



**FORWARD
FASTER**

Advancing Sustainable India
Driving Change with Forward Faster 2030

18th National Convention

 **February 23, 2024**

 **The Ashok, New Delhi**

THE WORLD'S LARGEST CORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE



United Nations
Global Compact

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CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The world is standing at the cusp of solid transformations especially in this midpoint era of achieving our Global 2030 goals. Global commitment to the SDGs is reflected in its convergence with the national development agenda as reflected in the motto of Collective Efforts for Inclusive Growth. Sustainability remains the priority despite multiple global challenges and impacts for today's world. The global, national and the local agenda is transitioning to circular business models, focusing on innovation for sustainability, digitizing business processes and focusing on creating an inclusive workforce.

The world is drastically behind where it needs to be to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030, but we need to make continuous efforts to embrace the path of embracing sustainability as both a competitive differentiator and a promising business model.

The pressing sustainability challenges have increased our vulnerability towards catastrophes, including pandemics. Now when we are stepping in the middle of the Decade of Action, drawing confidence from our past experience in addressing challenges, re-learning and refocusing our locus of action is most prudent. Currently the planet tryst with destiny rests in her own remarkable hands, as it always has been. In a land where the earth is called mother, the constitution and laws across the globe enshrine environmental care, commitment to net zero emissions should almost be foretold. It is not only the governments that are accelerating action on sustainability, event the business world is making efforts to protect the world and environment against the contemporary crises such as climate change, pollution, water scarcity among others. At the same time taking advantage of the massive opportunities arising from this vacuum such as making global economy shifts like that of the net zero emissions and switching to circular economy models.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Global business community recognises that there would not be a prosperous economy without the natural environment. Global studies documenting human ecological footprint, the decline in wildlife populations, and the conversion rates of natural ecosystems for other uses, place the planet in the highest rates of negative change. Today the business leaders agree that both cross-industry and cross-border collaboration can play a big role in expediting progress. Sustainability is an imperative today. It's also a foundation for growth. Sustainability is clearly at the top of the CEO agenda, as it protects companies across industries against the rising tide of uncertainty. CEOs aren't just talking about sustainability or viewing it as a regulatory compliance issue. They're also making real changes to their businesses to better engage with key stakeholders. The business leaders need to ensure they make sustainability an enterprise-wide concern and constantly review and refresh the existing strategy to define a well-planned and achievable roadmap.

International and domestic consortiums are scaling efforts for sustainability. However, certain roadblocks, the lack of relevant skills in the workforce, access to new technology and paucity of funding are limiting their progress towards realizing their sustainability ambitions. There are five key areas which Indian businesses can focus on to accelerate action and progress towards Agenda 2030. UNGC's new initiative "Forward Faster 2030" revolves around those most crucial thematic areas which are seen to have a long lasting impact on the fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goals.



FINANCE AND INVESTMENT



LIVING WAGE




GENDER EQUALITY



CLIMATE ACTION



WATER RESILIENCE



Climate Action: In order to limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, we need to cut emissions in half by 2030. In climate action, we are committed to:

- Set corporate science-based net-zero emissions reductions targets in line with a 1.5°C pathway, with the goal of halving global emissions by 2030 and reaching net-zero by 2050 at the latest
- Contribute to a just transition by taking concrete actions that address social impacts of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures in partnership with actors such as workers, unions, communities and suppliers.

Water Resilience: Right now, more than 2 billion people lack safe drinking water. It's estimated there will be a 40 per cent gap between available water and demand for water by 2030. In water resilience, we focus on:

- Building water resilience across global operations and supply chains and joining hands to achieve collective positive water impact in at least 100 vulnerable prioritized water basins by 2030

Finance and Investment: The world will need to spend between \$3 trillion and \$5 trillion annually to meet the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. For Sustainable Financing and Investment, we shall work to:

- Align corporate investment – to the fullest extent possible – with SDG policies and strategies, and set targets, track and report on the amount and proportion of such SDG investments
- Establishing a corporate financing strategy that is linked to SDG investments and performance, and report on the amount and proportion of such SDG finance

Living Wage: More than a billion working people worldwide or 1/3 of all workers are estimated to earning less than they need to afford a decent standard of living. In Living Wage, we are looking at:

- 100 percent of employees across the organization earning a living wage by 2030
- Establishing a joint action plan(s) with contractors, supply chain partners and other key stakeholders to work towards achieving living wages and/or living incomes with measurable and time-bound milestones

Gender Equality: At the current rate, it will take over 160 years to achieve gender equality in terms of women's economic empowerment and participation. In Gender Equality, we are focusing on:

- Equal representation, participation and leadership across all levels of management by 2030
- Equal pay for work of equal value by 2030



HUMAN RIGHTS



LABOUR



ENVIRONMENT



ANTI-CORRUPTION



Ambitious corporate action starts here. These 5 areas of action have been selected because they have the power to accelerate progress across all 17 Sustainable Development Goals, and are where the private sector can collectively make the biggest, fastest impact by 2030.

