UN Global Compact Integrity Policy Update
Updated 12 September 2017

Following a comprehensive integrity review as part of its new 2030 strategy and vision, the United Nations Global Compact has enhanced its policies and procedures to more closely align with the broader UN system. A number of updates have been agreed with the UN Global Compact Board.

Effective 12 September 2017, the UN Global Compact will increase scrutiny of companies upon entry into the initiative, review engagement with existing participants, and institute new exclusionary criteria for companies involved in certain high-risk sectors – including the production and manufacture of tobacco products, and nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons.

Participating companies whose business involves manufacturing or producing tobacco products will be delisted effective 15 October 2017. Likewise, companies involved in the sale, production, manufacturing, possession, distribution and/or transport of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons will be delisted. (Currently, the UN Global Compact excludes from participation companies involved the production of landmines and cluster bombs.)

The new exclusions do not fundamentally change the UN Global Compact’s nature; rather the adjustment simply aligns with the policies of the majority of UN agencies, which restrict partnerships and engagement with companies from these sectors. As the UN Global Compact implements its new 2020 strategy, enhancing the integrity of the initiative is critical to maintaining its trusted role in defining corporate sustainability leadership in support of the Sustainable Development Goals.

For more information on the new integrity policy, please see here.

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