



United Nations Global Compact

April 2013

Letter to UN Global Compact participants

A JOINT CALL TO SCALE UP EFFORTS FOR THE ELIMINATION OF CHILD LABOUR

Having just celebrated the one year anniversary of the launch of the Children's Rights and Business Principles (12 March), we are writing to invite you to consider what more you can do to help deliver a world fit for all children.

The Children's Principles elaborate the corporate responsibility to respect and invite the corporate commitment to support human rights in the workplace, marketplace and community, with a focus on children. One of the key themes is the effective abolition of child labour, which is also Principle 5 of the UN Global Compact. Both of these are underpinned by the International Labour Organization's Minimum Age Convention No. 138 and Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention No. 182. Eliminating child labour is in all our interests and we all have a role to play to achieve it.

The International Labour Organization has estimated that there are 215 million children around the world who are in some form of child labour. As many as a quarter of all children out of school globally are denied an education because they are forced to work instead.

By contrast, when children have access to quality education, child labour prevalence is greatly reduced and economic and social development is promoted. Time is running out to meet the 2015 deadline for the internationally agreed Millennium Development Goal on universal primary education for boys and girls, and the 2016 deadline for the elimination of the worst forms of child labour.

Effectively addressing child labour within your own operations and value chain is a concrete and core business way that businesses can contribute towards this goal. Investment in education is also a key opportunity for business to reinforce community and government efforts to protect and fulfill children's rights and help to secure all our future.

At a special meeting in April in Washington DC, we are calling for a new global commitment and action through the United Nations to abolish all forms of child slavery by the end of 2015, in order to meet the education goal of the MDGs. To this end, as we mobilize to accelerate progress towards 2015, we invite you to:

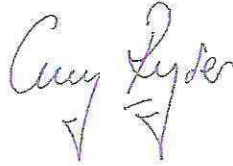
- (a) consult the resources in the attachment to raise your awareness;
- (b) acknowledge receipt of this letter by emailing humanrights@unglobalcompact.org with a brief example of what your firm is doing or plans to do, or with your words of support;
- (c) step up your efforts to respect and support children's rights in alignment with the Children's Principles;
- (d) consider making a commitment about your plans and actions at <http://www.business.un.org/en/documents/educationfirst>; and
- (e) consider joining the ILO/UN Global Compact Child Labour Platform (http://www.unglobalcompact.org/Issues/Labour/Child_Labour_Platform.html).

Please join us in this global effort to move thousands of children from deprivation and exploitation to quality education.

Our warmest wishes,



Gordon Brown
UN Special Envoy for Global
Education



Guy Ryder
Director-General
International Labour Organization



Georg Kell
Executive Director
UN Global Compact Office