



ENGLISH

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UN readies for its biggest-ever gathering on corporate citizenship

Friday, 06 April 2007

More than 700 business leaders and hundreds of top representatives from government and civil society are expected to attend the Global Compact Leaders Summit which will be the largest ever gathering convened by the United Nations on corporate citizenship.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon told a meeting yesterday in New York of the Board, a panel of 20 leaders from business, civil society and labour which he said the two-day summit "will be instrumental in bringing our joint vision for the future between business, the UN, governments, civil society and labour to full scale implementation."

Created by Mr. Ban's predecessor, Kofi Annan, in 1999, the Global Compact tries to advance 10 principles of good corporate citizenship and responsible business practices in areas as combating corruption, safeguarding the environment, ensuring social building markets.

Thousands of companies around the world, as well as labour and civil society members, are part of the Compact, which is an entirely voluntary initiative.

In his opening remarks to yesterday's meeting, the Board's second, Mr. Ban said that he expects board members that they will play a key role in guiding the body's efforts towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and human rights and development.

Mr. Ban appointed Sir Mark Moody-Stuart, Chairman of the Foundation for the Future and Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, Chairman and Chief Executive of the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Group in Egypt, as co-chairs who can conduct the Board's business and chair meetings in his absence.

The meeting heard details of preparations for the Geneva leaders' summit, and that all senior executives of Global Compact participants in good standing. The Board said that any Global Compact participants listed as "inactive" for one year or more should be removed entirely from its database.

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