



## **Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Selection of a 'Knowledge Partner' for the 21st National Convention**

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The United Nations Global Compact Network India (UN GCNI) is inviting proposals from consulting firms/ think tanks/ academic institutions of national and international repute for association as the 'Knowledge Partner' for the 21st National Convention 2026, scheduled on 18th December 2026 at New Delhi.

### **1. About UN GCNI**

The [United Nations Global Compact](#) (UNGC) is the world's largest voluntary corporate sustainability initiative. UNGC encourages businesses worldwide to adopt sustainable and responsible business practices aligned with the Ten Principles and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to report on their implementation. As the Indian arm, the [UN Global Compact Network India \(UN GCNI\)](#) localises this global agenda for the Indian context, serving as a leading platform for businesses, academic institutions, and civil society organisations to strengthen responsible and sustainable business practices.

For the past two decades, UN GCNI's annual flagship platform, National Convention, has been a critical platform for collective action, bringing together business leaders, policymakers, and industry experts to foster dialogue, catalyse partnerships, and showcase benchmark progress.

UN GCNI is organising the 21st edition of the pivotal platform, the **21st edition of the National Convention (NC) in New Delhi**, which will convene leaders from industry, government, academia, and civil society to focus on understanding business-specific systematic needs, finding and amplifying replicable best practices.

### **2. Proposed Convention Theme:**

**'Climate Action for Sustainable Future: Business Leadership in Biodiversity, Energy Transition, and Circular Economy'**.

The convention will focus on advancing corporate leadership and collaborative action across three key domains:

- **Biodiversity:** Integrating nature-positive strategies, conservation, and ecosystem restoration into business practices

- **Energy Transition:** Accelerating a socially sustainable shift towards renewable energy, decarbonization pathways, and net-zero commitments
- **Circular Economy:** Promoting resource efficiency, sustainable production and consumption, and waste reduction models

*[Please note that the proposed theme is indicative, and you are encouraged to explore the focus area (Climate Action & the three key domains) further and refine it based on in-depth industry research.]*

### 3. Objective of the RFP

UN GCNI invites proposals from reputed organisations/institutions to serve as a **'Knowledge Partner'** for the National Convention.

The Knowledge Partner will contribute to shaping the intellectual direction of the convention, ensuring that discussions are insightful, solution-oriented, and aligned with the central theme of **Climate Action**.

### 4. Scope of Work

The Knowledge Partner is expected to support UN GCNI for the below-mentioned scope till the period of 3 months post completion of NC 2026, which term may be mutually extended at the discretion of UN GCNI. The selected Knowledge Partner will be expected to:

#### 4.1 Thematic & Content Development

- **Analysis**
  - Current industry scenarios and trends.
  - Preparing a dedicated activity to understand the gaps, needs and best practices.
- **Strategy**
  - Formulate and execute the Strategy and Plan for amplifying the reach and strategic placement of NC 2026.
  - Identify investors and coordinate to schedule one-on-one meetings for sponsorship of the event.
  - Strategising minor pre-events to highlight the topic to be discussed at NC 2026.
- **Co-develop detailed sub-themes under:**
  - Climate Action & Corporate Leadership
  - Biodiversity & Nature-Positive Business
  - Energy Transition & Decarbonization
  - Circular Economy & Resource Efficiency
- Design session tracks reflecting emerging risks, opportunities, and innovations

#### 4.2 Speaker & Session Curation

- Identify and recommend domain experts, policymakers, and industry leaders

- Develop session concepts, panel structures, and discussion frameworks aligned with the three thematic pillars
- Support speaker onboarding and briefing
- Prepare draft speeches/ talking points

### 4.3 Knowledge Deliverables

- Prepare a **pre-event knowledge paper** focused on Climate Action and its three domains
- Develop **thematic briefs** for each pillar (Biodiversity, Energy Transition, Circular Economy)
- Prepare Event Report- summary of the preparation and build up to the event, the various activities of the event and the accomplishments of the event;
- Prepare letters of gratitude to different participants on behalf of UN GCNI.
- Provide minutes and action points for the business as key takeaways and way forward.
- Formulate the key takeaway for UN GCNI for the way forward.
- Develop and prepare knowledge content/material for various elements of the event, such as brochures, pamphlets, delegate kits, presentations and other materials to be used at various stages of the event execution.
- Create content for the website and social media for the event promotion and communication.

