Global Compact Network UK

2026 Summary of Programmes

The purpose of this document is to share information about the UN Global Compact Network UK's 2026 programme of activities. Use the Table of Contents to navigate through the various opportunities available to you. Activities are marked as requiring either **foundational, intermediate,** or **advanced** levels of knowledge**,** and some opportunities are marked as suitable for multiple levels.

Please note that this information is accurate as of March 2026. As the programme continues to evolve, updates and additions are inevitable.

Participants are supported by a dedicated Participant Engagement Team and relationship managers who are available to help navigate the full offering and develop tailored engagement plans aligned with individual business goals and interests.

For the latest updates and news, please see our Members' Newsletter and SME Members' Newsletter and consult the calendar of events on our website. You may also wish to follow us on LinkedIn.

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LEARN		
Accelerators		
Climate Ambition Accelerator This six-month Accelerator programme is for companies that want to set science-based emissions targets and create a clear path to address their organisation's transition to net zero. This course will equip you with the knowledge and skills needed to accelerate progress on your climate goals. You will gain access to global best practices, peer-to-peer learning opportunities, technical capacity-building sessions, and online self-learning modules.	The programme will run from May 2026 to November 2026. More information is available here.	Any Level
SDG Innovation Accelerator for Young Professionals This Accelerator empowers your company's young talent to collaborate and accelerate business innovation toward the SDGs. This six-month programme activates future business leaders and changemakers to develop and drive innovative solutions through new technologies, initiatives, and business models, and to deliver on their company's sustainability objectives. Teams of young professionals come together to generate bold yet viable solutions that can have a positive impact on the company and the SDGs.	The programme will run from February 2026 to July 2026. More information is available here.	Any Level
Nature Ambition Accelerator This Accelerator is a capacity-building programme designed to support companies to undertake a nature materiality assessment and prepare to set science-based targets for nature, in line with the Science Based Targets Network (SBTN) methodology. Delivered in collaboration with Ramboll UK, the Accelerator will support companies to build in-house expertise on the SBTN methods, identify their current readiness levels to set science-based targets for nature, and take steps to increase preparedness.	The programme will run from March 2026 to September 2026. More information is available here.	Any Level

Business & Human Rights Accelerator This six-month programme supports businesses to turn human rights commitments into action. It helps businesses identify salient impacts, establish ongoing due diligence, and develop practical, actionable plans. In the UK, it is delivered with twentyfifty, providing expert guidance and training. Participants gain clarity on their human rights journey, learn to prioritise actions, strengthen grievance mechanisms and remedies, and build valuable peer networks. The programme supports alignment with international standards, the UN Guiding Principles, and effective reporting and communication.	The programme will run from January 2026 to July 2026. Applications close on 30 January. More information is available here.	Foundational Intermediate
Target Gender Equality Accelerator This Accelerator supports companies to set and reach ambitious targets for women's representation and leadership. Participating companies improve their implementation of the Women's Empowerment Principles and strengthen their contribution to SDG 5.5, which calls for equal women's representation, participation, and leadership in business globally. Companies will be equipped with the latest data and research on the business case for gender equality and gain insights on how to accelerate progress on gender equality.	The programme will run from September 2026 to February 2027. Applications are open from 30 March to 31 May 2026. More information is available here.	Foundational Intermediate

