COMMUNICATION ON PROGRESS | AN INTRODUCTION



About the COP

The **Communication on Progress** (COP) is an annual disclosure to stakeholders on progress made in implementing the ten principles of the UN Global Compact in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption, and in supporting broader UN development goals. The COP is posted on the Global Compact website by business participants. Failure to issue a COP will change a participant's status to non-communicating and can eventually lead to the expulsion of the participant.

Minimum Requirements

A statement by the chief executive expressing continued support for the Global Compact A description of practical actions (i.e., disclosure of any relevant policies, procedures, activities) in each of the four issue areas. In cases where a COP does not address one or more of the four issue areas. it must provide an explanation

A measurement of outcomes (i.e., the degree to which targets/performance indicators were met, or other qualitative or quantitative measurements of results)

Differentiation Levels

GC Active: COPs that meet the minimum requirements (see left)

GC Advanced: COPs that gualify as GC Active and, in addition, cover the company's implementation of advanced criteria and best practices

GC Learner: COPs that do not meet one or more of the minimum requirements

Issue Area Reporting

efforts to issues they deem critical to their business, such as water or gender. They commit to transparently report on these, above and beyond the minimum COP requirements.

Signatories of the CEO Water Mandate, the Women's Empowerment Principles and **Business for Peace** already do so. Other issues will follow.

COP content becomes available to

REPORTING ON SUSTAINABILITY 1999-2014

TED PER YEAR		OBAL COMPACT Launch of UN Global Compact Secretary-General calls for participants to report annually on progress as part of their commit- ment to the Global Compact.				Launch of COP COP Policy announced requiring annual disclosure by business participants and voluntary disclosure for non-business participants. Local Networks take an active role			First edition of "Making the Connection" to support use of GRI Guidelines to fulfill COP require- ments. First issue-specifi		Bloomberg users. Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative launched with support of 5 founding Partner Exchanges to enhance corporate transparency. Total number of delisted partici- pants passes 1,000. ic focus among		Efforts to streamline sustainability reporting for smaller companies (COP Basic template.) COP Differentiation levels introduced. All LEAD companies required to submit GC Advanced GC Advanced COF				
COPS SUBMITI	0		Cooperation with the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) is announced.			in supporting part calls for companies cles of progress in ications such as		For the first time, 5 marked as inactive communicate prog with the COP Policy 877	38 participants e due to failure to gress, in alignment	COPs by CEO Wate signatories. Other is For the first time, c expelled from the 0 for failure to meet 0 1,668	issues followed. companies are Global Compact COP requirements.	GRI and the Globa announce further a reporting framewo 2,609	alignment of		include external as Policy on Commun Engagement (COE) requiring non-busir to report every two 5,017	lication on) launched, ness participants	
Ĭ	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	
	Sustainability Index (DJSI) introduced.	GRI (as a department of CERES initiative) launches the first generation of the sustainability reporting Guidelines. Carbon Disclosure CDP) introduced.The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multimediate Enterprises revisedMultimediate Complete Statement St				Project (now Accounting for sustainability (A4S) introduced.				AA1000 Stakeholder Engagemer Stakeholder Engagemer released. Principles for Respons Investment (PRI) engage		ement Standard Reporting Council ISO 26000 Guidant Responsibility rele		I (IIRC) launched. I ce on Social eased.		International Integrated Reporting framework launched. GRI G4 Guidelines launched with cross-references to the COP. PRI Reporting Assessment Process	
	Multinational Enterprises revised. FTSE4Good Index Series introduced containing companies listed on London Stock Exchange. EXTERNAL CONTEXT									and companies to promote COPs. "Sharing Informat requirement intro Principles for Re Management Edu academic institut		uced by the ponsible cation (PRME) for	OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises revised.		PRI Reporting As: launched.	sessment Process	

COP Matters

Some participants choose to dedicate special **For businesses:** The COP helps drive continuous sustainability performance improvement within the company. The library of COPs at the UN Global Compact website represents the largest repository of corporate practices in sustainability. For investors: The COP provides investors with sustainability performance information of companies, thus allowing for a more effective integration of environmental, social and governance (ESG) considerations in their investments and resulting in a more effective allocation of capital. For civil society: The COP is an important demonstration of a company's commitment to transparency and accountability

and it serves as an effective tool for multi-stakeholder dialogue.