 non-business signatories based in over 160 countries, and 62 Local Networks, the UN Global Compact is the world’s largest corporate sustainability initiative — one Global Compact uniting business for a better world.

For more information, visit www.unglobalcompact.org

ABOUT THE UN GLOBAL COMPACT NETWORK UK

The UN Global Compact Network UK is part of the world’s largest responsible business initiative, the United Nations Global Compact, connecting UK companies and other organisations in a global movement dedicated to driving sustainable growth. Through an extensive programme of activity, it promotes sustainability leadership to create a world we want to live and do business in, by inspiring ambition, enabling action, and collaborating to shape the business environment.

The Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact, rooted in UN treaties, provide a robust foundation for corporate sustainability and business action on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

For more information, follow us on LinkedIn (UN Global Compact Network UK) or visit unglobalcompact.org.uk

DISCLAIMER

The inclusion of company names and/or examples in this publication is intended strictly for learning purposes and does not constitute an endorsement of the individual companies by the UN Global Compact Network UK.

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