Working Groups		
Sustainability Reporting Working Group The Sustainability Reporting Working Group is a forum to share expertise and best practice on sustainability reporting, with a focus on preparing for mandatory reporting under frameworks such as the European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS) and the UK Sustainability Reporting Standards (UK SRS). Through expert insights and peer-to-peer learning, the group provides a space for professionals to explore how they are organising internal reporting systems, preparing for the assurance of sustainability data, and navigating the demands of multiple reporting frameworks and ESG ratings providers.	The first meeting of the year took place on 26 March. More information is available here.	Intermediate Advanced
Climate Peer Learning Group This exclusive forum is to support companies with advanced climate strategies that are seeking a network to discuss obstacles, innovation, collaboration, and best practices relating to science-based net zero targets and decarbonisation pathways. Topics covered in this group include value chain engagement, climate transition plans, integrating climate and nature strategies, adaptation & resilience, and more.	The first meeting of the year took place on 17 March. More information is available here.	Intermediate Advanced
Nature Working Group This group provides a peer-learning forum for companies to share approaches and challenges related to identifying, addressing, and disclosing nature-related dependencies, impacts, risks, and opportunities. Topics covered in this group include integrating the recommendations of the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD), developing corporate nature strategies, operationalising the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) targets and the global nature positive goal, and complying with emerging nature-related regulations in the UK and beyond.	The first meeting of the year took place on 25 March. More information is available here, and you can express interest here.	Intermediate Advanced
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Working Group This peer-learning Working Group supports Network participants to discuss some of the challenges companies are facing when integrating Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) into their strategies and operations and to explore how DEI can be a source of competitive advantage. Discussions revolve around the following themes related to DEI policies and practices across different protected characteristics: inclusive workplaces and employee wellbeing, socio-economic inclusion and mobility, gender equity, data-driven DEI and transparency, and DEI in Climate and Just Transition.	The first meeting of the year took place on 10 March. More information is available here, and you can express interest here.	Intermediate Advanced

Modern Slavery Working Group The Modern Slavery Working Group supports companies in responding to the UK Modern Slavery Act. It brings members together with experts to explore modern slavery risks, share challenges and best practice, and support compliance with Section 54 of the MSA. The group provides an interactive platform for learning and collaboration, including participation in the MSA Peer Review Programme, which offers a safe space for peer feedback on modern slavery statements and encourages open, constructive discussion.	The first meeting of the year took place on 5 March. More information is available here, and you can express interest here.	Intermediate Advanced
Webinar Series		
Business Role in Systems Change Webinar Series As the world nears critical Earth system tipping points, businesses face escalating systemic risks demanding new forms of resilience. The same science that warns of collapse also highlights the potential for 'positive tipping points' – moments when targeted actions trigger large-scale transitions towards sustainability. To help businesses harness this potential, UN Global Compact Network UK, in partnership with the University of Exeter, launched a three-part webinar series, 'The Business Role in Systems Change'. The series explored frameworks like the Positive Tipping Points Toolkit and Doughnut Economics to drive transformative change across markets, value chains, and business models.	Sessions took place between 26 February and 12 March 2026. The recordings are available here.	Intermediate Advanced

Integrating ESG Risk Management This three-part webinar series will support companies in identifying, assessing, and managing disruptions and systemic risks such as cybersecurity threats, the physical impacts of climate change, geopolitical instability, and conflict that increasingly challenge business continuity and stakeholder confidence.	Sessions will take place between October and December 2026. More information will be available in due course. Please get in touch with the Participant Engagement team to find out more.	Foundational Intermediate
Sustainability Q&A Webinar Series This series provides members with a dedicated forum to engage with business leaders and experts across environmental, social, and governance topics. Participants will explore emerging developments, discuss shared challenges, and gain practical, actionable insights to support responsible business practices.	Sessions will take place on an ad-hoc basis throughout the year. More information will be available in due course. Please get in touch with the Participant Engagement team to find out more.	Any Level
Other Programmes (Masterclasses, Workshops, Reports, Peer Reviews, and more)		
Sustainable Suppliers Training Programme This programme supports our members in engaging companies in their value chain in sustainability education. It is designed to engage suppliers at scale through a targeted learning course to improve their understanding of the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact, the SDGs and the fundamentals of corporate sustainability.	The programme will run from March to September 2026. More information is available here.	Suppliers: Foundational Inviting Companies: Intermediate/ Advanced

