



**Global Compact**  
Network Netherlands

# UN GLOBAL COMPACT NETWORK NETHERLANDS

---

2022 Annual Report



**June 2023**

# UN GLOBAL COMPACT NETWORK NETHERLANDS

## ANNUAL REPORT 2022



2. **FOREWORD**
3. **OUR MISSION**
4. **STRATEGIC REVIEW 2022**
5. **2022 AT A GLANCE**
6. **UN GLOBAL COMPACT WORLDWIDE**
7. **PROGRAMMATIC ACTIVITIES**
8. **EVENTS**
9. **PARTICIPANT SNAPSHOT**
10. **MEDIA & BRAND**
11. **SDG YOUNG LEADERS NETWORK**
13. **LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS**
14. **OUR SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS**
15. **FINANCIAL OVERVIEW**
16. **STRATEGY 2022-2024 IMPACT INDICATORS**

## FOREWORD

2022 was filled with enormous global challenges: the recovery from COVID-19, the climate crisis, and the Russian invasion of Ukraine, with global impacts across food, finance, and energy systems.

More than ever there is a role for the business community to commit to values like international solidarity and to improve their sustainable long-term value creation. It is no coincidence that many policy developments are now addressing the responsibility of business, like the CSRD and CSDDD. UN Global Compact Network Netherlands has responded to these developments by taking a leadership position, offering an increased value proposition to facilitate the acceleration and upscaling of companies' impact and creating new partnerships.

We reached a historic milestone by re-organizing our local network to become a fit-for-purpose network, independent from the former host organization VNO-NCW. Linda van Beek - who has led the organisation from 2019 until May 2023 - can be proud of these achievements. I am grateful for the work she has done these past years and look forward to leading the organisation as the first full-time Executive Director to create an even more impactful network of responsible and sustainable companies.

Besides Linda I would like to thank the current team: Jamie, Jan, Julia, Julie, Marco, and Monica for their fantastic work last year and thank the Board and our participants for their engagement with UN Global Compact Network Netherlands.



*Merei Wagenaar, Executive Director*

# OUR MISSION

UN Global Compact Network Netherlands aims to **accelerate and upscale the positive impact** of the Dutch business community on the SDGs with the purpose of improving the lives of current and future generations.

The United Nations Global Compact is uniquely positioned to support companies on their sustainability journey. Together with 21,000+ companies covering 101 countries, the **Local Networks of UN Global Compact** advance corporate sustainability at the national level. We work together as a global family to achieve common goals.

Guided by the **Ten Principles** and the **17 Global Goals** we facilitate accountable companies and stakeholders in their ambition to translate sustainability commitments into concrete actions. We believe we have a responsibility to move business faster and farther in making and demonstrating progress on the Ten Principles and the 2030 Agenda.

UN Global Compact Network Netherlands **stimulates and facilitates the creation of impactful connections** and supports business, stakeholders, and future leaders to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

*Because we believe by working together,  
we can accelerate and upscale our impact*



# STRATEGIC REVIEW 2022: BUILD, REACH, ENGAGE



The past year UN Global Compact Network Netherlands focused on becoming 'Fit For Purpose'. With the **2022-2024 strategy** providing direction, we made significant steps in our Build ambition, and started with our Reach and Engage ambitions for 2023-2024.

To pursue our mission, our organization must be resourceful and professional. To that end we expanded our team with a Participant Engagement Manager, a second Program Manager, and a full-time Executive Director. In June 2022, we welcomed four new Board Members. With their experience and diverse backgrounds we further strengthened our governance.

An important project throughout 2022 was preparing the decoupling from the Dutch Employers' Federation VNO-NCW and establishing a new MoU. As of January 1st, 2023, we are operationally independent. We would like to express our gratitude for all the operational support we received from VNO-NCW since 2011. We look forward to strengthening our strategic collaboration. The decoupling put the local network in a position to become a fit for purpose network and to use the designation of UN in our new name 'UN Global Compact Network Netherlands'.

There has been important progress on our *Reach* and *Engage* pillars. We launched our fifth and newest Accelerator program on Business & Human Rights with our partner the Social and Economic Council (SER). With 27 companies registering locally and 800 globally, it is our most popular program to date.

Besides the SER, we initiated new partnerships with UN Women and the Reward Value Foundation. Furthermore, many well-known large Dutch companies joined the UN Global Compact in 2022, such as Boels Rental, Royal Avebe, ASM International, and IMCD Group.