### 4.4 Strategic Advisory

- Ensure alignment with global frameworks such as:
  - UN Global Compact Principles
  - SDGs (especially SDG 7, 12, 13, 14, 15)
- Provide guidance on positioning the convention as a thought leadership platform on climate action

### 4.5 On-Ground Engagement

- Participate in the convention
- Support moderation or knowledge facilitation in thematic sessions

### 4.6 Manpower

- 3 Key Members (1 Team Lead, 2 Manager/ Assistant Managers). These team members should have the required experience

## 5. Eligibility Criteria

Interested organisations should meet the following criteria:

- Should have demonstrated expertise with at least 10 publications/thought leadership each in **climate action, biodiversity, energy transition, and/or circular economy**
- Should have handled consultancy assignments in India for at least 5 years.
- Should have experience of completing at least 3 projects in the area of consultancy work in Central/State Governments/PSUs/International Organisations/UN agencies.
- Strong track record in ESG, sustainability strategy, and research
- Experience as a knowledge partner for high-level conferences or policy dialogues
- Minimum Employee strength (consulting staff only, and excluding audit/ tax/ banking or other, non-consulting divisions) in India – 30.

## 6. Proposal Submission Requirements

Proposals should include:

- Organizational profile
- Relevant experience in climate and sustainability domains
- Proposed approach for thematic development aligned with the three pillars
- Team composition and key experts
- Samples of knowledge products/publications
- Timeline and deliverables plan
- Commercial proposal to be submitted in a password-protected document and shall be evaluated post-screening of the submitted proposal.

## 7. Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on:

SL No	Parameters	Description	Max points
1	Track record and the firm's experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Should have prior Knowledge Partner/ Consultancy experience in India for State Government/ Central Government/ UN agencies/ PSUs as a paid knowledge partner.</li> <li>● Experience of at least 5 National Conventions/ Submit as organiser/co-organiser/Knowledge partner.</li> </ul>	10 points
2	Expertise on Climate Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Should have published 5 key knowledge products on Climate Action- 4 points</li> <li>● Additional points for active</li> </ul>	25 points

		<p>projects on Biodiversity, Circular Economy and Energy Transition with the Central government/ State Government/ Institutions/UN agencies- 2 points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Min. 3 projects in India of duration 6 months or higher – 5 points</li> <li>• Every additional project - 2 points</li> </ul>	
3	Key Personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Depth of expertise in Climate Action and thematic pillars</li> <li>• Experts for the requirements outlined in the scope of work</li> </ul>	15 points
4	Proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding of the project and proposed approach</li> <li>• Quality of the proposed thematic approach</li> <li>• Strength of research and knowledge outputs</li> <li>• Overall value addition to the convention</li> <li>• Vision and Plan of the event</li> <li>• Ability to leverage national/international contacts at the senior level</li> <li>• Ability to secure overseas participation of Top CXOs</li> <li>• Ensuring participation of global speakers and panellists</li> <li>• Proposed resources</li> <li>• Any other matters showcasing value addition.</li> </ul>	50 points

## 8. Timelines

The timeline for the submission is given below:

Event	Date
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RFP Release Date	April 24, 2026
Submission Deadline	May 08, 2026
Evaluation & Shortlisting	May 12, 2026
Final Selection	May 15, 2026

## 9. Submission Details

Proposals should be submitted via email to: [arunima@globalcompact.in](mailto:arunima@globalcompact.in)

**Subject Line:** Proposal for Knowledge Partner – UN GCNI National Convention

## 10. Additional Information

- UN GCNI reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal without assigning any reason
- The selected Knowledge Partner will work closely with the UN GCNI Country Office.
- Detailed terms of engagement will be finalised post-selection

## 11. Contact Information

For any queries or clarifications, please contact:

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