Though we are halfway through but not halfway done. We must be more ambitious. Forward Faster acts as a facilitating platform to guide companies on where they can make the biggest, fastest impact for 2030. The Forward Faster is seen to be an initiative where we must work collaboratively with all domestic and global stakeholders to accelerate efforts for a sustainable planet for future generations.

THE INDIAN CONTEXT:

Considering the Indian scenario, mostly the leaders believe that the timelines to achieve the Agenda 2030 are compressed. Therefore, collaboration both domestic and international are vital on their path to expedite progress. India's presidency of the G20 is also action oriented to accelerate the pace of sustainable growth over a period so that everybody benefits. India has also introduced an initiative to mobilize citizen's participation on sustainability by launching Mission LiFE²⁶ – (Lifestyle for Environment) in order to nudge its individuals to adopt the concept of reduce, reuse and recycle and a 'lifestyle of the planet, for the planet and by the planet.

India believes that the window of opportunity to turn things around is closing, but key actions can help. India anticipates to adopt the trajectory of Forward Faster 2030 in order to become the Satat and Sanatan Bharat (Sustainable) as envisioned by its nation leaders. Thus leading the way to an empowered, resilient, clean, healthy, inclusive, entrepreneurial and eventually prosperous India.

18TH NATIONAL CONVENTION



ABOUT THE 18th NATIONAL CONVENTION:

UN-Global Compact Network India is pleased to announce its 18th National Convention as a part of its continuous effort of bringing up and highlighting the most prudent issues of our times. This year the theme is “**Advancing Sustainable India: Driving Change with Forward Faster 2030**”, guiding companies on where they can make the biggest and fastest impact before 2030.

The Convention will focus on the thematic areas surrounding the subject of Climate Change, Gender Equality, Living Wage, Finance and Investment and Water Resilience. These selected areas of action have the power to accelerate progress across all 17 Sustainable Development Goals, and are where the private sector can collectively make the biggest, fastest impact by 2030. In addition to addressing the underlying issues, the discussions shall also pave the way for clear and credible roadways for approaching the midpoint of the Decade of Action thereby accelerating the transition towards sustainable, equitable, inclusive and just development models.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

- Chief Executives – CEOs/CXOs
- Business Leaders/Industry Experts
- Head – CSR/Policy & Engagement/ Partnership
- Policy Makers
- Entrepreneurs & Young SDG Professionals
- Manager CSR/ Social Inclusion
- Academicians, Researchers & Students
- NGO Leaders and Executives

OBJECTIVES



Understanding the correlation between the bold action on the faster forward themes and corporate value creation

Exchange of best practices, innovations championed by stakeholders for Fast forwarding the actions on global goals

Enhancing the Target 2030 lens to craft effective solutions for the benefit of all stakeholders

Providing a solitary platform to guide companies on where they can make the biggest, fastest impact for 2030

Promoting Collective learning & fostering collaborations for Inclusive & Sustainable Develop more sustainable future for all.



PARTNERS

Title Partner



Diamond Partner



Gold Partners



Corporate Contributors



Knowledge Partner



Event Partner



Memento Partner



SDG Outreach Partners



Academic Outreach Partners



About UN Global Compact Network India

As the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) local arm, UN GCNI has been acting as a country level platform in providing a robust platform for Indian businesses, academic institutions and civil society organizations to join hands for strengthening responsible business practices. Our '10 Principles in areas of Human Rights, Labor, Environment and Anti-corruption' provide a common ethical and practical Framework for Corporate Responsibility - and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted in September 2015, by all 195 Member States of the United Nations including India in order to end extreme poverty, gender inequality and injustice, and protect our planet- understood and interpreted by businesses around the world, regardless of size, complexity or location. UN Global Compact Network India acts as a nodal agency in providing a robust platform for businesses, non businesses, academic institutions, civil society organizations and also the state institutions to join hands for strengthening responsible practices and target the 2030 Global Goals. UN GCNI galvanizes an enabling environment for all the relevant stakeholders to drive the movement of Uniting Businesses for a better world.

For more information, visit our website at www.globalcompact.in.

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