Finally, in 2022 we opened the UN Global Compact Academy to all employees of participating companies. This online learning platform is an important element of building our profile as a Centre of Excellence in the Netherlands on sustainable business.

## ENGAGE AMBITION

- Influence and facilitate ambition on priority issue areas
- Promote action and accountability among members
- Measuring our impact

## REACH AMBITION

- Recruit leading companies in underrepresented industries, and activate small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to build a 'critical mass'
- Partner strategically for impact, primarily with the government and business associations
- Be seen as a Centre of Excellence in the sustainable business community

## BUILD AMBITION

- To become a 'Fit For Purpose' Local Network:
  - Be the Centre of Excellence in the NL on business alignment with the SDGs and Ten Principles
  - Strategically and operationally independent
  - A resourceful and professionally diverse team
  - Strong governance with fully engaged board

# 2022 AT A GLANCE

## 2022 was the year of transition the organization and becoming a fit for purpose network

- Preparation of new global business model and new fee structure (all members become participants).
- New Communication on Progress (early adopter programme)
- Expansion of the team and more service to members.

## 2022 was the year of more visibility

- New video serie 'Phases of the Global Goals'
- Expansion of the SDG Flag Campaign
- Iris van Wanrooij became the Global SDG Pioneer in Supply Chain Sustainability

## 2022 was the year of addressing leadership on key-topics

- Shared call with UNHCR for companies to support Ukrainian refugees
- Preparing the companies on new legislative developments, like due diligence legislation
- 10th Anniversary of the Children's Rights and Business Principles (CRBPs) with round table and discussion paper
- Supporting the development of Principles on Responsible Remuneration of Reward Value Foundation

## 2022 was the year of more engagement of our members

- Roll out of all existing accelerators and launch of a new accelerator on business & human rights
- Academy open to all companies committed to UN Global Compact
- Increased engagement of our Young Professionals, with the SDG Young Leaders Network and the 5 year anniversary of the Young Professionals Program.



# UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT WORLDWIDE



## 2022 highlights include:

- Finalizing the new Communication on Progress (CoP)
- Expanding and deepening our presence with more country managers and growth plan
- Investments in monitoring & evaluation, shifting focus on impact
- A step-up in our offering for SMEs
- Elevated positioning of the initiative with the UN system

Read our global Annual Report [here](#).



### MOBILIZE PRIVATE SECTOR IN TIMES OF CRISIS

Urgent Call for Business Action in Ukraine

Collaborated with OCHA on the Business Guide: Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis



### INCREASED REACH & VISIBILITY

**12,000+** attendees at global, hybrid flagship

**1,850** locally organized convenings, engaging **21,000+** companies

**40%** increase in social media engagement

**90%** of surveyed companies confirmed that the UN Global Compact has helped them advance corporate responsibility policies



### CONTINUED GROWTH

**101** countries with UN Global Compact presence, **66%** developing countries

**18,000+** companies and **3,000** non-business participants, representing nearly every sector and size.



### SCALED ENGAGEMENT

**89** organizations in **30** countries drove collective thought leadership through Think Labs

**56,000+** participants across **180+** countries in the Academy, guiding companies on their sustainability journey

**1,975+** companies in **60+** countries joined Accelerators to embed SDG-aligned practices into business operations and across the value chain



### RENEWED FOCUS ON AFRICA

Global Africa Business Initiative launched to highlight the powerful business ecosystem in Africa

**56** CEOs representing companies from **9** African countries joined the Africa Business Leaders Coalition (ABLC)

ABLC released a Climate Statement with concrete actions for Africa on climate at COP27



### ACCELERATING AMBITION

**1638** companies set 1.5C and/or net-zero targets approved by SBTi

**17** CEO Water Mandate endorsers report implementing Contextual Water Targets, with **32** companies reporting targets and action plans for areas of high water stress.

**153** companies signed to the Sustainable Ocean Principles

**245** companies set targets & corresponding policies to increase women's representation

# PROGRAMMATIC ACTIVITIES



- 4 Programs
- 73 Participants
- 37 companies

On the priority themes we help companies in their sustainability journey. Our funnel of activities helps companies in these different phases of sustainability and influences and facilitates their ambitions on the priority issue areas. We are using different methods: learning, connecting, collaborating, accelerating impact and communicating. By joining these activities, companies, both MNEs and SMEs, are able to take action and increase and show their accountability. Our output model is based on the potential impact on the Ten Principles and the SDGs, which is measured.