Dialogue for Change Programme This 12-week programme aims to support those responsible for sustainability performance within their organisation to mobilise action across departments. Participants will develop the interpersonal skills needed to effectively communicate and engage with colleagues and stakeholders. These can be applied to their sustainability challenges to build the internal buy-in needed to drive progress towards their companies' climate and sustainability goals.	Cohorts are created on a rolling basis. The next cohort will begin in May 2026. More information is available here.	Any Level
Social Sustainability Peer Review Programme Available to all UK Network members, the Modern Slavery Act Statement Peer Review and Gender Pay Gap Report Peer Review provide companies with a safe space to share their reports and get feedback from peers with experience producing these reports. This forum will encourage the exchange of best practices and improve the quality of disclosures.	Find out more about the Gender Pay Gap Report Peer Review here, and the Modern Slavery Act Statement Peer Review here.	Intermediate Advanced
SPARK global community for SMEs SPARK is a global community designed exclusively for SMEs participating in the UN Global Compact. Members can access self-paced courses, tailored case studies, region-specific workshops and events to better address their specific needs. Are you a UNGC large company committed to helping your SME suppliers on their sustainability journey? You have the power to make SPARK available to your SME suppliers, enabling them to thrive sustainably. Please get in touch with the Participant Engagement team to find out more – subject to internal validation and selection criteria.	More information is available here.	Any Level, SMEs only
European Alliance Against Illicit Financial Flows We invite your organisation to join the European Alliance Against Illicit Financial Flows, a cross-border initiative bringing together European financial and professional services gatekeepers to strengthen integrity, due diligence, and responsible business practices. The Alliance provides a trusted platform for peer exchange, targeted training, and practical tools designed to help enablers identify, prevent, and address IFF risks across their operations and client relationships.	More information is available here.	Intermediate Advanced

Unlocking Regional Barriers to Social Mobility: Recommendations for Business and Policymakers Report Launch In partnership with Slaughter and May, we are launching a new report – *Unlocking Regional Barriers to Social Mobility: Insights and Recommendations for Business and Policymakers*. Based on consultations in Belfast, Cardiff, Exeter, Glasgow, and Leeds, the report offers practical insights to help businesses and policymakers strengthen social mobility across the UK.	The launch event will be held on 15 April 2026 in London. mailto:participant.engagement@unglobalcompact.org.ukRegister your interest here.	Any Level
SDG Reactor The UN Global Compact Network UK, in partnership with the Sustainable Development Solutions Network UK, has launched the SDG Reactor – an innovation network designed to accelerate evidence-based action on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It brings UK businesses and higher education institutions together to turn cutting-edge research into practical, real-world solutions.	More information is available here.	Intermediate Advanced
Operationalising Social Sustainability: Guidance for Business Series We will work with member NGOs to produce concise fact sheets and infographics on topics including child rights, worker safety, and living wages. The goal is to provide clear, actionable advice that companies can use, with 'Ask the Expert' webinar sessions provided for deeper discussion.	This series will take place between Q2 and Q3 2026. More information available on request.	Any Level
UN Global Compact Academy Available to all your employees, the UN Global Compact's learning platform provides business leaders and practitioners with the skills and knowledge they need to move their companies forward faster in implementing the Ten Principles of the Sustainable Development Goals.	Access the Academy here.	Any Level
Sustainable Business Learning Platform Access an exclusive selection of UN Global Compact Network UK resources on our Sustainable Business Learning Platform. It is designed to allow users to easily navigate our offering while tracking progress and accessing the resources to help tackle business sustainability challenges.	Access here. You must be logged into the Academy prior to using this link.	Any Level

Tools

UN Global Compact offers many tools to support members in their sustainability journey. See the tools linked below for further information.

Women Empowerment Principles Gap Analysis Tool, SDG Action Manager, SDG Playbook for SMEs, Decent Work Toolkit for Sustainable Procurement, Living Wage Tool, Transformational Governance Tool, Business and Human Rights Navigator.

