



UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT LAUNCH IN BELARUS

N/1005/2006

21 December 2006

Excellency, *Dear Birnur*

Growing role of United Nations in addressing the challenges of globalization demands a higher engagement with non-state actors, including business and civil society. The Global Compact- an international UN initiative - calls on the business community to embrace the principles of corporate social responsibility, enabling companies to both improve their economic performance and secure the sustainability of communities and markets where they operate. Currently, the *Global Compact* is most widely recognised corporate citizenship initiative in the world.

In December 2005 UNDP took first steps to initiate a public debate on the GC/CSR concept and achieve its public acceptance. As of 1 December 2006, 25 Belarusian companies acceded to the *Global Compact*, signalling their commitment to international standards, improving product quality and making social investments benefiting their companies and the local community. Among these, there are leading Belarusian companies representing different industries, business associations and small enterprises. The United Nations welcomes the expression of this commitment by the Belarusian business community and believes that this will contribute to making Belarusian business an active actor in socio-economic development.

On 20 December 2006 the official United Nations *Global Compact* launching event took place in Minsk. The event was organised by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Belarus. The ceremony was attended by Mr. Kobyakov, Vice Prime Minister, the Advisor to the Global Compact Office, international guests, representatives of the government agencies and international organizations. During the event, Belarusian Global Compact participants have been handed over the Certificates of their engagement into the Initiative.

UNDP is firmly committed to work further with the members of the Global Compact in Belarus, to ensure that commitment to implement responsible business principles will result in concrete actions for the advancement of Belarusian business environment and the people of Belarus. UNDP will work on facilitation of the establishment of a National Global Compact Network, which is expected to provide possibilities for companies to exchange knowledge, experience and innovations, to improve their business strategies and implement joint projects creating added value to society and business.

H.E. Ms. Birnur Fertekligil  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
of Turkey to the Republic of Belarus  
Minsk



## UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT IN BELARUS

### BRIEF INFORMATION ON THE GLOBAL COMPACT INITIATIVE IN BELARUS

The *Global Compact* is a global initiative of the United Nations aiming to promote corporate social responsibility and partnerships for sustainable human development.

In addressing The World Economic Forum on 31 January 1999, United Nation Secretary-General Kofi Annan challenged business leaders to join an international initiative – the *Global Compact* – that would bring companies together with UN agencies, labour and civil society to support the principles of human rights, labour and the environment. Up to now, the *Global Compact* has been initiated in more than 90 countries, including Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, Bulgaria, the Russian Federation, Germany, the Nordic countries and others. Well above 3300 companies have signed up and participate in the *Global Compact* all over the world. *Global Compact* today is the most widely recognised initiative based on the concept of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

*Corporate social responsibility is a code of conduct and a conceptual philosophy for the business community, companies and individual business representatives in the places where they operate with a focus on:*

- *Providing high quality products and services for consumers*
- *Creating a positive work environment, paying documented salaries and investing in staff potential and further development*
- *Strict adherence to legal requirements: fiscal, labor, environmental, etc.*
- *Building conscientious or bona fide relations with all the stakeholders*
- *Efficient business operating procedures, oriented at creation of value added cost and improvements in the interests of shareholders*
- *Giving consideration to social expectations and generally accepted ethic norms in business practices*
- *Contributing to the emerging civil society through partner programs and local community development projects*

*When integrated into regular business practices, the principles of corporate social responsibility create new opportunities and advantages for socio-economic development, including for export, national competitiveness, investment promotion, anti-corruption efforts, the environment, regional development and social capital accumulation.*

*Global Compact* operates through national networks, uniting business companies that refer themselves as socially responsible. Representatives of companies, participating in the network meet regularly to discuss actual issues for improvement of their business strategies, exchange experiences in implementing of *Global Compact* principles, conduct trainings for employees, plan joint projects and partnerships. The activities of each national network differ according to the needs of business sector in a particular country.

More information: [www.globalcompact.org](http://www.globalcompact.org)  
[www.un.by/ru/undp/gcompact](http://www.un.by/ru/undp/gcompact)

The CSR concept and Global Compact initiative are quite new to Belarus. In 2005, UNDP took the first steps to initiate a public debate on the GC/CSR concept and achieve its public acceptance. In December 2005, we arranged a national conference (GC pre-launch) "The UN Global Compact Initiative: Opportunities for Building Partnerships of Government, Business Community and Civil Society", which brought together about 70 representatives of ministries and government agencies, the Federation of Trade Unions, international organizations, enterprise associations and businessmen. A survey of private enterprises and non-government organizations has been undertaken to assess business perceptions, attitudes and motivations in adopting the CSR principles. This study revealed a high degree of business engagement in sponsorship and philanthropic initiatives, a low level of awareness on CSR/GC, and very limited experience of cross-sectoral cooperation.

