

Headlines Association Global Compact Netherlands

Why this new association?

Global Compact Network Netherlands (GCNL) has been founded the first half of 2007. It had a loose structure, based on informal agreements (an annual conference; an annual peer review feedback meeting; the appointment of a steering group; a secretariat from employers federation VNO-NCW (that bears the costs of the secretariat; costs of projects are for participating members).

Now a more developed structure became desirable. To this end a legal entity has been founded with a more well-defined structure: an annual assembly, a board and a (modest) subscription.

Headlines articles of the association

a. Goals

- promote the UNGC principles; help develop the GCNL network; build a platform for learning and joint projects; improving the quality of the Communicating on Progress (COP).

b. Membership

The statutes/articles discern between:

- *members*: companies-participants in UNGC;
- *interested organisations*: other organisations-participants in UNGC, for example NGO's/CSO's and others (for example municipalities).

Explanation:

- UNGC is a network of companies and at the same time a multi-stakeholders-initiative. It is important to distinguish between these two categories (as many foreign Global Compact networks also do), because:
- the position of both groups is different; for example only companies are obliged to submit a COP;
- it makes possible to organise activities only for companies and at the same time gives a place to the NGO's within the association.

c. Assembly of members

- At least once a year a general assembly takes place.
- All members-companies have a right to vote.
- 'Interested organisations' (for example NGO's/CSO's and others (for example municipalities) may get the right to speak but do not have the right to vote.

d. Board

- the board consists of seven to fifteen members, to be appointed by and from the companies-members, on a binding proposal for a candidate made by the board;
- the board-members spread evenly over the various sizes of companies;
- the board appoints a chairman (who can come from outside the members of the association), and - from its boardmembers - a vicepresident and a treasurer;
- the board can appoint advisors;
- the board fixes a time period for its members with after a three years period a possibility for a one-time re-appointment.

e. Subscription/fee

- Members pay a fee which is fixed by the board.
- In case of a change of more than 10% the consent of the general assembly is needed.
- Only companies pay a subscription.

Fees in 2012:

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| - companies > 250 employees | €1.200 |
| - companies > 10 and <250 employees | € 300 |
| - companies < 10 employees | € 100 |