



Global Compact
Network Netherlands

GLOBAL COMPACT NETWORK NETHERLANDS

2021 Annual Report



June 2022

GLOBAL COMPACT NETWORK NETHERLANDS

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FOREWORD

2021 was the last year of the implementation of our 2019-2021 strategy. I am proud of where we stand now: Our membership has almost doubled in three years, we have expanded our team and organization, we increased our alignment with UN Global Compact, have more external visibility than ever and we have broadened our portfolio, including accelerator programmes and informative events and webinars. This provides an excellent base for the next stage: we want to upscale and accelerate our impact. With only 8 years to reach the Sustainable Development Goals, we need more ambition and concrete action from businesses. In our new mid-term strategy 2022-2024 we show how we are going to reach this impact in the coming years.



Some highlights of 2021:

- Collaboration with Swiss and UK Networks of UN Global Compact on accelerator programs; 44 businesses have participated in our accelerator programs.
- Launch of ListenUp! podcast series and video series with members
- Webinars and round tables on human rights in collaboration with Shift and KPMG
- Upscaling the SDG Flag campaign to an international level
- A recognition of the importance of the 10 Principles in the new strategy of the Dutch employers federation VNO-NCW
- CEO Breakfast with UN Global Compact Vice-Chair Paul Polman

I would like to thank my (former) colleagues Marco, Julie, Julia, Jan, Hugo, Amelia, our (former) interns Mijke, Linde, Gabi and Gabi, our board members, the young professionals, the stakeholders and experts we have worked with and our members. It is great to work with these passionate and involved people on a better world. Keep continuing the good work!

- Linda van Beek, Executive Director, Global Compact Network Netherlands

OUR MISSION

Global Compact Network Netherlands aims to **accelerate and upscale the positive impact** of the Dutch business community on the SDGs with the purpose of improving the lives of current and future generations.

The UN Global Compact is uniquely positioned to support companies on their sustainability journey. Together with 14,000+ companies around the world, the **Local Networks of UN Global Compact** advance corporate sustainability at the national level in 70+ countries. We work together as a global family to achieve common goals.

Guided by the **Ten Principles** and the **17 SDGs** we facilitate accountable companies and stakeholders in their ambition to translate sustainability commitments into concrete actions. We believe we have a responsibility to move business faster and farther in making and demonstrating progress on the Ten Principles and the SDG agenda.

Global Compact Network Netherlands **stimulates and facilitates the creation of impactful connections** and supports business, stakeholders and future leaders to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

*Because we believe by working together,
we can accelerate and upscale our impact*



Network
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OVERVIEW 2021

The purpose of this report is to provide Global Compact Network Netherlands (GCNL) stakeholders with an overview of the initiative's progress in key strategic and operational focus areas during 2021, as well as to highlight recent activities undertaken to promote business action on UN issues and priorities. Aligned with its 2019-2021 mid-term strategy, Global Compact Network Netherlands has focused its activities on delivering against four crucial pillars. These pillars served as the basis for the below scorecard that identifies key related organizational goals and reflects progress through the end of the 2021 calendar year. Although not all of the highly ambitious targets we set in 2019 were fully achieved by 2021, we are satisfied with the organizational development of the network considering the disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021.

● = $\leq 100\%$ Achieved
 ● = $\leq 50\%$ Achieved
 ● = $\geq 50\%$ Achieved

1. Strengthen Communication & Value Proposition			2. Alignment UN Global Compact		
SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS	Target: 4.657	Achieved: 4.150 ●	ACCELERATOR PROGRAMS	Target: 2	Achieved: 3 ●
UNIQUE WEBSITE VISITORS	Target: 100.000	Achieved: 20.553 ●			
3. Business Model - Membership & Partners			4. Diversification & Deepening Content		
GCNL MEMBERS	Target: 300	Achieved: 254 ●	GCNL EVENTS	Target: 12	Achieved: 13 ●
YPP GROUPS	Target: 6	Achieved: 2 ●	EXTERNAL EVENTS WITH GCNL AS PARTNER	Target: 12	Achieved: 12 ●

UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT WORLDWIDE

2021 was a year of growth and shifts for the UN Global Compact. In alignment with the **new strategy**, a framework was developed to streamline how we measure and report our progress and impact. The UN Global Compact now measures and tracks its progress through five categories:

BUILD

There has been enhance investment in the capabilities of the UN Global Compact to deliver through strengthened finances, local capacity and stakeholder relations. The UN Global Compact secured \$2,8 million in revenue growth, of which \$1,3 million was raised from corporations and Governments to execute the new Strategy. The UN Global Compact expanded its operations to 74 of the 193 countries in the United Nations, with more than 79% of the Local Networks from developing economies. Local-level action has also been further strengthened through increased collaboration between Local Networks and their UN Country Team counterparts

REACH

The UN Global Compact continues to drive forward incredible growth of its participant base. Since 2020, the UN Global Compact has catalyzed growth at an unprecedented rate: 41% of our current participant base of 15,531 companies consists of companies recruited in the past two years. Joiner and retention rated continue to outperform targets set the previous year. With the added emphasis on inclusion of companies from developing economies and SMEs (less than \$50 million in revenue), the increase in the reach of the UN Global Compact was impressive and outperformed goals to increase the size of the participant pool and retention of existing companies

ENGAGE

In reeling the initiative with the new Strategy and its shifts the UN Global Compact went through an extensive process in 2021 to refine its programmatic portfolio and define six delivery channels to engage companies and stakeholders to drive progress. For example, four Accelerators, designed to generate behaviour change across companies at the local level, were held in 2021 - Target Gender Equality, SDG Ambition, Young SDG Innovators and Climate Ambition - with nearly 2,000 companies participating from more than 65 countries. The UN Global Compact Academy, the digital learning platform that provides business leaders and practitioners with actionable skills, engaged more than 30,000 users from 160 countries.

PROGRESS

In the midsts of driving forward operations and activities, the UN Global Compact is already beginning to see the resulting progress on corporate sustainability from participating companies. With a focus on priority issue areas centred on environment, social sustainability, global governance and sustainable finance, key highlights achieved in 2021 include:

- 1,290 companies committed to Business Ambition for 1.5C, and 1,213 companies with science-based targets through the SBTi
- 90% of companies participating in the Target Gender Equality Accelerator have created new targets or revised existing targets on women's representation in top management and leadership, with 56% having already achieved gender balance at the senior and executive levels or are set to achieve it by 2025
- The UN Global Compact CFO Taskforce committed to invest more than \$500 billion over the next five years towards the SDGs and to linking nearly half of all corporate financing to sustainability performance

ACHIEVE

Over time, our goal is to raise the floor - the baseline - and raise the ceiling - the expectations - on the social contract of businesses to communities across all Ten Principles in the areas of human rights, labour, the environment and anti-corruption. This requires not only making companies accountable but enabling ecosystems

PROGRAMMATIC ACTIVITIES: ACCELERATORS AND YPP



SDG
AMBITION



The **SDG Ambition Accelerator** helps companies set ambitious corporate targets and accelerate integration of the SDGs into core business management. In the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 rounds 31 business participated in the program. For the 2021-2022 round Global Compact Network Netherlands collaborated with the Swiss and Austrian Local Networks to facilitate the accelerator.



CLIMATE
AMBITION
ACCELERATOR



The **Climate Ambition Accelerator** helps to equip companies with the knowledge and skills they need to accelerate progress towards setting science-based emissions reduction targets aligned with the 1.5C pathway. In the 2021-2022 round we facilitated a joint track with the UK Local Network, in which 8 business from The Netherlands participated.



TARGET
GENDER
EQUALITY



The **Target Gender Equality** program supports companies in setting and reaching ambitious corporate targets for women's representation and leadership, starting at the Board and Executive Management levels. In the inaugural round in The Netherlands launched in 2021 we had 13 Dutch business participating.



YOUNG
PROFESSIONALS
PROGRAM



The **Young Professionals Program** is based on action-learning and specifically designed for future leaders. During a period of 12 months young professionals coming from different organizations are working and learning in a multidisciplinary team on a SDG project. They learn about the SDGs, team dynamics and leadership skills. In 2021 three teams finished the program and two new teams started. Since the launch of the program in 2019 85+ participants from 40 businesses participated.

