

A GLOBAL COMPACT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
A Conference at the University of Notre Dame  
April 3-4, 2016

On Friday, September 25, 2015, the 193 Member States of the United Nations adopted the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a set of targets that address the most important economic, social and governance challenges of our time. The SDGs are a set of aspirations for the next 15 years defining the sort of world we want, a world without poverty, harmful inequality and injustice and with public health and education available for all (See the list of the SDGs at <http://www.unglobalcompact.org/what-is-gc/our-work/sustainable-development>).

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a rallying call for government officials, individuals, and businesses to rethink their policies and strategies and take action to move toward a better world. The United Nations Global Compact has been designated by the UN as the official agency to coordinate and advance the business contribution to the SDGs. The UN Global Compact is a voluntary organization of over 14,000 members, including over 8,000 businesses in 150 countries, helping ensure that business activity adds value not just to the bottom line, but also to people, communities and the planet.

On Saturday, September 26th, 2015, CEOs of over 350 select businesses and heads of state came together at the United Nations in a forum titled the **United Nations Private Sector Forum 2015: Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals**. Recognizing that many companies are already advancing the SDGs through their core businesses and philanthropy while at the same time contributing to their profitability, the forum was designed to increase the scale of company programs.

On April 3-4, 2016, the University of Notre Dame and the UN Global Compact will convene a meeting designed to educate students about the role of business in advancing the SDGs, to attract more companies to participate in the endeavor and to assist in understanding how the Papal Encyclical on the Environment (*Laudato Si'*) shares a common mission. The theme of the meeting is expressed well by Lise Kingo, the new UN Global Compact Executive Director: "From principled business practices to making long-term commitments aligned with the SDGs, we need more companies around the world to join the UN Global Compact and help to change the world around them." Leading companies advancing the SDGs will address the meeting with their formula for success.

Keynote speakers include Sir Mark Moody-Stuart, former CEO and Chairman of Shell Oil and Gas Companies and currently chair of the UN Global Compact Foundation. Another keynote speaker is Archbishop Bernadito Auza, the Pope's representative at the United Nations in New York City. There will also be leading companies, government officials, and scholars participating. (See the conference website for updates on the program: <http://mendozaevents.nd.edu/Encyclical/>).