

Tenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the UN Convention against Corruption

UN GLOBAL COMPACT STATEMENT

By: Ms. Sanda Ojiambo, ASG and CEO of the UN Global Compact

Excellencies, delegates, distinguished guests,

It is an honor to speak to you today.

I would like to thank you for your commitment to fostering transparency and upholding the principles that lie at the heart of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC).

Twenty years ago, UNCAC was born out of a recognition that corruption can only be addressed through unified efforts to tackle its root causes and prevent future crimes.

Addressing corruption is core to the work of the UN Global Compact. As many of you may know, the Tenth Principle of the UN Global Compact is about anti-corruption. It states that businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery, and we look forward to commemorating its 20th anniversary next year.

The private sector plays a pivotal role in stamping out corruption. And that is why I am pleased to share with you today that **500** companies are issuing a call to action. This Call-to-Action was developed during our 2023 Leaders Summit in New York this September, and has since been disseminated and signed by companies around the world.

The Call-to-Action urges Governments to underscore anti-corruption and good governance as fundamental pillars of a sustainable and inclusive global economy, embracing them as tenets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

It respectfully calls on Governments to:

Effectively implement the tenets of the UN Convention against Corruption to level the playing field, taking into account the diversity of contexts and the challenges faced by the business community worldwide. On that basis, strengthen policies, legal frameworks and mechanisms to incentivize business integrity in companies along the supply chain and to tackle impunity by detecting and sanctioning wrongdoing.

Increase the use of corporate sustainability criteria to advance SDG-focused business in Government decision-making processes, especially for investments and public procurement. In public-private interactions, strive for greater transparency, including in the management of conflicts of interest and through the prevention of undue influence.

Foster a Collective Action approach to strengthen governance and anti-corruption by means of public-private partnerships, dialogue and the engagement of all relevant actors to generate inclusive and innovative solutions for the broader benefit of people and the planet.

Leverage information and communication technology (ICT) along with artificial intelligence to manage corruption risks and make evidence-based decisions while strengthening oversight and transparency. To boost accountability, encourage the use of ICT to monitor, evaluate and report governance and anti-corruption efforts undertaken by the public and private sectors.

Promote the principles of ethical leadership in education by instilling skills that nurture the minds of future business leaders, ensuring their commitment to standards of fairness and integrity in the workplace of tomorrow.

This Call-to-Action is an appeal to Governments to step up efforts to tackle the corruption affecting business communities around the world, and to join forces in this endeavor.

Addressing corruption is a shared responsibility that requires Collective Action, and I hope you all will consider the voice of the private sector in your deliberations.

Now is the time for action.

Thank you.