CONNECT

Local Events (UK)

Monthly Members' Breakfasts These informal, interactive morning sessions moderated by our Executive Director, provide participants with the opportunity to meet other UK Network members and share ideas, challenges, and solutions. Participants receive a Key Takeaways report after the session which includes useful tools, resources, and upcoming engagement opportunities to help them navigate the sustainability issues covered during the breakfast.	Please refer to the events calendar for more details.	Any Level
Annual General Meeting The Annual General Meeting is the UN Global Compact Network UK members-only flagship event, providing an opportunity for Network members to connect, gain inspiration from sustainability business leaders, and engage in discussions on how the Network can continue supporting their sustainability progress. Members interested in hosting are invited to get in touch.	The event will take place on 18 June 2026. Please get in touch with the Participant Engagement team to find out more.	Any Level
Sustainability Essentials for Core Functions: Sessions & Briefs Following on from the programme's popularity in 2025, we will host three more sessions of this members-only, in-person event series in 2026. Looking at Human Resources, Corporate Affairs, and Business Development, the events will explore the intersections of these core functions with sustainability and will provide attendees with the necessary understanding to contribute to their organisation's sustainability goals in their day-to-day jobs. There will also be a final session to launch briefs for each of the featured core functions and explore how participants can continue to embed sustainability in their business.	Events will take place in March, July, September, and November. More information can be found here.	Foundational Intermediate

SDG Roadshow Through interactive workshops and high-level roundtables held in four cities in the UK, the SDG Roadshow convenes key regional stakeholders to explore local actions advancing the Goals, strengthen collaboration, and drive progress on regional challenges, including business integrity, social mobility, the living wage, nature, water, and circularity.	The Roadshow will take place in September. More information on previous editions is available here.	Any Level
Annual Sustainability Summit (London) Our Summit brings together business, government, and civil society leaders for solutions-based discussions on the most pressing ESG challenges facing companies. It offers the opportunity to consider how businesses can balance ethical and sustainable practices to maintain profitability and competitiveness. Through keynote speeches, presentations, fireside chats, workshops, and panel discussions, attendees will learn about best practices on various sustainability challenges. The Summit provides opportunities for networking and collaboration and allows participants to share ideas and strategies for advancing sustainability in their respective organisations.	The event is likely to take place in October 2026. More information on past Summits is available here.	Any Level
Peer Learning Platforms		
Regional Climate Action Peer Learning Platform The Climate Action Platform is a peer learning initiative by the UN Global Compact that brings together advanced climate leaders and practitioners from large, internationally operating companies across Europe and North America in a trusted, neutral space. Each year, the Platform is guided by a broad umbrella theme. For 2026, the proposed theme is Decarbonising Value Chains: Scaling Solutions for Scope 3 Emissions.	The in-person meeting is currently at capacity, but interested members are invited to join the online platform. More information is available upon request.	Advanced
European CSO Platform The European CSO Platform is a hybrid Peer Learning Platform (PLP) convened by the UN Global Compact, designed for Chief Sustainability Officers (CSOs) or equivalent senior sustainability leaders. This is a trusted space for senior sustainability professionals to exchange insights on emerging trends, regulatory developments, and leadership approaches, fostering collaboration, capacity building, and actionable solutions to embed sustainability into core business strategy	The in-person meeting will take place on 11 June 2026, at the European Parliament in Brussels. More information is available upon request.	Advanced

Regional Social Sustainability Peer Learning Platform The Social Sustainability Platform is a structured peer learning initiative of the UN Global Compact that brings together large European companies with significant operations in Europe to advance social sustainability and human rights practices. The Platform combines in-person and virtual engagement to provide a blended learning experience that fits participants' needs and availability.	The in-person meeting will take place 23-24 June in Copenhagen, Denmark. More information is available upon request.	Advanced