The significance and relevance of the CSR and Global Compact to Belarus has been recognized by the Foreign Investors Advisory Council (FIAC) working under the presidency of the Prime Minister. The FIAC's Action Plan for 2006 includes an activity on advancing the principles of responsible corporate citizenship, which could make business "a part of the solution to the challenges facing the society in the transition period."

In 2006, owing to the sub-regional project of UNDP, "Fostering multi-stakeholder partnerships to achieve MDGs in the Western CIS and Caucasus in the framework of UN Global Compact," designed for 7 countries - Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Belarus, Russia, Ukraine and Moldova, the concept of corporate citizenship has been rooted through an extensive information work. So far, 23 Belarusian companies acceded to the Global Compact, signalling their commitment to international standards, improving product quality and making social investments benefiting their companies and the local community.

The other task realized in the framework of the Global Compact is to harness value-creating assets of the private sector for socio-economic development through promotion of multistakeholder partnerships. To promote multi-stakeholder partnerships for development UNDP is committed to play a role of partner and broker and also safeguard that the right partners to bring to the table, risks and benefits shared accordingly between partners and trust and mutual understanding be developed between partners. It is important to note that although these partnerships are not strictly commercial, they cannot be philanthropic. Type of activities promoted will emphasize social investments of companies into development of local communities. In particular, partnership projects will be established to address critical public issues: access to basic services by citizens - healthcare, education, water, energy, finance. It is expected that these projects will be developed and implemented closely with local actors: NGOs/CSOs, local governments, universities, media.

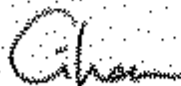
The GC local initiative is implemented in close cooperation with leading business associations and the national steering group "For Social Responsibility of Business", bringing together more than 50 enterprises, NGOs, and mass media. UNDP consolidates efforts with the trade unions, think tanks, international organizations (IFC, WB, EBRD) to promote CSR/GC.

These developments are also important for business companies and organisations outside Belarus. In today's global world companies are no longer indifferent as to who are their partners, suppliers or clients. We therefore believe that information about Belarusian business companies and organisations that commit to the principles of human rights, labour standards, environment and good governance will be of value to business companies and organisations in your respective country that might be looking for partners or suppliers in Belarus or entering the Belarusian market.

In this framework, we kindly request your good services in communicating this information to your respective capital with a view of making this information available to business organisations (e.g. chambers of commerce, professional associations, business federations and similar structures) and facilitating partnership building and enhancing trust in Belarusian business. For this purpose, we attach a full list of companies and organisations that became members of the Global Compact initiative.

We remain at your disposal for any questions and clarifications concerning our request. Our contact persons for the Global Compact initiative are Ms. Ludmila Istomina, UNDP Programme Officer, tel: +375 17 2274527, e-mail: [Ludmila.Istomina@undp.org](mailto:Ludmila.Istomina@undp.org) and Ms. Ruslana Nikishova, Manager of the Global Compact Initiative in Belarus, tel/fax: +375 17 298 35 26; e-mail: [ruslana.nikishova@un.minsk.by](mailto:ruslana.nikishova@un.minsk.by). More information on the Global Compact at: <http://www.unglobalcompact.org> and <http://un.by/ru/undp/gcompact>.

Sincerely,



Cihan Sultanoglu  
UN Resident Coordinator  
UNDP Resident Representative

Attachments:

1. Short information about the UN Global Compact
2. List of the GC participants in Belarus



THE GLOBAL  
COMPACT

THE UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT INITIATIVE IN BELARUS  
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS  
AS OF 20 DECEMBER, 2006

Name of the GC participant	Address	Number of members / employees	Industry
1. Belarussian Union of the Entrepreneurs and Employers named after Prof. M. Kouniavski	22 Fabrichnaya Str., Minsk 220033 Bspn-int@msys.by	United 200 enterprises	Facilitation to market reforms development, coordination of enterprise activity and protection of properly interests of members of the union
2. Minsk Capital Association of Entrepreneurs and Employers	11 Serahimovich Str. Of.104, Minsk 220033 souz@adminsk.biz	United 332 persons	Creation of a favorable business network in which the enterprises and businessmen in various forms can develop and strengthen their activity
3. IV "Milavitsa" Trading Company" LLC	28 Novovierskaya Str., Minsk 220053 Natalia_gai@milavitsa.by	180 employees	Wholesale and retail sale of underwear
4. Open Joint Stock Company "Belteplotsoyacia"	12 Bekhterev Str., Minsk 220021 belteplo@tut.by	899 employees	Performance of warmkeeping, anticorrosive and repair-civil work, manufacture of warmkeeping products and integumentary materials
5. Open Joint Stock Company "Beltrouboprovodstroy"	129 Bogdanovich Str., Minsk 220123 Bps_stroi@tut.by	1.193 employees	Construction of gas mains, compressor and gas allocating stations



