



ევროკავშირი  
საქართველოსთვის

The European Union for Georgia



Network Georgia

# Global Compact Network Georgia Annual Report

2016

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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**GEORGIA**

EAST • WEST  
MANAGEMENT  
INSTITUTE

სამომავლოდ სწავლების განხორციელება  
და მომსახურების ჩართულობის პროექტი  
ADVANCING CSO CAPACITIES AND ENGAGING SOCIETY  
FOR SUSTAINABILITY (ACCESS)

## **Global Compact Network Georgia**

The Global Compact Network Georgia was launched in April 2016 during the two-day international Conference “Promoting Corporate Social Responsibility in Georgia”. The Secretariat of the Local Network is the NGO “Civil Development Agency” (CiDA). The companies, business associations, civil society and academia, which are participants of the UN Global Compact are eligible to join the Local Network.

**Mission:** The Global Compact Network Georgia has a mission to promote the United Nations Global Compact's 10 Principles in Georgia, as well as contribute to the implementation of the United Nations' broader development goals.

**Vision:** (a) Promote sustainable practices among local businesses; (b) Contribute to the growth of the Global Compact initiative; (c) Influence national policies on corporate sustainability; (d) Mobilize business in support of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

### **Benefits of Participation:**

- Exchange of best practices through experience sharing seminars (business to business) and open door sessions in network member companies;
- Guidance on organization's corporate sustainability strategy and policies;
- Access to the information and materials concerning UN Global Compact, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and corporate sustainability;
- Support in Communication on Progress (COP) and Communication on Engagement (COE) Reporting through workshops and individual assistance;
- Assistance in implementation of Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs);
- Promotion of the best Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) cases through media;
- Opportunity to form multi-stakeholder partnerships to implement CSR projects;
- Opportunity to showcase organization's commitment to sustainability by participating in CSR Award Georgia;
- Networking opportunity with other participants.

## **Governance and operation of the Network**

The Network is based on Governance Structure document and has a Steering Committee, contact person and representative.

### **Steering Committee of the Global Compact Network Georgia**

The Steering Committee of the GC Network Georgia (the Committee) has a multi-stakeholder nature; it is composed of 9 (nine) organizations coming from business, civil society and academia.

During 2016, the Committee met three times. Discussions revolved around the development and potential of the Network, in particular, how to ensure implementation of the objectives of the Network and how to make the Network attractive for the members.

### **Members of the Steering Committee:**

Valeri CHEKHERIA – CEO of “Adjara Group Hospitality”;  
Rusudan MEDZMARIASHVILI – CSR Manager of “BP Georgia”;  
Malkhaz DZADZUA - CEO of “MFO Crystal”;  
Zviad DEVDARIANI – Executive Director of “Civil Development Agency” (CiDA);  
George WELTON – Executive Director of “American Chamber of Commerce in Georgia”;  
Eka GIGAURI – Executive Director of “Transparency International –Georgia”;  
Michael COWGILL – President of “Georgian – American University”;  
Nino ZAMBAKHIDZE – Executive Director of “Georgian Business Zone”;  
Zviad POCHKHUA – Editor in Chief of “The Financial”.

### **Representative of the Network**

The CEO of Adjara Group, Valeri Chekheria, was unanimously elected by the Steering Committee to fulfill the duties of the Network Representative and the Chairperson of the Steering Committee for 2016-2017. Network Representative acts on his behalf at the Annual Local Networks Forum, is authorized to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with the UN Global Compact, and responsible for the management of the Network's brand. In addition, the Network Representative is responsible for:

- Recruiting new members to the Network;
- Organising annual Network events together with Network Contact Person;
- Representing and popularising Network among different stakeholders such as Government, businesses, civil society, international organizations and international CSR platforms.

## Contact Person of the UN Global Compact in Georgia

The CSR manager of CiDA, Salome Zurabishvili was elected and approved by the UN Global Compact HQ to serve as a contact person of the Network in Georgia. The Contact Person: coordinates day-to-day work of the Global Compact Network and is responsible for communications with the UN Global Compact Headquarters. In addition, the Contact Person is responsible for:

- Managing and supporting the Network's participants;
- Recruiting new members to the Network;
- Representing and popularising Network among different stakeholders such as Government, businesses, civil society, international organizations and international CSR platforms;
- Updating the Network's profile on the Knowledge Sharing System (KSS);
- Reporting Local Network activities to the KSS in a timely manner;
- Organizing annual Network events and workshops.