Global Events		
Annual UN Forum on Business and Human Rights This Forum brings together thousands of participants from governments, international organisations, business, trade unions, civil society, communities, lawyers, and academia from around the world. Centred on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) the Forum has provided a unique multi-stakeholder platform for discussing trends and challenges in implementing the UNGPs and realising a more sustainable global economy.	The forum will take place in November 2026. Please get in touch with the Participant Engagement team to find out more.	Intermediate Advanced
COP Blue and/or Green Zones events UN Global Compact is active at the UNFCCC's Conference of the Parties (COP) every year. Engagement opportunities are unique every year and the events schedule is released in the weeks closer to COP.	These events will take place at COP31 (9-20 November) in Antalya, Türkiye. More information will become available closer to the event.	Any Level
WEOG Business and Human Rights Forum The first regional WEOG (Western European and Others Group) Business and Human Rights Forum will take place in Strasbourg at the Council of Europe's meeting rooms. Our WENA regional hub is supporting the organization of the meeting, primarily by promoting it to our companies. More information will follow soon.	The forum will take place 17–18 September 2026. More information is available on request.	Any Level

Living Wage & Living Income Summit This High-level Summit will be held in Rotterdam and is co-hosted with IDH. The Summit promotes living wages and living income in global value chains.	The forum will take place on 30 June 2026. More information is available on request.	Any Level
Please note, we typically have a presence at all major UN convenings and sustainability events.	Please get in touch if you would like to learn more about a specific event.	Any Level

LEAD	
Global Coalitions	
CEO Water Mandate The Mandate seeks to mobilise a critical mass of business leaders to address global water challenges through corporate water stewardship in partnership with governments, civil society, and other stakeholders. It is an initiative established in 2007 by the UN Secretary General and the UN Global Compact in partnership with the Pacific Institute. The Mandate is now endorsed by over 200 companies from a range of industry sectors and regions around the world. It requires additional financial contribution and separate communication on progress around its six commitment areas. Visit the CEO Water Mandate website for more information and to sign up to the commitment.	Intermediate Advanced
Ocean Stewardship Coalition The Coalition builds on Sustainable Ocean Principles, produced in consultation with over 300 stakeholders, that provide a framework for responsible business practices across sectors and geographies. It aims to promote ocean-based climate solutions needed to ensure a 'just transition' for all, as a fundamental precondition for a successful transformation to a zero-carbon ocean economy. Find out more and express interest on the Ocean Stewardship Coalition website.	Advanced
CFO Coalition for the SDGs The Coalition builds on a set of CFO Principles on Integrated SDG Investments and Finance. It also produces guidance and resources for CFOs of any UN Global Compact companies to integrate the SDGs into corporate finance. Its aim is to set an example and accelerate progress of pioneering CFOs and accelerate their progress in aligning corporate investments with the SDGs and linking corporate finance to relevant and credible SDG targets. Visit the CFO Coalition website to find out more and endorse the principles.	Advanced

Advocacy		
Forward Faster This initiative aims to increase accountability and transparency by calling for companies to publicly declare their commitments and highlight the actions they will undertake to meet the targets across five areas: Gender Equality, Climate Action, Water Resilience, Living Wage, and Finance & Investment. Companies committing to the targets will be required to report on progress annually.	More information is available here.	Intermediate Advanced
Sustainability Policy Dispatch Be the first to hear about policy developments that could shape the future of responsible business. Our new monthly Sustainability Policy Dispatch delivers key UK and global policy updates, upcoming advocacy engagement opportunities, and practical actions — all in one place.	More information is available here.	Any Level
SDG Flag Campaign The SDG Flag Campaign started in the Netherlands and has grown to see thousands of businesses, government departments, civil society organisations, and schools raise an SDG flag each September to mark the anniversary of the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The UN Global Compact Network UK will participate for the fifth consecutive year, inviting organisations to raise the flag either in person or virtually by displaying it on their social media channels, and highlighting their sustainability achievements and contributions to advancing the SDGs.	SDG Flag Day takes place on 25 September 2026. More information is available here.	Any Level
Advocacy Steering Group The Advocacy Steering Group provides guidance and insights in support of the UK Network's advocacy initiatives. In 2026, the Group will work to ensure our advocacy efforts are aligned with our mission, values, and the ten principles of the UN Global Compact, while working to influence policy frameworks, at national, regional, and global levels. The Group also acts to share good practices and identify concrete actions that the UK Network and its member companies can take to drive the responsible business agenda through advocacy activities.	The Steering Group will convene quarterly in 2026. More information is available here.	Advanced

