

## **ebbf involvement in the United Nations Global Compact**

The United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) is an initiative announced by Kofi Anan, then UN Secretary General, at the World Economic Forum in 1999 and launched in 2000. It is a call to companies to align strategies and operations with universal principles on human rights, labor, environment and anticorruption.

These four headings are developed in ten principles: two principles deal with the support of human rights and not participating in human rights abuses; four principles deal with labour issues, including freedom of association, collective bargaining, the elimination of forced and child labor and the elimination of discrimination in employment; three principles deal with the support of a precautionary approach to environmental challenges, to promoting environmental responsibility and to encourage environmentally friendly technologies; and one principle deal with combating corruption. The full text of the principles is available on the UNGC website at <https://www.unglobalcompact.org/what-is-gc/mission/principles> as well as on the EBBF site at <http://ebbf.org/tools/ebbf-and-the-un-global-compact-initiative/>

The UNGC principles address issues that are equally ebbf concerns and are particularly reflected in ebbf core values such as justice, gender equality and sustainability. They are also entirely compatible with ebbf's vision as a Baha'i-inspired global learning community that accompanies mindful individuals and groups through daily work and discourse to transform business and the economy thereby contributing to a prosperous, just and sustainable civilization. This has prompted ebbf to join, in 2012, the over 12'000 participants of which 8'000 are companies and over 4'000 non-business organizations.

ebbf's commitment to support the UNGC principles was expressed in a letter addressed to H.E. Ban Ki-Moon, UN Secretary General by ebbf's Director General, Daniel Truran, and ebbf's liaison with the Global Compact, Jean-Pierre Méan, in support of ebbf's application for participation. This letter is available [on the ebbf website at this link](#) Ebbf's involvement and the opportunities for ebbf members to participate in UNGC activities are also developed on the ebbf website at <http://ebbf.org/tools/ebbf-and-the-un-global-compact-initiative/>

In accordance with the requirement introduced on 31 October 2013 to submit a Communication on Engagement every two years (for the first time for ebbf by 31 October 2015), ebbf hereby expresses its continued support for the Global Compact and renews its ongoing commitment to the initiative and its principles.

ebbf has taken a large number of practical actions to support the Global Compact and to engage with the initiative. These actions have included e.g.:

- being a partner in the Global Ethics Forum held in Geneva on 28-29 June 2012 on



"Seeds for Successful Transformation: The Value of Values in Responsible Business:  
[http://www.globethics.net/web/gef/partners#Business\\_and\\_associated\\_partners](http://www.globethics.net/web/gef/partners#Business_and_associated_partners)

- supporting and assisting the WFEB (World Forum for Ethics in Business) in the organization of its first conference, INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM ON ETHICS IN BUSINESS, in July 2013, at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

- organizing ebbf events on topics related to the UNGC Principles, such as:

- a breakfast event held in Geneva on 3 December 2014 on Business and Human Rights, inspired by the UN human rights agenda: <http://ebbf.org/event/ebbf-breakfast-geneva-business-human-rights-forever-together/>;
- a breakfast event held in Basel on 22 January 2015 on Dignity in the workplace, exploring how to create conditions which favor curiosity and inclusion over suspicion and exclusion: <http://ebbf.org/event/dignity-workplace-basel-ebbf-meaningful-breakfast/>;
- a one-day event held in Geneva on 25 January 2015 on Celebrating Gender Diversity: <http://ebbf.org/event/ebbf-switzerland-national-event-geneva/>;
- an on-line learning conversation held on 9 April 2015 on exploring the application of Gender Equality in workplaces and economic systems: <http://ebbf.org/event/ebbfvalues-exploring-the-application-of-genderequality-in-workplaces-economic-systems/>;
- a presentation on Excellence and Holistic Thinking that integrated the concepts of environmental responsibility and sustainability management at an ebbf event held in London on 11-13 May 2012: <http://ebbf.org/2012/05/arthur-dahl-excellence-from-holistic-and-systemic-thinking/>;
- a breakfast event held in Geneva on 6 February 2013 on climate change and its implications for business;
- a workshop held on 19 April 2013 at the AIESEC Switzerland national conference in Fiesch, that explored success in terms of sustainability and environmental responsibility;
- a breakfast event held on 15 October 2014 in Geneva on responsible consumption and its implications in daily considerations: <http://ebbf.org/event/ebbf-breakfast-geneva-responsible-consumption-interconnected-world/>;
- a breakfast event held on 13 May 2015 in Geneva on ocean conservation and a global currency platform that encourages sustainable actions: <http://ebbf.org/event/ebbf-breakfast-geneva-the-value-of-nature/>;
- an on-line learning conversation held on 14 May 2015 on exploring the application of sustainability in workplaces and economic systems: <http://ebbf.org/event/ebbfvalues-exploring-the-application-of-sustainability-in-workplaces-economic-systems/>;
- a breakfast event held on 18 June 2015 in Rotterdam on "How a New Energy Paradigm May Just Save the World": <http://ebbf.org/event/ebbf-breakfast-rotterdam-how-a-new-energy-paradigm-may-just-save-the-world/>;
- publication in March 2012 of an article entitled "On Corruption", in: The Compass/The Baha'i Academy;



- publication in 2012 of a brochure entitled "On Corruption and Bribery – Fighting to Restore Trust": <http://ebbf.org/resources/knowledge-network/corruption-and-bribery/>
- participating in UN activities, such as :
  - being accredited to the UN Conference on Sustainable Development on 20-22 June 2012, in Rio de Janeiro (Rio+20) and participating with 5 members;
  - the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> meetings of the Working Group on the 10<sup>th</sup> Principle against corruption and in the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 10<sup>th</sup> Global Compact 10<sup>th</sup> Principle;
  - being a member of the UNGC Swiss local network.

