



Network India

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR GOVERNANCE, ETHICS AND TRANSPARENCY
[Promoting Corporate, Urban, Environmental, and Health Governance]

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Anti-Corruption Collective Action Initiatives in India: UNGC-GCNI

Standing committed to the fight against corruption by promoting transparency, integrity, and accountability in business, UN Global Compact Network India (UN GCNI) has been taking diverse initiatives for over a decade and helping diverse sectors (Govt, Corporate, Academia, CSOs, etc.) to improve and strengthen transparency, governance and ethical practices in their business which has proved as an effective tool for them to fight corruption within the sectors and the nation as whole.

The UN Global Compact Network India (UN GCNI) is continuously and effectively serving as a Project Local Network (LN) for India under the Anti-Corruption Collective Action Initiative of the UN Global Compact (UNGC) towards promoting public-private cooperation in fighting corruption.

UN GCNI has been implementing two major Anti-Corruption Collective Action (AC CA) Initiatives with support from UNGC. Under AC CA initiatives, UN GCNI has carried out the following activities in the months of February 2022 and March 2022.

Scaling-Up Anti-Corruption Collective Action within Global Compact Local Networks



UN GCNI conducted a meeting with the Anti-Corruption Collective Action (AC CA) Working Group on 15th March 2022 wherein the status of the development of the project roadmap report was discussed. Further, Dr. Somnath Singh, Programme Manager, GCNI guided the ACCA working group with the contents of the project roadmap report. As a result, the ACCA Working Group has come out with a draft roadmap report which was further shared with UNGC.

Advancing Collective Action against Corruption through Global Compact Local Networks



UN Global Compact Network India (UN GCNI) has been chosen to be part of a new Anti-corruption Collective Action Project “Golden Stretch Round of the Siemens Integrity Initiative”, led by the Foundation for the Global Compact (UNGC). The three-year project titled - 'Advancing Collective Action against Corruption through Global Compact Local Networks', commenced on Oct 1, 2021 and Ten Global Compact Local Networks (GCLNs) are the part of this project, including India.

UN GCNI hosted the Kick-Off Meeting with Anti-Corruption Collective Action (AC CA) stakeholders on February 18, 2022, to effectively launch the project in India and sought to raise stakeholders’ awareness on Anti- Corruption Collective Action wherein over 30 nominated officials from diverse relevant sectors participated and shared their knowledge, capacity, and insights to support the ACCA project of GCNI. The meeting was hosted and moderated by Mr. Arya Dev, Programme Analyst, GCNI.

The meeting ensured representation from Businesses, CSOs, and Academia /Research Institutes. LN representatives from Bangladesh and other like-minded stakeholders discussed the significance, need, and possible initiatives to promote transparency and accountability through Collective Action in India. Members from the ACCA Working Group formed under the Third Round also participated in the meeting and shared their perspectives on developing new initiatives for ACCA in India.