<b>Climate Action</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2022 we facilitated the <a href="#">Climate Ambition Accelerator Accelerator</a> together with UN Global Compact Network UK. (16 participants from 9 companies)</li> <li>• We engaged with the Dutch government, including participation of the Dutch Climate Envoy in our General Assembly</li> <li>• Academy e-learning on the Science Based Targets initiative performed best of all Academy courses.</li> </ul>
<b>Human Rights</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaboration with Dutch government, SER and other stakeholders to increase the commitment to the OECD guidelines and UN Guiding Principles, webinars to inform companies about related business topics.</li> <li>• Launch of <a href="#">Business and Human Rights Accelerator</a>.</li> </ul>
<b>Gender Equality</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We facilitated the <a href="#">Target Gender Equality Accelerator</a> together with UN Global Compact Network Denmark (19 participants from 10 organizations)</li> <li>• We developed partnerships with UN Women and others on the WEPs, including collaboration on the Orange the World campaign and Ring the Bell event.</li> </ul>
<b>Governance &amp; Sustainable Finance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Involved in the development of Principles on Responsible Remuneration.</li> <li>• Boosting participation of NL companies and FIs in <a href="#">CFO Coalition for the SDGs</a>.</li> </ul>
<b>Young Professionals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <a href="#">Young Professional Program</a> (YPP) celebrated a lustrum, 5 years influencing the next generation of leaders with an inspiring video of former YPP participants. Furthermore, two new YPP rounds were launched in June and November of 2022. (23 participants from 12 organizations)</li> <li>• The SDG Young Leaders Board finished its strategy and organized events for Young Professionals, and increased participation in the <a href="#">SDG Young Leaders Network</a></li> </ul>
<b>SME Activation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Started conversations with sectoral federations to activate SMEs, and organized an event about sustainable shipping with KVN.R.</li> <li>• Conversations with government and other stakeholders to develop the SME tool.</li> </ul>
<b>SDG Implementation &amp; Ten Principles</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2022 we facilitated another round of the <a href="#">SDG Ambition Accelerator</a> (15 participants from 9 companies)</li> <li>• Upscaled the SDG flag campaign to an international level with colleagues from the UK and Switzerland &amp; Liechtenstein</li> </ul>

# EVENTS

## Highlights QUARTER 1 & 2 2022

JANUARY - JUNE

### Right-Holder Engagement during Human Rights Due Diligence

Webinar | 25 January 2022

This session provided a practical overview for business practitioners on how to identify the right-holders across the HRDD process, understand their concerns, and decide on the level of engagement with them.

### Ring the Bell for Gender Equality

Event | 8 March 2022

The initiative is a partnership between the UN Global Compact, IFC, Sustainable Stock Exchanges (SSE) initiative, UN Women, the World Federation of Exchanges and Women in ETFs to raise awareness about the business case for women's economic empowerment and the opportunities for the private sector to advance gender equality and sustainable development.

### Women's Empowerment Principles and the Business Case

Webinar | 24 March 2022

In this webinar, Global Compact, Plan International Netherlands, UN Women Netherlands and WEP signatories talked about the essence of WEPs and the concept of empowerment in the workplace.

### Netherlands: Kick-off UN Global Compact Leaders Summit 2022

Webinar | 31 May 2022

Organized by GCNL, this webinar aimed to gather all the registrants to the United Nations Global Compact Leaders Summit 2022 from the Netherlands and go through the highlights of this year's agenda.

### LEADERS SUMMIT LIVE

Online Global Event | 1-2 July 2022

The annual Summit introduced a combination of inspiring plenary sessions, digital exhibitions, interactive workshops, and virtual networking opportunities, featuring innovative examples of how ambitious business leadership is unlocking new opportunities for scalable solutions, while driving impact on the ground.

### Shaping an Inclusive, Sustainable, and Free Economy in Europe

Conference | 17 June 2022

GCNL and Socires organized this exclusive event and series of table discussions around the Balkenende Report on the Future of the Market Economy in Europe for young professionals from the international and Dutch business community at Pakhuis de Zwijger.

## Highlights QUARTER 3 & 4 2022

JULY - DECEMBER

### Uniting Business LIVE 2022

Online Global Event | 19-21 September 2022

Uniting Business LIVE connected the high-level multi stakeholder dialogues of the Private Sector Forum, the Global Impact Forum and leadership examples of the SDG Business Forum, into one inclusive, impactful and innovative virtual event.