“SDG Ambition is **one of most interesting programmes** that I have participated in, in over 20 years”

“Target Gender Equality has helped us **accelerate the pace and set the stage** for gender equality to be our company's priority”

“The YPP provides a **unique opportunity** to make a step in my career by developing **leadership and team skills**”

“Thanks for facilitating this great session. Lots of **valuable takeaways** and the **benefit of networking** with so many colleagues across industries” – Climate Ambition Accelerator

PROGRAMMATIC ACTIVITIES: BUSINESS & HUMAN RIGHTS

COUNTRY UPDATES

Anticipating on coming due diligence legislation on EU or NL level, we have organized the following events:

Webinar with KPMG (April)



Round Tables with Shift: Beginner & Advanced (June-July)



GLOBAL UPDATES

1

Launch of the **SDG 16 Business Framework | Inspiring Transformational Governance**

2

Academy Business and Human Rights e-Learning Course: **Business and Human Rights: How Companies Can Operationalize the UN Guiding Principles**

3

Launch of the **UN LGBTIQ+ Standards Gap Analysis Tool**

4

Launch of the **microsite on Living Wage**

EVENTS

Highlights QUARTER 1 & 2 2021

JANUARY - JUNE

Human Rights: Preparing Business for What is to Come

Webinar | 13 Apr 2021

This introductory webinar on the corporate responsibility to respect human rights was organised by the Global Compact Network Netherlands with the support of KPMG and became the part I of Human Rights event series.

Your Contribution: What SMEs Expect from a Successful COP26

Webinar | 29 Apr 2021

Organized by GCNL, NBCC, and PwC Nederland, – ahead of the annual Caring for Climate Meeting and the COP26 – the event helped to formulate the vision for British-Dutch SMEs in addressing climate change and contributing to a green recovery.

Netherlands: Kick-off UN Global Compact Leaders Summit 2021

Webinar | 14 June 2020

Organized by GCNL, this webinar aimed to gather all the registrants to the United Nations Global Compact Leaders Summit 2021 from the Netherlands and go through the highlights of this year's agenda.

LEADERS SUMMIT LIVE

Online Global Event | 15-16 June 2021

The annual Summit introduced a combination of inspiring plenary sessions, digital exhibitions, interactive workshops, and virtual networking opportunities, featuring innovative examples of how ambitious business leadership is unlocking new opportunities for scalable solutions, while also driving impact on the ground in the "Decade of Delivery".

Roundtables on Human Rights Due Diligence

Roundtable Online | June - July 2021

In collaboration with Shift Project, GCNL organized two business Roundtables to discuss How to set up a due diligence process and identify risks (beginner) and how to ensure Quality Quality Due Diligence (advanced).

Highlights QUARTER 3 & 4 2021

JULY - DECEMBER

Businesses and Cities: Tackling Urban Challenges Together

Roundtable Online | 4 June 2021

Organized by Global Compact Network Netherlands and the CLOSER CITIES initiative (2021-2030), this online Round Table event brought together urban stakeholders with the objective of tackling urban challenges and optimizing the process of mutual learning, co-creation, and collaboration among them.

Uniting Business LIVE 2021

Online Global Event | 20-22 September 2021

This global concept connects the high-level multi stakeholder dialogues of the Private Sector Forum, the grounded local knowledge and implementation strategies in the Global Impact Forum, and partnership and leadership examples of the SDG Business Forum, into one inclusive, impactful and innovative event.

The Impact of Climate-Related Court Rulings in Light of IPCC Report & UNGP

Webinar | 29 September 2021

In this webinar, GCNL addressed the impact of the recent court rulings in light of the newly published IPCC report and the existing UN Guiding Principles.

Incorporating Sustainability into Your Business Goals

Hybrid Conference | 21 Oct 2021

In a discussion with representatives from SMEs, large companies and government, we discussed the steps that SMEs can take towards sustainability and the importance of integrality in the sustainability agenda and the public-private approach. The conference featured the book Presentation 'bedrijfsdoelven verduurzamen' by Hugo von Meijenfeldt, Senior Sustainability Advisor GCNL.