## Activities of the Network

### International Conference on “Promoting Corporate Social Responsibility in Georgia” – April 22-23

The International Conference on “Promoting Corporate Social Responsibility in Georgia” was held on April 22-23, 2016, in Tbilisi, Georgia. The Conference was organized by the Government of Georgia and Civil Development Agency (CiDA), in cooperation with the United Nations Global Compact headquarters and American Chamber of Commerce in Georgia.



During the Conference CiDA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations Global Compact Headquarters and an Active Global Compact Network Georgia was launched.



The Conference aimed to:

- Popularize CSR in Georgia through highlighting its role in promoting sustainable social and economic development;
- Discuss current policy developments and challenges, and future plans in the field of CSR in Georgia;
- Raise awareness about international CSR standards, initiatives, and instruments;
- Discuss engagement opportunities between the relevant stakeholders in Georgia and the UN Global Compact;
- Highlight some of the key principles of socially responsible businesses (with the focus on women's empowerment, human rights protection, and environmental protection);
- Highlight the role and importance of business contribution in the process of implementation of sustainable development goals;
- Show and explain a business case of corporate sustainability to the Georgian companies.

The speakers of the Conference included representatives of the Government of Georgia, business companies (local and multinational), UN Global Compact headquarters and European Local Networks, international and non-governmental



organisations and trade union. Corporate Sustainability Expert of Ericsson for Northern Europe and Central Asia, and Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer from TeliaSonera Group shared their experience on corporate sustainability and illustrated the business case of CSR. In total, 135 participants attended the Conference.

## Corporate Social Responsibility Week - June 30- July 9

GC Network Georgia and the CSR Club organized CSR Week for the first time in Georgia. CSR Week included different events aiming to promote and raise awareness on sustainable practices in Georgia.

- **Training on Implementation of Women's Empowerment Principles – June 30**  
Hosted by TBC Bank (GC Network Georgia member) and targeting the members of the Network, the training aimed to raise awareness on international standards in the field of corporate sustainability, to identify and analyze the necessity and the advantages of Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs). Participants were introduced to the practical means to implement the principles, to a self-assessment tool and reporting mechanisms. Training covered theoretical issues as well as practical exercises on women's empowerment instruments, on how to identify and eliminate gender based discrimination at the work place.
- **Training on Reporting to UN Global Compact- July 1**  
Hosted by TBC Bank (GC Network Georgia member) and targeting members of the Network, the training provided audience with necessary tools and recommendations in order to successfully fulfill their reporting obligation (submit COP/COE) towards UN Global Compact and to report on the WEPs as part of their COP.
- **Meeting on “Employment of Persons with Disabilities in Georgia and the Role of CSR” – July 6**  
Hosted by Bank of Georgia and targeting members of the Network, as well as other businesses and organizations working on the rights of persons with disabilities, the meeting identified main challenges in this field. Participants discussed a role of business in overcoming the problems faced by the persons with disabilities in Georgia. Speakers from number of local companies shared their experience with regard to enhancing rights of persons with disabilities. The main focus of the meeting was the workplace inclusion of the PwDs.





- **Public Lecture on Contemporary Corporate Responsibility and Practices in Georgia – July 7**  
Hosted by Ilia State University and mainly targeting students, the lecture, aimed (1) to highlight the importance of CSR in modern world and (2) to introduce international CSR standards, UN Global Compact as well as the local network in Georgia and CSR Club; after providing an overview on the developments of CSR in Georgia and introducing the two platforms, representatives from 4 companies (GC Network Georgia and CSR Club members), shared CSR practices of their companies.
- **Meeting on Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) – July 7**  
Hosted by GPI Holding and targeting members of the GC Network Georgia, as well as other interested parties, the meeting focused on implementation of WEPs by the companies. With participation of the representatives from UN Women, GPI Holding and KPMG Georgia, the meeting addressed such problems as gender based discrimination, gender pay gap and discussed good examples.
- **Multi-stakeholder discussion “CSR Agenda in Georgia” – July 8**  
Funded by Swedish Institute (SI), and targeting SI alumni, members of the GC Network Georgia, as well as other interested parties from the government and business sector, the meeting focused on importance of CSR in the process of economic and social development of Georgia. The issue was presented from the point of view of the government, of the international organisations, as well as from business perspective. Representatives of the Government of Georgia, businesses, CSOs and international organisations participated as speakers at the event.