### Fostering SDG-alignment of SMEs: Path to Financial Success

Webinar | 22 September 2022

In this webinar, speakers from PwC, Clifford Chance, EMMA Safety Footwear, InvestNL, and Nunner Logistics discussed the ESG regulations SMEs are facing, how to measure your progress on the sustainability themes and show your SDG ambitions, and how can SDG alignment ultimately help SMEs to become more financially attractive.

### SDG Action Days & SDG Flag Day 2022

Session & Campaign | 23-27 September 2022

GCNL hosted a session on "Jonge Talenten in Actie voor de SDG's" at the SDG Action Day, inciating roundtable discussions around 3 different topics. The Local Network also invited its members and partners to participate in the Raise the SDG Flag Challenge in collaboration with AWorld, the official app in support of the UN ACTNOW campaign.

### Setting Sail for Sustainable Shipping with KVNR

Conference | 29 Sep 2022

UN Global Compact Network Netherlands and Royal Association of Netherlands Shipowners (KVNR) hosted an in-person event for professionals from the Dutch maritime sector to discuss what the Dutch shipping sector needs to do in order to accelerate and scale up its sustainability efforts.

### Stakeholder Engagement Workshop for Young Professionals

Workshop | 11 Oct 2022

At Dow Chemical, GCNL facilitated a workshop on how business collaborate with different stakeholders to transform conventional business models into sustainable business models and create long term value.

### Roundtable: Mapping Businesses' Influence On Children's Rights

Roundtable | 28 Nov 2022

In the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Children's Rights and Business Principles (CRBPs), Save the Children, UN Global Compact and UNICEF brought together a group of stakeholders from various sectors, including businesses, government, academia, youth leaders, international organizations, and others committed to protecting children's rights.





# PARTICIPANT SNAPSHOT



UN Global Compact Network Netherlands experienced a boost in new participants in 2022 and now has a participant base comprised of:

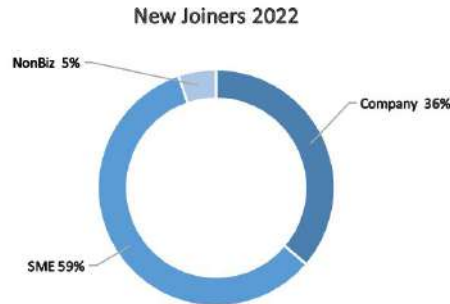
- Business Participants: **253**
- Non-business Participants: **36**
- **Total Participants: 289**

## GROWTH

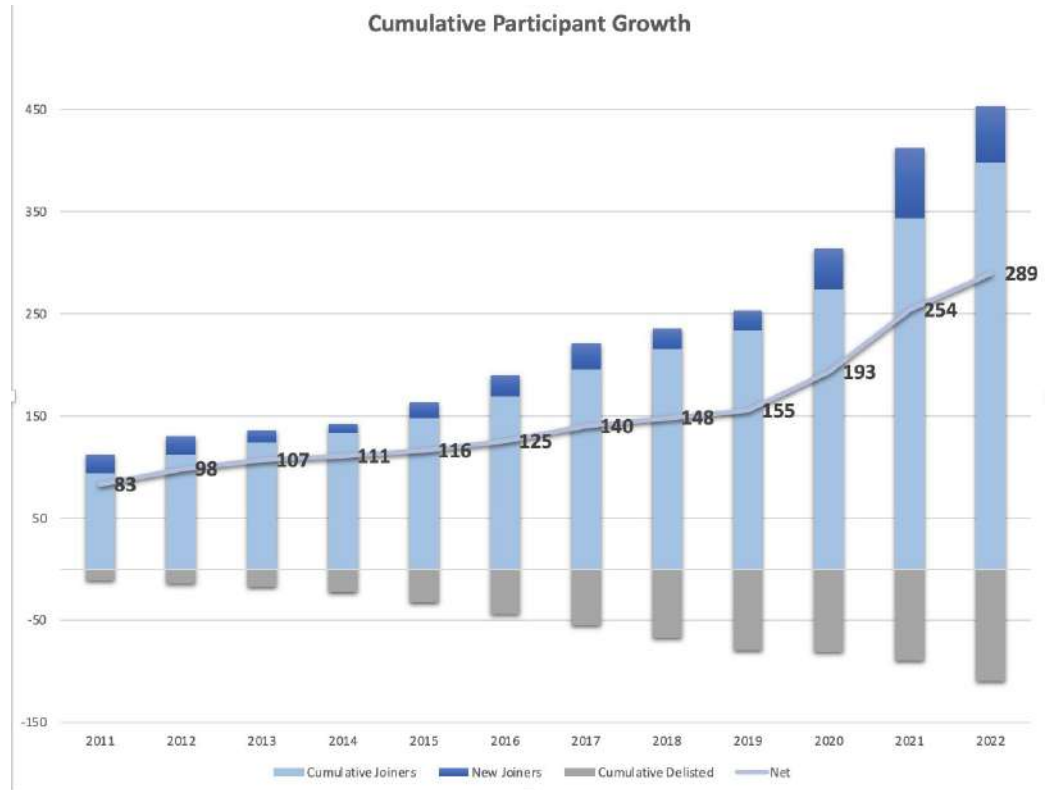
During 2022 **58 new organizations joined** the Global Compact Network NL. This resulted in an annual growth in participants of **13%**.