The result of ebbf's commitment to the UNGC can best be measured by the numerous activities in which ebbf members have engaged in relation to, and in support of, the UNGC Principles. These activities are included in the list of ebbf Global Compact relevant activities by UNGC principle attached hereto.



Daniel truran

director general - ebbf

## EBBF UN Global Compact relevant activities

### GENERAL

EBBF is a member of the Swiss local network.

EBBF was again a partner in the Global Ethics Forum (<http://globoethicsforum.org>) held at the International Conference Centre Geneva on 28-29 June 2012, on the topic "Seeds for Successful Transformation: The Value of Values in Responsible Business", with 80 speakers and panelists from all over the world.

On 18 September 2012, EBBF Geneva held a dinner meeting at the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) on the impact of the individual. This was followed up on 22 February and 3 April 2013 with planning meetings with IFRC on principles for governance in international organizations that included sustainability management, environmental responsibility and human rights.

An EBBF member participated in the Caux Forum on Human Security in Caux, Switzerland, on 8 – 13 July 2012 organized by Initiatives of Change. Themes included environmental security and human rights.

At Sweden Youth to Business Forum on 11 April 2014, an EBBF member gave a keynote on "the Shift in the perception of competition". He explained that the purpose of business didn't need to be to make money, but to create well-being to the world, which demanded companies to collaborate together.

### HUMAN RIGHTS

Principle 1: Business should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and

Principle 2: make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.

- An EBBF member actively serves to build moral and spiritual character in children in University of British Columbia (UBC), Canada.
- Two EBBF members assisted the founder of NaiQala Association in organizing the annual fund-raising event in April 2014, to build schools in remote areas in Afghanistan.
- EBBF Geneva held a breakfast event on 3 December 2014 on Business and Human Rights, inspired by UN human rights agenda. <http://ebbf.org/event/ebbf-breakfast-geneva-business-human-rights-forever-together/>



- An EBBF member works on a project which won gold at the Making All Voices Count 2015 Global Innovation Competition in Jakarta. The project provides local activists with an opportunity to expose stories not necessarily covered by mainstream journalists and activate marginalized communities to fight for justice.

## LABOR

Principle 3: Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;

Principle 4: the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;

Principle 5: the effective abolition of child labour; and

Principle 6: the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

- An EBBF member started a company encouraging sustainable agricultural practices and providing employment to local women in Albania.
- An EBBF member designed collaborative workshops and initiated monthly gatherings in Canada in 2012 to 2014 to address spirituality, purpose and attitude to empower the business school students to see their career differently.
- EBBF hosted the EBBF Justice Conference in October 2014 for AIESEC in Spain and inspired the youth in Spain in being leaders with values. <http://ebbf.org/2014/10/ebbfjustice-aiesec-spain-representing-youth-voice/>
- EBBF Basel held a breakfast event on 22 January 2015 on Dignity in the workplace, exploring how to create conditions which favor curiosity and inclusion over suspicion and exclusion. <http://ebbf.org/event/dignity-workplace-basel-ebbf-meaningful-breakfast/>
- EBBF Geneva held a one-day event on 25 January 2015 on Gender Diversity, developing the constructive conception of diversity as incredible asset. <http://ebbf.org/event/ebbf-switzerland-national-event-geneva/>
- An online learning conversation held on 9 April 2015 on exploring the application of Gender Equality in workplaces and economic systems. <http://ebbf.org/event/ebbfvalues-exploring-the-application-of-genderequality-in-workplaces-economic-systems/>
- An EBBF member post blog on LinkedIn on 10 April 2015 titled "Are current company structures enabling Gender Equality?"

## ENVIRONMENT

Principle 7: Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;