## The Women's Empowerment Principals (WEPs)

Empowerment of women, in particular, promotion of the joint initiative of UN Women and UN Global Compact – the Women's Empowerment Principals (WEPs) - among its members, is one of the priority areas for the GC Network Georgia. The Network is closely cooperating with the UN Women in Georgia in order to raise awareness about the WEPs and about gender equality at work in general. Apart from the above-mentioned trainings, participants of the Local Network had the opportunity to receive assistance in implementation of the Principals.

Secretariat for the UNCG Network Georgia participated in the global level consultations with UN Global Compact HQ, UN Women HQ and BSR on the diagnostic tool to support implementation of the Women's Empowerment Principles and help companies advance gender equality policies, strategies and programs.

In October 2016, UN Women consultant, Salome Zurabishvili, provided assistance to five targeted companies, four of them members of the UN Global Compact Network Georgia, (Adjara Group Hospitality, m2 development, MFO “Crystal”, PR and Marketing Company “Gepra”, Georgian-American University) in elaboration of Action Plans on Women's Empowerment Principles. Companies went through the following steps: assessing their operations from gender sensitive perspective and based on the outcomes of assessment, drafting WEPs Action Plan.

## Conference “Women's Empowerment Principles – Equality Means Business” – December 2, 2016

On December 2, 2016, Secretariat for the UN Global Compact Network Georgia and UN Women, hosted a conference dedicated to private sector initiatives to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in Georgia. The conference “Women's Empowerment Principles – Equality Means Business” was attended by representatives of businesses, international and non-governmental organizations.

At the conference, business companies presented Action Plans for implementation of the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs). After presentations, CEO's of the



companies signed a statement of support of Women's Empowerment Principles and expressed their support for advancing equality between women and men. Signatories encouraged other business leaders to join them and use the Principles as guidance for actions that they can all take in the workplace, marketplace and community to empower women and benefit businesses and societies.



## Participation in local events

In order to raise awareness about corporate sustainability and to promote UN Global Compact initiative among different stakeholders (including through media channels), the Secretariat for the Network participated in a range of activities and events. Some of them include:

- Public discussion on Business and Human Rights organised by East-West Management Institute, ACCESS programme. April 5, 2016.
- Participation of the Contact Person of the Network in the talk show “Business Contact” (on “Maestro Television”), in the radio shows on “Radio Liberty” and on “First Radio” (public broadcaster's radio), discussing new developments in the field of Corporate Sustainability and the launching of the Local Network of the UN Global Compact in Georgia. April 19-21, 2016.
- Participation in the joint roundtable of OECD and Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development on “Promoting Responsible business conduct in Georgia”, providing feedback on the report prepared by OCED on Responsible business conduct in Georgia. May 27, 2016.

- Adjara Resilience Forum: Safe People, Safe Environment, Safe Businesses, organised by Oxfam GB in collaboration with local partners - participation as a speaker in the session dedicated to Private Sector Investments in Resilience. October 27, 2016.
- International conference on “Business and Human Rights: challenges and opportunities for Georgia”, organised by the Office of the Public Defender of Georgia and the Danish Institute for Human Rights - participation as a speaker. October 31 – November 1, 2016.
- Participation of the Contact Person of the Network in the talk show “Business Morning” (on “Maestro Television”) and the radio show “Gender Issues”(on “Radio Liberty”), providing information about the Local Network of the UN Global Compact, WEPs and business case of the gender equality at the workplace. December 2, 2016.



## Participation in international events

May 4-6 - CSR Conference and European Local Network meeting in Prague, Czech Republic. The meeting served as a great opportunity to exchange information and practice with the Global Compact Network representatives in Europe on the ways of promotion of CSR, 10 principles of Global Compact with the businesses. Also the HQ of the UN Global Compact (UNGCC) presented the Global strategy of UNGCC and consulted future activities with the local networks.

