

7th Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations
Baku, Azerbaijan, 25-27 April 2016

“Living Together In Inclusive Societies: The Role and Responsibility of the Private Sector“

Business Symposium 25 April, 2016 from 2 to 6 PM

jointly organized by
United Nations Alliance of Civilizations,
United Nations Global Compact,
the Ministry of Economy of Azerbaijan
and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Azerbaijan

The Business Symposium – part of the official program of the UNAOC Global Forum - will bring together private sector representatives from around the world to discuss and demonstrate their commitment to building inclusive societies, promoting cultural diversity, enhancing intercultural understanding and preventing radicalization.

Objective

The Business Symposium will a) highlight the importance of inclusive societies on economic and social development b) create shared understanding of the role of the private sector in contributing to intercultural and interfaith understanding, and c) showcase examples of business contributions to social cohesion. More specifically, the objectives of the Business Symposium are:

- to showcase best practices to demonstrate how the private sector can take action to foster inclusive societies where people live in peace beyond differences and to serve as a platform for business leaders to exchange innovative experiences
- to contribute to the emergence of new initiatives by companies to promote inclusive societies, their replication and scale up
- to generate a lasting corporate mobilization and commitment to promote inclusive societies through concrete action
- to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular goal 16, which clearly states the need to “Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development”, but also SDG 8 on decent work and SDG 10 on inequality; therefore elevating diversity and inclusion as a corporate sustainability issue of strategic business importance

Participants

Registration is open to private sector representatives and their stakeholders, including Governments, civil society, media and other groups. As space is limited, priority is given to company representatives.

Participants are encouraged to work closely with UNAOC and UN Global Compact to promote intercultural dialogue and cooperation, to promote inclusive societies and cultural diversity. Furthermore, participants are invited to join UN Global Compact and its Business for Peace initiative to take action to advance peace in conflict affected and high-risk areas.

Format

Segment 1: Private sector representatives will discuss the business case for inclusive societies and how companies can take action.

Segment 2: Looking at inclusive societies, participants will explore how the private sector can accelerate progress in the area through a discussion on one of the following themes:

- 1) Private sector engagement to address the refugee crisis
- 2) Private sector contributions to interfaith understanding and peace
- 3) Linking corporate diversity & inclusion programmes with corporate sustainability

Registration

Participants are requested to register to the Business Symposium by emailing Mr. Jean-Christophe Bas, jcbas@theglobalcompass.net

For mandatory accreditation, participants are also requested to register to the broader UNAOC Global Forum through the [event website](#).

Draft Program (subject to changes; names to be confirmed)

- 14:00 – 14:45 Welcome and Opening
- Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary General
 - Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, High Representative, UNAOOC
 - Shahin Mustafayev, Minister of Economy Azerbaijan
 - Abulfas Garayev, Minister of Culture and Tourism of Azerbaijan
 - Ursula Wynthoven, Chief Legal Officer/Chief, Governance & Social Sustainability, UN Global Compact, UN Global Compact
- 14:45 – 15:30 Panel Discussion
- Michael Peters, CEO Euronews
 - Sebastien Crozier, Senior Vice President Orange and CEO Orange Horizons (France)
 - Vladimir Iakounin , former CEO of Russian Railways (Russia)
 - Bill McAndrews , Vice President BMW Group (Germany)
 - Jonathan Schen , CEO Shinework (China)
- Moderator: Louise Kantrow, ICC
- 15:30 – 16:00 Coffee Break
- 16:00 – 17:00 Roundtable Discussions
- 1) Private sector engagement to address the refugee crisis
Facilitator: Vanessa Tarantini , Engagement Opportunities (Brazil)
 - 2) Private sector contributions to interfaith understanding and peace
Facilitator: Brian Grim, CEO Religious Freedom & Business Foundation
 - 3) Linking corporate diversity & inclusion programmes with corporate sustainability
Facilitator: Ursula Wynthoven, Chief Legal Officer/Chief, Governance & Social Sustainability, UN Global Compact
- 17:00 – 17:45 Report back and next steps
- 17:45 – 18:00 Closing

