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# Global Compact Network Sri Lanka

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## NEWSLETTER | November - December 2020

The months of November and December have been quite eventful for the Sri Lanka Network. Despite the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic the local network has adapted and continues the work to uphold the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact.

In 2020, Network Sri Lanka welcomed five new members.

For the month of November, we have had, the First Capacity Training workshop for Target Gender Equality (TGE) and we have renewed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The Gender and Diversity Working Group had their first webinar, in a series of webinars, on "Affirmative Actions Towards Gender Equality in the Workplace". The Climate Emergency Task Force met with regard to assisting its companies to achieve their Science-Based Targets (SBTs) for 2020/21 and possibly hosting a climate event. We would also like to introduce Network Sri Lanka's newest initiative, the Sustainable Supply Chain Working Group, this Working Group intends to create links through concerted efforts to improve agricultural production and enhance global supply chains.

In addition to the Network Sri Lanka news, we would also like to share the news from the UN Global Compact initiatives.



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## November 2020

### First Capacity Building Workshop for TGE | 23rd November 2020

The Capacity Building Workshops are a series of trainings that assist companies in setting reasonable targets for their Gender Equality initiatives. The first workshop was focused on Diversity and Inclusion in companies. This workshop explored the business case for having Diversity and Inclusion in all aspects of a company, such as the inclusion of women in leadership positions and middle management. Furthermore, this workshop emphasized the value of setting targets for Diversity and Inclusion in their companies, as future employees would choose to work in a company that has made commitments to Diversity and Inclusion. The Workshop also provided our members examples of target-setting that were done by companies around the world, thereby, providing our members with examples that could be utilized in their companies.



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### Renewal of MoU between the UN Global Compact Sri Lanka and UNDP in Sri Lanka | 24th November 2020



Image courtesy: UNDP Sri Lanka

The UN Global Compact Network Sri Lanka (UNGCSL) signed a 4-year partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to ensure the urgency for public-private partnerships in achieving the 2030 agenda in Sri Lanka.

The MoU was signed between Mr. Robert Juhkam, Resident Representative of UNDP in Sri Lanka, and Mr. Dilhan C. Fernando, Chairman of UNGCSL with the presence of Mr. Rathika de Silva, Executive Director, UNGCSL.

This partnership ensures private sector engagement in carrying out projects that uphold the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact and the 2030 Agenda.

[Read More](#)

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December 2020

Webinar on "Affirmative Actions towards Gender Equality in the Workplace | 8th December 2020



AFFIRMATIVE ACTIONS TOWARDS  
GENDER EQUALITY IN THE WORKPLACE

8th December 2020 | 5.00-6.30pm (IST) | via Zoom



Network  
Sri Lanka



**Troy Roderick**  
Director - Strategic  
Initiatives & Insights  
Male Champions of Change



**Koh Miyaoi**  
Asia Pacific Gender  
Team Leader & Gender  
Advisor  
UNDP



**Bathiya Bulumulla**  
Director/CEO  
Elpitiya Plantations PLC.



**Nadeesha Wijesingha**  
Senior Leadership  
Development Manager &  
HR Business Partner  
Marketing  
Unilever Sri Lanka



**Moderator**  
**Thanuja Jaywardene**  
DGM - Women's Empowerment,  
Advocacy & Codes of Conduct  
MAS Holdings

This webinar was held in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Network Sri Lanka to assist the Private Sector on what they can do to increase Gender Equality in their respective workplaces.

The panel consisted of members from the Local Network who have joined the Target Gender Equality initiative and international speakers. This webinar was moderated by Thanuja Jayawardene from MAS Holdings. Our esteemed panel of speakers consisted of Koh Miyaoi from UNDP Asia Pacific, Troy Roderick from the Male Champions of Change that has newly rebranded as the Champions of Change Coalition, Bathiya Bulumulla from Elpitiya Plantations, and Nadeesha Wijesingha from Unilever Sri Lanka.

