



## Charter of Values For Private Sector Partners

Approved by Dr. Joan Clos, Under-Secretary General of the United Nations and UN-HABITAT Executive Director

As part of the United Nations family, UN-Habitat seeks to engage in mutually beneficial collaborative relationships and partnerships with the private sector in a principled and effective manner. UN-Habitat seeks partnership with the business community that can help fulfill its mandate and goals.

Private Sector Partners shall advance the United Nations' goals as laid out in its Charter. These include maintaining international peace and security as well as solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character, and promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all.

Private Sector Partners shall share the United Nations' values, including internationally recognized principles concerning human rights, labour, the environment, anti-corruption as reflected in the United Nations Global Compact.

Private Sector Partners shall respect the United Nations' integrity, independence and impartiality. Every member of the Business Sector community should have the opportunity to propose cooperative arrangements that explicitly support and accelerate achievement of United Nations' goals.

Cooperation shall not provide exclusivity in its collaboration or imply endorsement or preference of a particular Business Sector entity or its products or services by the United Nations. Also, cooperation with the Business Sector shall be transparent.

This *Charter of Values* is signed by all private sector entities committed to partnering with UN-Habitat. By signing this Charter, Private Sector Partners confirm their engagement towards the United Nations' goals, the United Nations' Global Compact<sup>1</sup>, as well as a set of specific values pertaining to the goal of promoting and achieving sustainable cities, pursued by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). As such, this *Charter of Values* affirms private sector companies' commitment in respect of the following principles:

## GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Co-operation between UN-Habitat and the business sector is often situation specific and must be considered on a case by case basis. However, irrespective of the situation- specific nature of cooperative arrangements, they should be guided by the following general principles:

- a) Advance UN goals: The objective needs to be articulated clearly and must advance UN goals
- b) Clear delineation of responsibilities and roles of each of the parties to the arrangement
- c) Maintain the integrity, independence and impartiality of the UN: Arrangements should not diminish these and the core values of the UN;
- d) No unfair advantages: Every member of the business community should have the opportunity to propose cooperation arrangements within certain parameters and the cooperation should imply an endorsement or preference of none business entity or its products or services
- e) Transparency: cooperation must be transparent and available to the public at large.

## THE UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT'S TEN PRINCIPLES

The UN Global Compact requires business organizations to embrace, support and enact a set of core values within their sphere of influence in the areas of human rights, labor standards, the environment and anti-corruption. They are used by UN-Habitat as a point of reference when choosing a partner.

### 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.

### Labour Standards

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.

### 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.

### Anti-Corruption

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

## **UN-HABITAT PRINCIPLES TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE CITIES**

Additionally, companies partnering with UN-HABITAT shall commit to create and sustain responsible business practices that foster economical, environmental and social wellbeing in cities. The following core values shall be adopted to achieve those:

### **Integrated Urban Development**

Principle 1: Businesses should show a commitment to developing and adopting policies, strategies and practices that facilitate the provision of housing, basic infrastructure and urban services, including adequate sanitation and safe water, waste management, sustainable transport that are integrated and accessible to all.

### **Environmentally-sound built environment**

Principle 2: Businesses should pursue business objectives through strategies that support the development of environmentally sound and carbon-efficient built environment.

Principle 3: They should operate at business levels that optimize the wealth of the urban environment and minimize harmful externalities.

### **Inclusive and Equitable Urban Development**

Principle 4: Businesses need to demonstrate transparent and accountable management of urban services, as well as the inclusive delivery of those services in order to also reach the urban poor. They shall thrive to develop business models that are mutually beneficial to the poor communities and business concerns.

Principle 5: Business shall not engage in unlawful evictions nor in discriminatory practices in terms of access to housing, basic infrastructure and urban services.

Principle 6: Business entities should engage in multi-stakeholders partnerships, promoting dialogue and action between local authorities, national governments and civil society partners.

## **USE OF THE UN-HABITAT NAME, LOGO AND EMBLEM**

Under General Assembly resolution 92(1) of 7 December 1946, the use of the UN name and emblem is reserved for official purposes of the Organization and their use by outside entities requires prior authorization of the Secretary General. As such, authorization cannot be granted to for-profit entities to use the UN emblem.

However, UN-Habitat should be prepared to recognize its appreciation for any such contribution in an appropriate manner when required to do so. UN-Habitat must then approve in writing beforehand any materials intended for publication (whether in print, electronically or otherwise) that mention UN-Habitat, the contribution or the activity in support of which it is provided. Only in the case of representations to shareholders would such authorization not be required.

Additionally, should the private sector partner wish to put a link to UN-Habitat's website on its website, UN-Habitat must approve the manner in which the link is depicted and the page on which it is shown.

### **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

UN-Habitat is guided by principles when contemplating a partnership with a member of the business community, namely:

- a) Find the best partner: UN-Habitat takes two steps to determine whether a corporation is the best partner for UN-Habitat, whether on record, on balance, demonstrates a willingness to exercise corporate social responsibility. UN-Habitat undertakes a form due diligence research and measures the information against the fundamental principles of its mandate and the UN.
- b) Find the best partnership: UN-Habitat seeks partnerships with conform to its values, programme and fundraising goals in attaining its goal of sustainable urbanization.
- c) No endorsement: UN-Habitat does not endorse any products or services or any company.
- d) No exclusivity: UN-Habitat does not grant "exclusive" permission to reproduce its name, logo, or emblem. To do so could make UN-Habitat vulnerable to allegations of partisan behaviour by other companies or their governments and is incompatible with its UN Status.

### **PROCEDURES FOR ENTERING INTO PARTNERSHIPS**

UN-Habitat must abide by these principles no matter how large or small a partnership may be. The Requesting Office will carry out a due diligence review and corporate screening of the business partner and then submit the Request for review and clearance to PSD together with all the supporting documents and information. Any clarifications or assistance needed should be requested from the Legal Unit.

As a selected partner of UN-Habitat, we have by this signature confirmed our acceptance to be guided by these principles in all our dealings with UN-Habitat.

Date :

Signature :

By : *Name, Title, Company*

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<sup>i</sup> Launched in July 2000, the UN Global Compact is a both a policy platform and a practical framework for companies that are committed to sustainability and responsible business practices. As a leadership initiative endorsed by chief executives, it seeks to align business operations and strategies everywhere with ten universally accepted principles. As part of the United Nations family, UN-HABITAT supports the Global Compact as requests its company to participate in the Global Compact. To do so, companies shall send a letter signed by the chief executive (and, where possible, endorsed by the board) to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, expressing support for the Global Compact and its principles and completes the online registration form on the Global Compact website ([www.unglobalcompact.org](http://www.unglobalcompact.org)).