

# Global Compact

“Curtailing child exploitation in companies”



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## **Welcome Letter**

It is a pleasure to have you as participants of the second edition of the CMUNP, with enthusiasm UN Global Compact welcomes you, it is important to keep in mind that UNGC mission is a voluntary corporate strategic policy initiative for companies that commit to aligning their operations and strategies with the Ten Universal Principles on Human Rights, Labor Standards, the Environment, and Anti-Corruption.. During this period of time, they will obtain diverse knowledge that will prepare them for the day of the debate, likewise, they will be able to observe the different realities that each country has, ideologies, knowledge, agreements, and ways to solve conflicts, for them it is essential that their objective is learning, to be open to new points of view and of course, to debate and negotiate.

We know that it is difficult to be fully aware of what is happening in the world and to understand the way of thinking that sometimes does not correspond to ours, but the fact of seeking world peace is something that undoubtedly interests us all.

Finally, we thank you for wanting to be part of this committee, we wish you the best of luck and remember that the only limits to knowledge are the ones you set for yourselves.

Best wishes,

Esther, Edy and Dani

## Committee Introduction

### Committee Background

The United Nations Global Compact was born out of a recognition of the increasing role and influence of businesses in the global landscape and the corresponding need for them to contribute positively to societal and environmental well-being. In his address at the World Economic Forum in Davos in 1999, then-UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan made a historic call to action, urging businesses worldwide to embrace a set of universal principles derived from international agreements. These principles *encompassed* human rights, labor standards, environmental protection, and anti-corruption efforts. Annan envisioned a collaborative partnership between the private sector and the United Nations to advance shared goals of sustainable development and social responsibility.

The Global Compact was formally launched on July 26, 2000, at the UN *headquarters* in New York City, with an inaugural event attended by business leaders, civil society representatives, and government officials from around the world. Its creation marked a significant milestone in the evolution of corporate responsibility, providing a platform for businesses to voluntarily commit to ethical practices and contribute to broader societal objectives.

At its core, the Global Compact seeks to mobilize businesses to adopt responsible and sustainable practices across their operations, supply chains, and interactions with *stakeholders*. Its objectives include promoting human rights by respecting and supporting internationally recognized principles, ensuring decent working conditions and fair labor practices, protecting the environment through responsible *stewardship* and resource management, and combating corruption through transparency, accountability, and integrity.

Through its ten universally accepted principles, derived from international declarations and conventions, the Global Compact provides a framework for businesses to align their

strategies and operations with fundamental values and ethical standards. These principles serve as a guide for companies to integrate sustainability and social responsibility into their core business practices, driving positive impact and contributing to the achievement of global development goals.

In addition to promoting responsible business conduct, the Global Compact fosters collaboration and knowledge-sharing among businesses, governments, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders. It facilitates partnerships, initiatives, and platforms for collective action to address pressing global challenges such as low resources, inequality, climate change, and human rights violations. By harnessing the collective efforts of diverse stakeholders, the Global Compact strives to create a more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable world for present and future generations.

### **Committee Faculties**

1. **Promotion of Business Principles:** The Global Compact promotes the adoption of ten universal principles in the areas of human rights, labor, environment, and anti-corruption by companies and organizations.
2. **Facilitation of Dialogue:** It serves as a platform for companies, organizations, governments, and civil society to dialogue and collaborate in promoting responsible and sustainable business practices.
3. **Knowledge Generation:** The Global Compact produces and shares knowledge, research, and best practices on sustainability and corporate responsibility.
4. **Support for Implementation:** It helps companies and organizations implement the principles of the Global Compact through resources, tools, and guidance.
5. **Reporting and Accountability:** It requests participating entities to report annually on their progress in implementing the principles of the Global Compact.

6. Mobilization of Collective Action: It fosters collaboration among businesses, governments, civil society, and other stakeholders to address global challenges such as climate change, low resources, and inequality.

### **Member CEO's**

In the committee there are considered 20 delegations:

1. Shein CEO
2. Nestle CEO
3. Apple CEO
4. Microsoft CEO
5. Nike CEO
6. Balenciaga CEO
7. Timberland CEO
8. H&M CEO
9. Hershey CEO
10. Forever 21 CEO
11. Converse CEO
12. Zara CEO
13. Aliexpress CEO
14. Carter's CEO
15. Calvin Klein CEO
16. C&A CEO
17. Lacoste CEO
18. Samsung CEO
19. Tesla CEO
20. Coca-Cola CEO

## Topic

“Curtailling child exploitation in companies”

### Introduction

In the grand tapestry of human history, the *plight* of children subjected to exploitation within the operations and supply chains of corporations represents a profound moral and ethical challenge that echoes across the ages. From the dawn of industrialization to the complexities of the modern global economy, the specter of child labor and exploitation has cast a long shadow over the progress of civilization, reminding us of the enduring struggle to protect the most vulnerable members of our society. Against this backdrop, the efforts led by the United Nations (UN) and initiatives such as the UN Global Compact stand as beacons of hope, guiding humanity towards a future where the rights and dignity of every child are upheld and respected.