[Watch More](#)

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## Initiatives from the Climate Emergency Taskforce

### Climate Emergency Task Force Members



### Initiatives Explored



The main objective for the taskforce companies is to implement strategies to strive towards 80% renewables by 2030. Taskforce members have exposure to sustainability best practices and climate initiatives of the UN Global Compact such as the Science-Based Targets Initiative (SBTi), Business Ambition for 1.5°C, and the CEO Water Mandate through quarterly meetings.

Further, Network Sri Lanka also conducts regular surveys and webinars to identify recommendations in moving towards renewables. As of December 2020, the taskforce welcomed two new members, Expolanka Freight (Pvt.) and Hayleys Fabrics PLC. The Climate Emergency Task Force is hosting a webinar titled "Corporate Response to the Climate Emergency" with experts from WWF, City Development Limited (Singapore), Hayleys Plantation, and LOLC Finance PLC. The aim of the webinar is to understand the present global status of Climate Emergency and Climate Actions taken by these companies. The webinar is scheduled for the 10th of February 2021 from 4.00 - 5.45 pm (IST) (Via Zoom). Please [Click to register](#).

# CORPORATE RESPONSE TO THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

10th February 2021 | 4.00-5.45pm (IST) | via Zoom



Global Compact  
Network Sri Lanka

## SPEAKERS



**Zniko Nhlapho**  
Technical Manager  
SBTi  
WWF - SA



**Esther An**  
Chief Sustainability Officer  
City Developments Limited  
Singapore



**Dr. Roshan Rajadurai**  
Managing Director  
Hayleys Plantations



**Jithendra Gunatilake**  
Head of Compliance  
LOLC Finance PLC



**Rathika de Silva (Moderator)**  
Executive Director  
UN Global Compact Network Sri Lanka



**Dr. Ravi Fernando (Opening Remarks)**  
Chairman/CEO - Global Strategic Corporate Sustainability (Pvt.) Ltd.  
Board Member - UN Global Compact Network Sri Lanka

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### An Introduction to Network Sri Lanka's recent Initiative: The Sustainable Supply Chain Working Group

The Food Supply chain is an increasingly recognized component of corporate sustainability. COVID-19 has made many of us rekindle our appreciation for something we often take for granted: the availability of food. The recent spike of COVID-19 cases has highlighted the importance of strengthening our food systems, to ensure that safe, good quality and nutritious food makes its way from farm to table, even amid disruptions as the current COVID-19 crisis. Given that most primary goods cannot be preserved for long; growing food security concerns began to arise. It is estimated that roughly 2.1 million agricultural households are at high risk of losing their livelihoods despite measures taken by the government in order to safeguard agricultural supply chains.

The need for concerted action to improve agricultural production while enhancing global supply chains, preserving access to safe and nutritious food, and ending food waste was captured in the 2020's World Food Day theme:

"Grow, Nourish, Sustain. Together". No one organization or person can achieve these goals alone; everyone has a role to play in ensuring nutritious food is available for all. There are three key principles for a successful supply chain sustainability management – governance, transparency, and engagement; these three principles are essential for every model.



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## News and Initiatives from the GCO

### Corporate Leaders commit to ramping up Climate Action in the lead-up to the Climate Ambition Summit and COP26 - but the race to zero has only just begun

9th December 2020

The eighth annual High-Level Meeting of Caring for Climate, held in New York, brought together leaders from business, finance, sub-national government, civil society, and the UN for interactive dialogues regarding the progress of the Paris Agreement, to discuss the twin crisis of COVID-19 and Climate Change and strengthen multilateralism to accelerate climate action in the Decade of Action underway.

This High-Level meeting was organised by UN Global Compact, together with the UN Environment Programme and UNFCCC in partnership with the High-Level Champions for Climate Action for COP25 & COP26. One of the objectives of this meeting was to identify concrete actions and partnership businesses can undertake to recalibrate toward a 1.5°C pathway.

[Read More](#)

### Action Platform succeeds in accelerating business reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The Action Platform that was launched in March 2017 by UN Global Compact and the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) has significantly advanced reporting practices on the SDGs and identified areas for further improvement.

The Platform also leverages GRI's standards and the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact. Over four years it has engaged senior business representatives from across the globe in a peer-to-peer learning program to enable companies to define and improve their contribution to the SDGs.

[Read More](#)

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