## Delistings

**22 organizations delisted** in 2022.



Cumulative Participant Growth



Year after year, UN Global Compact Network Netherlands experiences great growth in their online presence and community. Initiatives such as events, new reports, and new participants, generated more website visitors and social media followers. In this past year, we've also started sharing more content from our participants with articles on our website.

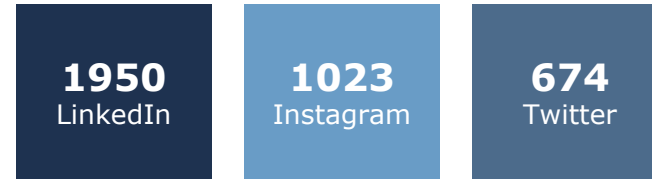
## WEBSITE VISITORS



In 2022, we reached 37.405 website visitors. Compared to the amount of visitors of 2021, the number visitors grew with 82%

## FOLLOWERS

The UN Global Compact Network Netherlands social media channels grew with more than 900 followers. The number of followers increased by 34% from 2021.



## REACH ON SOCIAL MEDIA





**Global Compact**  
Network Netherlands

**SDG YOUNG LEADERS** NETWORK

## We are on a mission!

Our vision is to create an inclusive world in which every organisation has sustainability at its core.

We are on a mission to mobilise young professionals to anchor and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in their organization through connection, education, and to go beyond.

### Who are we?



**Lievijne  
Neuteboom**  
European Banking Authority,  
Women in Financial Services



**Orçun  
Ersungur**  
Invest-NL



**Bas  
Ooteman**  
Climate Neutral Group



**Mpanzu  
Bamenga**  
Regiegroep Ongedocumenteerden  
Amsterdam, INCLEADERS



**Firas  
Abdulhasain**  
Philips



**Jaïri  
Terpstra**  
Unilever

**Roxanne  
van Rijn**  
Strategiemakers

**We had a successful 2022**  
**3 Meet Ups**  
**250+ members**  
**150+ Meet Up participants**  
**730+ followers on LinkedIn**



**Global Compact**  
**Network Netherlands**

**SDG YOUNG LEADERS NETWORK**



# LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS

UN Global Compact Network Netherlands plays a key-role in the Dutch ecosystem to accelerate the Sustainable Development Goals.

Among others, UN Global Compact Network Netherlands partners are: VNO-NCW, MKB-Nederland, Groene Groeiers, AmCham, Dutch Sustainable Growth Coalition, MVO Nederland, NBCC, SDG Nederland, B-lab, Partos, VNG, duurzaam-ondernemen.nl, KVNOR, KPMG, Euronext, UN Women, NVVN, VBDO, ICC, PwC.

Examples of concrete results of these partnerships:

- Partnership with SDG Netherlands at the organization of the **SDG Action Day** on 27 September 2022.
- Collaboration in events with **VNO-NCW** (workshop at the Bilderberg conference, working session about transformative governance related to the World Justice Forum)
- Ring the Bell initiative on International Womens Day in partnership with Euronext and UN Women.
- Partnership with Social Economic Councils (SER) on the business & human rights accelerator
- Contribution to the **6th national SDG report**, a joint SDG survey showed the engagement of Dutch companies on the SDGs.
- Collaboration with the **Royal Association of Netherlands Shipowners (KVNOR)** on an event for professionals from the Dutch maritime sector.



# OUR SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS

---



Our own sustainability efforts are aligned with the dedication and standards we expect from our members. By walking the talk and embedding social and environmental sustainability within our own organisation, we demonstrate our commitment to a more sustainable world.