UN GLOBAL COMPACT

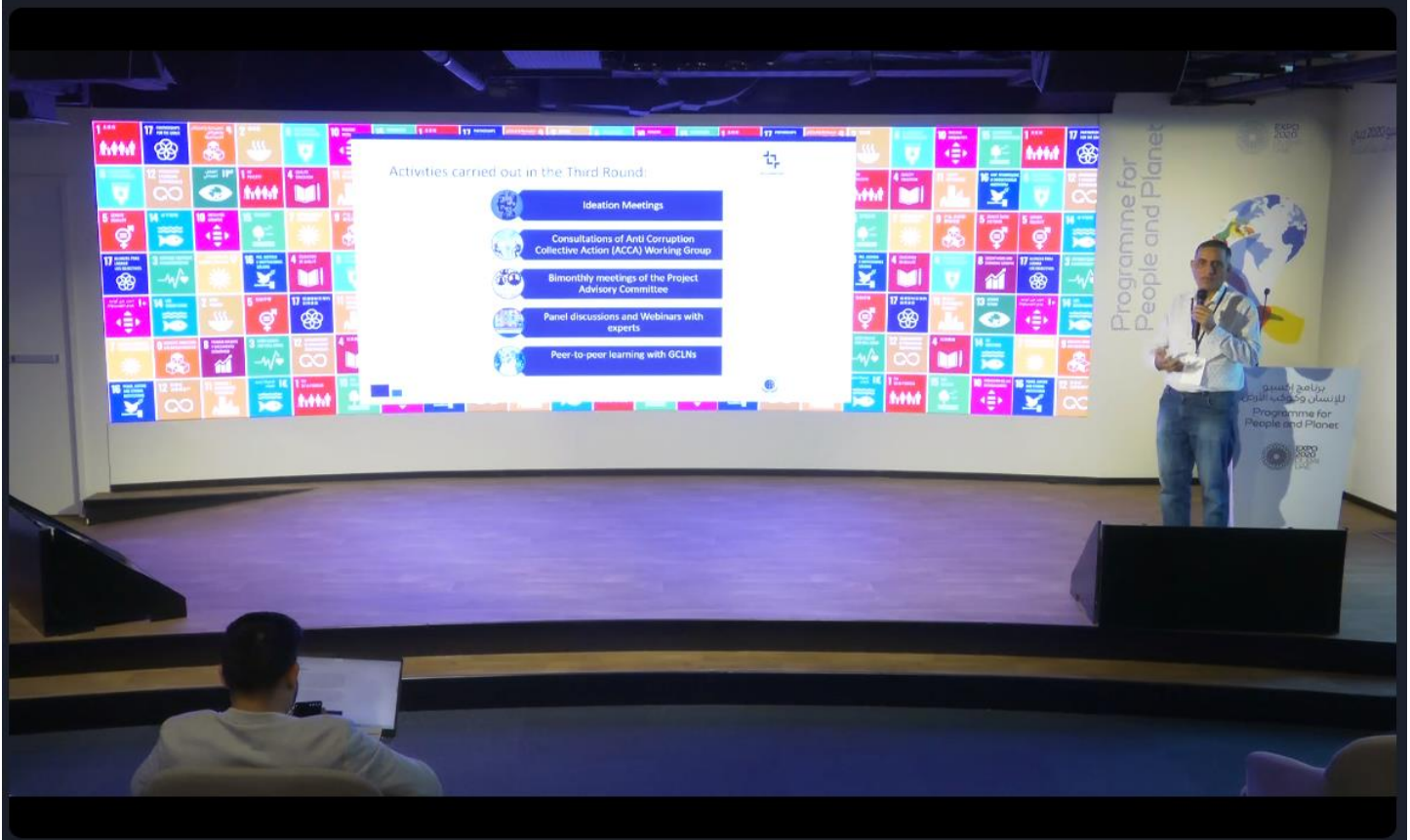
Annual Local Network Forum

28-31 March 2022



On the other hand, GCNI also participated in Annual Local Networks Forum (ALNF) 2022 conference organized by UNGC from 27 to 31 March 2022 in Dubai UAE. Mr. Aseem Kumar, Officiating Executive Director, GCNI represented Global Compact Network, India at the conference.

ANTI-CORRUPTION COLLECTIVE ACTION TRAINING SESSION



UNGC organized a one-hour training-the-trainers session on “Uniting against corruption: A Playbook on Anti-Corruption Collective Action” attended by its project networks partners both from SII Third Funding Round and Golden Stretch Round projects. The session featured an Introduction to collective action, an overview of the playbook and how to conduct training workshops on its content as well as local network examples. The session was followed by a 30-minute meeting for the networks under the SII Golden Stretch Round project to share achievements and upcoming activities/plans. Mr. Aseem Kumar attended an in-person meeting and shared the GCNI’s achievements and upcoming activities in SII Third Funding Round Project. Dr. Somnath Singh attended the session virtually and responded to the participant’s queries with regard to GCNI’s project and its focus on promoting transparency in the healthcare sector through collective action. Also, Dr. Somnath Singh attended the meeting virtually with Local Networks implementing SII Golden Stretch Round Project and shared GCNI’s achievements of the Golden Round Project.

Strengthening the Access to Rare Disease Treatment in India
Improving Early Access to Treatment by Rare Disease Patients through collective action



In October 2021, UN Global Compact Network India (UN GCNI), together with Takeda launched a national initiative for improving early access to treatment for Rare Disease Patients in alignment with the National Rare Disease Policy (NRDP) 2021. The joint rare disease initiative took charge of addressing the challenges to ensure access to treatment for rare disease patients waiting on the crowdfunding portal in an integrated manner.