Throughout the annals of time, the labor of children has been *intertwined* with the march of progress, a tragic testament to the exploitation and disregard for human rights that have marred our collective history. In the crucible of the Industrial Revolution, children toiled in the depths of coal mines and sweatshops, their innocence sacrificed on the altar of industrial progress and economic gain. Despite the valiant efforts of reformers and activists to champion the cause of child welfare, the scourge of exploitation persisted, evolving and adapting to the changing currents of global commerce.

As the world entered the 21st century, a new era of consciousness and accountability dawned, marked by the emergence of initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable development and ethical business practices. At the forefront of this movement stands the UN Global Compact,

a visionary endeavor launched with the mission to mobilize the private sector in support of universal principles and values. With its ten principles encompassing human rights, labor standards, environmental sustainability, and anti-corruption, the Global Compact offers a roadmap for companies to navigate the complexities of the modern business landscape while upholding their moral and social responsibilities.

In the arena of child rights and business practices, the Global Compact has played a pivotal role, spearheading initiatives and forging partnerships to combat child exploitation and promote child welfare. Through collaborative efforts such as the Children's Rights and Business Principles (CRBP), developed in collaboration with leading child rights organizations, the Global Compact provides companies with the tools and guidance needed to integrate child rights considerations into their policies, processes, and supply chains. By *embedding* child rights principles into their corporate DNA, businesses can become powerful agents of positive change, driving meaningful impact and transformation at the grassroots level.

However, the journey towards curtailing child exploitation in companies is fraught with peril—a labyrinth of challenges, obstacles, and entrenched interests that threaten to undermine even the noblest of intentions. The globalized nature of supply chains, the proliferation of informal economies, and the insidious forces of poverty and inequality present formidable barriers to progress. Moreover, the rapid pace of technological innovation, while offering unprecedented opportunities for economic growth and prosperity, also poses new risks and vulnerabilities for children, whose digital footprints are increasingly exploited for nefarious purposes.

In this monumental struggle, the UN Global Compact stands as a testament to the power of collaboration and collective action in pursuit of a common goal. Since its inception, the Global Compact has mobilized thousands of businesses around the world to embrace sustainable and socially responsible practices, including the protection of children's rights. Through its ten principles and numerous initiatives, the Global Compact empowers companies to integrate child rights considerations into their operations, supply chains, and



business strategies, fostering a culture of accountability, transparency, and respect for human rights.

At the heart of this endeavor lies the United Nations (UN), a beacon of hope in a world besieged by conflict, inequality, and human suffering. Through its various agencies and initiatives, the UN has played a pivotal role in shaping the global discourse on child rights and welfare, advocating for the adoption of international conventions and treaties to protect children from exploitation and abuse. From the Convention on the Rights of the Child to the Sustainable Development Goals, the UN has provided a framework for collective action, inspiring governments, businesses, and civil society organizations to join forces in the fight against child exploitation and to uphold the principles of human dignity and social justice.

Yet, the journey towards curtailing child exploitation in companies is far from over. It requires sustained commitment, unwavering resolve, and innovative solutions that address the root causes of exploitation while promoting sustainable development and economic empowerment for all. By harnessing the collective power of governments, businesses, civil society organizations, and individuals, we can create a future where every child is valued, protected, and given the opportunity to thrive in a world free from exploitation and injustice.

## **Historical background**

The issue of curtailing child exploitation in companies is deeply rooted in a historical context shaped by centuries of societal evolution, legislative developments, and global advocacy efforts. Understanding this context requires tracing back key milestones and examining the roles played by organizations such as the United Nations (UN) and initiatives like the UN Global Compact:

During the early stages of industrialization in the 18th and 19th centuries, rapid technological advancements transformed economies and labor systems, leading to the widespread

exploitation of children in factories, mines, and other hazardous workplaces. Children, often from *impoverished* backgrounds, were employed due to their low cost and perceived suitability for certain tasks, enduring grueling working conditions and sacrificing their education and well-being.