Gender Equality Strategies for Success in the Private Sector

Webinar | 9 Nov 2021

Organized by GCNL, this online event brought together gender equality stakeholders from the Netherlands and the UN to explore the business case, the challenges, and the opportunities for making gender equality strategies successful in the private sector.

CEO Breakfast at National Sustainability Congress

In-Person Meeting | 11 Nov 2020

The CEO breakfast was organized at the special 20th anniversary edition of the Nationaal Sustainability Congress, where a group of leading CEOs announced that their companies have joined the UN Race to Zero.



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OTHER ACTIVITIES

SDG FLAG INITIATIVE

On 25 September 2021 we celebrated the sixth anniversary of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals, which encompasses our global framework for an inclusive, just and sustainable society in 2030. Together we have raised more than a thousand SDG flags in the Netherlands and abroad during the annual celebration of the SDGs. Even the Prime-Minister of The Netherlands participated (see picture). #TogetherfortheSDGs

CEO BREAKFAST

The morning of 11 November, 2021, a group of leading CEOs in the Netherlands announced their companies joined the UN Race to Zero. The pledge was made during a CEO Breakfast chaired by Mr. Paul Polman, Vice-Chair of the UN Global Compact. The companies FrieslandCampina, Eneco, Port of Rotterdam, Nederlandse Spoorwegen, Compass Group Netherlands, Randstad, Vebego, and Rabobank attended the event and committed to having ambitious interim science-based targets aligned with limiting global warming to 1.5°C and/or to reach net-zero global emissions by 2050 at the latest.



SME TOOL: SDG COACH

In 2021 Global Compact Network Netherlands worked with MKB Nederland to create a project plan and mock-up for a new SDG tool to inspire and activate SMEs to work on the Sustainable Development Goals. The tool will be in Dutch, practically oriented and includes links to other resources. After financing is arranged the tool called SDG Coach will be developed and launched (scheduled for 2022).



SDG YOUNG LEADERS NETWORK



Global Compact
Network Netherlands

SDG YOUNG LEADERS NETWORK

The **SDG Young Leaders Network** is an SDG-focused connector of young professionals and young professionals networks, which empowers them to accelerate change in organizations and achieve the 2030 agenda. In 2021 the Board of the SDG Young Leaders Network developed their mission, vision, and strategy, launched the webpage, and created the **LinkedIn page**. By engaging, educating and empowering young professionals the network strives to guide members through four phases: Awareness, Adoption, Action, and Advocate

AWARENESS



"Show me what is SDG Young Leaders Network"

Our **different channels and communication tools** help you to know who we are, what we are doing and whom we want to get involved

ADOPTION



"Help me become part of the SDG Young Leaders Network"

Our **subscription model and social media presence** allow you to become involved in the SDG Young Leaders Network

ACTION



"Help me get more involved in SDG topics"

With our **events**, we can help you increase the knowledge of the SDGs and broaden your network with young professionals with same minds.

ADVOCATE



"I want to become the SDG Ambassador!"

Our **Young Leaders Network** provides you with the opportunities and tools to become SDG Ambassador and agent for change!

MEMBERSHIP SNAPSHOT

Global Compact Network Netherlands experienced a boost in new participants in 2021 and now has a participant base comprised of:

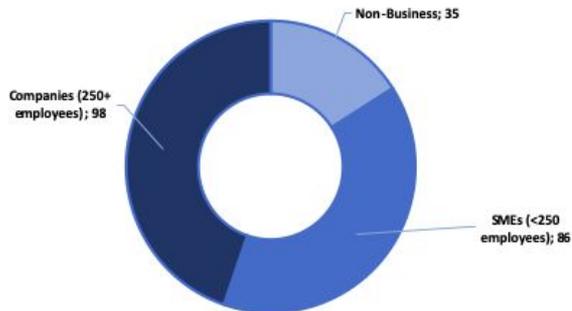
- Business Participants: **219**
- Non-business Participants: **35**
- **Total Participants: 254**