Dr. Somnath Singh, Programme Manager, UN GCNI had various discussions and consultations with Govt (CoEs, MoHFW, etc.), PSUs, Corporates, and patient organizations. In order to strengthen collective action for addressing rare disease patients' challenges and improving their access to treatment, GCNI

had organized focussed roundtable meetings with potential stakeholders from across the sectors (1st Roundtable: Government - CSR Partners Collaboration to Support Persons living with Rare Disease” on January 28, 2022; 2nd Roundtable: Role of PSUs and Corporates in Achieving SDG 3 and UHC through Rare Disease Policy 2021).

The 6-months intensive initiative has been able to bring together stakeholder groups (private sector, PSUs, corporate giants, etc.) that can support mobilizing and operationalizing funding for the rare disease under CSR grants and donations for strengthening the existing crowdfunding mechanism and pathways set in the India Rare Disease Policy. Furthermore, it has created the roadmap for addressing rare disease funding requirements in alignment with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Department of Public Enterprises, and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt of India.

The key public and private sector eminent players engaged in the initiatives are Mr. Aseem Kumar, Officiating Executive Director, GCNI, Dr. L. Swasticharan, Additional Deputy Director-General, DGHS, MoHFW, and Dr. Madhulika Kabra, Professor, Division of Genetics, Department of Paediatrics, AIIMS, New Delhi (chairman of National Rare Disease Policy Committee), State representatives including Sri. Nisar Ahammed, Hon’ble Member Secretary of Kerala State Legal Services Authority (KELSA) & The District Judge, representatives from State level rare disease technical committees at the CoEs (SGPGI, Lucknow, KEM, Mumbai, SSKM, Kolkata, etc), and 24 PSUs and Corporate Leaders (BHEL, Bharat Petroleum, ONGC, etc).

Through the initiative, 300 stakeholders from the potential sectors including PSUs and Corporate leaders were reached, which has helped to generate a pool of insights and recommendations that will help in shaping the future of access to rare disease treatment in the country.

Cracking the New Labour Law Code: MSME Perspectives and Perceptions A Joint initiative of UNGCNI, AfIN, and PTFI

The poster features a background of people in white lab coats. The main title is "Cracking the New Labour Code: MSMEs Perspectives and Perception". Below it is the subtitle "1st Workshop - Legal Insights" and the theme "Understanding the legal provisions and what they demand of the MSMEs". Two speakers are listed: Mr. Suhas Tuljapurkar, Founder-Director of Legasis Pvt. Ltd, and Mr. Ramesh Sharma, Executive Director at Legasis Services Pvt. Ltd. The event is on 15 March, 2022, from 15:30 to 17:00 hrs (IST), via MS Teams | India, Online. Logos for German Cooperation, GIZ, Alliance for Integrity, and PTFI are at the bottom.

A joint initiative of the Alliance for Integrity, Partners for Transparency Foundation India (PTFI) and UN Global Compact Network India (UNGcNI)

**“Cracking” the New Labour Code:
MSMEs Perspectives and Perception**

1st Workshop - Legal Insights

Understanding the legal provisions and what they demand of the MSMEs

Speakers:

Mr. Suhas Tuljapurkar
Founder – Director,
Legasis Pvt. Ltd

Mr. Ramesh Sharma
Executive Director at
Legasis Services Pvt. Ltd

15 March, 2022
15:30 hrs – 17:00 hrs (IST)
MS Teams | India, Online

german cooperation
DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

giz

ALLIANCE FOR INTEGRITY

GLOBAL COMPACT NETWORK INDIA

PTFI PARTNERS FOR TRANSPARENCY FOUNDATION INDIA

India is set to implement 4 Labour Codes replacing 29 laws on Wages, Industrial Relations, Social Security and Occupational Safety, Health & Working Conditions. The new Labour Laws are set to usher

in reforms that will pave the way for the welfare of workers in both organized and unorganized sectors. They will also address workers' concerns in companies and would be an important driver for the success of MSMEs.

The Global Compact Network, India along with Partners for Transparency Foundation India (PTFI) and Alliance for Integrity (AfIN) had planned to organize a series of four workshops over the course of three months (Mar-May), aiming at - sensitizing SMEs with regards to changes within the freshly minted codes, capacity building of small businesses to understand these changes, which will help in strategy-development and creating action-plans to boost SME business.

