

GCNA Leadership Group Steering Committees

Background

The Global Compact Network Australia (GCNA) brings signatories to the UN Global Compact (including business, non-profits and universities) together with other stakeholders (including government), to **advance corporate sustainability and the private sector's contribution to sustainable development**. This is achieved through providing a national and international platform for dialogue, learning, influence and action that is inclusive, practical and leading edge.

Through its activities, the GCNA provides practical support and capacity-building to Australian **companies to help them integrate and operationalise the UN Global Compact's core principles** in the areas of human rights, labour, the environment and anti-corruption, and other UN goals including the Sustainable Development Goals, within business practices and strategies.

The GCNA organises its activities under four Leadership Groups:

- > Human Rights Leadership Group
- > Environment Leadership Group
- > Anti-Corruption Leadership Group
- > Sustainable Development Leadership Group

These Leadership Groups provide GCNA members and other stakeholders with a series of activities through which they can keep up-to-date on relevant developments; share knowledge, challenges and solutions; build multi-stakeholder dialogue and action; explore local and global best and emerging practice; and shape and contribute to thought leadership.

Each Leadership Group is guided by a Steering Committee and chaired by a GCNA Board member. The Steering Committees provide guidance, advice and support to the GCNA in relation to the activities of the Leadership Groups, but are not decision-making groups.

Membership

Steering Committee membership is generally limited to representatives of GCNA member organisations. Non-member representatives may be invited to participate at the discretion of the GCNA.

Membership of the Steering Committee will be determined by the GCNA in its own discretion. In determining Steering Committee membership, the GCNA will have regard to a range of factors including **individuals' expertise and seniority, diversity of sector representation**, and the ability of individuals and their organisation to contribute to and support the GCNA and its activities. The membership of each Steering Committee will also be limited in number to ensure manageability.

The GCNA may also appoint an Expert Advisor – a person with recognised subject matter expertise – to be part of a Steering Committee and provide specialist support to the GCNA in relation to general or specific Leadership Group activities.

Process

Membership of the Steering Committee will be determined by the GCNA in its own discretion.

GCNA members can advise the GCNA of their interest in being considered for membership of the Steering Committee at any time by completing and sending [this form](#) to secretariat@unglobalcompact.org.au. The GCNA may also itself identify and approach member representatives at any time to encourage them to submit EOIs.

The GCNA may appoint a new Steering Committee member at any time in its discretion (e.g. if there is a particular gap in the Steering Committee that the GCNA would like to fill). However, the GCNA will

generally review Leadership Group Steering Committee membership between September–November each year. At that time:

- > existing Steering Committee members will be asked if they would like to recommit to the Steering Committee for the next year (subject to membership term considerations below); and
- > EOIs received during the previous year will be reviewed.

Membership Term

The GCNA may ask a Steering Committee member to step down if they have not had the capacity to contribute to the Steering Committee during the previous year, or to allow other GCNA members the opportunity to join (noting there are often more GCNA member representatives interested in being part **of the GCNA's Steering Committees than places available**).

If there are more member representatives in a particular sector interested in being part of the Steering Committee than there are spaces available, members will be asked to rotate out of the Committee after 2 years.

Criteria

In determining Steering Committee membership, the GCNA will have regard to a range of factors **including individuals' expertise, seniority and influence within their own organisations**, diversity of sector representation, any potential conflicts of interest, and the ability of individuals and their organisations to contribute to and support the GCNA and its activities.

The membership of each Steering Committee will be limited in number to ensure manageability.

Roles and Responsibilities

The main role of the Steering Committees is to provide guidance, advice and support to the GCNA in relation to the **GCNA's activities**, and to help promote those activities through its networks. Steering Committee Members will be asked to:

- > Provide strategic advice, support and input to the GCNA in relation to the planning and delivery **of the Leadership Group's activities (which may include hosting GCNA events)**.
- > Help establish key priorities or areas of thematic focus for the Leadership Group.
- > Share specialist expertise and knowledge including through participation in GCNA events and activities (including speaking at GCNA events).
- > Help bring their own networks into the GCNA and its activities.
- > Encourage participation, discussion and networking at GCNA activities, including promotion of the GCNA and its activities.

Steering Committee members are not to use the group or their membership of it, or GCNA activities, **to promote their own organisations or their own organisations' activities** or events, or to seek to build their own client or partner relationships.

Confidentiality

Steering Committee discussions and communications are confidential to the GCNA and the Steering Committee. All ideas and opportunities discussed by, or generated by or through, the Steering Committees are for the GCNA alone to act upon, and are not to be shared more generally with, or be **pursued by, any Steering Committee member's own organisation and/or any other organisations**.

If a Steering Committee member or the GCNA feels that there are conflicts of interest that cannot be managed, the member may need to step down from the Committee. It is the responsibility of Steering Committee members to note potential conflicts to the GCNA and if necessary to step out of discussions where the conflict might arise.



Global Compact
Network Australia



Contact

Any queries in relation to the GCNA Leadership Group Steering Committees can be submitted to Alice Cope, Executive Director, alice.cope@unglobalcompact.org.au.