GROWTH

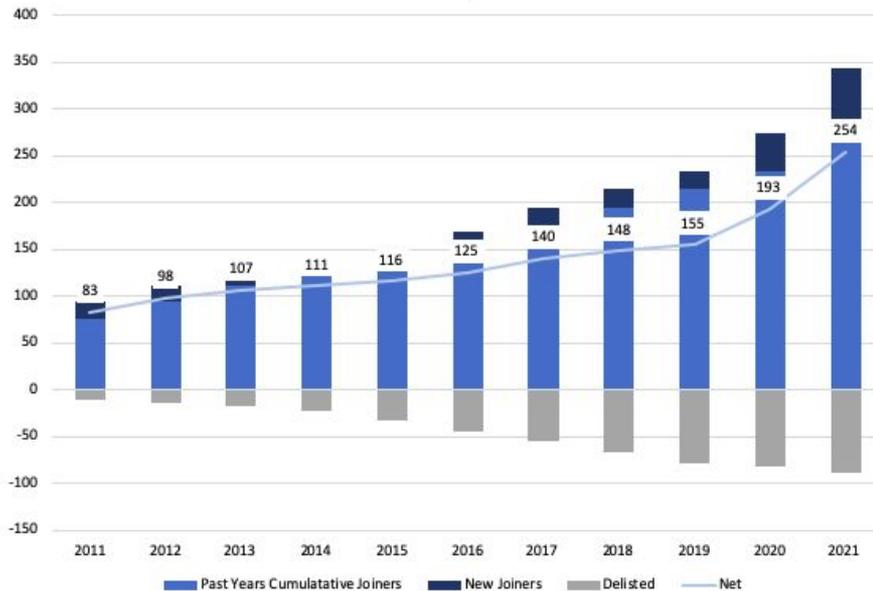
During 2021 **69 new organizations joined** the Global Compact Network NL. This represents an overall net growth in membership of 24%. The majority of new joiners were companies with 250+ employees.

Delistings

8 organizations delisted in 2021.



Cumulative Participant Growth

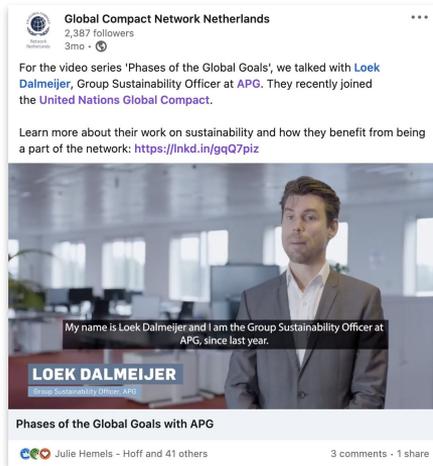


MEDIA & BRAND

In 2021 Global Compact Network Netherlands experienced a great growth in their online presence. With our video series, we were able to inspire organizations to adopt best practices and learn more about GCNL. To improve this in 2022, we fine-tuned our communication strategy. We will be focusing primarily on LinkedIn as it best fits our targeted participants/ goals.



20.553 website visitors



Over 10 organizations have participated in the video series "Phases of the Global Goals". With this series we aim to inspire others to start with their sustainability journey.

FOLLOWERS



In total we had 3.961 followers.

The number of followers increased by 32% from 2020.

LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS

Global Compact Network Netherlands plays a key-role in the Dutch eco-system to accelerate the Sustainable Development Goals.

Among others Global Compact Network Netherlands partners are: VNO-NCW, MKB-Nederland, Groene Groeiers, Dutch Sustainable Growth Coalition, MVO Nederland, SDG Nederland, PUM, Partos, VNG, duurzaam-ondernemen.nl, NVVN, VBDO, ICC. Examples of concrete results of these partnerships

- An article in the newspaper with SDG Netherlands and partners about the central position the SDGs should take in a new political coalition agreement.
- Meeting with the Dutch Government about the national growth fund and growth strategy
- Partnership with SDG Netherlands at the organization of the **SDG Action Day** on 24 and 25 September 2021.
- A recognition of the importance of the ten principles and the SDGs in the new strategy of VNO-NCW and MKB-Nederland **Ondernemen voor brede welvaart.**
- Presentation of '**duurzaam regeerakkoord**' to minister Kaag.
- Contribution to the **6th national SDG report**, an article in Forum about the results of our SDG survey.



