**CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR GOVERNANCE, ETHICS AND TRANSPARECNY (CEGET)**
**[Promoting Corporate, Urban and Environmental Governance]**

# CEGET BULLETIN – APRIL 2020

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## Scaling up Anti-Corruption Collective Action within Global Compact Local Networks

United Nations Global Compact launched a four-year global initiative to fight corruption in December 2019, with the aim to strengthen action to combat corruption, which remains one of the world's greatest challenges. The four-year global project would support collective actions from Global Compact Local Networks (GCLNs) and promote public-private cooperation in fighting corruption. The project is to be implemented in India, Brazil, Kenya and Ukraine from April 2020 – September 2023.

The UN Global Compact project *Scaling up Anti-Corruption Collective Action within Global Compact Local Networks* will adopt a three pronged approach: (i) development of Anti-Corruption Collective Action Playbook for GCLNs to mainstream the understanding and uptake of Collective Action, (ii) global launch and roll-out of the Playbook to enable Local Networks in understanding and using the Collective Action methodology to identify and address corruption issues, and (iii) support select GCLNs in their Collective Action initiatives.

Underlying this approach will be an overarching goal of facilitating public-private cooperation on Collective Action through policy dialogue and engagement with governments and non-business stakeholders.

*Scaling up Anti-Corruption Collective Action within Global Compact Local Networks* is supported through the Third Funding Round by the Siemens Integrity Initiative and builds upon the Collective Action projects carried out by the UN Global Compact through the First and Second Funding Rounds, both of which India was part of.

CEGET invites its stakeholders to actively get engaged in identifying and implementing an anticorruption collective action project in India. Stay tuned for updates.

## Shaping a Sustainable Business Post COVID 19: Response, Recovery, Resilience
## An international Panel Discussion Series

In December 2019, GCNI-CEGET signed a Knowledge Partnership MoU with Alliance for Integrity India to promote prevention of Corruption in private sector and improve the framework conditions for compliance and clean business by mainstreaming business integrity. The MOU outlines collaborative knowledge sharing and capacity building of both public and private sector companies to have robust compliance programmes and to have mechanism for the prevention of corruption. Since the partnership developed, CEGET and AFIN India facilitated initiatives to improve and enhance business integrity such as organizing a conference on Digitalization in Compliance Management: The Way Forward.

The COVID 19 pandemic has engulfed the entire world in an unprecedented manner. The socio-economic impact of the disaster is yet to be ascertained, but it is no guess that we need to be prepared for an enormous disruption at a global scale, and at socio- economical front. There is an urgent need to channelise our resources in order to push ahead and face the challenge. Every sector and strata of the society will need to be a part of it and the way forward lies only in collective action. The businesses have a crucial role to play during and post the pandemic. There is a need for businesses not only to sustain and adapt themselves but to support society in these uncertain times and in an unchartered territory.

To explore the challenges and opportunities, CEGET and AFIN have planned an international panel discussion series that will be launched in May 2020. Under the theme 'Shaping A Sustainable Business Post COVID,' the four topics of discussion will be #BusinessResilience, #SupplyChainDisruption, #ReskillingandDigitalization, and #SustainingMSME.

Business representations from public and private sectors, as well as representative of local networks of UNGC and AfIN will deliberate on challenges and opportunities in these panel discussions.

## SDGs Sustainability Framework for Thane Smart City Limited

GCNI CEGET has been engaged with an SDG assessment of Thane Smart City Limited (TSCL) since mid-2019. Whilst assessing the cities' sustainability performance at all levels, it became clear that there are both benefits and barriers with regard to implementing SDGs in cities. However, SDGs assessment is necessary for a city to gauge the extent to which the SDGs will improve the sustainability of a city, or how cities actively contribute and get involved in the global challenges, such as the recent pandemic. The multiple activities undertaken during the project facilitated city officials getting in-depth knowledge of the SDGs and provided the frontline leaders a platform to prioritize SDG/s for Thane Smart City.

The Sustainability Framework developed for Thane Smart City by GCNI CEGET shall serve as a policy tool to support TSCL in collecting and integrating data, and using those data sets to define a vision, set targets, monitor progress, and forecast trends—all while being able to compare themselves with peer cities around the world.