22-24 June - UN Global Compact Leader's Summit in New York, Leader's Dinner and Meeting at the Headquarters of UN Global Compact. The Leader's Summit was taking place in the HQ of the UN. The Secretary General Opened the event. Up to thousand business representatives from all over the world and Global Compact Local Network Representatives were discussing, how businesses can contribute to the implementation of SDG agenda within the framework of their CSR activities. Within the framework of the visit, the contact person and representative of the GC Network Georgia, also met with the Representative of Georgia in the UN and discussed possibilities for future cooperation.

24-27 October - UN Global Compact Annual Local Network Forum "Making Global Goals Local Business" in Dubai. The Secretariat of the UN Global Compact participated in the Series of Event "Making Global Goals Local Business". The following meetings were organized in the framework of the event: Annual Local Network Forum; UN Private Sector Focal Points Network Annual Meeting; PRME Business for Peace Forum; Business for Peace Annual Event; Pearl Initiative & UN Global Compact 2nd Regional Forum. The main topic of the discussion was the new Strategy of the UN Global Compact and how the local networks around the world could implement this strategy.

## **Cooperation with the Government and other actors**

- To provide technical assistance to the Government of Georgia in implementation of their obligations under the existing Business and Human Rights Chapter of the National Human Rights Action Plan for 2016-2017, the two-day training on CSR and Women's Empowerment Principles and roundtable discussion was organized by the UN Women consultants, Salome Zurabishvili and Carin Goransson, on November 4-5, 2016. The first half of the training was dedicated to the introduction of the international corporate responsibility standards and practice, concentrating on the Business and Human Rights direction of CSR. The second half of the training was dedicated to gender equality issues and the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs). Following the training, a roundtable discussion was held on CSR and WEPs. The participants attending roundtable discussion included representatives from the government entities, business and civil society.
- The Secretariat for the Network was a partner organization of ICBL Georgian Committee in organizing the Employment forum for Persons with Disabilities in Georgia. The Secretariat encouraged the business members of the CSR Club and UN Global Compact to participate in the forum. During the forum businesses held interviews with interested PwDs. As a result of those interviews, member companies selected potential candidates, employed PwDs or placed the PwDs on their reserve list.
- The Secretariat was contacted by the Rotary fund of New Zealand and was asked to cooperate in sharing good examples of responsible business projects/activities implemented by Georgian companies, which will consequently be posted on the global website along with the experience of other companies from all over the world. The Secretariat communicated this initiative with the members of the UN Global Compact and encouraged them to submit information on their activities.

## MEMBERS/PARTICIPANTS

	Name	Type
1	Georgian Herbs	SME
2	Drunk Octopus	SME
3	Caucasus Genetics	SME
4	Rakeen Uptown Development	SME
5	MFO Credo	Company
6	Georgian Business Zone	SME
7	GLCC Law Firm	SME
8	Agricom	SME
9	Adjara Group Hospitality	Company
10	Clean World	Company
11	Rafting.ge	SME
12	EVEX Medical Corporation	Company
13	Corporation Georgian Wine	SME
14	Adress	SME
15	TBC Bank	Company
16	MFO Crystal	Company
17	Gepra	SME
18	Wissol Group	Company
19	BP	Company
20	Geocell	Company
21	Caucasus University	Academic
22	Civil Development Agency	NGO
23	Unity We Are the One	NGO
24	Center of Strategic Research and Development in Georgia (CSRDG)	NGO
25	Georgian Small and Medium Business Association	NGO
26	Caucasus Environment NGO Network (CENN)	NGO
27	Georgian Employers Association	Business Association
28	The American Chamber of Commerce in Georgia	Business Association
29	Transparency International Georgia	NGO
30	KPMG in Georgia	Company
31	Georgian – American University	Academic Institution
32	The Financial	Company
33	Orient Logic	Company

## **Visibility**

In September 2016, the Secretariat for the Network launched public Facebook Page of the Global Compact Network Georgia. The page includes information on the activities of the network, and activities of the Global Network, providing opportunity to the local Network members to engage in the local and global level events of the initiative.

The webpage of the Network will be launched in February – March 2017.

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