

DESA MSMEs International Workshop



***Strengthening Supply Chains to Elevate MSME Resilience
and Enhance MSME Contributions to SDGs in the Times
of Multiple Crises.***

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THE WORLD IN 1999

A HUMAN FACE TO THE GLOBAL MARKET

“*I propose that you,
the business leaders...
and we, the United Nations,
initiate a global compact
of shared values and
principles*”

Kofi Annan, UN Secretary-General (1997–2006)



UN GLOBAL COMPACT: OVERVIEW



25,000+

businesses committed to the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact

3,800+

non-business participants

160+

countries with UN Global Compact participants

62

Local Networks

138

million employees

UN Global Compact presence in Africa

10 Country Networks
4 Expansion Countries
12 Rest of Africa

1,200+ participating companies

914 SMEs (MSMEs incl.)



10

Country Networks

Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Tunisia, Morocco, DRC, Mauritius & Indian Oceans

4

Expansion Countries

Angola, Botswana, Côte D'Ivoire, Rwanda

12

Rest of Africa

MSMEs in Africa

1. **Account for 80% employment and 50% GDP in Africa.**
1. **Play a critical role in economic growth, poverty reduction, and social development.**
1. **Face unique challenges, including:**
 - Limited access to resources.**
 - Limited access to finance and digital payments**
 - Limited access to markets**
 - Limited access to technology**
 - Limited or lack of competitiveness**
 - Knowledge gap**

Impact of multiple crises

1. **COVID-19 pandemic**
1. **Climate change**
1. **Economic uncertainty**
1. **Disrupted supply chains, reduced demand, and increased costs**
1. **Exacerbated existing vulnerabilities - financial instability, lack of access to markets and technology.**



The need to strengthen supply chains

- ❑ Enhance MSME resilience and adaptability
- ❑ Improve supply chain transparency and traceability
- ❑ Increase access to markets, finance and technology
- ❑ Promote sustainable and responsible practices



SPARK

A global community designed for businesses with 1- 250 employees participating in the UN Global Compact



JOIN SPARK: EMPOWERING SMES FOR SUSTAINABLE SUCCESS



GAIN PRACTICAL TOOLS AND NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

- Access actionable insights from industry leaders.
- Learn from experts at the UN Global Compact.



FLEXIBLE LEARNING FOR BUSY SMES

- Live workshops and on-demand courses.
- Topics include:
 - Adopting net-zero practices
 - Securing access to finance
 - Mainstreaming inclusion
 - Fulfilling sustainability reporting



TAILORED RESOURCES FOR GLOBAL IMPACT

- Region-specific workshops and events.
- Geographically tailored case studies.
- Multilingual resources available on the UN Global Compact Academy platform.

WHO CAN JOIN

Therefore, the following companies are encouraged to sign up for SPARK:

- SME Participants of the UN Global Compact (with less than 250 employees); **and**
- Suppliers of large companies participating in the UN Global Compact (that may not be part of the Global Compact themselves).

Please note that registrations are free and open year-round.

TAILORED MODULES FOR 2025

» **Mix of self paced courses on and live sessions, including new global and regional deep-dive sessions**

Foundations of Sustainability for SMEs

Developing a Sustainability Strategy

- ❑ Setting measurable sustainability goals
- ❑ Building a sustainable business model

Implementing Sustainable Practices

- ❑ Accessing finance & funding opportunities
- ❑ Sustainable Supply Chain Management.

Measuring and Scaling Impact

- ❑ Scaling Sustainability Initiatives Across Your Business
- ❑ Tracking Progress and Reporting Sustainability Initiatives

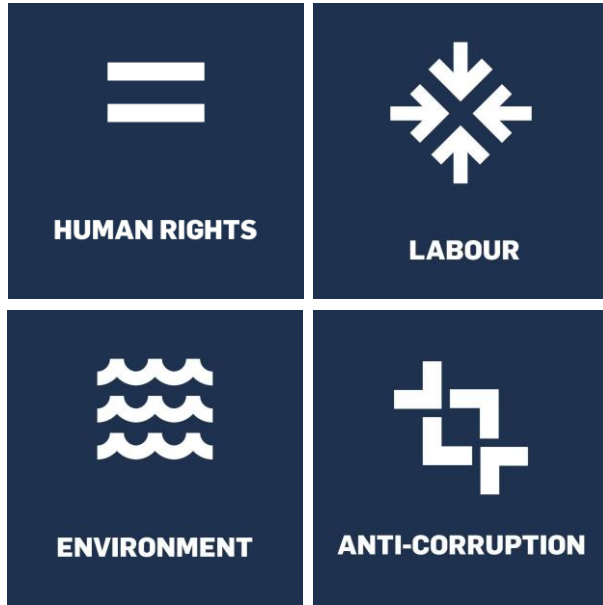
» **Ongoing enrollment throughout the year. All participants receive certificates of completion.**

THE UN GLOBAL COMPACT: STRATEGIC AMBITION

Accelerate and scale the global collective impact of business by upholding the Ten Principles and delivering the SDGs through ambitious, accountable companies and environments that enable change



Enhancing MSMEs' contribution to SDGs





United Nations Global Compact

www.unglobalcompact.org
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