This 'SDGs sustainability framework' will enable city to measure its progress over time and through analysis and sharing allow for the dissemination of best practices and set standards for progress in meeting the SDGs at the city level.

## Uniting Business to Respond to COVID-19

To help drive responsible corporate action, the United Nations Global Compact is **#UnitingBusiness to respond to COVID-19** and providing guidance and support to companies everywhere. A coordinated international plan involving the business sector will be critical in efforts to support people and companies affected, limit further disruption to the economy and facilitate business continuity for a swift recovery.

For every decision maker, the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact can provide ideas and inspiration in uncertain times. In the spirit of solidarity and international cooperation, the UN Global Compact encourages business leaders everywhere to use the Ten Principles as their guide in responding to the crisis.

**Human Rights**

Principle 1: Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and

Principle 2: Make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.

For example:
- Ensure that any measure implemented to address COVID-19 is accessible to people without discrimination of any kind such as race, colour, disability, age, gender, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, sexual orientation, gender identity or other status.
- Ensure that the needs of those most marginalized and/or vulnerable are given the necessary and appropriate attention.

**Labour**

Principle 3: Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;
Principle 4: the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;
Principle 5: the effective abolition of child labour; and
Principle 6: the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

For example:
- Respond with flexibility, compassion and solidarity to the impact on your employees and your business partners, especially small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Your efforts to limit financial impacts should not be made at the expense of workers' rights and welfare.
- Ensure a stable continuation of income and benefits despite flexible working arrangements: Staying off work because of illness, quarantine or caring for a sick family member may result in lost pay or lost jobs. Ensure a continuation of income in these cases with special attention to female workers who often take the burden of care and workers in precarious employment situations, such as low-paid workers, contractual workers and workers without any social protection coverage.
- Current contracts should be honored to the greatest extent possible. Engagement with suppliers is essential to ensure decent working conditions in global supply chains while providing support for business continuity by allowing flexibility in delivery and quotas.
- Apply the principles of prevention and ensure a safe working environment by limiting employee exposure to coronavirus in the workplace through putting in place personal protective measures (hand hygiene), environmental measures (cleaning of surfaces) and work arrangements (work from home arrangements to the maximum extent possible, reduced person-to-person contact).

**Environment**

Principle 7: Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;
Principle 8: Undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and
Principle 9: Encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

For example:
- Encourage telecommuting and virtual meetings which can reduce negative impacts on the environment caused by travel. Ensure tracking of the positive environmental impacts of telecommuting and virtual meetings on your carbon footprint in order to assess which practices could be encouraged long-term to reduce emissions.
- In a very short period of time, the COVID-19 crisis has had a positive impact on the environment by reducing global carbon emissions. While travel will no doubt bounce back, we encourage travelers to

consider travel options less harmful to the environment, such as train travel, and to choose ecotourism, which can support ecosystems and local livelihoods.

**Anti-Corruption**

Principle 10: Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

For example:

- Build trust through communications and policies that are consistent, inclusive and transparent.
- Ensure that products and services are distributed and sold in an ethical manner.

In today's times companies must demonstrate bold leadership to transform business models and economies so they become more just and inclusive — leaving no one behind.

<div align="center">**Invitation to join United Nations Global Compact Network -India**</div>

Global Compact Network India (GCNI) as the local Network of the UN Global Compact (UNGC), New York is the country-level platform for businesses, civil organizations, public and private sector, which aids in aligning stakeholders' responsible practices towards the Ten Universally Accepted Principles of UNGC in the areas of Human Rights, Labor, Environment and Anti – corruption aligning with UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

We warmly welcome your company/organization to a Global Network of over 10,435 companies and 3,000 non-business participants that are committed to building a sustainable future and as a first step, we invite you to register your organization profile on the United Nations Global Compact website.

We encourage you to watch the video below as a warm welcome to the UN Global Compact by Ms. Lise Kingo, CEO & Executive Director, UNGC, New York.



**How to get started?**

- Register your organization's profile on the United Nations Global Compact website.
- Prepare and Upload Commitment Letter
- Browse our Membership Benefits
- Browse our Membership Brochure
- Mandatory Annual Contribution

- Familiarize yourself with our [local network benefits](#)

Kindly Contact Ms. Panchali Sharma (Tel: 8447947013), email id- [membership@globalcompact.in](mailto:membership@globalcompact.in)) to assist you in this regard.