REPORTING ON THE SDGs
An Action Platform to accelerate corporate reporting on the Global Goals

We are at a key moment in the evolution of sustainability; transparency is fast becoming the new paradigm for conducting business. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have ushered in a new era of global development objectives, aimed at addressing the world’s most pressing problems. The active participation of business is a principle driver in achieving these goals but best practice for corporate reporting on the SDGs has yet to be established.

The UN Global Compact, the world’s largest corporate sustainability initiative, and GRI, the world’s leading organization for sustainability reporting, have formed a ground-breaking action platform to tackle this challenge. Reporting on the SDGs will complement GRI Standards and the UN Global Compact Communication on Progress, and enable business reporting on the SDGs.

There is growing recognition of the value of corporate non-financial reporting. The Action Platform will leverage the GRI Standards – the world’s most widely used sustainability reporting standards – and the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact to help businesses incorporate SDG reporting into their existing processes. This will empower corporate action that can make the achievements of the SDGs a reality. The members of the Action Platform will work to increase the value of corporate sustainability disclosures for other stakeholder groups, including members of the financial community as well as governments and policy makers. GRI and the UN Global Compact will also facilitate SDG-reporting by small and medium-size enterprises, as they represent around 90% of global economic activity.

What this means for businesses: a simplified reporting future

The Action Platform will offer a mechanism for reporting on the SDGs, within GRI Standards and UN Global Compact Communication on Progress. The Action Platform work will also issue recommendation for aligning the two reporting frameworks. This will benefit both seasoned reporting organizations, as well as businesses that are just beginning their reporting journey. The output will build on GRI’s expertise in global standard setting and UN Global Compact’s leadership in advancing principled business globally through the world’s largest corporate sustainability initiative. Organizations will also benefit from practical guidance from the Action Platform.

The Action Platform consists of leading businesses and non-corporate stakeholders

There are two components of the Action Platform:

- The Corporate Action Group (CAG) will serve as a business engagement and peer learning forum, where business representatives can demonstrate leadership, by helping define and promote their contributions to the SDGs. Participating businesses are selected from UN Global Compact signatories and GRI’s network. These organizations will have the opportunity to engage in a series of on-line and in-person workshops.
- The Multi-stakeholder Advisory Committee (MAC) will be comprised of the members of the CAG, plus
representatives from other stakeholder groups: governments, international and civil society organizations, investors, trade unions, data users, statistical offices and academics. This committee will provide guidance for the research and analysis done by the UN Global Compact and GRI. The MAC will be a forward-looking international leadership group that will play a key role in shaping the future of corporate reporting.

Action Platform members will be invited to attend in-person meetings in connection with other relevant GRI or UN Global Compact events. During the first year of the program, the in-person meetings will be held in The Hague (27 March 2017), New Delhi (26 April 2017), and New York (18 July and 21 September 2017). During these events, the Action Platform will also consult with a broader group of stakeholders, to gather additional input for platform deliverables.

**Expected outcomes of the Action Platform**

The Action Platform will produce several deliverables, over the course of 2017 and 2018:

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<th>LIST OF BUSINESS DISCLOSURES ACROSS THE SDGs</th>
<th>PUBLICATION ON BEST PRACTICE SDGs REPORTING</th>
<th>FURTHER INTEGRATION OF SDGs INTO FRAMEWORKS</th>
<th>SDG DATA AGGREGATION</th>
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<td>A validated list of business disclosures across the SDGs, to be presented by the platform members during the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in July 2017. Additionally, the Action Platform will make a gap analysis of available indicators.</td>
<td>A publication on leadership and best practice for business on SDGs reporting will be developed and presented at the UN Global Compact Leaders’ Summit, convened during the UN General Assembly in September 2017.</td>
<td>A set of recommendations for how to build the SDGs into the UN Global Compact Communication on Progress (COP) framework and the GRI Standards, and how to further align and integrate the different standards, requirements and interfaces.</td>
<td>A roadmap on ways to extract and aggregate data on SDG implementation from a large volume of corporate reports.</td>
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**Action Platform Partners**

The Action Platform is a collaborative effort from the UN Global Compact and GRI, with support from the Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI). The MAC will collaborate with organizations such as the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD). GRI, the UN Global Compact and WBCSD produced the SDG Compass, a guide for companies on how they can align their strategies to the SDGs, while measuring and managing their contributions to the realization of the goals.

The work of the Action Platform is made possible through the strategic, managerial and analytical contribution of PwC and its expert team from four different countries.

**Get involved**

For inquiries or to receive additional information on how to engage with the Action Platform, please contact Ms. Rebecca Hall, GRI (hall@globalreporting.org) and Mr. Bernhard Frey, UN Global Compact (freyb@un.org).