



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

12 January 2004

Dear Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh,

I would first like to express my sincere appreciation for the commitment your company has shown to the Global Compact. Your company is among a select group of businesses that have had the courage and vision to take a public stand on universal principles in the areas of human rights, labour standards and environmental sustainability.

The Global Compact has made great strides since then, but our ever-changing world demands that we periodically assess the initiative's overall progress so that together we may chart its future.

For this reason, I am convening a Global Compact Leaders Summit on 24 June 2004 at United Nations Headquarters in New York. I wish to invite you to this Summit, which will bring together the leaders of the various sectors involved in the initiative - business, labour, civil society, government - for a full day of deliberation.

The objectives of the Summit are two-fold: to assess the Global Compact's progress, and to shape its future.

We would like to distribute a special report at the Summit containing the Communications on Progress, describing how companies are implementing the Global Compact's principles. It is therefore important that your company submits its Communication on Progress for fiscal year 2003 to the Global Compact Office prior to the Summit.

I hope that you will join me and help us shape the future of the Global Compact.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Annan', written over a horizontal line.

Kofi A. Annan

Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Talal Abu-Ghazaleh & Co. International
Cairo