As concerns grew over the welfare of child laborers, labor reform movements emerged in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, advocating for legislative reforms to prohibit or restrict child labor, improve working conditions, and ensure access to education for all children. These movements laid the groundwork for the adoption of protective labor laws and regulations aimed at safeguarding the rights of children in the workforce.

Internationally, the establishment of organizations like the International Labour Organization (ILO) became instrumental in setting global labor standards and promoting decent work for all. Conventions and treaties addressing child labor and exploitation were adopted, including the ILO's Minimum Age Convention (No. 138) and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (No. 182), which set out clear guidelines for the elimination of child labor and the protection of children from the worst forms of exploitation.

With the rise of globalization in the late 20th and early 21st centuries, the dynamics of supply chains underwent significant transformations, as multinational corporations increasingly outsourced production to low-wage countries. This globalization of production raised concerns about the potential for exploitation, including child labor, within global supply chains, highlighting the need for enhanced corporate responsibility and accountability.

In response to these challenges, the UN Global Compact was launched in 2000 as a voluntary initiative to promote sustainable and socially responsible business practices. With its ten principles covering human rights, labor, environment, and anti-corruption, the Global Compact provided a framework for companies to align their operations with global goals and commitments.

Within the framework of the Global Compact, particular attention has been given to the issue of child exploitation in companies' operations and supply chains. Initiatives such as the Children's Rights and Business Principles (CRBP) have been developed to provide guidance for businesses on integrating child rights considerations into their policies and practices, fostering a culture of respect for children's rights and well-being.

Despite significant progress, the challenge of curtailing child exploitation in companies remains complex and multifaceted, requiring sustained efforts by governments, businesses, civil society organizations, and other *stakeholders* to uphold the rights and dignity of children everywhere. Through continued collaboration, advocacy, and implementation of best practices, the global community can work towards a future where every child is protected from exploitation and afforded the opportunity to thrive in a safe and nurturing environment.

## **United Nations actions**

The United Nations has undertaken significant efforts to address the pervasive issue of child exploitation within companies. One of their primary actions involves actively contributing to the development of international regulations and standards aimed at combating various forms of child exploitation, particularly child labor. Through research, advocacy, and collaboration with member states and other stakeholders, the UN has played a pivotal role in shaping policies and frameworks that prioritize the protection of children's rights in the context of business operations.

Central to the UN's approach is the promotion and implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. These principles outline the responsibilities of businesses to respect human rights, including the rights of children, throughout their operations and supply chains. By advocating for the adoption of these principles by governments and businesses worldwide, the UN seeks to establish a framework for ethical

business conduct that prioritizes the well-being of children and safeguards them from exploitation.

Recognizing the complex and multifaceted nature of child exploitation, the UN actively engages in coalition-building and alliances with international organizations, governments, businesses, and civil society groups. These partnerships facilitate the exchange of best practices, resources, and expertise, enabling collaborative efforts to address the root causes of child exploitation within the business sector. By fostering dialogue and cooperation among diverse stakeholders, the UN aims to amplify the impact of collective action in combating child labor and other forms of exploitation.

In addition to advocacy and partnership-building, the UN plays a crucial role in monitoring compliance with existing laws and regulations related to child exploitation in companies, both at the national and international levels. This includes advocating for the establishment of robust reporting mechanisms and accountability measures to hold perpetrators accountable and ensure justice for victims. By promoting transparency and accountability, the UN seeks to create an environment where companies are incentivized to uphold their commitments to child rights and actively prevent and address instances of exploitation.

Furthermore, the UN provides technical assistance, capacity building, and training programs to governments, companies, and other stakeholders to strengthen their ability to prevent, identify, and respond to child exploitation within business operations. These initiatives aim to raise awareness, build institutional capacity, and equip stakeholders with the necessary tools and resources to implement effective measures for child protection. Through targeted interventions and support, the UN seeks to empower communities and institutions to create environments where children are safe, protected, and able to thrive free from exploitation.

Overall, the United Nations' comprehensive approach to curtailing child exploitation in companies encompasses advocacy, policy development, partnership-building, monitoring, and capacity-building initiatives. By leveraging its global reach and expertise, the UN strives

to create a world where children's rights are respected, upheld, and safeguarded in all aspects of business activity.

## **Current relevance**

The current relevance of the topic "Curtailling child exploitation in companies" is underscored by the ongoing efforts of initiatives like the UN Global Compact. Launched in 2000, the UN Global Compact has emerged as a pivotal force in mobilizing businesses worldwide to embrace sustainable and ethical practices. With over 13,000 participating companies across industries and continents, the Global Compact operates on the principle that businesses have a responsibility not only to generate profits but also to contribute positively to society.