THE GLOBAL  
COMPACT

THE UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT INITIATIVE IN BELARUS  
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS  
AS OF 20 DECEMBER, 2006

6. Closed Joint Stock Company "Pinskdtrev"	1 Chuklai Str., Pinsk 225710 <a href="mailto:box@pinskdtrev.by">box@pinskdtrev.by</a>	4,360 employees	Timber cutting, processing, manufacture of plywood, furniture, matches, forwarding services, etc.
7. Closed Joint Stock Company "Gomellift"	8 Vladimirov Str., Gomel 246034 <a href="mailto:gomellift@mail.ru">gomellift@mail.ru</a>	523 employees	Installation, operation of lifts, sanitary works
8. "Agrarno-Konsaltingovy Tsentr" Additional LC	23 Pobeda Str. Of.2, Borovliany, Minski Rayon 223053 <a href="mailto:Sergey.Ivanov77@tut.by">Sergey.Ivanov77@tut.by</a>	20 employees	Consulting services and business assistance in agrarian sector
9. Manufacturing and Trading Firm "EOS" LLC	Scenovka, Brestski Rayon, Brest Region 225038 <a href="mailto:eosplus@tut.by">eosplus@tut.by</a>	30 employees	Manufacture of beds and orthopedic mattresses
10. Unitary Enterprise "TeleMiks"	10 Platonov Str. Of.501, Minsk 220034 <a href="mailto:info@telemix.by">info@telemix.by</a>	200 employees	Manufacture of the digital equipment of communication
11. Unitary Consulting Enterprise "Centre of System Business Technologies "SATIO"	30 Velosiedny Pereulok Of.718, Minsk 220000 <a href="mailto:gon@satio.by">gon@satio.by</a>	15 employees	Business consulting. The organization and carrying out of National contest "The Brand of the year"



THE GLOBAL  
COMPACT

THE UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT INITIATIVE IN BELARUS  
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS  
AS OF 20 DECEMBER, 2006

12. Open Joint Stock Company "Savushkin Product"	108 Yanka Kupala Str., Brest 224028 <a href="mailto:bnk@brestmilk.by">bnk@brestmilk.by</a>	1,564 employees	Diary products and drinks
13. JV "Patriarch Computer Service" LLC	14 Berson Str., Minsk 220030 <a href="mailto:gid@patriarch.by">gid@patriarch.by</a>	42 employees	Software
14. Closed Joint Stock Company UNITER	15 Smolenskaya Str. Of.804, Minsk 220088 <a href="mailto:uniter@unitar.by">uniter@unitar.by</a>	18 employees	Investment consulting
15. Closed Joint Stock Company "Network Systems"	9 Vtoraya Shestaya Liniya, Minsk 220013 <a href="mailto:info@nsvs.by">info@nsvs.by</a>	19 employees	Internet provider
16. Foreign Enterprise "INCO-FOOD" Ltd.	58 Dubrovskaya Str., Brest 224025 <a href="mailto:LM@incofood.by">LM@incofood.by</a>	1,028 employees	Meat products
17. Unitary Enterprise "Salon-Style"	85 Masherov Ave, Brest 224013 <a href="mailto:Salon-style@stut.by">Salon-style@stut.by</a>	50 employees	Hairdresser and household services



THE GLOBAL  
COMPACT

THE UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT INITIATIVE IN BELARUS  
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS  
AS OF 20 DECEMBER, 2006

18. Unitary Enterprise "RIFM"	1 Ogarev Str., Minsk 220021 <a href="mailto:company@rim.biz">company@rim.biz</a>	920 employees	Civil construction
19. Closed Joint Stock Company "ERMIJA"	38 Matusevich Str. Of.110, Minsk 220104 <a href="mailto:Ermita_mkt@rambler.ru">Ermita_mkt@rambler.ru</a>	16 employees	Manufacture and sale of the paper goods for school
20. Closed Joint Stock Company "Minsk Transit Bank"	6a Partizanski Ave, Minsk 220033 <a href="mailto:distomins@mif.by">distomins@mif.by</a>	438 employees	Banking
21. Foreign Unitary Manufacturing and Trading Enterprise "Autohaus Atlant-M"	22 Sharangovich Str., Minsk 220019 <a href="mailto:info@atlantm.by">info@atlantm.by</a>	145 employees	Car distribution and service (dealer of VW)
22. Foreign Private Unitary Manufacturing Enterprise "Coca-Cola Beverages Belorussia"	Kolyadichi, Minsk Rayon 223010 <a href="mailto:Alexander.Denisov@ochbc.com">Alexander.Denisov@ochbc.com</a>	480 employees	Production of the non-alcoholic aerated drinks
23. Belarusian Society of Valuers	17a Sukhaya Str., Minsk 220034 <a href="mailto:guild@user.unibel.by">guild@user.unibel.by</a>	United 156 members	Leading Belarusian organization of experts in the field of cost estimation