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

	2021 BUDGET	2021 ACTUALS
TOTAL INCOME	€203.804	€283.068
TOTAL COST	€203.177	€189.396
TOTAL RESULT	€827	€93.672

FINANCIAL RESERVES PER 31/12/2021	€181.402
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YPP 2021 Groups	ACTUALS
INCOME	€75.445
COST	€84.558
RESULT*	-€9.113

INCOME

Overall income for 2021 was approximately €283k, exceeding the budget of €203k. GCNL received more income from annual contributions due to a growth in companies joining the UN Global Compact

EXPENSES

Overall expenses for 2021 was approximately €189k, staying within the budget of €203k. Due to COVID-19 we've had less expenses than anticipated for the events and activities we organized. Disciplined spending, coupled with higher than expected revenue, led to favorable financial results, with the GCNL ending the year with a surplus of approximately €93k.

LOOKING FORWARD

Based on these numbers, the 2022 budget has been increased to €367k with additional funds allocated to human resources, (digital) marketing, programmes, events, and product development. This way our finances supports the continuing growth of GCNL and the positive impact we want to achieved as laid out in the new mid-term strategy for 2022-2024.

STRATEGY 2022-2024 IMPACT INDICATORS

The 2022-2024 Global Compact Network Netherlands strategy is built upon a Framework with three key pillars, each representing a deliberate specific set of choices on our ambition, on who we will engage, on the issues and programmes we will focus upon, and how we will operate.

To achieve the collective impact we seek, we must channel our organization's energy, focus and resources where business has the highest potential for impact, and where Global Compact can be additive to the ecosystem. On selected impact areas we formulate collective targets and translate them into an annual plan. On these areas we will measure our impact.

We want to build a 'critical mass' of companies to reach tipping points, which is followed by the rapid adoption of science-based sustainability targets by the mainstream of companies. GCNL assumes the threshold for a 'critical mass' within a given sector or geography to be 20% of business. Partnerships are guided by our mission to increase impact. In strategic agreements with partners we formulate our common agenda and the impact actions of each organization.

To be able to pursue our mission we have to be a strong professional organization, which is able to stimulate and help our members to define impact targets and to translate these into actions and to be transparent and accountable.

ENGAGE AMBITION

- Influence and facilitate ambition on priority issue areas
- Promote action and accountability among members
- Measuring our impact

REACH AMBITION

- Recruit leading companies in underrepresented industries, and activate SMEs to build a 'critical mass'
- Partner strategically for impact, primarily with the government and business associations
- Be seen and recognized as a Centre of Excellence in the sustainable business community

BUILD AMBITION

- To become a 'Fit For Purpose' Local Network:
 - Be the Centre of Excellence in the NL on business alignment with the SDGs and Ten Principles
 - Strategically and operationally independent
 - A resourceful and professionally diverse team
 - Strong governance with fully engaged board

STRATEGY 2022-2024 IMPACT INDICATORS



	IMPACT INDICATORS	TARGETS
Climate Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of business that have set 1.5°C aligned and/or net-zero targets approved by the Science Based Targets initiative % of business tackling inequalities deepened by climate change, by engaging on resilience, health and a just transition 	Critical Mass: 20%
Human Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of large companies with ongoing human rights due diligence processes in place % of large companies committed to implementing the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights / OECD guidelines 	75%
Gender Equality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of business that have committed to the Women Empowerment Principles % of business with targets and corresponding policies and programmes to increase women's representation and leadership 	Critical Mass: 20%
Governance & Sustainable Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of business with executive remuneration linked to the Ten Principles SDG-aligned corporate investment total and % of total corporate investment 	50%
Young Professionals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # of young professionals participating in the SDG Young Leaders Network # of companies participating in the Young Professionals Program 	500 75
SME Activation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # of SMEs accessing learning and benchmarking curated resources (e.g. SME Tool and Academy) # of industry coalitions / business associations for SMEs aligned to the Ten Principles and our areas of SDG focus 	1000 10
SDG Implementation & Ten Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of member companies that have targets they believe are sufficiently ambitious to deliver Agenda 2030, that are science-based and/or align with societal needs. % of member companies engaged by/accessing programme content on the Ten Principles and our areas of SDG focus 	90%



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