Through its ten universally accepted principles covering areas such as human rights, labor standards, environmental sustainability, and anti-corruption, the Global Compact provides a framework for companies to align their strategies with universal values and ethical standards.

In the context of curtailing child exploitation, the UN Global Compact has played a central role in galvanizing businesses to integrate child rights considerations into their operations and supply chains. Collaborative initiatives such as the Children's Rights and Business Principles (CRBP), developed in partnership with leading child rights organizations including UNICEF and Save the Children, offer practical guidance for companies to address child exploitation effectively. By embedding child rights principles into corporate governance structures and decision-making frameworks, businesses can become proactive agents in the prevention and mitigation of child labor and other forms of exploitation.

Furthermore, the Global Compact serves as a platform for knowledge-sharing, advocacy, and collective action to address systemic issues such as child exploitation in companies. Through engagement with stakeholders including governments, civil society, and academia, the Global Compact fosters dialogue and collaboration to develop innovative solutions and best practices. By leveraging the collective expertise and resources of its diverse network, the Global Compact empowers businesses to drive meaningful change and contribute to the protection of children's rights globally.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has exacerbated vulnerabilities and heightened risks for children, the role of initiatives like the UN Global Compact becomes even more critical. The pandemic has disrupted economies, disrupted supply chains, and increased economic insecurity, placing children at greater risk of exploitation, including child labor and trafficking. As businesses navigate the complexities of recovery and resilience, the Global Compact provides guidance and support to ensure that child rights remain a priority in corporate decision-making and operations. By strengthening collaboration between businesses, governments, and civil society, the Global Compact offers a pathway towards a future where every child is protected, respected, and given the opportunity to thrive in a world free from exploitation.

## **Discussion points**

At this point, the first thing that comes to our mind is how we need to proceed with the debate and what are the priorities in this problem.

### **1. Corporate Responsibility:**

- What responsibility do companies have in preventing child exploitation?
- How can companies ensure their supply chains are free from child labor?

## 2. International Regulations and Standards:

- What global regulations and standards address child exploitation by companies?
- Are these regulations effective, or do they need improvement?

## 3. Transparency and Accountability:

- How can companies increase transparency to prevent child exploitation?
- What accountability measures should be in place to ensure compliance?

## 4. Collaboration and Partnerships:

- How important is collaboration between companies, governments, and NGOs in fighting child exploitation?
- How can companies engage effectively with other stakeholders to protect children's rights?

## 5. Education and Awareness:

- How can companies raise awareness among employees and stakeholders about preventing child exploitation?
- What role does public education play in preventing child exploitation by companies?

## 6. Monitoring and Compliance:

- What methods can companies use to monitor and ensure compliance with child protection policies?
- How can companies improve early detection of child exploitation cases?

#### 7. Impact on Community and Sustainable Development:

- How does child exploitation affect local communities and sustainable development?
- What can companies do to lessen their negative impact and support community development?

#### 8. Innovation and Best Practices:

- What innovative methods and best practices exist for preventing child exploitation by companies?
- How can companies adopt these approaches to strengthen their child protection efforts?

#### 9. Government Role:

- What role should governments play in regulating and overseeing companies to prevent child exploitation?
- What steps can governments take to ensure children's rights are protected in business settings?

### **Guiding Questions**

- What is the responsibility of companies in the prevention and mitigation of child exploitation?
- What regulatory measures and international standards are in place to address child exploitation in companies?



- How can companies improve transparency in their operations to prevent child exploitation?
- What is the role of collaboration between businesses, governments, and nonprofits in the fight against child exploitation?
- How can companies educate their employees and stakeholders about the importance of preventing child exploitation?
- What tools and strategies can companies implement to monitor and ensure compliance with child protection policies?
- What is the impact of child exploitation on local communities and sustainable development?
- What innovations and best practices exist to prevent child exploitation in companies?
- What is the government's role in regulating and supervising business practices related to child exploitation?

## **Glossary**

encompassed: To include or contain something comprehensively.

headquarters: The main office or administrative center of an organization.

stakeholders: Individuals or groups who have an interest, concern, or investment in a particular organization, project, or system.

stewardship: The responsible management and care of something entrusted to one's care, such as resources, finances, or the environment.

plight: A difficult or adverse situation, typically one that involves suffering or hardship.

intertwined: To be closely connected or interwoven with something else.

embedding: The process of incorporating or integrating something firmly into a surrounding mass or context.

impoverished: Lacking in wealth, resources, or means of support; impoverished often refers to a state of extreme poverty or deprivation.

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