The first workshop held on 15th March 2022 was on the 'Legal Insights' of this code, which aimed to understand the legal provisions of the law and its implications on MSMEs. Discussions were held around the new features of the code, especially its simplicity, which will boost the aspiration of the MSMEs, and the issues of integrity, transparency, and compliance within the code. Also, decriminalization of non-compliance, the relaxation of fines and penalties as well as consequences of non-compliant behaviour were taken into consideration. The impact of the code, the comparison between Indian and Western countries' codes as well as peer-reviewed and audited self-regulation are some of the areas discussed at the workshop. Around 100 people from across the sectors attended the session and provided their suggestions.

Responsible Business Conduct in International Supply Chain & Symposium on Responsible Business Practices: Opportunity and Challenges



Dr. Somnath Singh, Programme Manager represented UN Global Compact Network India (UN GCNI) at the Focus Group Discussion Workshop on 'Responsible Business Conduct in International Supply Chains' And Symposium on 'Responsible Business Practices: Opportunity and Challenges', organized jointly by the University of Applied Sciences, Chur, Switzerland, Mohan Lal Sukhadia University, Udaipur/India and Atmiya University, Rajkot/India on 22nd March 2022.

Prof. Christian Hauser, University of Applied Sciences, Chur, Switzerland moderated the session and he shared the outcomes of his research focusing on "The Approaches ensuring Responsible Business Conduct in International Supply Chain.

The discussion took place among the 20 experts from diverse sectors (Academia, CSO, Healthcare, Business) who shared their insights and views on how businesses can be made responsible and what approaches can help them in achieving responsible business conduct in line with International Supply Chains.

Dr. Somnath Singh shared that to ensure responsible business practices, each sector should ensure good governance, transparency, ethics, and collective action in their approaches. Also, he talked about the UN Global Compact Network India (UN GCNI) which aims to bring in diverse stakeholders on a common platform to exchange best practices, deliberate upon challenges, and make policy recommendations to promote responsible business standards, transparency, and ethics in general.

Further, Dr. Somnath Singh emphasized the role of responsible supply chains in the Healthcare Sector and how this practice can help in addressing corruption challenges. He shared that Corruption in the healthcare sector is an undeniable reality and arguably the most serious ethical crisis/issue today in India. The healthcare service is considered one of the most corrupt service sectors in India; Almost everybody in the country has been a victim of some form of graft or malpractice. Therefore, understanding corruption, its varied nature, and its adverse effects on health outcomes is necessary to steer clear of fraud, but also to devise effective strategies to tackle the menace and safeguard the moral vision of transparency and accountability.

Giving a brief overview of UNGC's supported Project "Scaling Up Anti-Corruption Collective Action within the Global Compact Networks", Dr. Somnath Singh shared that, under this project, GCNI is focusing on strengthening transparency in the healthcare ecosystem through value-based care in India and the collective action is the primary approach through which diverse sectors/supply chains are ethically engaged in removing/minimizing corruption in healthcare sectors. He also shared the kind of collective action initiatives taken by GCNI to strengthen Anti-Corruption Collective Action in India.

Dr. Somnath Singh also shared his views and insights on how local Indian suppliers (especially SMEs) can be enabled to conduct business in line with International Responsible Management Standards. He said that SMEs have now become the backbone of Indian GDP; SMEs integrate GVCs (Global Value Chains) as direct exporters (trading), upstream suppliers of exporting firms (supplying), or importers of foreign inputs and technologies (sourcing). They can also partner with multinational companies or become multinationals themselves.

He suggested the following steps to enable local Indian suppliers (SMEs) to conduct business in line with International responsible management standards –

- ✚ Enhance the capacity of SMEs (Impart training on International responsible Management standards).
- ✚ Provide opportunities and platforms to start international collaborations.
- ✚ Provide support and guidance to understand and follow due diligence and compliance processes.
- ✚ Establish a network between the Government and SMEs so that Govt can encourage them and their innovations; thus, they can get direct benefits from Govt schemes and programmes (Loan and grant programmes) to stimulate their business activities.

In the concluding remarks, Dr. Somnath Singh said that...

- Transparency is a very effective approach to ensure responsible business practices but constant positive efforts and collective action are required for desirable outcomes.
- Anti-corruption should be linked to responsible conduct, particularly for companies that are not directly covered under the US FCPA and UK Bribery Act.
- Supplier relationship management can be very useful in responsible business conduct in India.