Policy Feedback Roundtables Virtual and in-person, these roundtables will serve as an interactive platform for UK businesses to share insights, concerns, and feedback on live government consultations and calls for evidence, as well as broader policy areas, particularly in areas affecting responsible business conduct.	The Roundtables will be organised on an ad-hoc basis. More information is available here.	Any Level – Topic Dependent
Regulatory Developments Q&A Series This series offers an interactive forum designed to help sustainability professionals navigate the fast-evolving landscape of corporate sustainability regulations. It will provide a direct line of communication between corporate practitioners, regulatory bodies, policymakers, and subject matter experts. Through moderated Q&A sessions, participants will gain clarity on regulatory requirements, anticipate legislative changes, and understand practical implications for corporate sustainability strategies.	The first session will take place in Q2. Please get in touch with the Participant Engagement team to find out more.	Any Level
Memberships That Matter Campaign This advocacy campaign will encourage UK businesses to systematically review their memberships in trade associations and business groups, ensuring that the lobbying and policy positions of these associations align with their own sustainability commitments, across both environmental and social dimensions.	The campaign will launch between Q2 and Q3. Please get in contact to find out more.	Advanced
Other		
Case Studies Library Business leaders are moving beyond ambition to value-driven execution, proving that sustainability delivers measurable ROI – from cost savings and emissions reductions to growth, resilience, talent retention, and brand trust. The Case Study Hub accelerates learning by sharing peer insights across industries, sizes, and maturity levels, and highlights practical actions, metrics, barriers, and lessons learned. Contribute a case study to showcase your impact to a global audience of sustainability leaders and change-makers. Get in contact with the Participant Engagement Team here.		

Thought Leadership Opportunities
We offer members different ways to provide input into our programming, whether through speaker or sponsorship opportunities.

Get in contact with the Participant Engagement Team here to learn more.

COMMUNICATE

Communication on Progress (CoP)

CoP Resources The Communication on Progress (CoP) is the UN Global Compact's annual accountability mechanism for collecting and reporting on sustainability performance related to the Ten Principles and the UN SDGs. It is a mandatory requirement for all business participants of the UN Global Compact. The submission period for the CoP opens on 1 April 2026 and closes on 31 July 2026. There are several resources available to help participants understand this requirement and submit the CoP including templates, a guidebook, FAQs, on-demand training modules, and more.	All resources are available here.
CoP Drop-in Sessions Hosted on a bi-weekly basis, these sessions allow participants to drop in and ask any questions regarding their Communication on Progress submission.	Sessions take place bi-weekly on Fridays. Dates are shared regularly in our bulletin/newsletter.
CoP Data Visualization Tool Composed of 2023, 2024, and 2025 CoP submissions, these dashboards offer insights into the progress of UN Global Compact business participants in advancing the Ten Principles.	Find out more here.

Communication on Engagement (CoE)	
CoE Resources The Communication on Engagement (CoE) is a public disclosure through which non-business participants of the UN Global Compact inform their stakeholders about their efforts to support the Ten Principles of the Global Compact and about their engagement in the initiative. There are several resources available to help participants understand this requirement.	All resources are available here.

If you have any questions, would like to have a conversation about maximising the value of your UN Global Compact participation, or would like to discuss thought leadership/sponsorship opportunities related to our programmes, please contact our Participant Engagement Team.