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# **'ADVANCING COLLECTIVE ACTION AGAINST CORRUPTION THROUGH GLOBAL COMPACT LOCAL NETWORKS'**

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**Kick Off Meeting**



Network India

**FEBRUARY 18, 2022**  
**GLOBAL COMPACT NETWORK INDIA**  
**DELHI, INDIA**



## Executive Summary

Global Compact Network India (GCNI) has been chosen to be part of a new Anti-corruption Collective Action Project led by Foundation for the Global Compact (UNGC) in the Golden Stretch Round of the Siemens Integrity Initiative. The three-year project titled - '**Advancing Collective Action against Corruption through Global Compact Local Networks**', commenced on Oct 1, 2021 and GCNI has started developing a plan for the smooth and effective implementation of the project. Ten Global Compact Local Networks (GCLNs) are part of this project, including India.

The project aims to expand and build upon the activities under the Siemens Integrity Initiative Third Funding Round United Nations Global Compact project “Scaling up Anti-Corruption Collective Action within Global Compact Local Networks” by:

- Transforming the Playbook on Anti-corruption (launched earlier this year by UNGC) into an E-learning course and further adaptation.
- Facilitating and guiding Anti-Corruption Collective Action in Global Compact LNs
- Hosting an international event to celebrate 20th Anniversary of the 10th principle

- Scaling UN Global Compact's engagement in public-private policy dialogue to bring the private sector voice to the global anti-corruption agenda

## Introduction

GCNI hosted the Kick-Off Meeting with Anti-Corruption Collective Action (ACCA) stakeholders on February 18, 2022 to effectively launch the project in India and sought to raise stakeholders' awareness on Anti- Corruption Collective-Action. Over 30 nominated officials from diverse relevant sectors participated and shared their knowledge, capacity and insights to support the ACCA project of GCNI. The meeting was hosted and moderated by Mr. Arya Dev, Project Manager for the Golden Stretch Round. He welcomed all the participants and set the tone of the meeting by establishing the agenda and laying down the objectives of the Kick-Off Meeting.

The objectives of the Kick-Off Meeting were:

- ❖ Understanding the basics of Anti- Corruption Collective Action (ACCA) and the expectations from Golden Stretch Round project
- ❖ Exploring the corruption challenges in the Indian context that can be pursued through Collective Action
- ❖ Raising stakeholders' awareness and determining responsibilities/ next steps for ACCA Working Group and GCNI members

The meeting ensured representation from Businesses, CSOs, Academia /Research Institutes< LN representative from Bangladesh and other like-minded stakeholders to discuss the significance, need and possible initiatives to promote transparency and accountability through Collective Action in India. Members from the ACCA Working Group formed under the Third Round also participated in the meeting and shared their perspectives on developing new initiatives of ACCA in India.

## Event Agenda and Proceedings

The session was conducted virtually on Google Meet. It was an interactive session where the participants came forward and shared the ways through which they hope to commit to and support ACCA initiative. The session moderator welcomed the speakers and participants, shared the

agenda and objectives of the meeting.

The journey of ACCA in India through various projects and initiatives over the course of a decade, was shared by Ms. Sunita Sule, Chair, CEGET Advisory Committee, UN GCNI. Ms Sule fondly reflected on her association with our dearly departed leader Late. Ms. Shabnam Siddiqui and remembered how she was instrumental in establishing the fundamentals of Anti-corruption and redefining the approach to practice the principles of ACCA in India. She then shared the activities, outcomes, challenges impact and accomplishments of the various rounds of Siemens Integrity Initiative. She finally made a call to action to all the attendees to get involved and collectively identify corruption challenges that must be addressed and to build on the goodwill and progress made in earlier works on ACCA to carry forward the legacy of a decade's worth of initiatives and strategies on the 10th principle of Global Compact - Anti-corruption.

It was followed by a presentation by the moderator on the introduction to ACCA and its basic features and components. He further deliberated on the objectives and deliverables of the Golden Stretch Round and gave a general view of the expectations from the attendees.

The floor was then opened for focused discussion by the participants on identifying corruption challenges, enhancing the tractions gained in ACCA in India for over a decade and developing and facilitating a new ACCA initiative for this project built upon the progress made in earlier rounds. The detailed discussion themes, leading questions and suggestions given by the participants are listed in the next segment.

The Vote of Thanks was given by Dr. Somnath Singh, Programme Manager, GCNI and Project lead for the Third Round.

The agenda items were as follows:

- ❖ Introduction and Welcome to the Stakeholders/Participants.
- ❖ Background of ACCA and setting the context
- ❖ Journey of ACCA in GCNI
- ❖ Understanding the objectives/ work plan of the project
- ❖ Open Discussion
  - Corruption challenges that can be pursued through Collective Action
  - Enhancing projections and progress made on earlier ACCA projects (National/Global)

- Expectations from an ACCA project
- Q & A by Moderator
- ❖ Summary and Way Forward
- ❖ Vote of Thanks

## Open Discussion Themes and Suggestions

- ❖ Corruption challenges that can be pursued through Collective Action:
  - How is the local business environment and what are the main corruption challenges?
  - What are the main drivers and incentives to develop Collective Action initiatives?
- ❖ Enhancing projections and progress made on earlier ACCA projects (National/Global)
  - Should earlier ACCA projects have a reflection on the ongoing projects?
  - Harnessing Collective action of SMEs is one of the UNGC strategies. Can that be applied in the Anti-corruption as well?
- ❖ Expectations from an ACCA project
  - What are the innovative strategies for making AC CA an efficient way for the public and private sectors to partner and what are the benefits of CA?
- ❖ Challenges, cumbersome compliances, integrity complications, Ease of Doing Business, ethical violations, red-tapism and related pain points of SMEs sector in India.
- ❖ Conduct surveys to understand major issue areas of corruption and rationalized compliances in SMEs and meeting with officials from SMEs
- ❖ Distinguish between Anti-corruption and Compliance
- ❖ Pilot an ACCA initiative in partnership with Government organization
- ❖ Create a sub group within the ACCA Working Group that can work on corruption issues that can help governments make appropriate policies and framework for strengthening the system.
- ❖ Establish link/network amongst governments, corporates and other players to work collectively for reducing /eliminating corruption
- ❖ Analyze and assess successful ACCA approaches and best practices used in other countries and apply and scale it up in India.
- ❖ Develop a concrete action plan and execute it with full responsibility and accountability
- ❖ Public-Private dialogue of AC CA in collaboration with a govt. organization. Come out with

manuals/ publications and have efficient dissemination strategies so that its circulation and awareness is maximized.

- ❖ Maximize awareness through trainings of Playbook on ACCA as well similar compendiums and manuals