Principle 8: undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and

Principle 9: encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

- The Partnership for Education and Research about Responsible Living (PERL) meeting in Marseilles, France, on 8-9 March 2012 included a workgroup with EBBF members from the project with EBBF on values-based indicators adapting the results for use in school programs on environmentally-responsible and sustainable consumption, including caring for climate and water.
- Presentation on Excellence and Holistic Thinking that integrated the concepts of environmental responsibility and sustainability management, at the EBBF Event in London, England, on 11-13 May 2012. <http://ebbf.org/2012/05/arthur-dahl-excellence-from-holistic-and-systemic-thinking/>
- EBBF was accredited to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and had at least 5 members in Rio. It co-organized a side event on "Elimination of Extremes of Wealth and Poverty in a Green Economy Context".
- EBBF issued three statements for Rio+20 on "Ethical Standards in Green Economics" (<http://ebbf.org/blog/green-not-greed-ethical-standards-in-green-economics-a-rio20-statement-byebbf/>), "Youth Need Reasons to Hope from Rio +20" (<http://iefworld.org/iefRio20youth>) as well as "Dynamic coherence for a sustainable future - ebbf manifesto for Rio+20" (<http://www.ebbf.net/>).
- At the Global Research Forum on Sustainable Consumption and Production, which met at an educational institution in downtown Rio de Janeiro on 13-15 June 2012, EBBF's Arthur Dahl's presentation on "Values education for SCP: from knowledge to action" (<http://iefworld.org/ddahl12i>) included research results from the EU-funded research project on values-based indicators in which EBBF was a partner.
- EBBF organized an event at the Peoples' Summit on 18 June 2012 on "Green not Greed: The Role of Business in Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development", and co-sponsored another event on 21 June 2012 on "Changing mentalities and motivations: values for the sustainability transition" in which all the panelist were EBBF members.
- Workshop on Sustainability after Rio+20 at the EBBF Annual Conference in Ericeira, Portugal on 7 October 2012.

- At the AIESEC Swiss national conference on 2 November 2012, EBBF organized two workshops on leadership for sustainability.
- EBBF Geneva held a breakfast event on 6 February 2013 on climate change and its implications for business.
- AIESEC Bern organized an event at the University of Bern at which EBBF presented a workshop on Water and Global Sustainability on 27 March 2013.
- The AIESEC Switzerland national conference in Fiesch on 19 April 2013 included an EBBF workshop that explored success in terms of sustainability and environmental responsibility.
- EBBF community assisted a member in getting to the next round of a potential \$250k grant for his green project building business in Dec 2013.
- An EBBF member is responsible for the implementation in Latin America of the social empowerment program, "GoTeach", developed by DHL and SOS Children's Villages to support employability of young people. The program was launched in 2011, and it is in 14 countries around the world in March 2014.
- An EBBF member wrote with CPA (Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada) in April 2014 a starter's guide for Sustainability Reporting, a starting point for new or early-stage sustainability reporters.
- At Ren-New LLC., a company that works with organizations and stakeholders to make sustainability profitable, an EBBF member works with very large and very small groups to make business sense of sustainability and turn sense into impact.
- An EBBF member collaborated in a research project on the re-use of the main waste of coffee production and a more conscious production of coffee and empowered the local cultivators and producers to produce coffee sustainably.
- An EBBF member launched a blog called "Humanly Sustainable" in September 2014 to explore the principles and values guiding us to live more sustainably.
- EBBF Geneva held a breakfast event on 15 October 2014 on responsible consumption and its implications in daily considerations. <http://ebbf.org/event/ebbf-breakfast-geneva-responsible-consumption-interconnected-world/>
- An EBBF member participated in a project in October 2014 to create awareness in Lancaster University to live more sustainably.
- An EBBF member reported on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Synthesis Report on Climate Change.
- At CSR Meetup Geneva on 10 February 2015 an EBBF member spoke about "The impact of climate change and pollution on the global economy".

- EBBF Geneva held a breakfast event on 13 May 2015 on ocean conservation and a global currency platform that encourages sustainable actions. <http://ebbf.org/event/ebbf-breakfast-geneva-the-value-of-nature/>
- An online learning conversation held on 14 May 2015 on exploring the application of sustainability in workplaces and economic systems. <http://ebbf.org/event/ebbfvalues-exploring-the-application-of-sustainability-in-workplaces-economic-systems/>
- An EBBF member was awarded Young Professionals Green Energy Awards on 28 May 2015 in Scotland, UK, with her thesis "The impact of bioenergy development on the climate resilience of vulnerable communities in Kenya".
- EBBF Rotterdam held a breakfast event on 18 June 2015 on "how a new energy paradigm may just save the world". <http://ebbf.org/event/ebbf-breakfast-rotterdam-how-a-new-energy-paradigm-may-just-save-the-world/>

## ANTI-CORRUPTION

Principle 10: Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

- An EBBF member published of an article entitled "On Corruption", in : The Compass / The Baha'i Academy, March 2012
- EBBF published a brochure entitled: "On Corruption and Bribery – Fighting to Restore Trust", EBBF, Paris, 2012: <http://ebbf.org/resources/knowledge-network/corruption-and-bribery/>
- An EBBF representative participated in, and made a presentation at the 14th Meeting of the Working Group on the 10th Principle against Corruption on 24 June 2014 in Geneva
- An EBBF member published "On Corruption and Bribery: Fighting to restore trust" at EBBF's Knowledge Centre online on 9 December 2014, covering the extent of corruption, its causes and consequences, its geographical and sectorial spread, and existing legislative instruments as well as business initiatives to combat corruption.
- An EBBF representative participated in the 15th Meeting of the Working Group on the 10th Principle against Corruption on 9 December 2014 in New York
- An EBBF representative participated in the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 10<sup>th</sup> Global Compact 10<sup>th</sup> Principle on 10 December 2014 in New York