

COMMUNICATION ON PROGRESS | AN INTRODUCTION



United Nations Global Compact

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 qualify 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

Some participants choose to dedicate special 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 Matters

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.

REPORTING ON SUSTAINABILITY 1999-2014