Our efforts in 2022 include:

## DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

We are committed to promoting and respecting diversity, equity, and inclusion in our workforce and our external stakeholder community. We believe that having a diverse workforce and fostering an inclusive culture where everyone feels valued and able to fully express themselves is a key element of a successful business. Some examples of actions we have taken include:

- Inclusive communication and marketing. We prioritise inclusive and accessible digital marketing and communication materials. For example, our website uses an accessibility widget that allows users to adapt web content to their individual accessibility needs.
- Speaker Diversity. Under the Panel Pledge all UN Global Compact Network Netherlands staff do not take part in or host panels composed only of men.

## CLIMATE ACTION

To contribute to global efforts to tackle climate change and achieve the Paris Agreement, we aim to align our operations with a net-zero scenario. Some examples of actions we have taken are:

- We rent our offices in a building with the highest NL energy label (A++)
- Only providing vegetarian and vegan options at events and activities we organize.
- For short distances in Europe our colleagues travel by train.

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



	<b>2022 BUDGET</b>	<b>2022 ACTUALS</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	€388.500	€467.007
<b>TOTAL COST</b>	€455.925	€382.388
<b>TOTAL RESULT</b>	-€67.425	€84.619

<b>FINANCIAL RESERVES PER 31/12/2022</b>	€218.112
--	----------

## INCOME

Overall income for 2022 was approximately €467k, exceeding the budget of €388k. UN Global Compact Network Netherlands received more income from annual contributions due to a growth in companies joining the UN Global Compact. Furthermore, we have realized a significant reduction in the number of outstanding invoices.

## EXPENSES

Overall expenses for 2022 was approximately €382k, staying within the budget of €455k. Throughout the year expenditures were fairly close to budget in most categories. Under budget spending in events and product development, coupled with higher than expected revenue, led to favorable financial results, with the UN Global Compact Network Netherlands ending the year with a surplus of approximately €84k.

## LOOKING FORWARD

With many changes in 2023, such as the new annual contribution model and the operational independency from VNO-NCW and due to the growth of the local network, the budget has increased significantly to €621k. These additional funds are allocated to human resources, (digital) marketing, programs, events, and new operational cost, for example renting office space. This way our finances supports the continuing growth of UN Global Compact Network Netherlands and the positive impact we want to achieve as laid out in the new mid-term strategy for 2022-2024.

# STRATEGY 2022-2024 IMPACT INDICATORS



	IMPACT INDICATORS	TARGETS
<b>Climate Action</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>% of business that have set <b>1.5°C aligned and/or net-zero targets</b> approved by the Science Based Targets initiative</li> <li>% of business tackling inequalities deepened by <b>climate change, by engaging on resilience, health and a just transition</b></li> </ul>	Critical Mass: 20%
<b>Human Rights</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>% of large companies with ongoing <b>human rights due diligence</b> processes in place</li> <li>% of large companies committed to implementing the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights / OECD guidelines</li> </ul>	75%
<b>Gender Equality</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>% of business that have <b>committed to the Women Empowerment Principles</b></li> <li>% of business with targets and corresponding policies and programs to increase <b>women's representation and leadership</b></li> </ul>	Critical Mass: 20%
<b>Governance &amp; Sustainable Finance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>% of business with executive remuneration linked to the Ten Principles</li> <li><b>SDG-aligned corporate investment</b> total and % of total corporate investment</li> </ul>	50%
<b>Young Professionals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of young professionals participating in the <b>SDG Young Leaders Network</b></li> <li># of companies participating in the <b>Young Professionals Program</b></li> </ul>	500 75
<b>SME Activation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of SMEs accessing learning and benchmarking curated resources (e.g. SME Tool and Academy)</li> <li># of industry coalitions / business associations for SMEs aligned to the Ten Principles and our areas of SDG focus</li> </ul>	1000 10
<b>SDG Implementation &amp; Ten Principles</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>% of member companies that have targets they believe are sufficiently ambitious to deliver Agenda 2030, that are science-based and/or align with societal needs.</li> <li>% of member companies engaged by/accessing program content on the Ten Principles and our areas of SDG focus</li> </ul>	90%





# Global Compact Network Netherlands

Follow us on social media @UN Global Compact Network Netherlands  
[www.gcnetherlands.nl](http://www.gcnetherlands.nl) // [info@gcnetherlands.nl](mailto:info@gcnetherlands.nl)